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**ASIL WEBSITE CAPTURES PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA'S VIEWS ON
INTERNATIONAL LAW ISSUES**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) has compiled the policy statements of President-elect **Barack Obama** and Vice President-elect **Joseph Biden** that reflect their views on international law-related matters. Their statements, which include Obama's response to ASIL's IL08 survey, can be found at **International Law 2008 (IL08)**, www.asil.org/il08.

Highlights among the Obama quotes posted on IL08 include the following.

- [On **national security**] "...if Pakistan is unable or unwilling to hunt down bin Laden and take him out, then we should."
- [On **international environmental regulations**] "The first commitment that I'll make today is setting a goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050."
- [On **nuclear non-proliferation**] "We cannot allow Iran to get a nuclear weapon. It would be a game-changer in the region....And I will do everything that's required to prevent it. And we will never take military options off the table. And

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it is important that we don't provide veto power to the United Nations or anyone else in acting in our interests."

- [On **humanitarian intervention**] "So, when genocide is happening, when ethnic cleansing is happening somewhere around the world, and we stand idly by, that diminishes us. And so I do believe that we have to consider it as part of our interests, our national interests, in intervening where possible."
- [On **international security**] "[W]e need to work with Russia to take U.S. and Russian ballistic missiles off hair-trigger alert; to dramatically reduce the stockpiles of our nuclear weapons and material; to seek a global ban on the production of fissile material for weapons; and to expand the U.S.-Russian ban on intermediate-range missiles so that the agreement is global."
- [On **trade agreements**] "...what I've called for is a loosening of the restrictions on remittances from family members to the people of Cuba, as well as travel restrictions for family members who want to visit their family members in Cuba. I think our goal has to be ultimately normalization."
- [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 Mexican trucks from entering this country. And that's why we need to amend NAFTA."
- [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.”

To see the complete collection of Obama’s international law-related statements, as well as his responses to ASIL’s IL08 candidate survey, visit www.asil.org/obama.cfm.

To read quotes from Biden, visit www.asil.org/biden.cfm.

IL08 has been a year and a half-long project by ASIL devoted to tracking all of the U.S. presidential candidates’ stances on international legal issues. ASIL’s aim was to provide members of the public and press with timely, comprehensive, and reliable information on the contenders’ international law views.

In addition to candidates’ policy statements and speeches, *International Law 2008* also features a survey of the candidates’ views on the role of international law in U.S. foreign policy. In addition to Obama’s survey response, the Society received responses from Senator **Hillary Clinton**, former Senator **John Edwards**, and Congressman **Dennis Kucinich**. A final section of IL08, “Leadership Views,” features commentary by ASIL leaders, identifying the most important international law-related issues facing the next U.S. administration. This section includes views from , [Anne-Marie Slaughter](#), [Miriam Sapiro](#), [Lucy Reed](#), [Frederick L. Kirgis](#), [Charlie Hunnicutt](#), [Charles H. Brower II](#), [Nathaniel A. Berman](#), [Diane Marie Amann](#), and [José E. Alvarez](#).

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.