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EPIC HONORS AUSTRALIAN JURIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER --

MICHAEL KIRBY RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL PRIVACY CHAMPION AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) has awarded the 2010 International Privacy Champion Award to the Honorable Michael Kirby for his role in the development of the OECD Privacy Guidelines of 1980.

“The OECD Privacy Guidelines are the most influential privacy framework in the world and Michael Kirby is the person who made them possible,” said Marc Rotenberg, President of EPIC.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), comprised of thirty leading market democracies, addresses the economic, social and governance challenges and opportunities of globalization.

The 1980 OECD Privacy Guidelines were adopted to address the emerging challenge of the transfer of personal information across national borders in the global economy. The OECD Guidelines consist of eight principles that have provided the basis for national laws, international agreements, and privacy frameworks that have been adopted around the world.

“Long before the Internet and the World Wide Web, the OECD took on what would become one of the great challenges of the modern age: how to safeguard privacy while promoting innovation and economic growth,” said Andrew Wyckoff, Director of Science, Technology and Industry at the OECD. “The principles that emerged from the OECD expert group remain an essential point of reference for addressing today’s privacy challenges.”

“The international privacy community owes Justice Kirby a huge debt for his critical role working with leading experts from North America, Europe and Asia to develop the Guidelines. These Guidelines have shaped privacy protection throughout the world and continue to serve as a basis for international efforts to promote the protection of personal information,” said Jennifer Stoddart, Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

The EPIC International Privacy Champion Award will be presented to Justice Kirby at the OECD in Paris on March 10, 2010.

The 2009 EPIC International Privacy Champion Award was given to Italian jurist Professor Stefano Rodota. The 2010 EPIC US Privacy Champion Award was given to Beth Givens, founder and director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse in San Diego, California.

January 28 is International Privacy Day, the day that the first international convention for privacy was announced. Many groups around the world are hosting events to mark the occasion.

About Hon. Michael Kirby

Michael Kirby served as a Justice on Australia's High Court between 1996 and 2009. Michael Kirby has also served in many international and United Nations positions including two expert groups of the OECD, Paris, many bodies of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London and positions in the ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, WHO Global Commission on AIDS, and UNAIDS. He was President of the International Commission of Jurists 1995-1998 and served as Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Human Rights in Cambodia 1993-1996. He holds honorary degrees of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws and Doctor of the University from twelve Australian and foreign universities and various other appointments.

About EPIC

The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) is the leading privacy advocacy and research organization in the world. Based in Washington, DC, EPIC was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. EPIC maintains two top-ranked privacy web sites – EPIC.ORG and PRIVACY.ORG.

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