



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

www.coalitionfortheicc.org

For more information, contact:

In Kuwait: Anwar Al Rasheed
Coordinator, Kuwaiti Coalition for the ICC
Tel: +965 9 905 8699
Email: anar0057@yahoo.com

In Amman: Abeer Al Khraisha
Regional Adviser – Middle East and North Africa, Coalition for the ICC
Tel: +201 9 346 3606
E-mail: alkhraisha@coalitionfortheicc.org

Amal Nassar
Program Officer – Middle East and North Africa, Coalition for the ICC
Tel: +201 9 346 3606
E-mail: nassar@coalitionfortheicc.org

In New York: Ata Hindi
Outreach Liaison – Middle East, North Africa and Europe, Coalition for the ICC
Tel: +1 646 465 8518
E-mail: hindi@coalitionfortheicc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Global Coalition Urges Kuwait to Join International Criminal Court *Says Ratification Would Demonstrate Commitment to Rule of Law*

(New York/Amman) – The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)—a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations—called on Kuwait to demonstrate its commitment to international justice and the rule of law by ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC). The Coalition has chosen Kuwait as the focus for its December 2010 Universal Ratification Campaign (URC), a monthly campaign launched to encourage countries to join the ICC.

In a letter dated 2 December 2010 to Kuwaiti Amir H.H. Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, the CICC urged the Kuwaiti government to prioritize its ratification of the Rome

Statute—the founding treaty of the first permanent international court capable of trying perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The Republic of Moldova’s recent ratification in October 2010 reflects on the global impetus to end impunity through the Rome Statute system. 114 states have now acceded to or ratified the Rome Statute and 139 are signatories.

The CICC advised Amir Al-Sabah to heighten Kuwait’s efforts to ratify the Rome Statute in order to ensure that progress towards Kuwait’s ratification of the Rome Statute advances. Ratifying the treaty would be consistent with the commitment of the government of Kuwait to uphold human rights as enshrined in the Constitution, and to advance international law.

William Pace, Convenor of the CICC, encouraged Kuwait to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law. “The Coalition commends Kuwait’s clear intentions to ratify the Rome Statute and accede to the agreement on Privileges and Immunities as stated in its recent response to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council as well as the Review Conference,” said Pace. “Prompt ratification would also enable Kuwait to seize a leadership initiative amongst Arab states, guiding the region forward to universal acceptance of the Rome Statute.”

The CICC’s call for Kuwait’s ratification follows the conclusion of the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute that took place in Kampala from 31 May to 11 June 2010.

“It has been over ten years since Kuwait’s signature of the Rome Statute,” said Anwur Al Rasheed, Coordinator of the Kuwaiti National Coalition for the ICC. “Since then, we have not received any information on the factors preventing the ratification of the Rome Statute. Kuwait’s ratification is necessary as a precondition for participation as a full member at the Assembly of States Parties. As a victim of international crimes, Kuwait must demonstrate its commitment to ending impunity.”

As a state party, Kuwait would be able to actively participate in the annual Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the ICC during which states make important decisions in relation to the administration of the Court, including the election of judges and prosecutors.

There are currently 114 ICC States Parties. 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 investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. There are currently five active investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, the Sudan; Uganda, and Kenya.

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