

THE ATTACK ON QATAR IS A CRIME OF AGGRESSION NECESSITATING ITS ACCESSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



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



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

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necessitating its accession to the International Criminal Court**

The Arab Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP) announces its condemnation of, and grave concern over, the repercussions of the airstrike carried out yesterday by the Israeli occupation army against Qatari territory and some residential buildings in Doha, the Qatari capital, which had been used as headquarters by some leaders of the Palestinian movement Hamas. The strike resulted in six fatalities, five of whom belonged to Hamas, and a member of the Qatari security forces.

The ACIJLP affirms that such unlawful acts of war perpetrated by Israel on the sovereign territory of independent states, members of the United Nations, constitute a violation of international law, an infringement of the Charter of the United Nations, a departure from the principles of legitimacy, and an assault upon the sovereignty of other states.

The ACIJLP further expresses its deep concern over the intensifying acts of aggression carried out by the Israeli army, including on Qatari territory, emphasizing that such unjustified operations may amount to the crime of aggression as defined in Article 8 (bis) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), with all its constituent elements and conditions. The manifestations of conduct constituting the crime of aggression are evident in yesterday's attack, including the premeditated planning of the act of aggression, the preparation and military arrangements for its commission, and its initiation and execution.

The ACIJLP reiterates its call upon the government of Qatar and the governments of other Arab states to accede to the ICC and ratify the Rome Statute establishing it, as the sole international mechanism mandated and competent to investigate the most serious crimes, including the crime of aggression, particularly following the adoption and definition of the crime of aggression and the determination of its elements in the Statute of the ICC.

The ACIJLP notes that the State of Qatar was among five states that declared their rejection of the establishment of the ICC at the Rome Diplomatic Conference in July 1998. This necessitates a reconsideration by Arab states of their position towards the ICC, with a view to securing greater Arab representation within its membership, thereby enabling a legal response to such crimes committed against them and falling within the jurisdiction of the ICC.