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**ASIL WEBSITE TRACKS LATEST STATEMENTS BY U.S. PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES ON INTERNATIONAL LAW ISSUES**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) today highlighted new content added to *International Law 2008* (www.asil.org/il08), an ASIL website devoted to tracking the U.S. presidential candidates' stances on international legal issues. As the primary races tighten up on both the Republican and Democratic sides, ASIL aims to provide members of the public and press with timely, comprehensive, and reliable information on international law-related statements made by the contenders.

Among the excerpted quotes recently posted on www.asil.org/il08 are comments by the following lead candidates.

Barack Obama:

- [On international trade] “The only trade agreements I believe in are ones that put workers first - because trade deals aren't good for the American people if they aren't good for working people. That's why I opposed CAFTA. That's why I oppose the South Korea Free Trade Agreement. That's why I voted to block

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Mexican trucks from entering this country. And that's why we need to amend NAFTA.”

- [On international security] “We have not made a commitment to work with the Russians to reduce our own nuclear stockpiles. That has weakened our capacity to pressure other countries to give up nuclear technology.”
- [On human rights] “I will make the United States a signatory to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - the first human rights treaty approved by the UN in the 21st century and a critical step toward respecting the rights of people with disabilities worldwide.”

John McCain:

- [On human rights and international trade] “Well, obviously we should make sure that every nation respects human rights, and we should advocate that and try to enforce it. But I will open every market in the world to Iowa's agricultural products. I'm the biggest free marketer and free trader that you will ever see.”
- [On global climate change] “We are feeling here in California pollution from China. It is a global issue, and we have to address it globally. And I would not agree to any global agreement without India and China being part of it.”
- [On United Nations reform] “And [Vladimir Putin]'s going to cause us to set up a league of democracies to address issues from Darfur to Burma to Iran and others, because he and the Chinese are blocking meaningful action to keep us in a peaceful world in the United Nations.”

Mike Huckabee:

- [On whether the U.S. should bind itself under international law, in the context of

a discussion of the Law of the Sea Convention currently pending ratification]

“Look this country established itself under one authority, the Constitution of the United States, not some international treaty, not international law. It ought to be scary enough [that] you have federal judges at the appellate level who are using international cases as a precedent for their decisions.”

- [On the recent U.S. Supreme Court case *Medellin* which involved U.S. compliance with an international treaty and a decision by an international tribunal] “There is no obligation for a United States court to say, ‘Let`s see what they think over there at the Hague.’ Heck with that. We have law. You come to this country; you break our law; you suffer the penalty of our law, not your law. You want to break your law? Go home and do it. But in our country, break our law, and the law will break you.”

Hillary Clinton:

- [On international trade] “NAFTA was a mistake to the extent that it did not deliver on what we had hoped it would, and that's why I call for a trade timeout when I am president. I'm going to evaluate every trade agreement.”
- [On global climate change] “Well, come January 2009, I'm sending a different message. I want to act quickly to help develop a new treaty. I will engage in high level meetings with leaders around the world every three months, if that's what it takes to hammer out a new agreement. My goal will be to secure a deal by 2010.”
- [On international trade] “If we don't impose a third-party, independent investigative arm on our corporations that do business in China as well as the

Chinese government, we should not permit any items to be imported into our country until we're sure they're safe”

In addition to candidates’ policy statements and speeches on topics related to international law, *International Law 2008* also features a survey via which candidates may elaborate their views about the role of international law in U.S. foreign policy. Survey responses have been received from Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Dennis Kucinich, and Barack Obama. Additional responses will be posted as they are received. A final section, “Leadership Views,” features commentary by ASIL Executive Council members, identifying the most important international law-related issues facing the next U.S. administration.

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. For more information, visit www.asil.org.