



## HEED THE CALL FOR JUSTICE

Statement on the occasion of the 9th Year of the Adoption  
of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court  
17 July 2007, Manila, Philippines

We congratulate Japan for joining the International Criminal Court (ICC) today and encourage the remaining states in Asia to join our call for justice by supporting the Court.

Today, we celebrate World Day for International Justice to commemorate the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the adoption of the Rome Statute that created the first permanent and independent judicial body, the International Criminal Court that would prosecute crimes of the most serious nature -- genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and, once defined, the crime of aggression. Considered a landmark in the history of international law, the ICC now stands as the most important mechanism for human rights protection and justice for victims of the most grievous international crimes.

This year's celebration is especially significant for Asia, the least represented region in the ICC together with the Middle East. Japan is depositing today its instrument of ratification making it the 105<sup>th</sup> state party to the ICC treaty, the 6<sup>th</sup> among Asian countries to join the ICC. With ongoing processes in countries like Laos, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and China, Asia is finally joining the world in marching toward universal ratification of the Rome treaty.

While a number of Asian states face difficult circumstances that delay or prevent them from joining the ICC, the peoples of Asia support the universal ratification of the ICC. The victims of horrendous crimes committed in the past and those that are being committed at present are calling for justice. Asia cannot fail in its duty to stand with the rest of the world in ending impunity, upholding the rule of law and realizing international justice.

Since coming into force in 2002, the Court has begun investigations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Northern Uganda, Darfur, Sudan, and most recently the Central African Republic. It is also looking into a number of other situations on four continents. The Court's deterrent effect is already being felt on the ground in the countries under investigation. And to those who may commit mass atrocities, this now permanent and fully functional court provides a formidable deterrent.

Today—more than any other time in history—the victims of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide are finally being heard. Their voices grow stronger with each new ratification of the Rome Statute, leaving one less safe haven for perpetrators of mass atrocities. This is what we are celebrating today.

**JUSTICE TO ALL VICTIMS OF HEINOUS CRIMES!  
WORK FOR THE UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT!**

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### About the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)

The CICC is a global network of over 2,000 civil society organizations supporting a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court. For more information, visit us online at [www.iccnw.org](http://www.iccnw.org).  
Steering Committee: Amnesty International, Asociación por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Comisión Andina de Juristas, Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre, Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Network-Uganda, No Peace Without Justice, Parliamentarians for Global Action, The Redress Trust, World Federalist Movement, and Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice.