

**More than 70 Non-Governmental Organizations, Faith-Based Groups,  
and Academic Institutions Call for the Biden Administration to Repeal ICC Sanctions**

**February 17, 2021**

The undersigned organizations urge the Biden Administration to engage constructively with the International Criminal Court (ICC). The U.S. government's support for the ICC could help secure justice for victims in situations from Myanmar to Darfur, just as it helped facilitate the February 4 historic conviction of a former leader of an armed rebel group for war crimes and crimes against humanity in northern Uganda.

There is an immediate need to act to reset U.S. policy regarding the ICC. Most urgently, we are alarmed by recent calls for the U.S. government to maintain or even expand the sanctions put into place by the Trump administration in June 2020 currently targeting the court's work.

These actions were an unprecedented attack on the court's mandate to deliver justice and the rule of law globally, an abuse of the U.S. government's financial powers, and a betrayal of the U.S. legacy in establishing institutions of international justice. They were also an attack on those who engage with the court, including human rights defenders and victims. These extraordinary measures have put the U.S. at odds with many of its closest allies. They also have been challenged on constitutional grounds domestically.

Keeping in place the executive order authorizing sanctions would be inconsistent with the new administration's laudable commitments to respecting the rule of law and pursuing multilateral cooperation in support of U.S. interests. It would also transform a shameful but temporary action into a standing license for other governments to attack multilateral institutions when they disagree with those bodies' actions.

We call upon the U.S. government to rescind Executive Order 13928 and all sanctions measures against ICC officials at the earliest possible opportunity. We appeal for constructive engagement with the ICC and we urge the Biden administration and members of Congress to support that approach.

*This statement was coordinated by the Washington Working Group for the International Criminal Court (WICC), an informal and nonpartisan coalition of diverse NGOs, including human rights organizations, faith based groups, professional associations, and others.*

The Advocates for Human Rights  
Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Yale Law School  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)  
Amnesty International USA  
Anti-Torture Initiative, American University Washington College of Law  
Associazione Luca Coscioni

Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)  
Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)  
Center for Justice and Accountability  
Center for the Study of Law & Genocide, Loyola Law School  
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Darfur Women Action Group  
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)  
Eumans  
European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights  
Fortify Rights  
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect  
Global Justice Center  
Global Justice Clinic, New York University School of Law  
Guernica 37 Chambers and Centre for International Justice  
Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic, City University of New York School of Law  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Institute, Georgetown University Law Center  
Human Rights Watch  
Institute for Policy Studies, Drug Policy Project  
Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project  
International Association of Democratic Lawyers  
International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)  
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)  
International Criminal Court Alliance (ICCA)  
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
International Human Rights Clinic, Boston University School of Law  
International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
J Street  
Justice for Muslims Collective  
Leitner Center for International Law and Justice  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
Never Again Coalition  
No Peace Without Justice  
Open Society Foundations  
Operation Broken Silence  
Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)  
Partners in Justice International  
Pax Christi USA  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness  
Project Blueprint  
The Promise Institute for Human Rights, UCLA School of Law  
REDRESS  
The Rendition Project

Relieve  
Science for Democracy  
The Sentry  
September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows  
StoptheDrugWar.org  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
The Syria Justice and Accountability Centre  
TRIAL International  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society  
University of Southern California (USC) Gould International Human Rights Clinic  
US Human Rights Network (USHRN)  
US Filipinos for Good Governance DC/MD/VA Chapter  
Victim Advocates International  
War Crimes Research Office, American University Washington College of Law  
Western New York Peace Center  
Win Without War  
Witness Against Torture  
Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ)  
World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP)  
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)  
World Without Genocide at Mitchell Hamline School of Law