

Lima/ New York, 5 November 2012

H.E. Mr. Daniel Ortega
President
República of Nicaragua

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 Nicaragua's accession to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Your Excellency, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, including its focal point in Nicaragua, CENIDH (Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos), has carried out a number of actions in Nicaragua over the last years calling on the government to join the system of international justice established by the Rome Statute. The Coalition is aware that Nicaraguan domestic legislation already includes many of the crimes enshrined in the Rome Statute, following the enactment of the new Criminal Code in May 2008. The implementation of these crimes within the national criminal system represents a significant step that lays the ground for the accession process.

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. Samuel Santos López, Minister of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Mr. René Núñez Telles, President of the National Assembly
H.E. Ms. Maritza Membreño Morales, General Secretary of the Minister of Defense
H.E. Amb. María Rubiales de Chamorro, Permanent Representative to the United Nations