



The MacArthur Award for International Justice

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Trusted world leader, eloquent diplomat, courageous champion of justice.

When first appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations, you dedicated yourself to perfecting “the triangle of development, freedom, and peace.” Your moral vision and clarion call to action reenergized the UN as an “indispensable instrument of human progress.”

Your exemplary tenure reminded us, in the words of Nadine Gordimer, that “great intelligence and calm insight into the political, economic, and social human condition can still exist in an office of virtually universal responsibility.”

Reaffirming human solidarity in an age of globalization, you resolutely advocated freedom from want, freedom from fear, an end to exclusion, and the inherent dignity of every member of the human family.

In pursuit of this transforming hope, you championed the cause of human rights and universal justice, supporting key principles and new institutions to enforce accountability. From the Rome Conference that envisioned a “court of last resort,” through the arduous process of ratification, and into the first prosecutions, your engagement was critical to establishing the International Criminal Court. Your charge to the General Assembly spurred the creation of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, a body that articulated a new norm: the “Responsibility to Protect” those in danger of the worst atrocities.

Your mediation in intractable conflicts — Burundi, East Timor, Kenya, Nepal, Sierra Leone — opened new possibilities for peaceful resolution. With patience, persuasion, and persistence, you helped defuse violence, save lives, and reconcile nations torn apart by civil strife.

These landmarks in our collective conscience make it imaginable that, in your words, “...the innocents of distant wars and conflicts [should] know that they, too, may sleep under the cover of justice; that they, too, have rights, and that those who violate those rights will be punished.”

You continue to remind us that justice is part of the “larger freedom” that is the true inheritance of all the world’s citizens. Through the Millennium Development Goals, you called us to address the daily humiliations of poverty, lack of opportunity, and endemic disease that depress the human spirit and undermine the foundations of a truly just world order.

The MacArthur Foundation shares your commitment to a more fair, sustainable, and peaceful world. For your capacity to frame that vision, your courage in confronting humankind’s darkest instincts, and your inspiration that galvanizes our best values, the MacArthur Foundation is proud to present you with the inaugural MacArthur Award for International Justice.
