



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

31 May 2002

Dear Professor Bassiouni,

I am in receipt of your communication of 23 April 2002 informing me of the activities of the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) and the International Institute for Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISISC) in support of the International Criminal Court.

The contributions of IHRLI and ISISC stand out not only for affording an opportunity to those who would otherwise have been unable to participate in the ICC process but also for offering a forum to discuss intersessionally critical issues concerning the ICC, whose solution helped to advance the work of preparatory processes. There is no better recognition for your tireless efforts and of the institutions that you represent than the certainty of the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 1 July 2002.

I extend to you the best wishes of the Organization as you continue to take up other important challenges leading to the universality of the Court.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written in a cursive style.

Kofi A. Annan

Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni
President
International Human Rights Law Institute
DePaul University
Chicago

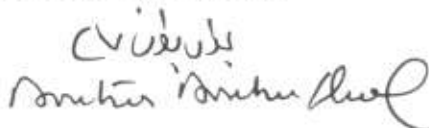
**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER STUDIES
IN CRIMINAL SCIENCES**

Siracusa, Italy

On the occasion of the Institute's Twentieth Anniversary I am delighted to send you my greetings and best wishes.

ISISC has distinguished itself during the past twenty years by bringing together experts in the criminal sciences --including human rights -- from many countries in its various international conferences, seminars, programmes and activities, and through its publications.

ISISC's work has pointed the way forward for action by Governments and international bodies. It is an excellent example of a non-governmental organization making its unique contribution -- through a network of contacts (including the United Nations) -- to the attainment of the goals envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations: "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".



Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General
United Nations

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A GENEVE

Le Secrétaire général adjoint
aux droits de l'homme



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CH-1211 GENEVE 10

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AT GENEVA

The Under-Secretary-General
for Human Rights



Preface by Mr Antoine Blanca, United Nations Under-Secretary-
General for Human Rights

On behalf of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, I offer my congratulations to the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, not only for producing this fine volume but also for its important achievements in the field of human rights over the past two decades.

In the Preamble to the United Nations Charter, the peoples of the United Nations declare their determination "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". Accordingly, Article 1 of the Charter proclaims that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Efforts to build a world society respectful of human rights play an important role in the realisation of the United Nations' two other principle objectives - economic and social development and maintenance of international peace and security.

While the United Nations remains the focal point for many human rights initiatives, it is evident that much of the progress towards realisation of the goals set by the Charter would have been impossible without the support and cooperation of non-governmental organisations. These organisations have played a seminal role in the history of the United Nations. Their faith and commitment helped to give shape to the Charter and they have, over the years, consistently provided stimulus and inspiration for both the planning and implementation of United Nations programmes and activities. Non-governmental organisations, by their very nature, have a freedom of expression, a flexibility

of action and a liberty of movement which enable them to complement our role in the protection and promotion of human rights.

During the past twenty years, The United Nations has benefited greatly from a particularly close and fruitful relationship with The International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences. The Institute enjoys consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and is a member of the family of "Associated Institutes" with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch.

The Institute has undertaken a number of important initiatives in cooperation with the United Nations. These have included conferences and seminars for practitioners and teachers of criminal justice and human rights. In this context, special mention should be made of the Institute's Arab Human Rights Programme which, in the seven years since its inception, has contributed enormously to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly within the academic and judicial communities of Arab societies. The United Nations is proud to be associated with this work and is confident that the success of this and other such ambitious and far-reaching programmes, will continue.

Another important area of cooperation between the United Nations and the Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences has been in the elaboration of international human rights instruments. The Convention Against Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which entered into force in 1987, emerged directly from a Committee of Experts convened by the Institute and the United Nations ten years earlier. A number of other instruments relating directly to the administration of criminal justice, adopted by the United Nations, have been elaborated under the auspices of the Institute.

It is initiatives of this kind which are so important in the effort to develop a universal climate respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Today, perhaps more so than at any time in the past, the world community is in a position to significantly strengthen the international human rights system. The United Nations cannot undertake this task alone. We must all work together to ensure that this opportunity for developing a world respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms, is not wasted. The relationship which has developed over the past twenty years between the United Nations and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science, provides hope that we will achieve these goals together.



Antoine Blanca