



Barreau Pénal **International** Criminal Bar  
Colegio de Abogados penal Internacional

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**The International Criminal Bar (ICB ) joins the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Sang-Hyun Song, in requesting the immediate release of the four staff members of the Court currently being held in Libya. We agree with President Song, “*these four international civil servants have immunity when in an official ICC mission*”. We join in his “*call to the Libyan authorities immediately to take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and security and to liberate them*”.**

**It is of particular concern to the ICB that this mission was, as the statement of the Court says, “*in part... a privileged visit by the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence, currently appointed to represent Mr Gaddafi in the case brought against him. The delegation also included members of the ICC Registry with the view of discussing with Mr. Gaddafi the option to appoint counsel of his own choosing.*” The ICB stresses the crucial role of defence counsel in all criminal justice systems around the world, including the right of any accused person to confidential contact with his/her lawyers.**

**In summary, the International Criminal Bar urges all concerned in Libya to recognize the privileges and immunities of all four members of staff of the International Criminal Court, and to arrange for their safe and immediate release.**

Barcelona, 10 th June 2012.

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