

**H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra**

Prime Minister

The Kingdom of Thailand

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New York, 4 May 2012

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 wish to reiterate our call to your government to consider Thailand's ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at your earliest convenience.

While the Asia-Pacific region continues to be under-represented before the ICC, it is encouraging to note that among the latest ratifications to the Statute are the countries of The Philippines, Maldives and Vanuatu. These recent ratifications are indeed an important signal of Asia's growing commitment to the system of international justice enshrined in the Rome Statute, and we are confident that Thailand will follow the steps of these nations in the near future.

Your Excellency, the Coalition has been closely following developments in Thailand and, through our staff in the region and in Headquarters, as well as through our very active membership in Thailand, have been encouraged to learn about the different initiatives that your government has carried out in order to further understand the work and mandate of the Court, and lay the grounds for an in-depth debate on ratification. We trust that the organization by your government of a number of ICC seminars over the past decade, together with a national event on the ICC in the context of International Justice Day in July 2012, and a study tour for Thai parliamentarians to the ICC in The Hague later in the year, will provide key lawmakers and policymakers with the necessary tools to embark on the ratification process.

In addition, the Coalition recalls Thailand's participation in the Rome Conference in 1998 – as well as its participation in the several Assemblies of States Parties as an observer state – opportunities which have provided important input to the ratification process. With the creation in 1999 of a Commission for the Consideration of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the undertaking of a feasibility study on Thailand's ratification, the Thai government took important steps that led it to sign the Rome Statute on 2 October 2000.

Your Excellency, the Coalition is aware of some of the legal challenges that have surfaced with regards to compatibility between the Rome Statute and Thai domestic legislation, and

it calls on your government to assess these concerns carefully and consider drawing examples from states parties that have successfully addressed similar compatibility issues.

To date, 121 states worldwide have joined the Rome Statute, Guatemala being the most recent. We therefore wish to acknowledge the important steps taken by Thailand in its road to ratification, and call on your government to further enhance these efforts and join the global fights against impunity by ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Respectfully,



Brigitte Suhr  
Director of Regional Programs



Evelyn Balais-Serrano  
CICC Asia Regional Coordinator

CC:

**H.E. Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul**, Minister of Foreign Affairs

**The Hon. Mr. Pracha Promnok**, Minister of Justice

**The Hon. Julasing Wasantasing**, Attorney General

**The Hon. Mr. Somsak Kiatsuranont**, Speaker of the House of Representatives

**The Hon. Mr. Teeradej Meepien**, President of the Senate

**H.E. Amb. Norachit Sinhaseni**, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations