

New York, 11 April 2013

**H.E. Paul Biya**  
**President of Cameroon**

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 more than 2,500 non-governmental and civil society organizations 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.

As part of its Universal Ratification Campaign for the month of April 2013, the Coalition urges Cameroon to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC as soon as possible. By ratifying the Rome Statute, Cameroon would become part of the International Criminal Court, a cornerstone in a vital system of international justice. Given the important role Cameroon plays within Africa, and particularly, the Central African sub-region, the time has come for Cameroon to take this important step forward to join the Court.

As you well know, the Rome Statute came into force in July 2002 and now has the support of almost two-thirds of the world's nations. So far, 122 States have ratified the Rome Statute of which 33 are African nations. While this in itself is a remarkable achievement, continuing to secure universal acceptance of the Court remains critical so that the ICC is able to effectively seek justice for grave crimes no matter where they occur.

We welcome the continuous engagement of your country with the ICC and the international justice system, which has been reflected by Cameroon's hosting of an ICC regional seminar in October 2010. Equally encouraging is the ratification by Cameroon of UN Conventions and corresponding laws, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the *Loi n° 2005 / 015 du 29 décembre 2005 relative à la lutte contre le trafic et la traite des enfants*. These and other actions against impunity and in favor of justice and human rights put Cameroon on the right path to ratify the Rome Statute without delay.

Excellency, I encourage you and your government to ratify the Rome Statute as soon as possible and fully align Cameroonian legislation with all the provisions under the Rome Statute in order to become an important part of this much-needed international justice system.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Suhr  
Director of Regional Programs



Francis Dako  
CICC Africa Regional Coordinator

**CC:**

**H.E. PHILEMON YANG**  
Prime Minister of Cameroon

**H.E LAURENT ESSO**  
Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals

**HON. CAVAYE YEGUIE DJIBRIL**  
Speaker of the National Assembly