

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

18 November 2013

ASP 12: Civil Society Media Briefing
Bringing Victims Center Stage

WHAT: The Coalition for the International Criminal Court—a global network of civil society organizations in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC)—will brief members of the media on pressing issues to be debated at the upcoming session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

WHEN: Thursday 21 November from 12.00-13.00. CET

WHERE: Africa Room, World Forum Center, Churchillplein 10, The Hague, the Netherlands

WHO: Panel participants will include:

- ✦ **Brigid Inder**, Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice;
- ✦ **George Kegoro**, Executive Director, International Commission of Jurists-Kenya;
- ✦ **Richard Dicker**, Director, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch;
- ✦ **Stephanie Barbour**, Head of Office, Amnesty International Centre for International Justice.

The panel will be moderated by Niall Matthews, Coalition Communications Officer.

WHY: As the ICC's governing body, the 122 states parties that currently make up the Assembly will discuss and decide on a number of issues central to the Court's operations, including the Court's 2014 **budget** and the **election** of a new judge and other officials. The Assembly will also hold a dedicated debate on **victims** for the first time. Improving **cooperation** with the Court and its decisions will also be up for discussion.

At the request of the **African Union**, there will be a special segment entitled "Indictment of sitting Heads of State and Government and its consequences on peace and stability and reconciliation." This will take place immediately after the media briefing.

Proposed **amendments** to the Court's legal framework are also on the agenda, including to its provisions excluding immunity based on official capacity and those requiring the presence of accused persons at trial.

Each year, the ASP is a pivotal event for the more than 200 NGOs attending as observers. Through advocacy meetings, thematic hearings, regional lunches,

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position papers and a media briefing, the Coalition and its issue teams will seek to influence governments and Court officials on a wide range of issues to ensure that the Court functions in a fair, effective and independent manner. Throughout the year, NGO experts monitor the work of the ICC and ASP through our Issue Teams, which have issued a number of [recommendations to states attending ASP 12](#).

We have also produced a [background paper](#) on the various issues to be discussed at the Assembly. More information is available on our [ASP12 webpage](#).

STAY UP TO DATE: We produce short daily summaries of developments at the ASP, with a compilation of related documents and news coverage. Make sure to [sign up for our emails](#), checking the “ASP Daily Summaries” box.

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest news and images from the Assembly.

All of our photos on Flickr are copyrighted through **Creative Commons and free for fair use**. If you would like to use a photo on your website or publications, we ask that you **credit the CICC and individual photographer**, if one is listed in the photo description.

If you do use a photo please email communications@coalitionfortheicc.org to let us know.

Note to journalists:

Journalists wishing to cover the session and related events must submit an official letter of assignment by fax to +31 (0)70 381 54 76 and the completed [accreditation form](#) to: asp@icc-cpi.int. Journalists already accredited with the ICC do not need to submit the accreditation form nor the letter, but are kindly requested to confirm their participation via email to: asp@icc-cpi.int. The application period for accreditation starts on Monday 5 November and closes on Monday 19 November at 16:00 hours CET. Press badges will be issued and handed out at the World Forum to journalists that have received accreditation upon presentation of a passport or a valid ID with photo. No admittance will be allowed to any of the scheduled events without prior accreditation.