

14 December 2012

H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said
The Sultan of Oman
Royal Palace, Oman
The Sultanate of Oman

Re: Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Your Majesty,

I have the honor of writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations in 150 countries, campaigning for a fair, effective, and independent International Criminal Court (ICC) and increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes.

As part of its Universal Ratification Campaign, for the month of December 2012 the Coalition wishes to encourage your government to hasten efforts to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC. Commendably, the Sultanate of Oman (Oman) signed the Rome Statute on 20 December 2000 and continued to demonstrate its commitment to strengthen Oman's international position towards international justice through the subsequent ratification of four core international human rights treaties: the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Oman is also party to the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which entered into force in 2004.

On 24 June 2009, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Oman to ratify the Rome Statute during their 51st session in order to further strengthen international measures for the prevention of the recruitment of children and their use in hostilities. This recommendation was reviewed on 26 January 2011 at the Universal Periodic Review on Oman in the Human Rights Council. The Coalition calls on Oman to take all necessary measures for implementing this recommendation.

As of today, 121 States are parties to the Rome Statute. While this in itself is a remarkable achievement, continuing to secure universal acceptance of the Court remains an important objective to ensure that the ICC is able to effectively ensure justice for grave crimes.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) delegations were a force behind the Court's founding since the commencement of negotiations for the Court more than 20 years ago. The Kingdom of Jordan, which ratified the Rome Statute in 2002, played a leading role in the establishment of the Court through its presidency of the Assembly of States Parties from 2002 to 2005. Lately, the Arab world has shown

increased interest in the ICC, notably demonstrated by Tunisia's accession to the Rome Statute in 2011. Numerous official debates have taken place, including the high-level regional seminar on the ICC hosted by the Emir H.H. Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani in Doha in May 2011. Representatives of Morocco, Kuwait and Palestine have also stated their intent to join the ICC.

We encourage your government to reiterate its commitment to the rule of law by becoming a state party to the Rome Statute and depositing the ratification instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ratification of the Rome Statute would be an important expression of Oman's dedication to uphold principles of justice and advance its positioning in the international law arena.

The Coalition takes this opportunity to reaffirm support for the Gulf Coalition for the ICC, which includes many Gulf civil society representatives, legal experts, and academics committed to raise awareness on the ICC.

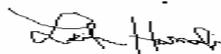
Your Majesty, the Coalition urges you to use your good offices to ensure prompt treatment of the ratification dossier to reaffirm Oman's commitment to the global fight against impunity. Your government's support for this treaty is not only crucial for ensuring global jurisdiction, legitimacy, and support for the Court, but also represents a commitment to combating impunity and advancing the principles of good governance, justice, and the rule of law.

We hope to see you among the ICC states parties in the near future, especially in light of this milestone year of the Rome Statute's 10th anniversary.

Please accept, Your Majesty, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Brigitte Suhr
Director of Regional Programs



Leila Hanafi
Regional Coordinator – Middle East and North Africa

CC:

H.H Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

H.E. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Said al Saeedi, Minister of Legal Affairs

H.E. Ambassador Fuad Mubarak Al-Hinai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN