



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

[www.coalitionfortheicc.org](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Global Coalition Urges Malaysia to join the International Criminal Court Says Treaty Accession Should be a Priority to End Impunity**

**New York, USA** – The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)—a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations—called on Malaysia to demonstrate its commitment to international justice and the rule of law by acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The CICC has selected Malaysia as the focus for its January 2011 Universal Ratification Campaign (URC), a monthly campaign launched to encourage countries to join the Rome Statute system.

In a letter dated 6 January 2011 to Malaysia Prime Minister The Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the CICC urged the Malaysian government to prioritize its accession of the Rome Statute—the founding treaty of the first permanent international court capable of trying perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The Republic of Moldova's recent ratification in October 2010 reflects on the global impetus to end impunity through the Rome Statute system. 114 states have now acceded to or ratified the Rome Statute and 139 are signatories.

The CICC advised Prime Minister Razak to heighten Malaysia's efforts to accede to the Rome Statute in order to ensure that progress towards Malaysia's accession of the Rome Statute advances.

William Pace, Convenor of the CICC, encouraged Malaysia to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law: "Malaysia is an important actor in the region and its accession to the Rome Statute would be a crucial milestone in the strengthening of the Rome Statute system." The CICC's renewed call for Malaysia's accession follows the conclusion of the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute that took place in Kampala from 31 May to 11 June 2010.

“Malaysia’s active role in the ASEAN, in the Asia region as a whole, and among the Commonwealth and Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) makes it an influential factor in generating regional support for the ICC,” said Evelyn Serrano, CICC Asia Regional Coordinator. “With its wealth of legal experts, Malaysia can definitely contribute to the Court and the Rome Statute system, especially by participating in the upcoming election process for officials, particularly through the nomination of a judge or prosecutor and other Court personnel.”

As a state party, Malaysia would strengthen the voice at the ICC of the currently under-represented Asian region, which would in turn allow for a more robust and meaningful participation. Currently, only seven Asian states – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste – are member states of the Court. Malaysia’s accession would encourage other states in the region to join the growing global movement for accountability for the most serious crimes.

*There are currently 114 ICC States Parties. Central to the Court’s mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. There are currently five active investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, the Sudan; Uganda, and Kenya.*

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