



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 March 2012

Global Coalition Urges Monaco to Join International Criminal Court

Civil Society Says Treaty Ratification should be a Priority to End Impunity

Brussels/New York—The Coalition for the International Criminal Court today called on Monaco to demonstrate its commitment to international justice and the rule of law by ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Coalition has chosen Monaco and Cote d'Ivoire as the focus countries for its March 2012 Universal Ratification Campaign (URC), a monthly campaign to encourage countries to join the Rome Statute—the founding treaty of the first permanent international court capable of trying perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Just days after the conclusions of negotiations on the Rome Statute in July 1998, Monaco became one of the first signatories of this groundbreaking agreement. Today, in a letter addressed to H.S.H Prince Albert II, the Coalition—a global network of more than 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC and improved access to justice for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity—called on the Monegasque government to show its commitment to the rule of law, justice and peace by ratifying the Rome Statute.

"There are 42 states parties to the Rome Statute within Europe/Central Asia and in Western Europe, only Monaco and the Holy See have yet to ratify the treaty," said William R. Pace, Convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. "Monaco needs to join the ranks of the majority of the international community (120 ICC states parties) as full-fledged members of the justice system established by the Rome Statute and represented by the ICC so that perpetrators of serious crimes can find no safe haven," Pace continued.

"We hope that Monegasque officials will seize the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Statute to complete the ratification process in 2012," said Kirsten Meersschaert Duchens, the Coalition's regional coordinator for Europe. "They have confirmed their commitment to human rights and support for international justice; now they need to put words into action and take the necessary administrative steps for Monaco's ratification of the Rome Statute without further delay."

To date, 120 states worldwide have joined the Rome Statute. As a state party, Monaco would assume a role in advancing human rights, accountability, justice and an end to impunity for grave crimes. It would also be able to actively participate in a more significant manner in the annual Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the ICC during which states make important decisions in relation to the administration of the Court, including the election of judges, prosecutors, and other Court officials as well as the adoption of the Court's budget.

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. There are currently seven investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic; Cote d'Ivoire; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, the Sudan; Uganda; Kenya; and Libya. The ICC has publicly issued 19 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. Three trials are ongoing. The ICC prosecutor has also made public that it is conducting eight preliminary examinations on four continents: Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Republic of Korea, Nigeria and Palestine.*

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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