



## **PHILIPPINE COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

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### Press Release

#### Celebrations of the International Criminal Court's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary kicks off at the Philippine CHR

A flag-raising ceremony at the Commission on Human Rights on July 2, 2012 kicked off activities in the Philippines to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

After the Philippine flag was raised, CHR Chair Loretta Ann Rosales declared that “the Commission marks this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ICC with a commitment to move forward with all justice stakeholders in the country the requirements for implementation of the Rome Statute (of the ICC) and Philippine laws on international humanitarian law.”

Chair Rosales spoke of the need to review and ensure implementation of RA 9851, the “Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity” enacted on 11 December 2009.

She also stressed a flagship program of the CHR to promote human rights and international humanitarian law in its work on security sector reform.

The ICC’s anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2012 by its states parties and civil society groups supporting the Court. The national coordinator of the Philippine Coalition for the ICC (PCICC), Rebecca Desiree E. Lozada, said it will sponsor with the CHR, government agencies and other civil society groups various forums and events that will study ways to implement the Rome Statute and to strengthen cooperation with the ICC.

She called on Congress to prioritize bills important to domestic implementation of the Rome Statute and to strengthening international humanitarian law, including bills on enforced disappearance and on the conscription and enlistment of children in armed conflict.

She also highlighted the need to review the current Witness Protection Act and Program and enhance them to include the effective protection of the victims and witnesses and their participation in legal proceedings as embodied in Article 68 of the Rome treaty on the ICC.

On 1 July 2002, the ICC opened its doors, marking an historic milestone towards ending impunity. Today the first permanent international court to prosecute the most heinous international crimes – war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide is a fully functional institution supported by 121 States Parties, with 20 warrants of arrest issued, 15 cases, and seven ongoing investigations.   ###

NOTE: A photo of the flag-raising ceremony may be downloaded from [www.pcicc.wordpress.com](http://www.pcicc.wordpress.com)

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