



For Immediate Release

World Economic Forum Names Paul Van Zyl a 2008 Young Global Leader

Adjunct Professor and Director of the Transitional Justice Project at CHRGJ Chosen for Prestigious Award

NEW YORK, March 11, 2008—The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) at NYU’s School of Law today welcomed the news from the World Economic Forum that Paul Van Zyl has been chosen as one of its Young Global Leader for 2008. Van Zyl teaches a course and a seminar in Transitional Justice and directs CHRGJ’s Project on Transitional Justice. He is also the co-founder and Executive Vice-President of the New York-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). This prestigious honor is awarded annually by the World Economic Forum to recognize and acknowledge some 200 to 300 young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitments to society, and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world.

Drawn from a pool of nearly 5,000 candidates, the Young Global Leaders 2008 were chosen by a selection committee comprised of 31 distinguished international media leaders chaired by H.M. Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This year’s 245 Awardees hail from more than 65 countries and diverse backgrounds, including the worlds of academia, business, government, media and civil society. Fellow honorees include leaders such as Larry Page and Sergey Brin, co-founders of Google, and Malvinder M. Singh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Ranbaxy Laboratories, India.

“The World Economic Forum is a true multi-stakeholder community of global decision-makers,” said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. “We need the Young Global Leaders to be a voice for the future in the global thought process and as a catalyst for initiatives in the global public interest.”

Established in 2004 by Schwab, the Forum of Young Global Leaders is a unique, multi-stakeholder community of the world’s most extraordinary young leaders, who dedicate a part of their time to jointly address global challenges and who are committed to devote some of their knowledge and energy to collectively work towards a better future. As part of their engagement, the Young Global Leaders give their time to task forces to initiate, develop, and drive innovative solutions on important, globally-oriented issues, including health, education, the environment, global governance and security, and development and poverty.

“Paul Van Zyl’s commitment to the emerging field of transitional justice has contributed enormously to training and inspiring a generation of young scholars at NYU who are interested in contributing constructive solutions to some of the most complex and difficult human rights challenges confronted by countries in transition from conflict or brutal dictatorship,” said Philip Alston, the CHRGJ’s Faculty Chair and a fellow professor at NYU’s School of Law. “Paul is a superb teacher and has made a unique pedagogical contribution to the evolution of this vital new field of transitional justice.”

About Paul Van Zyl

Paul Van Zyl is a co-founder and the Executive Vice-President of the ICTJ, an organization which assists countries pursuing accountability for past mass atrocity or human rights abuse. The ICTJ was founded in 2001 by Professor Alex Boraine and grew out of a project on transitional justice established at NYU School of Law. From 1995 to 1998, Van Zyl served as Executive Secretary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, helping to establish the

Commission, develop its structure and modus operandi, and manage its operations. He has also worked as a researcher for the Goldstone Commission, as a department head at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg, and as an associate at Davis Polk and Wardwell in New York.

Throughout his career, Van Zyl has received a number of academic and professional honors. In addition to being selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader 2008, he was selected as a TED Fellow in 2007 and was named as one of New York's "Top 15 Lawyers under 40" by New York Lawyer Magazine.

Van Zyl obtained a BA and an LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and an LLM in International Law from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Following these studies, he was named a Hauser Global Scholar at NYU and was awarded an LLM degree in Corporate Law.

About the CHRGI

The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice was established in 2002 to stimulate cutting edge scholarship and to make original and constructive contributions to on-going policy debates in the field of human rights. By emphasizing interdisciplinary analyses, the Center's programs seek to situate international human rights law in the broader context of the political, jurisprudential, economic, sociological, historical, anthropological and other influences that shape it and determine its impact. The Center's reports and legal memoranda on extraordinary rendition, disappearances, and detainee abuse have been cited in the Council of Europe's major report on secret flights and prisons in Europe, distributed to members of the U.K. Parliament, and used by numerous non-governmental organizations.

Philip Alston is the Center's Faculty Chair; Smita Narula and Margaret Satterthwaite are its Faculty Directors; Paul Van Zyl is its Director of Transitional Justice; Jayne Huckerby is Research Director; and Veerle Opgenhaffen is Program Director.

For more information about our work: please visit the Center's website at: www.chrgj.org