

# Crimes against the Child

## Crimes against Humanity

**International Round Table organised by AMADE  
Under the Patronage of UNESCO**

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Monaco

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**Declaration concerning the qualification of crimes against children as crimes against humanity, by Mr. Jacques DANOIS, Secretary General of AMADE**  
Plenary Committee of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children  
New York (8-10 May 2002).

### **Press release**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2002, a Delegation from Monaco chaired by His Serene Highness Crown Prince ALBERT participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, in New York.

Mr Jacques DANOIS, Secretary General of AMADE, during his speech to the Plenary Committee, proclaimed the AMADE Declaration concerning the qualification of crimes against children as crimes against humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It cannot be repeated often enough that, in Monaco, children represent the people's greatest hope as well as a constant source of concern for the government. One cannot build a house beginning with the second floor, in the same way children are the cornerstone of our society. All Monaco citizens, without exception, from the humble Mediterranean fisherman to the highest ranks of society, are frequently dismayed by the appalling conditions in which too many children live and survive in contemporary society. Aware of the difficulties faced by millions of children throughout the planet, the authorities of Monaco have always encouraged the setting up of child advocacy organisations in the Principality. In accordance with this spirit, the late lamented Princess Grace of Monaco created the World Association of Children's Friends (AMADE) which now operates in over 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South-America.

The President of AMADE, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover, Her daughter, together with all the representatives of AMADE local parent organisations assembled in Monaco on the occasion of AMADE Annual General Meeting in April 2002, have expressed their determination to protest against waves of paedophilia, slaughtering and abuse, from which so many boys and girls suffer in the world. We all know that, of all mammals, human beings are the only ones to rape, torture and abuse their young. AMADE members call for the stigmatisation of those crimes by obtaining their true qualification. Therefore they entrusted me with the mission of delivering their message to the international community by the means of the following declaration:

### **Declaration concerning the qualification of crimes against children as crimes against humanity**

The United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court states in the Preamble of the Rome Statute that during this century millions of children, women and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity. It recognises that those crimes, which fall within the competence of the international community as a whole, must not go unpunished.

- Child pornography on the internet, video and audio recordings or any other technological medium,
- commercial sexual exploitation of children,
- child trafficking,
- child slavery,
- trading in human organs taken from children,
- the recruitment and enrolment of children for military operations, and the use of children as military targets

are crimes that shock the conscience of humanity because they target vulnerable and helpless children.

Therefore, AMADE recognises that these serious crimes against children shall be considered crimes against humanity and their perpetrators prosecuted at both the national and international level in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, of the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1968, entered into force on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1970.

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