



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

[www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Security Council Resolution Underlines ICC's Role in Preventing Sexual Violence**

*Global Coalition calls on states to end impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes*

**New York**—Ending impunity through support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) is crucial to efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict situations, the Coalition for the ICC said today.

United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2106, adopted unanimously today following an open debate on sexual violence in conflict, recognizes the centrality of ending impunity for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and encourages states to strengthen accountability efforts.

“The failure to address the staggering levels of impunity for sexual and gender-based violence committed in times of conflict is a stain on states and the wider international community,” **said Jelena Pia-Comella, program director for the Coalition for the ICC.** “Sexual violence is not an inevitable consequence of armed conflict; it is resorted to as an appalling weapon of war to humiliate and injure victims and entire communities. Today, the international community, through the Security Council, has acknowledged the urgency to step up preventative efforts by holding accountable those responsible for these heinous crimes while granting a sense of justice to survivors.”

Following today's adoption of Resolution 2106, more proactive engagement is needed for the UN Security Council to fully use its potential to support domestic and international mechanisms—in particular the ICC—in the pursuit of accountability.

The Security Council and the ICC play a complementary role in the prevention and response to mass atrocities in order to maintain the rule of law. Security Council

Resolution 2106 reaffirms that the ICC plays a key role in the fight against impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes. Indeed, the ICC prosecutor has brought charges of such crimes in almost all of the situations before the Court.

However, the ICC is only able to render justice if it can bring alleged perpetrators to its courtrooms. The ICC needs committed assistance from governments and the UNSC to cooperate on the prompt arrest and transfer of a number of individuals subject to ICC arrest warrants for sexual and gender-based crimes.

The Coalition calls on the UNSC to further use its leadership, following the adoption of Resolution 2106, to ensure that governments, UN bodies and all who can play a decisive part in the arrest and surrender of alleged perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, fully cooperate with the Court.

Additionally, states should move quickly to implement the commitments made in Resolution 2106, including supporting the Trust Fund for Victims, which plays a crucial restorative role for victims of sexual and gender-based crimes.

By ensuring concrete and tangible results to the commitments of Resolution 2106, a powerful message can be sent to victims that their plight has not been forgotten and to perpetrators that there must be no impunity for these crimes.

*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. There are currently eight investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic; Côte d'Ivoire; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, the Sudan; Uganda; Kenya; Libya; and Mali. The ICC has publicly issued 22 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. The Court issued a judgment in its first trial on 14 March 2012. Two other trials are ongoing. The ICC Office of the Prosecutor has also made public that it is conducting eight preliminary examinations on four continents: Afghanistan, Colombia, the Comoros referral, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Republic of Korea and Nigeria.*

*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. [www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)*

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