

New York, 10 January 2012

H.M. King Mohamed VI
Kingdom of Morocco

Re: Prospects of Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Your Majesty,

We have the honor of writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations in 150 countries, campaigning for a fair, effective, and independent ICC and increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes.

The Coalition commends Morocco for signing the Rome Statute of the ICC on 8 September 2000, soon after the Treaty was finalized on 17 July 1998. As you well know, the Rome Statute came into force in July 2002 and now has the support of more than half of the world's nations. With Vanuatu's accession to the Rome Statute on 2 December 2011, 120 states have now acceded to or ratified the treaty. Continuing to secure universal acceptance of the Court remains an important objective that will ensure that the ICC is able to operate effectively.

During the past year, there have been tremendous advances relating to the ICC in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. On 24 June 2011, Tunisia acceded to the Rome Statute and Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC), boosting the underrepresented MENA region at the Court. On 24-25 May 2011, a Regional Diplomatic Conference on the ICC was held in Doha, sponsored by the State of Qatar and undertaken together with the Arab League in cooperation with the ICC. On 6 March 2011, former International Court of Justice Judge Nabil El Arabi was appointed Foreign Minister of Egypt and mentioned ratification as a priority; he was then appointed as the Secretary General of the Arab League. The National Transitional Council of Libya looked to the Court in order to ensure justice for the Libyan people. Representatives of Kuwait and Palestine have stated their intent to join the ICC.

In the past year, the Kingdom of Morocco has initiated significant headway in the area of judicial reforms which go beyond the judiciary and encompass the entire justice system. Furthermore, the country's recently amended constitution is perceived as a decisive historic transition in the process of building the rule of law and democratic institutions.

The CICC encourages your government to continue this trend and take the necessary steps as soon as possible in order to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC, and to fully align the Morocco's legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including accession to the APIC. This decision would ensure Morocco's commitment to the Court and advance the principles of democracy, good governance, justice, and the rule of law in the region. MENA States are instrumental in building and strengthening this new justice system, and their support to the ICC is vital to its success and efficiency.

The CICC takes this opportunity to reaffirm support for the Moroccan and regional human rights NGOs and civil society representatives undertaking a national and regional campaign to raise awareness on the ICC in Morocco and the region.

The Coalition urges Your Majesty to seize this opportunity and momentum to reaffirm Morocco's commitment to the fight against impunity, and increase ratifications in the region.

We hope to see you among the ICC states parties in the near future.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Suhr
Director of Regional Programs



Leila Hanafi
Regional Coordinator – Middle East and North Africa

CC:

H.E. Mr. Abdelilah Benkirane, Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Saad-Eddine El Othmani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

H.E. Mr. Mustafa Ramid, Minister of Justice and Liberties

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Loulichki, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN