



FOHRID

HUMAN
RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FORUM

Reg. No. 185/058/059

dfni clwsf/ tvf

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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International Justice Day-2011

FOHRID Urges Government of Nepal to ratify the Rome Statute of ICC

On 17 July, the world celebrates International Justice Day (IJD) to commemorate the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC). International Justice Day is a reminder of the urgency for all States committed to ensure continued support for the Rome Statute's international justice system. On IJD, FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum urges Nepal to reaffirm its commitment to end the culture of impunity and take necessary steps to ratify / accede to the Rome Statute of ICC.

Thirteen years ago on this date, the Rome Statute was adopted by an overwhelming vote of 120 states. Today, 116 states have joined the Court and the number keeps growing. FOHRID is celebrating this day in solidarity with victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Today is the completion of five years of unanimous direction adopted by the then House of Representatives (HoR) to the Government of Nepal to accede to Rome Statute of ICC. On this occasion, we recall the eagerness and positive commitments demonstrated by the government, political parties and the then HoR and present Legislature-Parliament towards the ICC.

In July 2006, the House of Representatives of Nepal issued a directive for accession to the Rome Statute. Since then, there was little progress toward Nepali accession to the Statute until 11 February 2009 when the then Minister of Foreign Affairs tabled ICC accession motion to the Cabinet. Today is the completion of four years of unanimous direction adopted by the then House of Representatives (HoR) to the Government of Nepal to accede to Rome Statute of ICC. On this occasion, we recall the eagerness and positive commitments demonstrated by the government, political parties and the then HoR towards the ICC.

We would like to recall commitments by the political parties, Legislature-Parliament and the Government for providing guarantee to good governance, ending impunity, establishing democratic norms and values, and governance based on principles of the rule of law expressed through formal documents like the Comprehensive Peace Accord-2006, Interim Constitution of Nepal-2007 and the Common Minimum Programme of the Interim Government-2007. For effective implementation of such commitments, Nepal's involvement in the ICC is a must.

Therefore, we urge the Prime Minister and Ministers to coordinate among ministries, to hold discussion in the meeting of the Council of Ministers and to forward the process for accession to the Rome Statute. Alongwith this, we call on the political parties to prioritise the issue at political level to speed up the accession process. Considering that the parliamentary direction to this effect still remains unrealised, we - FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum request Speaker and Members of the Legislature- Parliament to stir and exert more intensive pressure on the executive to accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

For further information, please contact:

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FOHRID is non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit-making independent organisation. It works for the promotion of peoples rights and genuine democracy include the democratic reform, anti impunity and ICC accession campaign, Peace bulding and reconclaction for sustainable development through training, research, fact-finding, monitoring lobbying, advocacy, mobilizing and capacity bulding NSA, Networking, publishing, empowerment and exchange programs. it has been maintaining working relationship with national, international human rights organisations and human rights bodies of the United Nations.