

H.H. Pope John Paul II

From the Message of His Holiness Pope John Paul II for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 2000, "Peace on Earth to Those Whom God Loves!" (excerpt):

"Crimes Against Humanity—This principle has an immensely important consequence: an offense against human rights is an offense against the conscience of humanity as such, an offence against humanity itself. The duty of protecting these rights therefore extends beyond the geographical and political borders within which they are violated. Crimes against humanity cannot be considered an internal affair of a nation. Here an important step forward was taken with the establishment of an International Criminal Court to try such crimes, regardless of the place or circumstances in which they are committed. We must thank God that in the conscience of peoples and nations there is a growing conviction that human rights have no borders, because they are universal and indivisible."