



AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA  
L'AJA

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The Embassy of Italy presents its compliments to the President of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute and to the President of the International Criminal Court, and has the honor to refer to the plan of action for achieving universality and full implementation of the Rome Statute, as contained in ICC-ASP/5/Res.3.

In this regard, the Embassy is pleased to inform that the celebrations of 17<sup>th</sup> July as the Day of International Criminal Justice ("ICJ Day") have been joined in by Italy with the following initiatives and achievements:

- (1) The Minister of Foreign Affairs released the attached statement;
- (2) The Ministerial statement has been posted on the MFA's website, distributed to the diplomatic network, and is available on the website of the Embassy of Italy in The Hague ([http://www.amblaja.esteri.it/Ambasciata\\_LAJa](http://www.amblaja.esteri.it/Ambasciata_LAJa));
- (3) The Ministerial statement has also been widely echoed on major press agencies (a collection is attached);
- (4) The ICC flag has flown alongside the Italian and the European Union flags at the MFA, on 17th July, and photographs posted on the MFA website;
- (5) A link to the ICC official website has been included in the menus of the Italian MFA, of its Embassies and Permanent Representations around the world;
- (6) The Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities has been involved in the advertisement of internships at the Court;

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H.E. Amb. Tiina Intelmann  
President  
Assembly of States Parties  
The Hague

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H.E. Judge Sang-Hyun Song  
President  
International Criminal Court  
The Hague

(7) On 23 January 2013 the legislation adopted by Italy for the implementation of the Rome Statute on cooperation with the ICC (Law 20 December 2012, No. 237) entered into force.

Pictures of the ICC flag taken on the occasion of the celebration of the ICJ Day in Rome are also being forwarded through the Secretariat of the ASP.

The Embassy of Italy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Criminal Court the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, **29 AUG. 2013**



**CELEBRATIONS OF THE  
DAY OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**17 July 2013**

**ITALY**

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**Statement of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Emma Bonino**

Today, 17<sup>th</sup> of July, we celebrate the *Day of International Criminal Justice* in memory of a founding moment for the promotion of legality, protection of human rights, and punishment of crimes undermining the peaceful coexistence of peoples. On 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1998 the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court was adopted: an event that many have compared, for historical significance, to the adoption of the United Nations Charter.

Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia and today also Syria: intolerance and violence in the world do not seem to diminish. No Country is immune. However, with the establishment of the Court the international community has refused any acquiescence to atrocities such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well acceptance of any form of impunity for their perpetrators.

There cannot be peace without acknowledgment of serious crimes and conviction of those responsible for them: in a word, without justice for victims. Wounds of the past have to be healed, if we don't want they result in destabilizing infections. The awareness and punishment of committed atrocities are requirements for their final settlement. It is in that light, that the International Criminal Court is an instrument for peace and preventive diplomacy. In many cases, the search for truth has not only delivered justice to victims but also generated a sort of collective catharsis. Thus, the deterrent role of the Court allows the mankind to prevent the recurrence of such brutalities, contributing to establishing the principle of legality, and to assert the principle of the responsibility to protect against the culture of impunity.

The Court has over the years increased its authority and credibility. There are now 122 Countries that have ratified the Statute. The Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala in 2010 has led to the adoption of some important amendments concerning war crimes and the crime of aggression, susceptible to expand the scope of the Statute. It is for us all, the States Parties, to continue with conviction to provide the Court with the political and financial support it needs. As, without "active" cooperation of the States, without a common commitment and determination for the functioning of the Court, the conquest of the first segment of international criminal jurisdiction would be empty of any content.

Italy promoted the establishment of the Court, and promptly adopted the legislation ratifying the Rome Statute, but it took a decade before adapting the national order to the Statute and establishing the conditions for a full cooperation with the Court. On human rights matters, one should never let his guard down. Therefore, I wish to take the opportunity of this event not only to celebrate, but also to renew to the international criminal justice the support of the institutions and of the Italian society.

It is in this spirit, that I have instructed for the flag of the International Criminal Court to be flown today at the Farnesina Palace, aside those of Italy and of the European Union.

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