

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Coalition for the ICC and Mohamed V University-Agdal Launch International Law Program in Morocco

Two-day outreach program to focus on ICC and rule of law

**Rabat, Morocco**—The Coalition for the International Criminal Court and Mohamed V University-Agdal are co-organizing a two-day outreach program on 4 and 5 July at Rabat's Mohamed V University Faculty of Law-Agdal, entitled, "Prospects for Reinforcing the Rule of Law in Morocco: Balancing National & International Law, Case Study of the International Criminal Court".

The program will begin on 4 July with a public outreach event to increase understanding of the contribution of the Rome Statute to the promotion and consolidation of the rule of law, the protection of civilian populations and the fight against impunity within the context of Morocco and the broader Middle East and North Africa region. Notable speakers include **Dr. El Habib Choubani**, Moroccan minister-in-charge of relations with the parliament and civil society; **Dr. Fadi El Abdallah**, spokesperson porte-parole and head of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Public Affairs Unit; **Dr. William Wiley**, a prominent figure in international criminal law; and distinguished senior faculty from Mohamed V University's Faculty of Law-Agdal.

The event will also mark the inauguration of a partnership between the Coalition for the ICC and Mohamed V University-Agdal in the area of international criminal law, which will pave the way to an unprecedented collaboration in Morocco to reflect on the international law transformations shaping the country. Particularly, the CICC will coordinate with Mohamed V University Agdal, regarding the creation of:

Research Working Group/*Groupe de recherche en justice pénale internationale* within the Faculty of Law to: develop scholarly repository on the ICC, zoom on a specific topic relevant to MENA and examine the law and practice of the Court, its contribution to international criminal law and policy, and its potential role in Morocco; develop an International Criminal Law program for graduate law researchers; and enhance academic outreach about the ICC in Morocco.

On 5 July, a special North Africa-focused 'training of trainers' for the next generation of advocates will be held. This event will provide young legal professionals and advocates with adequate knowledge of international crimes, in addition to principles of international law and of criminal law, in order to raise awareness about the ICC and international criminal law standards. Special attention will be paid to the implications of the operation of the principle of complementarity and its impact on the national domestic legal orders as well as positioning of the ICC in the international human rights law standards.

This program represents a unique opportunity for participants to meet with legislators, academics, and civil society leaders in Morocco, as well as build their capacity and define strategies to mobilize in support of the new system of international and domestic justice created by the Rome Statute of the ICC.

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**BACKGROUND:** The ICC is the world's first permanent international court to prosecute 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 unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. For more information, visit: [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)

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