

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2007 JOSEPH AWARD HONORS INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION'S ANTI-SLAVERY WORK

WASHINGTON, DC – June 5, 2007 – On Wednesday, June 6, 2007, International Justice Mission President and CEO Gary Haugen will receive the 2007 Joseph Award. Presented by Sojourners/Call to Renewal, the annual award recognizes an individual who has used a position of influence to overcome poverty and advance justice. Haugen will accept the award on behalf of the more than 250 staff of IJM around the world.

Previous Joseph Award recipients include Representative John Lewis, former Representative Tony Hall, Senator John Edwards and Senator Barack Obama. Sojourners, an agency dedicated to putting poverty and justice issues on the national political agenda, will present Haugen with the award in Washington, DC, as part of its Pentecost 2007 conference.

In 1997, Haugen founded International Justice Mission, an organization dedicated to rescuing victims of violence, slavery, sexual exploitation and trafficking. A multi-national team of law enforcement professionals and lawyers conduct criminal investigations and collect evidence, working with local authorities to bring immediate relief to victims and pursue prosecution of perpetrators. IJM social workers ensure that victims receive access to proper aftercare services and facilities.

As an advocate in the field, IJM distinguishes itself through seeking to protect people from violent forces of injustice by securing rescue and restoration for victims of human rights abuse and ensuring that public justice systems work for the poor. IJM has brought relief to thousands of victims of human rights abuses and ensured the conviction of hundreds of perpetrators over the past 10 years.

Haugen received a B.A. from Harvard University and a J.D. from the University of Chicago, where he was the Ford Foundation Scholar in International Law. In 1994, Haugen was working at the U.S. Department of Justice when he was put on loan to the United Nations to serve as the Officer in Charge of their genocide investigation in Rwanda. Haugen directed an international team of lawyers, criminal prosecutors, law enforcement officers and forensics experts in the gathering of evidence against the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide.

Haugen says, “Slipping in the mud of a mass grave, I stopped wondering how I might have fared in the great moral struggles of history. It became abundantly clear that such struggles are not matters of idle speculation; such struggles are now.”

It was after these experiences that Haugen felt compelled to found an organization dedicated to bringing immediate relief to victims of violence and oppression around the world and to pursuing prosecution of perpetrators who abused power to violate and suppress the weak. Haugen founded IJM in 1997 to achieve these goals and apply his legal background to the work of strengthening public justice systems on behalf of the poor.

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About International Justice Mission:

International Justice Mission is a human rights organization that rescues victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. A multi-national team of law enforcement professionals and legal staff conduct criminal investigations and collect evidence to rescue victims and bring perpetrators to justice. IJM operates 14 offices around the world that take cases of forced labor slavery, sex trafficking, police abuse, illegal land seizure, illegal detention unprosecuted rape and other forms of violent abuse. IJM was founded by Gary Haugen who was the Officer in Charge of the U.N. investigation into the Rwandan genocide. More information at: www.ijm.org.

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