



University of San Diego



**Joan B. Kroc  
Institute for Peace and Justice**

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Few Headlines, No Justice**

### **Women Conflict Survivors to Speak at Public Hearing on November 17-18, 2005**

Women's rights are violated throughout the world. They are abducted, raped, trafficked, and forced to serve as sex slaves. Some who have survived are brave enough to tell their stories and to demand accountability for the crimes committed against them. Menen Castillo, one of the last remaining "Comfort Women," South Asian women forced to serve as sex slaves to the Japanese military during World War II, will be joined by a Sister Pauline Acayo, a nun currently working with girls abducted as sex slaves by the rebels in northern Uganda. Decades have passed between these two cases, but the atrocities continue to occur. Who is holding the perpetrators accountable? Where can survivors find justice?

The **Global Women's Court of Accountability**, at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego, is truly global in scope. The Court will bring women survivors, witnesses, and peacemakers from Burundi, northern Uganda, Nigeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines, among other countries, to testify before a distinguished panel of judges headed by the honorable Justice Richard Goldstone, Chief Prosecutor in the Rwanda and former Yugoslavia tribunals, and Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Justice is not only about hearing, but also about responding to these crimes. Expert human rights defenders will join survivors and judges to analyze current international laws and tools of accountability that may be employed to both protect against future gender-based violence, and to respond to past abuses.

"This Court offers a rare opportunity for Americans to hear firsthand testimony of victims of human rights violations that continue to this day. The past is not forgotten; truth and justice must be achieved," explains Laura Taylor, program officer of the Institute. "Until violent crimes against women are addressed, more girls and women will suffer."

The Global Court of Accountability is free and open to the public.

For an event schedule and complete list of participants please visit <http://peace.sandiego.edu>.

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego is dedicated to fostering peace, cultivating justice and creating a safer world through education, research, and peacemaking activities.

5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492

## **SELECT GLOBAL WOMEN'S COURT OF ACCOUNTABILITY PARTICIPANTS**

**Menen Castillo**, age 76, is president of Lolas Kampanyera, a support group for Filipino "Comfort Women" who served as sex slaves to the Japanese during WWII.

**Sister Pauline Acayo** works with sex slaves and child soldiers in northern Uganda.

**Dilkwaz Ahmed** is an Iraqi human rights activist and survivor of the anti-Kurdish campaign orchestrated by Saddam Hussein.

**Adriana Bartow** is still searching for justice after Guatemalan security forces killed her brother and disappeared her father and two of her daughters, ages 9 and 10.

**Golalei Nur** represents the province of Mazar-e Sharif in the Afghan National Parliament and works to address violence against women in her country.

**Justice Richard Goldstone** is one of the world's most respected jurists and human rights defenders.

**Fatou Bensouda** is the Deputy Prosecutor of The International Criminal Court in The Hague.

**Carmen Kcomt** is a family court judge from Peru forced to leave her country because of her work for human rights.

**Selmin Caliskan** is an advocate for war-traumatized women and girls in war and post-war regions, including Afghanistan and Bosnia.

**Nelia Sancho** is an expert for Filipino "Comfort Women" and an advocate for trafficked women in Southeast Asia.

**Joy Ngozi Ezeilo**, founder of the Women's Aid Collective, has defended dozens of women raped and abused by military personnel in Nigeria.

**Mary Ann Arnado** coordinated a civil society cease-fire monitoring campaign in Mindanao, the Philippines.

**Katrina Anderson** served as a legal advisor to the Documentation Center of Cambodia to address crimes against women perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge.

**Roxanna Altholz**, staff attorney at the Center for Justice and International Law in D.C., has represented hundreds of victims of human rights litigation.

The Global Women's Court of Accountability is made possible through the generous support of the Fred J. Hansen Foundation.