

## **If Not Peace, Then Justice**

*The New York Times*

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**Letters**

Elizabeth Rubin (April 2) is to be commended for her effort to shine light upon the potential of the newly created International Criminal Court, specifically regarding the trial and punishment of those responsible for the ongoing genocide in Darfur. But the workings of an evolving international criminal-justice system can never hope to ensure comprehensive deterrence of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes without the parallel development of the political will necessary to the creation of effective humanitarian intervention. This must include armed force to scotch potential disasters before they balloon out of control.

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Despite all obstacles, the International Criminal Court brings hope of a check to unrestrained political power in international affairs. Just as our own court system acts to balance the political branches of our government, I hope the I.C.C. will bring accountability to heads of state when politics cannot offer a solution.

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The United States government, especially under the current Bush administration, does not often publicly reverse itself on any issue. That the government first resisted and then acquiesced to the international community's efforts to address the horrors in Darfur through the I.C.C. may indicate that the Bush administration has become more supportive of multilateral cooperation, at least on international criminal-justice issues. Having taken this first step, the administration, which has called the crimes in Darfur "genocide," should now work with the United Nations and the I.C.C. to help bring peace and justice to Darfur.

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