



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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El Salvador Must Take the Necessary Measures to Join the International Criminal Court

Civil Society Welcomes Announcement on Ratification of Human Rights Treaties at UN General Assembly

Lima, Peru/New York—The government of El Salvador should take the necessary measures to ensure prompt accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Coalition for the ICC said today.

In a letter sent to the president of El Salvador earlier this month, Mauricio Funes, the Coalition highlighted positive steps taken by the executive as it considers accession to the Rome Statute and urged the presidential office to submit the accession dossier to parliament as soon as possible.

Civil society welcomed the announcement made by President Funes during his statement at the 68th General Assembly at the UN, in which he expressed that his government will be launching a national reparations program that would include the ratification of human rights treaties as an integral component.

“On behalf of the Salvadorian Coalition for the ICC, I would like to welcome the message conveyed by President Funes regarding this important initiative. We trust that the accession to the Rome Statute will be prioritized within that context,” **said Wilfredo Medrano, coordinator for the Salvadorian Coalition for the ICC.** “Such action would honor President Funes’ commitment carried out during his electoral campaign in 2009.”

As the Court enters its second decade, it has proven to be a historic institution and a valuable mechanism in international justice that contributes to more just, secure and peaceful societies. The ICC has 122 member states, including all South American and Central American states, with the exception of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

“The role played by Latin American states within the Rome Statute system—including their active participation within the Assembly of States Parties—has been instrumental. We trust that El Salvador can bring its valuable experience to the Court by acceding to the Rome Statute in the near future,” **said Michelle Reyes Milk, regional coordinator for the Americas for the Coalition.** “We call on the presidential office to submit the accession dossier to the legislative assembly as soon as possible.”

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.

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

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