

Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein

Biographical Note

Prince Zeid is Jordan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations; a post he has held since August 2000. Previously, from June 1996 to June 2000, he served as Jordan's Deputy Permanent Representative.

Throughout this period of service, Prince Zeid has undertaken a number of special responsibilities relating to the following issues: international justice, United Nations peacekeeping and women's development.

An expert in the field of international justice, he played a central role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. He chaired, for example, over the course of two years, the complex, often pioneering, negotiations on the 'elements' of the individual offenses falling under the crimes of: Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes.

Subsequently, in September 2002, Prince Zeid was elected the first president of the governing body of the International Criminal Court, at a time when the Court was only a plan on paper, with no officials or even an address to its name and, in three years, oversaw the Court's growth into the institution it has now become.

He has also been active on other legal issues. He was the first of two UN ambassadors to chair the Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. And in the spring of 2004, he was chosen to be chairman of the 'Panel of Experts for the UN Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice', in the matter relating to the boundary dispute between Benin and Niger. Earlier that year, he was also appointed by his government as Jordan's representative, and head of delegation, before the International Court of Justice in the matter relating to the wall being built by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Having served as a political affairs officer in UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia from February 1994 to February 1996, and, having worked intimately with peacekeeping issues for over the last decade – for several years as the coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement -- Prince Zeid's knowledge of UN peacekeeping is also extensive.

Following allegations of widespread abuse being committed by UN peacekeepers in the summer of 2004, he was appointed as 'Advisor to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.' In the spring of 2005, he produced a report on this subject; which provided, for the first time, a comprehensive strategy for the elimination of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in UN Peacekeeping Operations. The report was endorsed in full, by the 191 Heads of State and Government, in September 2005.

Prince Zeid currently chairs the Consultative Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Prince Zeid holds a B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University, a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, and has served as an officer in the Jordanian military.

His publications include: 'A Nightmare Avoided: Jordan and Suez 1956' in *Israel Affairs* (Winter 1994), and 'Religious Militancy in the Arab Middle East: Threats and Responses 1979-1988' in the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* (Spring 1989).

He is married to Princess Sarah Zeid and they have a son and a daughter.