

"Chile joins the ICC," 17 June 2009, Press Release from Humanas-Chile

"Today, June 17th, the Chamber of Deputies of Chile celebrated an historic session by approving, by a broad majority, ratification of the Rome Statute. A week before, on June 10th, the Senate had also done the same. This critical vote will allow Chile to join the 108 States around the world who are already members of the Court.

The ICC's creation embodies one of the most important advances in international human rights and humanitarian law. Its establishment, through a treaty which has now been ratified by more than 100 States, is a testament to the enormous political will that exists to have an effective instrument to fight the impunity that unfortunately characterizes the perpetration of the gravest crimes against humanity.

The Rome Statute represents an invaluable advance in gender justice. It is especially important in that it defines rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, and forced sterilization as some of the 'most serious crimes of concern to the international community.'

Although the Chilean process has been slow and complex, the necessary political consensus has finally been reached. More than seven years after the Constitutional Court ruled it as necessary, the constitutional amendment recognizing the ICC's jurisdiction was passed. ICC crimes were also incorporated under national law in order to ensure complementarity. All these efforts were carried out with broad-based political support.

Humanas has worked on ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute in the Latin American region for many years and it expresses its profound satisfaction with the process that the Chilean Parliament has completed today. We also thank each and every one of the national and international organizations that have supported the work carried out to reach this objective."

[Translation from the Spanish is unofficial and provided as a courtesy by the CICC Secretariat]