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### **ASIL 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING BREAKS RECORDS AND MAKES NEWS**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) held its 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, with the theme “A Just World Under Law”, from March 29 to April 1, 2006, in Washington, DC. The four-day event made news, not only for its recording breaking attendance of over 1,600 and its high profile speakers, including U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, but also for the resolution that the ASIL membership adopted at its Annual General Meeting on March 30.

For only the fourth time in its 100-year history, ASIL members adopted a resolution on a matter of current public policy. Expressing the deep concern of many ASIL members on issues relating to the laws of war and the treatment of persons in custody, the resolution states:

The American Society of International Law, at its centennial annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 30, 2006, resolves:

1. Resort to armed force is governed by the Charter of the United Nations and other international law (*jus ad bellum*).

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2. Conduct of armed conflict and occupation is governed by the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and other international law (*jus in bello*).
3. Torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of any person in the custody or control of a state are prohibited by international law, from which no derogations are permitted.
4. Prolonged, secret, incommunicado detention of any person in the custody or control of a state is prohibited by international law.
5. Standards of international law regarding treatment of persons extend to all branches of national governments, to their agents, and to all combatant forces.
6. In some circumstances, commanders (both military and civilian) are personally responsible under international law for the acts of their subordinates.
7. All states should maintain security and liberty in a manner consistent with their international law obligations.

The resolution can also be found on ASIL's web site at

<http://www.asil.org/events/am06/resolutions.html>.

The meeting opened with *A Conversation with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice* that also included Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, President of the International Court of Justice Rosalyn Higgins, and ASIL President José Alvarez. Their discussion touched on topics ranging from U.S. obligations to the Geneva Conventions to advancing democracy and the use of foreign and international law in the U.S.

On March 30, Justice Anthony Kennedy delivered a plenary address that focused on the issue of modern day genocide and the obligation of individuals as well as states to

be proactive stopping it. The meeting closed on April 1 with a plenary panel on the roles and responsibilities of international lawyers and the conflicting questions they sometimes face between obligations to their clients and to their profession.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law. Throughout 2006 ASIL celebrates its centennial with the theme "A Just World Under Law." For more information, visit [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).