



**NCICC NIGERIAN COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT**

PRESS RELEASE

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COALITION CAMPAIGN ON ICC ELECTIONS

The Nigerian Coalition for the International Criminal Court calls on the Nigerian government to nominate credible and qualified Nigerians especially women into the forthcoming elections to the position of Judge, prosecutor and Deputy prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC). The nomination is open from August 3 to September 2, 2011 and the election will be held at the meeting of the state parties to the ICC at the UN in New York.

2011 is election year at the ICC and the Coalition is thereby urging governments, NGOs and other relevant professional bodies and individuals to join the effort in finding the most qualified candidates worldwide for the six opening positions of **judges** and chief **prosecutor** for the ICC. These upcoming **elections** will constitute an almost complete turnover of leadership in the Court and treaty body in 2011 - 2012. Nominations for judges are open until 2 September 2011.

Over the years, Nigeria has not successfully nominated a candidate. This is a unique opportunity for Nigeria to put forward a Nigerian citizen into these positions. There is urgent need for us to put forward names for the positions of Judge, Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutor.

Currently, Nigeria has put forward the name of - CHILE EBOE-OSUJI who is currently the Legal Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office in Geneva, Switzerland.

At this stage, in both the judicial and prosecutor nomination processes, there is insufficient representation of women, the principal legal systems of the world and geographic representation. So far, only male candidates have been nominated for judgeships.

We would like to encourage the nomination of a Nigerian female for one of the positions. We would like to do this working with the relevant stakeholders in order to ensure we put forward a robust and highly qualified candidate that would meet with international approval.

We have called on the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs to nominate qualified female candidates who stand a better chance for selection

Nigerian Coalition for the International Criminal Court (NCICC) is a coalition of civil society organizations, human rights defenders and activists in the country who are committed to promoting good governance and fighting impunity in all forms. NCICC is a member of Coalition for International Criminal Court (CICC).

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) includes 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 different countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

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It would be a great opportunity for Nigeria to have a representative in the ICC.

Chino E Obiagwu

Chair, NCICC