

## **Tunisia's Accession to International Criminal Court statute is an Arab Step towards Consolidating the International Criminal Justice**

**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** welcomes the Tunisian government's decision to join the International Criminal Court as it deposited instruments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 24 June 2011 in order to join the ICC, which means that the Statute will enter into force for Tunisia on 1 September 2011.

**ACIJLP** believes that the Tunisian Government's step represents a clear indication of the desire to consolidate the rules of international criminal justice and put an end to impunity.

**ACIJLP** points out that Tunisia is the fourth Arab State to accede the International Criminal Court statute after Djibouti, the Comoros and Jordan. After Tunisia's accession to the court, the Arab representation in the International Criminal Court remains under expectations although there are 13 Arab States signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**ACIJLP** points out that the Arab Governments' abstention from ratifying and acceding to the Rome Statute, did not prevent the criminal justice from reaching those involved in committing the most serious crimes, which falls under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court such as the Darfur case and the Libyan Leader who The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrant for him on 27/6/2011.

**ACIJLP** hopes for the increase of Arab States joining the International Criminal Court especially the number of States joining the ICC is increasing on the international level, bringing the total number of States joined the ICC to 116.

**ACIJLP** calls upon the League of Arab States and Arab governments to take the procedures required for the ratification and accession to the Rome Statute governing the International Criminal Court. Moreover, ACIJLP calls upon the Arab governments to take the procedures required for amending the national legislation to be in harmony with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which has the jurisdiction over judicial prosecution for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes, such as crimes against humanity and war crimes, genocide and aggression.