

Lima/ New York, 5 November 2012

H.E. Mr. Mauricio Funes
President
Republic of El Salvador

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 call on your government to take the necessary steps to move forward with El Salvador's accession to the Rome Statute of the ICC by submitting the accession dossier to Parliament.

Your Excellency, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, including the Salvadorian Coalition for the ICC, has been closely monitoring the accession process in El Salvador over the past years. In this regard, the Coalition is aware of the intense debate and technical analysis that has gone into the discussion on accession. Furthermore, the Coalition has also been informed of your government's opinion that a constitutional reform will not be necessary in order to ensure compatibility between Salvadorian domestic legislation and the Rome Statute, thus enabling the road to accession via interpretative means. Notwithstanding, the Coalition is also aware of obstacles that have resulted in concerning setbacks to this process. Given the significant amount of time since the beginning of said process, we urge your government to submit the accession dossier to Parliament as soon as possible.

2012 will be remembered as a landmark year in International Justice, as it marks the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute. In addition, this year has witnessed the conclusion of the first case ever brought to the Court, which resulted in the conviction of Tomas Lubanga, a Congolese national, for the recruitment of child soldiers. With 7 ongoing investigations, 8 situations under preliminary examination, 22 arrest warrants and 9 summonses to appear already issued, as well as two ongoing trials against three individuals, the ICC continues to move forward in its task of investigating and prosecuting

those suspected of having committed the most heinous international crimes, as well as ensuring due reparations to victims.

To date, 121 states have joined the ICC, being the most recent the state of Guatemala, which deposited its instrument of accession on 2 April 2012. In this regard, we are confident that your government will adopt similar measures so as to ensure that Latin America will be fully represented at the ICC. As 2012 draws to a close, we therefore encourage you to take the necessary steps and join the global fight against impunity.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Suhr
Director of Regional Programs



Michelle Reyes Milk
Outreach Liaison for the Americas

CC:

H.E. Mr. Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs
M.P. Mr. Sigfrido Reyes, President of the Honorable Legislative Assembly
H.E. Gral. Atilio Benítez, Minister of Defense
H.E. Amb. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli, Permanent Representative to the United Nations