

# ACIJLP CALLS ON ARAB GULF STATES TO EXPEDITE ACCESSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



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



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**ACIJLP calls on Arab Gulf states  
to expedite accession to the International Criminal Court**

**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)**, together with **the Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court**, is monitoring the US-Israel-Iran war and the accompanying military operations that have affected most of the Arab Gulf states (Qatar, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates). These military operations have resulted in acts that may rise to the level of the crime of aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, in accordance with Articles 5, 7, 8, and 8 bis (A) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The ACIJLP considers that ratification by the Arab Gulf states of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court would grant them the right to request investigations and prosecutions in relation to the military operations to which they are subjected. This right is accorded to States Parties to the Court where the alleged crimes have occurred after 2002, in line with the Court's temporal jurisdiction.

The ACIJLP further considers that Arab states whose legislative or political circumstances do not currently permit ratification of the Rome Statute and accession to the Court may nonetheless accept the Court's jurisdiction by depositing a declaration to that effect with the Registrar of the Court, pursuant to Article 12(3) with respect to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and Article 15 bis (A) concerning the exercise of jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. Such a declaration would enable the organs of the International Criminal Court to initiate investigations and prosecutions into crimes falling within its jurisdiction without the need for formal accession.

It is noteworthy that the International Criminal Court was established by the Rome Statute in 1998, and that its Statute entered into force on 17 July 2002. The Assembly of States Parties currently comprises 125 members. It is further noted that 13 Arab states have signed the Rome Statute — namely Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Algeria, Djibouti, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Comoros, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen—of which only five have ratified it and acceded to the Court: Jordan, Djibouti, Comoros, Tunisia, and Palestine. Six Arab states — Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Mauritania — have not signed the Statute.

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