



Coalition for the International Criminal Court
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GLOBAL COALITION CALLS ON INDONESIA TO JOIN ICC
Says Accession Promised for 2008, the Tenth Anniversary Year of Rome Statute

New York, USA – The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)—a global network of more than 2,500 civil society organizations—this week called on the Republic of Indonesia to accede to the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, without further delay. Indonesia is the June 2009 target for the Coalition's Universal Ratification Campaign (URC), which each month calls upon a different country to join the Court.

In a letter dated 5 June 2009 to Indonesian President H.E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono the CICC urged Indonesia to prioritize its accession to the Rome Statute. The letter noted that the National Human Rights Action Plan (RANHAM) for 2004-2009, which was issued by presidential decree under President Megawati Sukarnoputri, established ICC accession as a chief objective. Since then, local and international human rights groups as well as Indonesian parliamentarians have conducted a number of awareness raising and advocacy events to ensure that Indonesian accession to the Rome Statute stays on track.

The Indonesian civil society coalition for the ICC believes the government is committed to acceding to the treaty, but must do so without further delay before its term in office comes to an end. "There is still time for the government to fulfill its promise to join the ICC," said Simon, coordinator of the Indonesian coalition, who points out that the

RANHAM covers the period from 2004 through 2009. "It is vital that Indonesian ratification not wait until the new administration is formed. The government has already agreed to timely ratification of the Rome Statute. They must now hold firm to their principles and follow through on the commitment they themselves included in the Action Plan."

The next step toward ratification is that the Ministry of Law and Human Rights must submit a ratification bill and academic paper to parliament for further deliberation.

"As parliamentarians from various political parties who have joined the ICC campaign of Parliamentarians for Global Action, we remain fully committed to considering and adopting the ICC bill as soon as the government transmits it," said Nursyahbani Katjasungkana, MP, Secretary of the PGA Indonesia National Group and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Council, one of the parliamentary committees reviewing the ratification paper. "For this parliament, which will be in office until 30 September 2009, there will be no wavering from our firm commitment to the rule of law and human rights which we will reinforce by working with our executive branch so that Indonesia can join the ICC and its 109 member states without further delay," she concluded.

Once Indonesia joins the Court, the under-represented Asia/Pacific region will have a much stronger voice at the ICC and can participate in a more meaningful manner. Currently, only seven Asian states—Afghanistan, Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste—are member states of the Court. Indonesia's accession is sure to spur other states in the region to join the growing global movement for accountability for the most serious crimes.

Brigitte Suhr, CICC Director of Regional Programs, states that "Indonesia is a major regional power. It has a crucial role to play in bringing Asian and Pacific countries on board in the fight to end impunity for the gravest of crimes."

There are currently four active investigations before the Court: Uganda; the Democratic Republic of Congo; Darfur, Sudan; and the Central African Republic. The Court also has several situations under analysis, including in Colombia, Afghanistan, Georgia, Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire. It has issued arrest warrants in each of the four situations under investigation.

The May 2009 target for the Coalition's Universal Ratification Campaign was Egypt.

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