

Crimes against the Child

Crimes against Humanity

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

25-26 April 2003
Monaco

Statement
by His Excellency Mr Philippe KIRSCH,
President of the International Criminal Court
Read by Mr Bruno CATHALA, Director of Common Services of the ICC
***In camera* Expert Session – 25 April 2003**

I regret that, for statutory reasons, it is impossible for me to be with you today to push forward what I consider a crucial element in a fairer world, namely the protection of children and more particularly those who are the victims of the most heinous crimes.

As you all know, this cause, which is aimed at protecting the most vulnerable amongst us, has been a driving force behind my action for many years, especially since I had the honour of chairing the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court.

My current position would obviously prevent me from taking any stand that could have consequences for my impartiality as a judge if I was ever to give a ruling on that particular type of crime.

However, my position as judge also allows me to declare that children need to be given a special and considerate treatment by national and international courts.

In their first meeting last March, the International Criminal Court judges have already outlined the importance of this dimension in the work they are currently conducting in order to prepare for the entry into force of the Court.

Lastly, I wish to assure you of my unfailing support in the critical work that you are undertaking, which is of the utmost importance for our world's future in that children are our future.

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