

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT IN PERIL



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION
(ACIJP)



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

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The International Criminal Court in peril

The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP) and the Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court express their deep concern and grave dismay over credible reports indicating that the United States is planning to expand the scope of the sanctions it has imposed against the International Criminal Court (ICC). These sanctions initially targeted the Prosecutor of the Court, Deputy Prosecutors, judges, Palestinian non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories.

The ACIJLP and the Arab Coalition for the ICC warn that the sanctions being prepared against the ICC as an institution will effectively paralyze its ability to function. Such measures would obstruct the Court's access to the financial and logistical resources essential for the operation of its mechanisms and offices and for securing the salaries of its staff, ultimately leading to a complete halt of its role in prosecuting international crimes and holding perpetrators accountable.

The systematic attack by the United States against the ICC and its personnel represents a continuation of its longstanding opposition to the establishment of the Court in 1998. This opposition was manifested in threats to invade the Court in 2003 through the adoption of what became known as The Hague Invasion Act, and in subsequent efforts to limit states' accession to the ICC by concluding bilateral agreements with a number of countries in 2005 to prevent cooperation with the ICC.

The United States has revealed its ugly face in opposing the efforts of the international community to establish an independent and permanent judicial institution to administer international criminal justice without political bias. This constitutes an attempt to revert the international order to the pre-2002 era, before the ICC came into force and achieved significant progress in curbing the spread of impunity.

The anticipated sanctions against the ICC will undermine the progress made by the international community in advancing international criminal justice. The Court has played a vital role in addressing the gravest crimes without discrimination, regardless of the perpetrators' affiliation to major or minor states. These sanctions, therefore, represent an attempt to subject the Court to the unilateral will of the United States.

Accordingly, **the ACIJP and the Arab Coalition for the ICC**, call upon all States Parties to extend support and protection to the Court in the face of this fierce attack, which threatens to erode its efforts in achieving international criminal justice and to fuel the spread of impunity, thereby exposing the international community to uncontrollable chaos.

They further call upon the European Union, the African Union, and all international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide direct support to the Court and its organs so that it may continue its mission in delivering international criminal justice.