

## *Present at the Creation*

### **The Advocacy Project is launched to report on the establishment of the International Criminal Court**

The Advocacy Project was established in June 1998 to cover the proceedings of the Rome conference, called to establish an International Criminal Court (ICC). The invitation came from [Coalition for an International Criminal Court \(CICC\)](#). Over the six weeks of the conference, the AP team produced 24 issues of a newsletter, *On the Record*, which were sent out by email to CICC members around the world. CICC advocates then used the information to lobby for a strong statute. *On the Record* was also made available to delegates at the conference in a printed version, through the NGO conference newspaper, *Terra Viva*.

The 24 issues of *On the Record* are reproduced below, as they appeared. It is difficult to determine their precise impact, but they were widely read and the AP received much favorable feedback. Some of these comments are reprinted in a final document. Many delegates at Rome also credited *On the Record* with winning support for articles in the ICC statute, including one that declared attacks on aid workers to be a war crime (article 8 2 (b) iii).

*On the Record* marked one of the first times that IT had been used as a tool of human rights advocacy, and by the end of the Roma conference over 2,000 readers were receiving the bulletins. Encouraged by the response, the AP team decided to continue reporting on civil society campaigns but on a project by project basis for three years. AP received nonprofit status in July 2001 and opened an office in Washington.

The ICC project was supported by the CICC and the Washington-based Coalition for International Justice, which was established to bring indicted war criminals to justice and strengthen the two international criminal tribunals (for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia). Funding was provided by the Dutch government and MacArthur Foundation. *On the Record* was editorially independent and responsible for the contents.

Our thanks to the Rome team: Iain Guest, Teresa Crawford, Machteld Boot, Rochelle Jackson, Willem Offenbergh and Anna Bliss.

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