

CORRESPONDENCE

The *American Journal of International Law* welcomes short communications from its readers. It reserves the right to determine which letters to publish and to edit any letters printed. Letters should conform to the same format requirements as other manuscripts.

TO THE EDITORS IN CHIEF:

Stefan Barriga and Leena Grover have done a masterful job in explaining the often perplexing conclusions reached at Kampala regarding the crime of aggression (105 AJIL 517 (2011)). I am particularly grateful for their kindness in dedicating their learned essay to me since I have spent a lifetime trying to criminalize that particularly odious offense. I am keenly aware and appreciative of the heroic efforts by Ambassadors Christian Wenaweser and Prince Zeid of Jordan, who skillfully chaired the very difficult and stressful proceedings.

To be sure, optimism is more constructive than pessimism. Referring to the outcome as “A Historic Breakthrough” in the essay’s title should not, however, obscure the fact that there is still a long way to go before malevolent leaders who send young people to kill and be killed in illegal wars will be called to account before the International Criminal Court (ICC). Much to my sorrow, the bottom line remains that ICC jurisdiction over the crime of aggression cannot be activated until some unspecified and uncertain date after 2017.

As long as the lock remains on the courthouse door, other ways must be found to penalize and deter what the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg condemned as “the supreme international crime.” Specific suggestions about what can and should be done now are available on my website, www.Benferencz.org. I would be grateful to receive any other ideas for ending the existing impunity for the crime of aggression.

BENJAMIN B. FERENCZ