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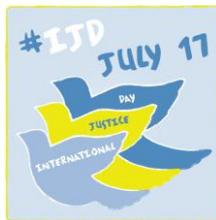
COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



World Marks International Justice Day 2013

Renewed calls for end to culture of impunity on 15th anniversary of signing of Rome Statute

We are pleased to bring you the latest [statements and op-eds](#) related to last week's celebration of International Justice Day (IJD), 17 July.



On IJD itself, we held a [video conference](#) on the ICC & Africa, while our [press release](#) underlined the hope for victims of grave crimes that Rome Statute system represents. We send a special thanks to many Coalition members, organizations, government officials, politicians and individuals all over the world who showed their support for victims by using the IJD logo on their social media accounts.

Later on IJD, along with United to End Genocide, the American NGO Coalition for the ICC, Physicians for Human Rights, Amnesty International and the International Justice Project, we co-organized a special event on [Justice and Accountability for Genocide and Atrocity Crimes](#) at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The event was co-sponsored by the UN missions of Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Costa Rica.



Meanwhile, on 13 July in commemoration of IJD, a China Coalition for the ICC was launched in Beijing. See [photos](#) and [videos](#) from the event.

All of these resources are available on our [website](#). Please [send us](#) your activities/actions if they have not been included here.

ICJ-Kenya, CHESO, The Congolese Association for Access to Justice (ACAJ), Human rights Association for Rwanda, ACAT-Burundi, Foundation for Human Rights, and a Sudanese CSO. - See more at: <http://www.icj-kenya.org/index.php/media-centre/news/544-commemoration-of-the-international-criminal-justice-day-in-eastern-africa#sthash.ZpniH2TW.dpuf>

Together for Justice

Coalition Secretariat



Coalition statements and op-eds

Commemoration of the International Criminal Justice Day in Eastern Africa,

ICJ-Kenya, CHESO, The Congolese Association for Access to Justice (ACAJ), Human rights Association for Rwanda, ACAT-Burundi,



Foundation for Human Rights, and a Sudanese CSO. - See more at: <http://www.icj-kenya.org/index.php/media-centre/news/544-commemoration-of-the-international-criminal-justice-day-in-eastern-africa#sthash.ZpniH2TW.dpuf>

ICJ-Kenya, CHESO, The Congolese Association for Access to Justice (ACAJ), Human rights Association for Rwanda, ACAT-Burundi, Foundation for Human Rights, and a Sudanese civil society organization, 17 July

“[...] ‘We call upon countries in Eastern Africa and beyond that have not yet signed, ratified and/or domesticated the Rome Statute and the Kampala Amendments to do so as soon as possible to prevent commission of international crimes and redress victims of these crimes.’ [...]”



11 years since the creation of the International Criminal Court: Calling upon the AU to support the work of the ICC, The Uganda Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Human Rights Network Uganda & Avocats San Frontières, 17 July

“[...] ‘We call upon the AU to revisit its commitment to the ICC and grant it due co-operation in order to live up to its objectives enshrined in Article 3 (e) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union which provides, among others, that one of the objectives of the AU shall be to *encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*’ [...]”

See also

[International Crime Victims stand up to fear](#), ASF, 17 July



Afghanistan Watch calls on the Afghan State to fulfill its obligations as an ICC Member State, Afghanistan Watch, 17 July

“[...] ‘On this very important day, Afghanistan Watch also urges the Afghan State to reassure it is committed to a universal campaign to end impunity for some of the most atrocious crimes by fulfilling its obligations as a member state to the ICC. The organization also urges the international community and the UN to work with the Afghan State to ensure that Afghanistan as a country under preliminary investigation is ready to fulfill its commitments and obligations. These include the long awaited task of bringing Afghanistan’s national judicial system into conformity with ICC standards and requirements.’ [...]”



Civil Society collaborates with the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) to commemorate the World Day of International Justice, Indonesian civil society Coalition for the ICC, 17 July

“[...] ‘Indonesian commitment on international justice that has always been conveyed in many global and regional forums should have a concrete realization by the ratification of the Rome Statute. There are no principal things that Indonesia needs to worry about, because ICC is a complementary system and will not replace our national justice system. In contrary, ICC will assist the on-going criminal justice reform.’ [...]”



International Justice Day: Commitment and Action Needed, Alison Smith, No Peace Without Justice, 17 July

“[...] ‘For the fight against impunity to be won, two things need to happen: States need to *talk the talk* in terms of their commitment against impunity, wherever it threatens to occur, then they need to stand by those words and make accountability happen. In all this, the victims and populations affected by crimes need to be and to remain front and centre: they are not an *add-on* or a luxury, they are the very reason why it is important to fight impunity at all,’ said **Alison Smith, Legal Counsel of NPWJ** [...]”



African Civil Society Stakeholders call for Global and Inclusive Justice, International Refugee Rights Initiative, 17 July

“[...] ‘As civil society stakeholders in the development of transitional justice on the African continent we call on concerned parties to join us in supporting the development of Africa’s own proposed African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples’ Rights. This court will have jurisdiction over human and peoples’ rights, general affairs and international crimes, and will thus be positioned to tackle a wider range of crimes and issues that respond, in a more complete and substantive manner, to the African context and needs and will complement the work of the ICC.’ [...]”



International Criminal Justice Day on 17 July 2013, The Malaysian Bar Association, 17 July

“[...] ‘today there are more than 5,000 victims participating in ICC proceedings, giving them a voice in the courtroom. The Trust Fund for the Victims continues to strive to provide support to an estimated 80,000 victims worldwide of international crimes under the ICC’s jurisdiction.’ [...]”



