

# “Hope is not what you say, it is what you do.”

-Jimmie Briggs



**Global  
Justice Center**

Human Rights Through the Rule of Law



The International Burmese Monks Organization leads a prayer in remembrance of those suffering in Burma



An Iraqi Judge lights a candle in the hall of remembrance at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Dear friends and supporters,

Leadership is defined by those people who accept no problem as intractable, challenge conventional wisdom in the pursuit of new ideas, and advance innovative solutions with unfaltering courage. The Global Justice Center has come of age based on these principles. Over the last three years, we have developed creative and powerful ways to use international law to advance human rights and equality. Now, with the world electrified by the possibilities opened up by the new era of leadership in the United States, we are ready to take the lead in re-imagining global justice.

In this era of seismic change we are fortunate that your support has enabled us to seize the opportunities to enforce equality rights in emerging legal regimes. Here are a few examples and we would ask you to go to our “2007/2008 Annual Report,” available at [www.globaljusticecenter.net](http://www.globaljusticecenter.net), to see further how together we are changing the face of global justice.

## We Raised the Stakes for Global Justice at the UN Security Council and the International Criminal Court



The Global Justice Center, along with the Burma Lawyers' Council, is, for the first time, seeking criminal accountability from the global community for the ongoing crimes of the military junta in Burma. This project, while focused on justice for the people of Burma, will also create a historic precedent for ending the impunity of dictators by enforcing the new obligations of the Security Council to refer criminal violations of international humanitarian law to the International Criminal Court. What makes this unique is that our arsenal of legal tools includes "putting teeth in" Security Council Resolutions such as 1325 and 1820 which mandate criminal accountability for precisely such crimes as the military rapes of ethnic women in Burma. Already we have achieved a legal victory. The United Nations CEDAW Committee in November adopted the Global Justice Center's argument that SCR 1325 and 1820 expand the reach of the CEDAW Committee to require that the Burma junta fully account for its compliance with SCR 1325 and 1820. On August 8, 2008, the Global Justice Center, with Burmese monks and advocacy organizations in New York, London, Delhi and San Francisco, sent an unprecedented message that there could be no peace without justice in Burma. Dr. Sein Win, the Prime Minister in exile of the government of Burma, for the first time called for the Security Council to immediately refer Burma to the International Criminal Court. The importance of our justice project for Burma cannot be overstated. Global peace and security depends on ensuring no safe haven for dictators anywhere and it is a matter of moral imperative to establish once and for all that international law must trump politics.

***We call for the world's action and compassion... Please call for the referral of General Than Shwe and other criminal generals to the International Criminal Court. Justice is in all our hands.***

*-Ashin Nayaka, International Burmese Monks Organization*

Upper Left: Dr Sein Win calls on the Security Council to refer the military junta to the ICC. Middle: Phyu Phyu Sann translates a Burmese monk's call for justice at the UN in honor of the one year anniversary of the Saffron Revolution. Upper Right: Janet Benshoof and the International Burmese Monks Organization call on the Security Council to end impunity for the SPDC.

## We Developed Legal Tools for Analyzing and Enforcing International Equality Rights



Stephanie Morin meets with Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Sierra Leone

In 2008, Global Justice Center lawyers worked with partners – in Colombia, Iraq, Burma, Sierra Leone, and Northern Ireland – on strategic tools to enforce international laws on equality. Countries with different histories of conflict, and in radically different stages of development, are bound together by international law precepts. The results of our cross-country analyses can often result in surprising conclusions. For example, in June we provided a legal training in Northern Ireland on the impact of the Belfast "Peace" Agreement on women's ability to enforce their international equality rights. To the surprise of the parliamentarians and other government leaders present, the Global Justice Center exposed how the structure of accommodating political parties in what functions as a "constitution" for Northern Ireland sets up serious structural impediments to being able to use the judiciary to access equality rights such as CEDAW in comparison to other new constitutions. This in turn led to a discussion of Global Justice Center proposals to rectify this situation, concluding with one key Northern Ireland legal advisor commenting that she would "never think of equality in the same way again."

The International Criminal Court, UN Security Council mandates, and international treaties are all mechanisms developed by the global community to create a global legal regime. How these are prioritized, enforced and interpreted is where the Global Justice Center comes in. When we work in Colombia, Iraq or Sierra Leone, we make sure that we connect all of our partners with each other, building an advocacy network that is critical to shape a global regime based on equality.

## We successfully advocated an affirmative and positive role for Iraqi Judges, faced with enforcing international law on gender for the first time

***It is we who must express gratitude to you.. for unflinching support of our judiciary and the rights of women in Iraq.***

*- Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie  
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States*



Above: The Iraq High Tribunal with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the U.S. Supreme Court



Above: Janet Benshoof introduces Justice-Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the U.S. Supreme Court



Above: The IHT reflects in the Hall of Remembrance at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

One of our most historic achievements is enabling Iraqi women leaders to participate for the first time ever in ongoing discussions with judges on rape, honour killings, and ideas for how to ensure justice for the women victims in the various Saddam era trials. This advocacy then opened the door for the Tribunal's willingness to adopt Global Justice Center amicus arguments on applying international law on rape, which they did for the first time in their *Al-Anfal* decision. In a meeting organized by the Global Justice Center, the President of the Tribunal, Judge Arref, and a delegation of judges went to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg praised them for so carefully including crimes against women as crimes against humanity in the Anfal decision. This meeting reinforced the critical role judges play and how important it is to engage in strategic advocacy with such judges, even in the face of conflicting religious or cultural practices.

***This [trip has] inspired me to continously try harder for equality and... to advance and develop International Rule of law.***

*-IHT Judge Jiyen Adzee*

## We formulated new strategies to move the United States to transform its view of international law

***...an unprecedented opportunity... to reframe U.S. domestic and international law to affirmatively advance women's equality rights globally and at home.***

*- GJC White Paper: "How International Law Could Radically Change the Definition of Gender Equality in the United States: CEDAW and Reproductive Rights"*

The Global Justice Center, from its inception, has been clear that the United States' stance on gender equality exported as foreign policy presents obstacles, not opportunities, for global justice. Today, we believe that the President-Elect will be an ally in transforming our Global Justice Center vision into actual blue prints for how the United States can rethink its approach to international law. Our White Paper Series on U.S. Foreign Policy exposes the growing gap between US domestic and international law equality guarantees and proposes new policies not only for the new administration, but other human rights organizations, donors and supporters to reject the exceptionalist policies of past administrations and to promote a renewed commitment to U.S. membership among a community of nations that operates under a singular, international rule of law.

**T**hese are just a few examples of the many ways in which your support for the Global Justice Center's vision and leadership is changing the world. You have made this the time for global justice and equality. We hope you will help us to continue this important work and create the world that was first envisioned by Eleanor Roosevelt and codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As stated in the Preamble: "the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

Thank you from all of us at the Global Justice Center and best wishes for the New Year.



Janet Benshoof,  
President and Founder

***What you have accomplished is truly impressive and I am positive that Global Justice Center will continue to make its positive mark on the world.***

*-Tamara Quinn, President and Founder of  
Generation Iraq*



Janet Benshoof commends the Iraq High Tribunal for enforcing international law at the U.S. Supreme Court.

**"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin?**

**In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.**

**Yet they are the world of the individual person;**

**the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works.**

**Such are the places**

**where every man woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.**

**Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.**

**Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."**

**-Eleanor Roosevelt**



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