

Chapter Five

Conclusion

There are two themes underpin the foregoing discussion in this thesis. The first theme is the important roles NGOs play in international relations. The second theme focuses on the role of the CICC in the creation of the ICC.

The role of NGOs in international relations is not strictly similar to the role of groups who lobby and raise public awareness in the domestic area. Nor is their role to replace governments. At the international level, NGOs do lobby, educate and substitute for governments, but their particular contributions are something quite different as well. My task in this thesis, then, is to characterize the distinctive qualities of NGOs in international relations, their dimensions, especially CICC, in the creation of the ICC.

While talking about the creation of the ICC, the Rome Conference and the Rome Statute are the key ingredients. The fact that the Rome Conference was successful and it was able to complete its work within five weeks as largely the result of the determination of many governments to accomplish the work of the Conference and the active participation of NGOs.¹ The Rome Statute was adopted at the

¹ Roy S. Lee, "Introduction: The Rome Conference and Its Contributions to International Law," Roy S. Lee ed., *The International Criminal Court – The Making of the Rome Statute: Issues, Negotiations, Results*, pp. 36-7.

conclusion of the Rome Conference. It achieves the goal by providing a first permanent international criminal court to enforce the law.²

Almost all of NGOs participating in the ICC process participated within the CICC umbrella. The efforts of the CICC can be concluded as follows: setting international agenda, facilitating the ratification process and bringing organizational expertise, and making on-going development and support of the ICC. No one can deny that the role of the CICC in the creation of the ICC is very crucial. This positive role was noted and reinforced by numerous speakers from UN Secretariat, Kofi Annan, to many foreign ministers. The press compared NGOs influence to that of a major government and, in general, the NGOs were seen as an important contributing force in the negotiations. The extent of partnering with governments and the degree of consultation with the UN Secretariat provided a model for future multilateral negotiations. In the critical moments, the major international human rights organizations met almost as one, enabling the human rights community to analyze developments and maximize impact with key delegations. The Rome Statute was in part a reflection of the growing strength of an international human rights movement which conducted itself with coordination and skill.³

² Roy S. Lee, "Introduction: The Rome Conference and Its Contributions to International Law," Roy S. Lee ed., *The International Criminal Court – The Making of the Rome Statute: Issues, Negotiations, Results*, p. 27.

³ Human Rights Watch website. "World Report 1999: International Criminal Court." <http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/governance/icc/0805wbreport.htm> (Retrieved 17 May 2005)

The establishment of the ICC should not be seen as the final page in attempts to secure human rights internationally, but rather as a multilateral mechanism for concerted international human security efforts. Jody Williams, awarded a Nobel prize for her work in establishing the Ottawa Convention to Ban Landmines, describes the CICC as an example of the “increasing strength of global grassroots movements to promote peace, human rights protection and the rule of law by seeking effective cooperation at the international level, and are structured around a diverse global network of NGOs in collaboration with governments and the United Nations.”⁴

This thesis explores central questions about NGOs current position in international relations and the role that NGOs, especially CICC have played in the developments and ongoing implementation of the ICC at international level. However, because of very little published information about the CICC as yet, except that posted in the CICC website, it is very hard to completely analyze what concrete lessons that the CICC have taught us, and how the CICC reached its goals. Moreover, it was very late for getting into contact with the staff of the CICC; as a result, I can not discuss the link of the CICC to the national level.⁵

According to Jody Williams, the NGOs campaign led by the CICC for the

⁴ Jody Williams. “Relevance of the International Criminal Court to Other Campaigns to Strengthen Human Security.” <http://iccnow.org/introduction/importanceoficcdocs/JodyWilliams.pdf> (Retrieved 2 March 2005).

⁵ Here I do like to show my appreciation to the Program and Communications Assistant of the CICC, Esti Tambay, for giving me some directions by e-mails (see Appendix III).

establishment of the ICC has significant implications for human rights campaigners, but also should be understood in a broader context. The creation of the ICC is a successful example of the new diplomacy. It could potentially affect some of the most contemporary issues in international relations, such as biological/chemical warfare and attacks on the environment and public, children and child soldiers, civil liberties, criminal law reform, economical and social development, faith, gender and women, hunger and food aid, medicine and science, small arms, torture, victims and survivor's rights, and a range of broader human security concerns.⁶ To those who have interest in this field as well, the issues mentioned above are good topics to be considered. All in all, the lessons that CICC have learned should be continuously applied to many other campaigns.

⁶ Jody Williams. "Relevance of the International Criminal Court to Other Campaigns to Strengthen Human Security." <http://iccnow.org/introduction/importanceoficcdocs/JodyWilliams.pdf> (Retrieved 2 March 2005).