

## TO RECEIVE REGULAR NEWS UPDATES ON THE ICC

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## PRIMARY CONTRIBUTORS

The primary contributions to the CICC's work come from our member organizations that carry out the hard work necessary to realize a fair, effective and independent ICC and increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. These organizations commit staff and funds from their own programs toward the Coalition's goals.

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The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, Irish Aid, or any other donor.

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## THE COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

### THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



### *The Coalition for the ICC*

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is a worldwide network of over 2,500 NGOs that promotes a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC) and increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. Through the concerted efforts of member groups and in cooperation with governments and international organizations, we work toward a range of goals that include:

- Promoting ratification and implementation of the Court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute;
- Raising awareness of the ICC at the national, regional and global level;
- Expanding and strengthening the Coalition's worldwide network;
- Monitoring and supporting the work of the Court and the Assembly of States Parties, the ICC's governing body; and
- Protecting the letter and spirit of the Rome statute.

**"...The [International Criminal] Court would strengthen the notion of justice in the world in a manner never before witnessed in the history of humanity."**

*- Dr Abdelouahed Belkeziz, former Secretary-General of the Organisation of The Islamic Conference, January 2004.*

## THE COURT

The ICC is the first permanent international court that can prosecute individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It can exercise jurisdiction over these crimes only when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so. In addition, during the 2010 Review Conference, state parties adopted an amendment to the Rome Statute so as to include a definition of the crime of aggression, and the conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction with respect to the crime. The ICC's jurisdiction commenced on July 2002. More than half of the world's countries have joined the Court. The number of ratifying countries reached 113 with St. Lucia being the latest country to ratify on 18 August 2010.

**Changing History** - At the dawn of the 21st century, the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region continue to witness some of the most serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The ICC provides an ethical and legal response to these crimes and embodies the highest international standards. To function fairly, effectively and independently, the Court needs the support of governments, international organizations, civil society and citizens. The region has a growing human rights movement which can be mobilized to develop support for the ICC. To ensure the

overall success of the Court throughout the region, we have increased our presence in the region and are working together with a growing number of national coalitions and members toward this aim.

**Global Network, Regional Action** - After more than ten years of experience campaigning for the Court, we have acquired enormous expertise and an ever growing membership. Informal national ICC coalitions have been formed in Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen. The sub-regional Gulf Coalition and Arab Coalition have also been formed. CICC member organizations can also be found in Algeria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries. In close cooperation with international and national NGO members, academic institutions and regional organizations, we organize campaigns to promote justice.



*Moroccan NGOs and civil society meet at the secretariat of the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights (OMDH) in Rabat, Morocco for a 2-day training on the ICC between 10-11 July 2010; it was held in cooperation with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation (FES).*

**Realizing Universal Ratification** - To ensure wider ICC participation of the Middle East and North Africa, the CICC Secretariat works actively with governments and parliaments to encourage ratification. We partner with member organizations to host roundtables and workshops in targeted countries, which include meetings with government representatives, national NGOs, academics, parliamentarians and journalists. National coalitions and members carry out the campaigns with support from the CICC. We also assist governments with implementing the ICC treaty into national law. The Coalition's work has contributed to a broader understanding of the Court and the key nexus between international justice and national legal systems.

**Spreading the Word** - In addition to hosting and supporting periodic events and activities about the ICC throughout the region, and generating national media coverage, we distribute the *ICC Monitor* (in English, French and Spanish), our primary publication. The Coalition also publishes *Al-Mahkamah*, which is our Arabic newsletter that focuses on ICC-related developments in the Middle East and North Africa. Furthermore, our multilingual website and email bulletins make it possible to keep up-to-date with the latest news on the Court and the work of the CICC. We also maintain an Arabic website, at [www.coalitionfortheicc.org/ar](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/ar).

**Fighting for the Future** - Through this wide range of activities, the Coalition and its members are dedicated to bringing closer a future without genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and with respect for human rights.