



Coalition for the International Criminal Court  
[www.iccnw.org](http://www.iccnw.org)

**For more information, contact:**

**In Turkey:** Ozlem Altiparlmak

tel: +90 532 731 78 38

e-mail: [ozlemaltiparmak@gmail.com](mailto:ozlemaltiparmak@gmail.com)

**In Brussels:** Luisa Mascia

CICC Europe Coordinator, Coalition for the ICC

tel : +32 (0)2 502 62 15

email: [mascia@iccnw.org](mailto:mascia@iccnw.org)

**In New York:** Ata Hindi

Outreach Liaison for the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe

Coalition for the ICC (New York Secretariat)

tel: +1 646 465 8518

email: [hindi@iccnw.org](mailto:hindi@iccnw.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

5 November 2009

***Global Coalition Urges Turkey to Accede to the Rome Statute  
Calls for Turkey to Implement its 2004 Pledge***

**New York, USA** – The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)—an international network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations—today called on Turkey to demonstrate its commitment to international justice and the rule of law by acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). As part of the Coalition’s Universal Ratification Campaign (URC), which targets a different country each month, the CICC has chosen to focus its campaign on Turkey for November.

In a 5 November 2009 letter to the Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan, the CICC urged Turkey to fulfill its pledge to accede to the Rome Statute—the treaty that created the first permanent global court capable of trying individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

In May 2004, Prime Minister Erdoğan pledged before the Assembly of the Council of Europe that: *“Turkey will soon approve the Rome Statute after completing its internal preparations and will become part of the [International Criminal Court]”*. Furthermore, in December 2008, the Government adopted the 3rd National Programme for the Adoption of the EU Acquis, which – among others – lays out the steps Turkey should take to become a party to the ICC. The CICC is now calling on Prime Minister Erdoğan execute its commitment and join the ICC as soon as possible.

“Turkish authorities should prove their words are not just empty promises”, said Luisa Mascia, Europe Coordinator at the CICC. “With the Czech Republic’s recent ratification, 110 states are

now parties to the Rome Statute and 139 are signatories; it is now time for Turkey to join the international community in its commitment to end impunity through the ICC and strengthen the international justice system by acceding to the Rome Statute now.”

In targeting Turkey, the CICC also calls attention to the Turkish National Coalition for the ICC that includes many prominent Turkish human rights NGOs,<sup>1</sup> currently undertaking a national campaign to raise awareness on the ICC.

“The Turkish Coalition will again engage national authorities, members of the parliament, the media, students, civil society and the general public to ensure the ICC does not drop off the national agenda,” said Ozlem Altiparmak, Coordinator of the national network. “We hope our authorities realize the potential the ICC has as an instrument for the protection of victims of serious human rights abuses.”

More than half of the world—110 countries—has joined the ICC, which is the first permanent international court capable of trying individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Central to the Court’s mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are unable or unwilling to do so. There are currently four active investigations before the Court: Uganda; the Democratic Republic of Congo; Darfur, Sudan and the Central African Republic.

###

---

<sup>1</sup> Ankara Bar Association; Capital City Women's Platform; Association of Civil Society in Criminal Execution System; Diyarbakir Bar Association; Helsinki Citizen's Assembly; Human Rights Research Association; Human Rights Association; Human Rights Agenda Association; Izmir Women Solidarity Association; The Association of Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed People; Ivy Struggling with Poverty and Sustainable Development Association; Foundation for Society and Legal Studies; Social Events Research and Confrontation Association; Human Rights Foundation of Turkey; Amnesty International Turkey; Van Women Association.