For Peace, Human Rights, Justice, Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, 17 July (in Spanish)

“[...] ‘the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES), encourages Mr. President Mauricio Funes Cartagena, and the deputies that make up the Legislative Assembly to join this effort and progress in the construction of a satisfactory context that stops the possibility of repetition of events constituting human rights violations, which is why we need El Salvador to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,’ [...]” (informal translation)

Make a Decision, Turkey!, Turkish Coalition for the ICC, 17 July (in Turkish)

“[...] ‘Today, the 15th anniversary of the established system to end impunity is celebrated around the world, and Turkey continues to remain outside of the system... Turkey once again confront its fears, discussed in more depth to the ICC and universal justice and peace settling of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression to prevent that perpetrators remain unpunished and calls on Turkey to be included into Rome statute system.’ [...]” (informal translation)



PHR

**Physicians for
Human Rights**

PHR commemorates International Justice Day: Human Rights Organizations emphasize need to arrest perpetrators, Physicians for Human Rights, 17 July

“[...] ‘On International Justice Day, we join other human rights groups in calling for meaningful justice for countless people who have suffered at the hands of those charged with mass crimes by the ICC, such as President Omar-al-Bashir of Sudan, who is accused of genocide in Darfur,’ said **Susannah Sirkin, PHR’s director of international policy and partnerships and senior advisor.**

‘When governments that are party to the Rome Statute flout their obligations to hand over suspects and enable perpetrators of the world’s most heinous crimes to live freely in positions of power, they insult the victims.’ [...]”



International Justice Day, Roberto Frifirini, Human Rights Agenda Association, 18 July

“[...] ‘The HARRA asks the Republic of turkey to adopt the Rome Statute and become a state party to the International Criminal Court not only to emphasize the democratization process which is undergoing, but also to show the will to confront with its past in approaching the forthcoming anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.’ [...]”



Wise Souls and Noble Goals: The UN’s commemoration of International Justice Day, American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court, July 19

“[...] ‘**Ambassador Rapp** closed his speech with an inspiring appeal for a response to the real reason that International Criminal Justice is more imperative now than ever: the growing victim tallies. *For the sake of those victims*, he said, *let this 15th anniversary [serve] to redouble our efforts to protect [them].*’ [...]”

See also

UN Celebrates International Justice Day, Sthelyn Romero, International Justice Project, 18 July

International Justice Day: Giving Victims a Voice, AMICC, 17 July

Celebrating International Justice Day, Alisondra Maykranz, Global Solutions, 17 July

Fighting genocide, crimes against humanity through international justice, Ronald B. Davis, 17 July

Statement from the ICC President: International Criminal Justice Day, ICC President Judge Sang-Hyun Song, 16 July



"[...] The story of the International Criminal Court gives us hope; it is proof that audacious goals can be achieved. While we have come a long way, we cannot afford complacency. Make no mistake – the ICC faces threats today as real as ever before. There are those who seek to undermine the international justice movement, who politicise its action, who question its value, and who purport to speak for the victims it serves. There are those who refuse to cooperate, leaving more than ten ICC suspects still at large. That is why on this day – 17 July – it is worth pausing to gather our resolve and to affirm why we must not waiver in pursuit of justice. [...]"



International Criminal Justice Day: Making the Impossible Possible, Tiina Intelmann, Huffington Post, 17 July

"[...] 'Today, celebrating the Day of International Criminal Justice, is a perfect occasion to not only commemorate the strides that have been made toward ending impunity but to also demonstrate a continued commitment to ensuring accountability for crimes that threaten the peace, security, and well-being of the world. In reaffirming their support to the international justice system, States Parties need to continue day-to-day cooperation with the Court to ensure its success in delivering justice.' [...]"

See also

President of the Assembly visits The Hague and participates in the celebrations of the Day of International Criminal Justice, ICC, 16 July

“Victims now have a voice”: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay commemorates International Criminal Justice Day, ICC, 8 July



"[...] Quoting Nelson Mandela, who said that “Things always seem impossible until you do them”, High Commissioner Pillay stated: “Making the impossible possible is what international criminal justice is about. Not so long ago, the creation of a permanent international criminal court seemed impossible. Now that the Court is here, and here to stay, many of the challenges it faces in turn seem impossible to resolve... We can, and we must, move away from a culture of impunity for gross human rights violations and other international crimes, towards a culture of accountability and responsibility. This is possible” [...]."



Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Council of the European Union, 17 July

“[...] ‘Delivering on this promise of justice to victims of these crimes is both a moral imperative and an essential contribution to peace, security and well-being of the world. The European Union and its Member States are strongly committed to preserving the independence of the ICC and to promoting the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute.’ [...]”



European Parliament delegation visit to the African Union and Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, 15-17 July 2013, Barbara Lochbihler, 17 July

“[...] ‘A priority issue for the EP delegation was the fight against impunity. In this respect, **Ms. Lochbihler** declared *Africa has played a pivotal role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Cooperation among international, regional and national levels is crucial to promote global justice and peace. We owe to the African victims of atrocious war crimes that those responsible are brought to justice.*’ [...]”



On the Anniversary of the International Court, Hassan Shaban, The Iraqi National Committee for the accession of the International Criminal Court, July 15

“[...] ‘The Iraqi National Committee for the Iraqi accession to the International Court, and in the day of its birth, call on the Iraqi government and parliament to join the International Court immediately in order to secure human rights in Iraq and to prevent any future tragedies. We also call on the Iraqi civil society and all Iraqis to practice all kind of pressure -by peaceful means- on the government and parliament to sign and ratify the Rome Statute and join the International Criminal Court,’ [...]”

[back to top ▲](#)

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in 150 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. For more information, visit:

www.coalitionfortheicc.org

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New York

708 Third Ave., 24th floor
New York, NY 10017

The Hague

Bezuidenhoutseweg 99a
2594 AC The Hague
The Netherlands