



THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Bringing Human Rights Abusers To Justice.

July 18, 2017

Senator Bob Corker  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Ben Cardin  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Corker and Cardin:

The State Department [indicated](#) its intention to close the Office of Global Criminal Justice, suggesting that the U.S. will no longer prioritize bringing war criminals to justice. The office was founded in the late 1990's in the wake of genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia. According to *Foreign Policy* magazine, David Scheffer, who served as the first U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, said, "This sends a strong signal to perpetrators of mass atrocities that the United States is not watching you anymore." As the leading U.S.-based organization dedicated to holding accountable perpetrators of the worst human rights crimes, I ask that you take action to prevent closure of the Office of Global Criminal Justice, by registering your concerns about the announcement with the Administration and calling for a hearing to examine the costs to national security and global stability closure might entail. The future of millions in Syria, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Myanmar and elsewhere depend on it.

Sincerely,

C. Dixon Osburn  
Executive Director