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Clooney Foundation for Justice Announces New Senior Leaders and Flagship Initiatives

Noted human rights and anti-corruption activist John Prendergast joins CFJ as Strategic Director; international lawyer and human rights expert Dr. Anya Neistat to serve as Legal Director of The Docket

NEW YORK, February 3, 2020 – The Clooney Foundation for Justice (CFJ) announced John Prendergast and Dr. Anya Neistat to new senior leadership roles. Established by George and Amal Clooney in 2016, CFJ advocates for justice and advances accountability for human rights abuses around the world, including through its three flagship initiatives: TrialWatch®, The Sentry and The Docket.

Prendergast, a leading human rights and anti-corruption advocate, will serve as Strategic Director of CFJ. In that role he will advance the organization’s overall mission and impact as well as lead its resource mobilization efforts. Based in New York City, Prendergast will continue to run The Sentry, which he co-founded with George Clooney in 2016.

“The Clooney Foundation for Justice has major plans to expand its work in the coming year in support of justice worldwide. After years of working with George on a variety of initiatives, including The Sentry, I am looking forward to partnering more closely with both Amal and George at CFJ,” said John Prendergast, Strategic Director of the Clooney Foundation for Justice.

Neistat, who previously served as the Senior Director for Research for Amnesty International, will join CFJ as the Legal Director of The Docket. Based in Paris, Neistat will lead the development and implementation of The Docket, an initiative focused on bringing to justice individuals and corporations complicit in international crimes, and representing the victims of those crimes.

“Through my work leading fact-finding missions in conflict areas around the world, I have seen first-hand the webs of influence that fuel the cycle of abuse and impunity,” said Dr. Anya Neistat, Legal Director of CFJ’s The Docket. “I believe strongly in CFJ’s mission and am excited to build on our smart, justice-focused initiatives to bring about real change.”

Prior to joining CFJ and launching The Sentry, Prendergast worked for the National Security Council, the State Department, two members of Congress, the National Intelligence Council, UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, the International Crisis Group, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. He was part of the mediation team that negotiated the end to the Ethiopia-Eritrea war, supported President Nelson Mandela’s mediation in the Burundi peace process, and contributed to other



peace processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Sudan, and Somalia. He is also the author or co-author of eleven books and the Co-Founder of the Enough Project.

Neistat's work in international human rights spans more than two decades. Before her time with Amnesty International, she worked as the associate director for Program and Emergencies at Human Rights Watch. She has conducted more than 60 investigations in conflict areas around the world, including in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Kenta, Yemen, Chechnya, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. She has also authored numerous reports and opinion pieces, and regularly contributes to legal and human rights debates in academic and policy institutions.

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About the Clooney Foundation for Justice

The Clooney Foundation for Justice was established in late 2016 by George and Amal Clooney to advocate for justice through accountability for human rights abuses around the world, including through its three flagship initiatives: TrialWatch®, The Sentry and The Docket. For more information on the Foundation and its work, please visit www.cfj.org.

About TrialWatch®

The Clooney Foundation for Justice's TrialWatch initiative monitors and grades the fairness of trials of vulnerable people around the world, including journalists, women and girls, religious minorities, LGBTQ persons and human rights defenders. Using this data, TrialWatch advocates for victims and is developing a Global Justice Ranking measuring national courts' compliance with international human rights standards.

About The Sentry

The Sentry is an investigative and policy team that follows the dirty money connected to African war criminals and transnational war profiteers and seeks to shut those benefiting from violence out of the international financial system.

About The Docket

Working with multi-disciplinary investigative and legal teams, The Docket gathers and analyzes evidence in order to trigger prosecutions and civil actions against those involved in international crimes and represent victims in their pursuit of justice.