

New York, 21 September 2009

Your Excellency,

I am writing to request that as a leader of a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), you and your government make use of the 64th General Assembly General Debate from 23 to 30 September, to send a strong message for continued commitment to and support for the ICC and emphasize the tremendous significance of the Court in mainstreaming justice and accountability at the national and international level. Accountability for grave crimes is vital for the maintenance of lasting international peace and security and vital for the victims where the Prosecutor investigates and prosecutes.

The General Assembly provides an opportunity to explore the successes of the Court to date including through the referral of the UN Security Council of the situation in Darfur, Sudan, as well as referrals by three states of situations in their own countries, followed by positive cooperation from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and the Central African Republic, and other situations under preliminary examination, including crimes in Afghanistan, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Gaza, Georgia and Kenya to name a few. The current developments in all ICC proceedings demonstrate the highest standards of fairness that are being applied to the Court's first cases.

Due to this important responsibility, state and United Nations cooperation is paramount if the ICC is to be effective. Such cooperation and political support is essential to ensure effective execution of outstanding warrants in the Court's situations, and to enhance the ICC's credibility as an effective tool to end impunity and contribute to the prevention of future crimes. We are concerned that opponents of international justice and the International Criminal Court will use the General Debate and other fora at the upcoming General Assembly, and related discussions in the Security Council to try to undermine the Court's work. We ask States Parties to use their statements in all UN fora to voice loudly that the UN and its member states will continue to be vital partners in strengthening the ICC and not allow its independence to be challenged. With more than two-thirds of the world's nations having signed or ratified the ICC treaty, the movement towards universal accession clearly confirms that the support for international justice is global, being embraced by nations of all regions and legal systems in our world.

I wish to thank you and your government for your continued commitment and pledge the ongoing support of 2,500 member organizations to ending impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Sincerely,



William R. Pace
Convenor

THE CICC IS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF OVER 2,500 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING
A FAIR, EFFECTIVE, AND INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT.

Steering Committee: Amnesty International (AI), Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC-Nigeria), Comisión Andina de Juristas (CAJ), Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH), Human Rights First (HRF), Human Rights Network- Uganda (HURINET-U), Human Rights Watch (HRW), No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), The Redress Trust (REDRESS), Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ), and World Federalist Movement (WFM).