



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GLOBAL COALITION CALLS ON INDONESIA TO JOIN THE  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**  
***Civil Society Urges Indonesia to Deliver on Commitment to Ending  
Impunity by Acceding to the Rome Statute***

**New York, 5 July 2011** —The Coalition for the International Criminal Court today called on the Republic of Indonesia to deliver on its commitment to end impunity by joining the International Criminal Court (ICC)—the world's first and only permanent international court to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Indonesia is the July 2011 target for the Coalition's Universal Ratification Campaign (URC), which each month calls upon a different country to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute—the ICC's founding treaty.

In a letter dated 1 July 2011 to Indonesian President H.E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the Coalition—a civil society network in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC and improved access to justice for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity—urged Indonesia to prioritize its accession to the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute came into force in July 2002 and now has the support of well over half of the world's nations, with 116 states having ratified or acceded to the treaty

“We are greatly encouraged that a growing number of states in the Asia region are moving forward in the ratification process, as it is one that remains underrepresented at the ICC,” said William R. Pace, Convenor of the Coalition. “By embracing the Rome Statute system, Indonesia will strengthen its leadership in the Asia region

toward increasing accountability for the gravest crimes,” Pace added. “By acceding before 2 September 2011, Indonesia will also gain the right to nominate and vote for candidates in crucial upcoming ICC elections.”

To date, only 14 states in the Asia-Pacific region have recognized the jurisdiction of the ICC. Within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—which has Indonesia as its chair for 2011—only one member-state, Cambodia, has joined the Court. By acceding to the Rome Statute, Indonesia would set an important example for members of ASEAN, as well as for states throughout the Asia-Pacific region, that have yet to embrace the Rome Statute system.

The Coalition acknowledges the inclusion of the accession to the Rome Statute within the National Human Rights Action Plan (2011-2014) and calls on the government of Indonesia to honour said commitment.

“With Malaysia and the Philippines expected to soon join the ICC, Indonesia can maximize its leadership role within ASEAN and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation by joining its neighbours in the fight against impunity and in advancing international justice” said Evelyn Serrano, the Coalition’s Coordinator for Asia.

This call for Indonesia’s accession follows the Coalition’s Regional Strategy Meeting for Asia and the Pacific held in April 2011, which brought together members of civil society from across the region. Meeting participants urged Asian states to take all necessary steps to ratify or accede to the ICC Rome Statute as soon as possible and ensure that the region no longer remains underrepresented in the ICC.

As a state party, Indonesia would be able to actively participate in the annual Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the ICC, during which states make important decisions in relation to the administration of the Court, including the election of judges and prosecutors. In December 2011, six new judges, a new chief prosecutor and other Court officials will be elected by the ASP. By acceding to the Rome Statute by 2 September 2011, Indonesia can nominate and vote for candidates to these important posts to ensure national and regional representation in this new mechanism for international justice.

**Background:** *The ICC is the world’s first, permanent international court to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. There are currently 116 ICC States Parties. 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 six active investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, the Sudan; Uganda, Kenya and Libya. The ICC has publicly issued 18 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. Three trials are ongoing. The ICC Prosecutor recently requested authorization from Judges to open an investigation in Côte d’Ivoire. His office has also made public that it is examining at least eight situations on four continents, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, and Palestine.*

*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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