



The Honorable John Clint Williamson  
Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes  
US Department of State  
Room 7419A  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington DC 20520

January 30, 2008

Dear Ambassador Williamson,

I write on behalf of the undersigned representatives of the U.S. higher education community, to convey our interest in ensuring the protection and proper disposition of the records of the international criminal tribunals established by the United Nations. The survival of these records is an issue of grave importance and urgency to the US academic community and we hope that you will take a position in favor of prompt measures by the UN to ensure their permanent retention and protection.

The tribunals at issue are the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR), the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), and the internationalized courts and prosecutors in Kosovo. Also of concern are the more recently established Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. These temporary bodies were established by the United Nations within the last fourteen years to adjudicate war crimes, genocide and other violations of human rights in their respective realms of influence. In most cases when these courts were established no provision was made by the UN for the retention of their permanent records beyond the lifespan of the tribunals themselves. All of the courts have either already closed or are expected to conclude their proceedings and close by the year 2010.

We, the undersigned, believe that the records of those courts must be protected for the good of the affected societies and for the use of future historians and jurists. The records comprise unique evidence of both crimes committed and the heroic actions of individuals and groups within those societies. The survival of these records is the best defense against deniability of the events recorded, and their protection is critical to the well-being of victims and other witnesses.

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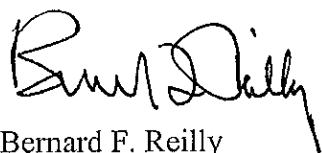
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Therefore we urge you to register with the United Nations Secretary General the position of the United States in support of the creation of one or more permanent archives for the records of all of the temporary international criminal courts mentioned above, and provisions for the management of those records in a way that enables appropriate access to them by qualified stakeholders and researchers.

Please accept my thanks for considering this request. I would be happy to provide any additional information at your request.

Sincerely,



Bernard F. Reilly  
President  
Center for Research Libraries

Signatories:

Brown University	(David Kertzer, Provost)
City University of New York	(Selma Botman, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost)
Columbia University	(Alan Brinkley, Provost and Allan Nevins Professor of History)
Duke University	(Peter Lange, Provost)
Harvard University	(Dr. Steven Hyman, Provost)
Indiana University	(Karen Hanson, Provost and Executive Vice President and Rudy Professor of Philosophy)
Pace University	(Geoffrey L. Brackett, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs)
Princeton University	(Christopher Eisgruber, Provost and Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Public Affairs)
University of Texas, Austin	(Steven W. Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost)
University of California, At Santa Cruz	(Alison Galloway, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs)

University of Connecticut (Peter J. Nicholls, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs)

University of Delaware (Dan Rich, Provost)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, (Linda Katehi, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs)

University of Montana (Royce C. Engstrom, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs)

Cc: all signatories