



Barreau Pénal **International** Criminal Bar

and

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL DEFENCE ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION  
( ICDAA )

## **Press release**

**International Criminal Court puts fair trials at risk through drastic legal aid cuts:**

**a policy of strengthening the prosecution and weakening the defence.**

The International Criminal Bar and the International Criminal Defence Attorneys Association have sent an open letter to the President of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court on 20 February 2012 regarding the planned severe cuts to the allocated resources to Defence and Victims' counsel previously available pursuant to the ICC legal aid scheme.

The responses to consultation by different organizations, among them professional organizations of counsel, outlined unanimous opposition to the proposed reductions, which would directly impede the ability of defence and victims' counsel to fulfill their statutory and ethical obligations.

This has resulted in only modest changes in the final report of the Registrar.

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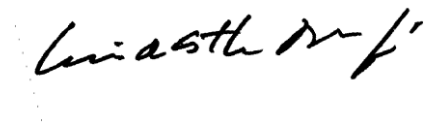
The legal profession worldwide is deeply concerned, not only with the illegality of the present process, that does not respond to the legal requirements as specified in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Rules of the Court, but also with the areas of planned reductions.

The latter constitute the abrogation of the principle of equality of arms, which should be the determining standard for the quantum of the legal aid.

Justice is not a commodity that can be measured and manipulated on the basis of “market”-criteria alone.

It must be dispensed according to the internationally accepted principles of human rights, as enshrined in the Rome Statute.

The Hague, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012



International Criminal Bar

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