

FACT SHEET (DRAFT, 9/9/11)

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent, treaty-based, independent international tribunal, sitting in The Hague (Netherlands): it is legally [and functionally] independent of the United Nations. It prosecutes individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes (as well as the crime of aggression -- when the party states agree on a definition and the conditions for prosecution) (Art. 5).

The Court may exercise jurisdiction:

- where the accused is a national of a state party,
- where the alleged crime was committed on the territory of a state party (or a party that has accepted the court's jurisdiction), or
- where the Security Council has referred a situation to the Court.

Organs of the Court include: the 3-judge Presidency, the 18-judge judicial divisions (Pre-Trial, Trial, and Appeals), and the offices of the Prosecutor, the Public Counsel for Victims and the Public Counsel for Defense.

The Rome Statute (1998), which created the Court, became a binding treaty in 2002, when it was ratified by 60 states. 110 States have signed and ratified the Rome Statute, 38 have signed but not ratified, and 3 of those states have "unsigned" (Israel, the United States and Sudan). Eight (8) states that had not signed by the deadline (December 31, 2000) have "acceded" to the Statute. India, Pakistan and The Peoples Republic of China have opposed the Court.

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Israel/Palestine Committee,
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