

New York, 2 October 2012

**H.E. Mr. LEE Hsien Loong**  
Prime Minister  
Singapore

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 and increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. On this occasion, we respectfully urge you to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and be part of the growing movement for international justice.

As part of its 2012 Universal Ratification Campaign for the month of October, the Coalition wishes to encourage your government to heighten its accession efforts and embrace the new system of international justice enshrined in the Rome Statute, which aims to ensure an end to impunity for the most heinous international crimes.

The Coalition recognizes that several challenges of a legal and political nature are currently part of the debate. Many of these challenges have been shared by other states prior to their ratification, such as addressing the issue of immunities; distinguishing between extradition and surrender of nationals; ensuring that penalties do not go beyond their national limits, among others. However, provisions within the Statute, as well as interpretative approaches adopted at a national level, have allowed States to ensure the compatibility of their domestic legislation with the Rome Statute. In addition, through the principle of complementarity, the Rome Statute system recognizes the primary jurisdiction of States in investigating and prosecuting individuals who have allegedly committed the crimes that fall under the jurisdiction of the ICC.

We therefore urge your government to effectively surpass these challenges and embrace this new system of international justice. While the Asia-Pacific region remains underrepresented in the Court, it must be noted The Philippines, Maldives and Vanuatu have all ratified in the last two years. In addition, Malaysia, Indonesia, Tuvalu and Tonga continue to move forward in their respective ratification processes. Singapore's

accession would not only increase ASEAN's voice at the ICC but can also encourage other Asia-Pacific states and other countries that have yet to ratify the Statute to join the ICC.

Your Excellency, you may recall that Singapore participated very actively in the process leading to the establishment of the Court and thereafter at the Preparatory Commission and Assembly of States Parties sessions in New York and The Hague. Your government's key role in the formation of the Friends of the ICC paved the way for active involvement of Asian and Pacific nations in the work of the ICC. To date, 139 have signed and 121 states - almost two-thirds of the world's countries - have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute.

Your Excellency, as we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICC, we call on your government to reflect on the key developments of the Rome Statute system and its capacity to prevent further commission of mass atrocities. We trust that under your leadership, Singapore will contribute significantly to this system and work toward ending impunity and attaining justice for victims through the International Criminal Court.

Respectfully,



Brigitte H. Suhr  
Director of Regional Programs



Evelyn Balais - Serrano  
CICC Asia Regional Coordinator

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**H.E. Mr. K. Shanmugam**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law

**H.E. Dr. Ng Eng Hen**, Minister of Defense

**H.E. Mr. Michael Palmer**, Speaker

**Mr. Steven Chong Horng Siong S.C.**, Attorney-General

**H.E. Amb. Albert Chua**, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations