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**Nauru: Complete International Criminal Court implementation process**

*Civil society calls on Pacific island nation Nauru to enact Rome Statute cooperation and complementarity legislation*

**Bangkok/The Hague**—The Pacific island nation of Nauru should build on recent progressive justice advances by enacting national legislation to implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Coalition for the ICC said today.

Nauru is the focus of the Coalition's Campaign for Global Justice for September 2016. The long-running campaign calls on countries around the world to join the ICC and adopt national laws to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

"Impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide must be abolished wherever possible around the world. The Coalition strongly encourages Nauru to complete the Rome Statute implementing process, and civil society stands ready to assist in the process," said **Amielle Del Rosario, Asia-Pacific regional coordinator for the Coalition**. "Nauru has demonstrated positive progress as an inclusive and responsible member of the international community, including by becoming a member of the ICC. A vital next step is introducing national laws to prosecute war criminals domestically and ensure full cooperation with the ICC."

Although Nauru ratified the Rome Statute in 2001, becoming one of the first Asian-Pacific countries to do so, it has yet to incorporate the treaty's provisions into national legislation. Only three Pacific states have taken this necessary step: Australia, New Zealand, and Samoa.

In a letter addressed to His Excellency Baron Waqa, the Coalition called on the President of Nauru to dedicate his offices to complete the implementation process. By taking concrete steps towards introducing legislation containing complementarity and cooperation provisions into domestic law, Nauru will contribute towards the overall objective of ending impunity for the most serious crimes of concern for the international community as a whole.

While incomplete, Nauru has made some progress with respect to upholding justice. In May 2016, the state updated its criminal code, in keeping with its legislative agenda and its obligations under various international treaties, including the Rome Statute.

Among the new laws passed is the comprehensive Crimes Act 2016, which removes references that are inconsistent with international human rights standards. Homosexuality and suicide are no longer considered offenses under Nauruan law, and penalties such as the death penalty, imprisonment with hard labor, and solitary confinement have been removed. Other penalties have been increased, including for offenses related to sexual- and gender-based violence, particularly when involving children.

**About the ICC**

*The ICC is the world's first permanent international court to have jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. 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.*

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*There are currently ten active investigations before the ICC: the Central African Republic I & II; Democratic Republic of Congo; Darfur, Sudan; Kenya; Libya; Uganda; Côte d'Ivoire; Mali and Georgia. The ICC has publicly issued 33 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. Four trials are ongoing. There have been two convictions and one acquittal. Eight preliminary examinations currently ongoing, including into situations in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Guinea, Palestine, Iraq/UK, Nigeria and Ukraine. The OTP has concluded preliminary examinations relating to Honduras, Venezuela, Palestine, the Republic of Korea and the Comoros referral, declining in each case to open an investigation.*

**About us**

*The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in 150 countries fighting for justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide through national courts and the international Criminal Court. [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)*