

MS 154  
Ingham NQ 4850

Deanne Kelley,  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,  
Parliament House,,  
Canberra.. A.T.C.2600

**Re: The 1998 Statute for the International Criminal Court.**

Dear Deanne,

Your fax was much appreciated & alerted us to this extremely dangerous Statute.

It never ceases to amaze us that people who consider themselves to be working in the interest of all Australians could even contemplate ratifying such a statute, let alone announce that "Australia will ratify the statute & legislate this year to incorporate all the crimes listed in the statute as crimes in domestic law." **before** the committee has deliberated! For whom are these people working?

This statute is a time bomb. The fact that other thinking nations are refusing to sign should send a very strong message to Australia to proceed with the utmost caution.

Has the fact that it could be unconstitutional to sign this statute been thoroughly investigated?

We are totally opposed to the ratification of this statute because we consider it to be an assault on Australia's sovereignty & would allow an alien body to interfere directly & powerfully in Australia's domestic affairs to the extent of being able to try & imprison Australian citizens for alleged crimes committed on Australian soil.

We note words such as "genocide & mental health" within this statute. Australia has already had accusations of genocide leveled against it. To ratify this statute could open the floodgates.

The I.C.C. prosecutor is powerful, independent & unaccountable. His only review is a panel of I.C.C. judges. We feel that this is extremely dangerous.

We are concerned that the I.C.C. is not only a court to deal with established war crimes, but it is also a human rights court. The court is supposed to deal with genocide, war crimes & crimes against humanity, the definition of these crimes are so breathtakingly elastic & wide open to manipulation, the court's jurisdiction has become extremely wide-ranging. For example. Crimes against humanity & war crimes include such offences as enslavement, rape, forced pregnancy, inhuman acts causing injury to mental health, sexual violence, sexual slavery & inhumane acts against 'identifiable groups.'

We believe that the signing of this statute would be considered undemocratic & totally un-Australian & would be held against your government at the next election.

**We beg you & your committee, please do not sign this statute.**

Yours faithfully,

Dawn B Brown  
R. Romano