



ICCwatch

... monitoring the International Criminal Court's threat to civil liberties and national autonomy.

ICCwatch invitation

Tuesday, 30th March, 7.30pm

at One Birdcage Walk - The Christopher Hinton Room

Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ

(for venue location, map and details, click [here](#))

LAW AND POLITICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

A lecture by Dr. Hans Köchler

*Professor at the University of Innsbruck, Austria and President
of the International Progress Organization*

Summary

Less than a decade since the coming into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2002, the high expectations that accompanied its creation have turned into profound disillusionment. What was hoped to be a permanent and independent institution in the service of universal justice, has, for now, become a “Regional Court for Africa,” administered according to a largely political agenda.

The strategy followed by the Prosecutor in the case of the Sudan has made the structural defects of the Rome Statute more than obvious: although the Court's existence is based on an intergovernmental treaty that is binding only upon States Parties, the Statute allows the Security Council to artificially “create” jurisdiction which the Court would not possess according to the Statute. The political agenda of the Security Council – and in particular its most powerful member – is, thus, interfering with the strictly judicial mandate of the Court.

The flawed proceedings in the very first cases brought before the Court, the extreme selectivity in the exercise of its mandate, the Prosecutor's acting more like a politician than a judicial officer, all these facts compel even the most idealistic observer to ask whether international criminal justice can at all be practiced in the statutory framework of the ICC. So far, it has not functioned like a court of law, but more like a political entity, and it has thoroughly undermined the idea of universal justice.

Between 6:30 and 7:30pm on March 30th there will be a drinks reception preceding the lecture in the Christopher Hinton Room, One Birdcage Walk

If you wish to reserve a place for this event, please email mail@iccwatch.org

For more information about ICCwatch, please visit www.iccwatch.org