

Student Reflections:

What do you think your country's policy about a permanent international criminal court should be?

Responses from Eastern European students attending 2003 Olomouc Summer Institute:

I'm against this court. Our country would not be able to accept participating in trials or do investigations as it would be expensive and we cannot afford that. More over, my country is a small one and not so important for such "big things" like this court. In our country we have our own "great trials" and very many of them are impossible to be resolved as the corruption level is very high and it would be tough to fight a global crime or genocide.

Student, Moldova.

I am absolutely in favour of an ICC. My country's law system and courts are easily corrupted. As you probably know, there was a war going on ten years ago between Serbia and Croatia and horrible crimes against humanity have been committed; not only to Serb and Croat civilians. There were also cases of my nation's army torturing Serbian civilians (on a much smaller scale, but it still happened). Now most Croats are not willing to admit that there could have been some war crimes caused by us even if we were not the country that first attacked. The point is that Croatia needs an objective international court because it is not possible to have a fair objective trial in our own country.

Student Croatia

My country should support the international criminal court in The Hague because it is very important for Bosnia. All these war crimes that happened in Bosnia and during the period from 1992 until 1995 are now discussed in The Hague and all the accused persons for war crimes are tried there. In my opinion, it is good to support ICC because there will always be more justice for crimes like this in that international level than if the trials have taken place in the accused's own country.

Student, Bosnia

Actually, I'm against the criminal court for war crimes. Although it's kind of satisfying for victim's families I think it is not prevention against future war crimes and in my opinion will not lead to world peace. Moreover, it is pretty expensive and I think it's not fair. It must be pretty difficult to find the proof (e.g. Orwell's 1984, the leading party was just changing history) and find out the really guilty ones. But, since the ICC for war crimes exists, I think it's necessary for my country to accept it and allow the court to try our own citizens in case of committing a war crime (I hope no war crimes here will be committed). But the country of origin of the accused should help as much as possible in looking for the proof, as it is always a chance that an innocent person will be punished.

Student, Czech Republic.