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To the Editor:

Assuming its likely creation, the International Criminal Court (Op-Ed, Dec. 12, and editorial, Dec. 13) will operate amid multiple, and often competing, justice options -- some of which focus on more victim-oriented, restorative justice mechanisms like truth commissions, compensation and community memorials.

In Cambodia, for instance, some people oppose a tribunal to prosecute the leaders of the Khmer Rouge because they believe that prosecutions would impinge upon their national reconciliation process and that punishing perpetrators would block their best path to peace. Instead, they advocate creating a truth commission, like the one used in South Africa to obtain truthful testimony in exchange for granting amnesty to suspects.

The court that will be established -- with or without the United States -- must be flexible enough to allow alternative forms of justice.

ZACH KAUFMAN
Washington, Dec. 17, 2000

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