

Lima / New York, 1 October 2013

H.E. Mr. Carlos Mauricio Funes Cartagena

President

Republic of El Salvador

Your Excellency,

We have the honor of writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of over 2500 member NGOs in 150 countries campaigning for a fair, effective, and independent Court as well as increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. On this occasion, as part of its 2013 Universal Ratification Campaign for the month of October, the Coalition respectfully calls on your government to take the necessary steps to ensure prompt accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We therefore urge your government to submit the accession dossier to Parliament at your earliest convenience.

Your Excellency, this year marks the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute. To date, 122 states have ratified the Statute, including all states in South America and Central America, with the exception of El Salvador and Nicaragua. The Coalition is aware of the efforts adopted by your government towards accession. In that regard, over the past years, we have been able to provide technical expertise and share information regarding the work and mandate of the ICC with Salvadorian government officials (most notably, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Salvadorian diplomatic representatives accredited to the United Nations, as well as other actors, assisted along the way by the invaluable input of Salvadorian civil society.

In addition, our various missions to El Salvador throughout the past decade have allowed us to confirm some of the challenges that have arisen along the accession process, including considerations of compatibility between the Salvadorian Constitution and the Rome Statute. The surpassing of many of these obstacles is evidence of your government's commitment to accession. In this regard, the Coalition welcomes your statements made a few days ago during the 68th UN General Assembly, where you announced the adoption of a national reconciliation program that would include the ratification of several human rights treaties as an integral component of such process.

Taking into consideration this important announcement, we encourage you to include the accession of the Rome Statute among such treaties, both as a means of reconciliation and as a way of preventing future commission of gross human rights violations. As you know, the Rome Statute is non-retroactive. Acceding to the Statute will therefore send a strong

message of the commitment of your country to the fight against impunity and will allow El Salvador to actively contribute to the work of the ICC within the Assembly of States Parties.

Your Excellency,

As the Court enters its second decade of functioning, it has proven to be a historic institution and a valuable mechanism to achieve international justice, therefore contributing to more just, secure and peaceful societies. The role played by Latin American states within the Rome Statute system has been instrumental, and we are confident that El Salvador will join such system in the near future.

We urge your Excellency to use your good offices to ensure El Salvador's accession to the Rome Statute as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Suhr
Director of Regional Programs



Michelle Reyes Milk
Regional Coordinator for the Americas

CC:

H.E. Mr. Jaime Alfredo Miranda Flamenco, Minister of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Mr. Sigfrido Reyes, President of the Legislative Assembly
H.E. Gral. David Munguía Payés, Minister of Defense
H.E. Amb. Carlos Enrique García González, Permanent Representative to the United Nations