

# Joint Civil Society Statement

12 October 2026

## **Urgent Call for Action: States Must Act Now to Protect the International Criminal Court from Unlawful US Attacks**

The ICC has shown remarkable resilience in steadfastly discharging its mandate in the face of escalating attacks. Now, States Parties must match this commitment by defending the Court they themselves established and protecting those who cooperate with it. Condemnations alone are not enough; coordinated action is urgently needed to protect the Court's ability to function.

On 9 October 2026, the US announced the imposition of sanctions against the ICC as an institution under **Executive Order 14203**. These sanctions mark the gravest escalation in the sustained campaign carried out by the US with the declared aim of dismantling the ICC "brick by brick" for having investigated crimes allegedly committed on the territory of a State Party by US nationals or their allies, **in particular Israeli nationals**. Under the Rome Statute, the Court may exercise jurisdiction over crimes committed on the territory of a State Party, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged perpetrator.

Since February 2025, the Trump administration has imposed sanctions on the former ICC Prosecutor, **Karim Khan; both Deputy Prosecutors**; the ICC President and eight other **judges**; a **staff member and judicial candidate**; a **UN Special Rapporteur**; and **three Palestinian human rights organisations**.

These measures aim to undermine the Rome Statute system as a whole and to prevent the investigation and prosecution of international crimes.

Executive Order 14203 prohibits US persons from providing material support or services to designated persons and entities, including financial services, and exposes non-US persons to the risk of secondary sanctions for engaging in conduct prohibited under the Executive Order. US persons who violate it may face criminal penalties of up to 20 years' imprisonment and fines of up to 1 million USD, as well as civil penalties.

Although the Executive Order contains a six month wind-down period and exemptions for certain services, significant risks remain. Given the global reliance on the US financial and IT systems, even non-US service providers, including banks, may stop rendering their services to the ICC out of fear of penalties or reprisals from the US Treasury. This could impact the Court's ability to maintain a bank account, receive financial contributions from States Parties, make payments, pay staff and maintain essential operations.

The Netherlands, as the host country, and all States Parties are responsible for ensuring the ICC can maintain access to services critical to its operations. The Court must be able to continue to carry out its core functions, including investigating alleged crimes; holding hearings; protecting victims and witnesses; and providing legal aid services.

For victims, survivors and witnesses in more than a dozen situation countries under investigation by the Court across the globe, the consequences could be profound. Many have waited years for justice, recounted traumatic experiences and placed their trust in the ICC as a last resort for justice. Any disruption to the ICC's mandate and operations risks impeding their right to justice. It threatens decades of advances in accountability and justice efforts, leaving victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide without a meaningful prospect for accountability, truth and reparations.

The sanctions are **already undermining justice efforts**. The three Palestinian NGOs designated for cooperating with the Court immediately lost access to their bank accounts, funds, IT services and partners, impeding their work. The damage does not end with those targeted; the sanctions have created a chilling effect and impacted **freedom of expression and association** worldwide. Sanctions on the Court as an institution risk deepening that effect. Ultimately, victims, families of victims and survivors will pay the biggest price.

The US, which is not a State Party, is blatantly attacking the world's only permanent international criminal court through measures that leverage its position within the global financial system. If the 125 States Parties to the Rome Statute allow these attacks to undermine the Court's ability to function, the consequences would extend far beyond the ICC, threatening the broader rule of law, states' sovereignty and systems of justice at the national, regional and international levels.

Statements of concern and condemnations are no longer a sufficient response to this attack. A coordinated response can no longer be delayed. Three decades ago, States made a promise that no one, no matter how powerful, will be shielded from accountability for international crimes. Victims and survivors have waited decades for a Court capable of delivering justice regardless of power or nationality, and today, the ICC is facing unprecedented pressure precisely because it seeks to apply the law equally. States Parties established the Court and are uniquely placed to safeguard its independence and effectiveness. Failure to respond decisively risks weakening the international justice system they pledged to uphold.

**The CICC calls on all States Parties, individually and collectively, to:**

- **Denounce publicly, unequivocally, in the strongest terms possible and at the highest political level** the institutional sanctions against the ICC and those cooperating with it as an unlawful attack on judicial independence, the rule of law and victims.
- **Immediately adopt or activate blocking measures** at the national and regional level - including the immediate adoption of the EU Blocking Statute (Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96) and equivalent domestic legislation elsewhere - to shield those designated, including the Court and its officials, the UN Special Rapporteur and civil society organisations, from the extraterritorial reach of these sanctions.
- **Guarantee that the Court and those cooperating with it can have access to banking and other essential services**, including by:  
Providing **legal certainty to service providers** by taking a clear legal position on the non-extraterritorial application of sanctions and making this legal position publicly available through letters or written statements.

Engaging proactively and regularly with banks, financial institutions, IT companies and others to **reaffirm the unlawfulness of the sanctions**, clarify that they **should not be enforced extra-territorially**, reject over-compliance or de-risking strategies and **stop automatic or externalised compliance**.

- Ensure that **all relevant ministries**, including foreign affairs, justice, finance, treasury and digital affairs, **coordinate**, including at the regional level, to **develop whole-of-government solutions**.
- **Apply protection and solutions equally to civil society, human rights defenders and survivors targeted with sanctions or at risk due to their cooperation with the Court, extending every statement, solution, démarche and funding measure to include civil society organisations** designated and those at risk, without distinction.
- Find concrete **measures to mitigate the impact of sanctions on civic space, freedom of speech and freedom of association**.
- **Build and invest in economic, financial and tech sovereignty and resilience** to reduce structural dependency on US service providers.
- Explore all possible **diplomatic and legal avenues to challenge the sanctions and their legality under international law**, including by supporting any legal challenge raised by designated persons in the US and through a referral to the International Court of Justice.
- **Publicly and strongly reaffirm their commitment to the Rome Statute and continue to comply fully with their obligations under the Rome Statute**, including funding, cooperation and the arrest and surrender of all persons subject to ICC warrants, without exception, delay, or selectivity.
- **Publicly and clearly oppose any initiatives aimed at weakening the Court**, including attempts to amend the Rome Statute to limit its jurisdiction or independence and attempts to influence prosecutorial priorities, including efforts to sideline specific situations, such as Afghanistan or Palestine.
- **Refuse, without exception, coercion by a non-State Party to influence votes, positions, or conduct within the ASP** or any other body of the Rome Statute system.
- Ensure **any ICC-related meeting is held in a country that ICC officials and staff and civil society organisations**, including those designated, **can access safely** and without threats.

## List of Signatories

### 1. Organisations

- 11.11.11
- A World Without Chemical and Biological Weapons (WWW)
- Action pour la Justice et Promotion des Droits de l'Homme (ARJPDH)
- Action pour le Développement Intégral de l'Homme et de Tout l'Homme au Modèle de Kizito-Anuarite
- Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
- Afghanistan Organization for Development of Human Right (AODHR)
- African Development and Peace Initiative (ADPI)
- African Initiatives for a Democratic World Order
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
- Al-Haq

- Al-Jazeera Observatory for Human Rights
- Alternative Intervention of Lawyers in Athens
- ALTSEAN-Burma
- Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)
- Amnesty International
- Aryeh Neier Center for Justice at Bard College Berlin
- Asia Justice Coalition
- Asociación Americana de Juristas/American Association of Jurists
- Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos
- Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos España
- Association Cultures du Monde
- Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH)
- Atrocities Watch Africa
- Australian Centre for International Justice
- Avocats Sans Frontières
- Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS)
- Bajito Under Africa
- Bangladesh Integrated Social Advancement Programme
- Barreau de Namur-Dinant
- Bureau d'études et de recherches pour le bien être des communautés (BERCO)
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
- Center for Civil Liberties
- Center for Constitutional Rights
- Center for Justice and Accountability
- Center for Prisoners' Rights
- Centre marocain pour la loi et la paix
- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
- Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH)
- Chinese Initiative on International Law
- Citizens' Assembly (Yurttaşlık Derneği)
- Citizens for Global Solutions
- Civic Committee for Human Rights (CCHR)
- Civil Society Institute – Armenia
- Civitas Maxima
- Clinique de droit international pénal et humanitaire (Université Laval, Quebec, Canada)
- Club des amis du droit du Congo (CAD)
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women - Asia Pacific (CATW-AP)
- Coalition Burundaise pour la CPI (Burundian Coalition for the ICC)
- Coalition Centreafricaine pour la CPI (Central African Coalition for the ICC)
- Coalition Guinéenne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale (CGCPI)
- Coalition Guinéenne pour la CPI (Guinean Coalition for the ICC)
- Coalition Ivoirienne pour la CPI (Ivorian Coalition for the ICC)
- Coalition Marocain pour la CPI (Moroccan Coalition for the ICC)
- Coalition Tchadienne pour la CPI (Chadian Coalition for the ICC)

- Coalition tunisienne pour la Cour pénale internationale
- Collectif de Sauvegarde de la LADDH Algérie
- Colombes de la Nature
- Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador
- Comisión Ecueménica de Derechos Humanos
- Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ, Northern Ireland)
- COMPPART Foundation for Justice and Peacebuilding
- Corporación Humanas, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género
- DAWN
- Defence of Human Rights and Public Services Trust
- DIGNITY
- Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past
- Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)
- Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO)
- EuroMed Rights
- European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
- Exodus Charity Organization
- FIBGAR – Baltasar Garzon International Foundation
- Finnish League for Human Rights
- Fondation congolaise pour la promotion de droits humains et la paix
- Fondation René Cassin - Institut internationale des droits de l'homme
- Foundation Sunflowers
- Global Justice Center
- Groupe LOTUS
- Hellenic League for Human Rights
- Help Not Handcuffs, Inc.
- Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor
- Holistic Empowerment for Development
- Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition
- Human Rights Agenda Association (IHGD)
- Human Rights and Humanitarian Development Initiatives
- Human Rights Centre ZMINA
- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
- Human Rights League (LDH, Belgium)
- Human Rights Now
- Humanitarian Law Center
- HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement
- Impact: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict
- IMPARSIAL – The Indonesian Human Rights Monitor
- In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (IDefend), Philippines
- Indonesian Legal Aid Association for Justice
- İnsan Hakları Derneği/Human Rights Association (İHD)
- Institute for Environmental Security
- Institute for the Rule of Law of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA-IROL)

- Instituto Latinoamericano para una Sociedad y un Derecho Alternativos (ILSA)
- International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
- International Commission of Jurists
- International Commission of Jurists, Norwegian Section (ICJ Norway)
- International Community Care e.V.
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO)
- International Platform of Jurists for East Timor
- International Service for Human Rights
- Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte e.V.
- Iranian Center for International Criminal Law
- Irish Council for Civil Liberties
- JURDI - Juristes pour le respect du droit international
- Just Access e.V.w
- Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law
- Kenya Human Rights Commission
- Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya)
- Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group
- Kids for Kids
- Kimbé Rêd FWI
- Kurdish Organizations Network Coalition for the International Criminal Court (KONCICC)
- Kurdistan Organizations Network to Abolish Nuclear and Mass Destruction Weapons (KONW)
- Kurdistan Without Genocide
- Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
- LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme/droits humains)
- League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI)
- Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)
- Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)
- Libya Crimes Watch (LCW)
- Life campaign to abolish the death sentence in Kurdistan Network
- Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
- Liga voor de Rechten van de Mens
- Liga voor Mensenrechten
- Ligue Burundaise des droits de l'homme Iteka
- Ligue Pour La Paix, Les Droits De L'homme Et La Justice (LIPADHOJ)
- Ligue Sénégalaise des Droits Humains
- Ligue tunisienne des droits de l'homme
- LingvaLexa
- Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN)
- MARUAH (Working Group for ASEAN Human Rights Mechanisms, Singapore)
- medica mondiale e.V.
- Mnemonic
- Netherlands Helsinki Committee
- No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ)

- Nobel Women's Initiative
- Norwegian Council for Tolerance & Peace (NCTP)
- Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- Observatoire des droits de l'homme au Rwanda- ODHR
- Observatorio Ciudadano
- OPORA in Poland Foundation
- Orde van Vlaamse Balies
- Ordre français des avocats du barreau de Bruxelles
- Organización Nacional de Derechos de l'Homme du Senegal (ONDH)
- Organization Against Weapons of Mass Destruction in Kurdistan
- Organization of the Justice Campaign (OJC)
- Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness)
- Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)
- PAX
- Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
- Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court (PCICC)
- Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights)
- Physicians for Human Rights
- Platform for Peace and Humanity
- Protection of Rights Without Borders
- Quê Me: Vietnam Committee on Human Rights (VCHR)
- REDRESS
- Refugees in Libya – APS
- Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- Rights for Peace
- Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center
- Rohingya Maïyafuïnor Collaborative Network
- Rose Lokissim Association
- Route Justice
- Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)
- Stichting Uruma Uganda
- Stop Ecocide Foundation
- StoptheDrugWar.org
- Students for Global Democracy Uganda
- Sudan Social Development Organization SUDO
- Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (SPAS)
- Synergy for Justice
- Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)
- Tegarú Initiatives for Peace and Rehabilitation
- The Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court (ACICC)
- The ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions (ImPact Coalition)
- The Legal Agenda
- The Legal Resources Centre
- The Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO)

- The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel
- The Reckoning Project
- The Rights Forum
- TRIAL International
- Turkish Coalition for the ICC
- Union for Civil Liberty (UCL)
- United Nations Association Sweden
- UpRights
- Vision GRAM-International
- Vous et Vos Droits
- Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ)
- World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
- World Without Genocide
- Young World Federalists
- Youth Compassion for Humanity Uganda
- Youth for Peace and Dialogue between Cultures
- Zarga Organization for Rural Development
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

## 2. Individuals

- Ahmed Aloui, Association tunisienne de défense des libertés individuelles
- Alessandra Moretti, Member of the European Parliament
- Alexis Deswaef, Avocat au Barreau de Bruxelles et sur la liste des conseils à la CPI, président de la FIDH (Fédération Internationale pour les Droits Humains)
- Alirio Uribe Muñoz, Defensor de Derechos humanos
- Amélie Beauchemin, Member of the Paris Bar
- Andrés Mauricio Balcázar Suárez, Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
- Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, Member of the European Parliament
- Benjamin Fiorini, Université Paris 8
- Carola Lingaas, Professor VID University College In Oslo
- Catarina Vieira, Member of the European Parliament
- Cecilia Strada, Member of the European Parliament
- César Luena, Member of the European Parliament
- Prof. Dr. Chantal Meloni, Senior Legal Advisor at the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), Lawyer and International Criminal Law Professor, University of Milan
- Chloé Ridet, Member of the European Parliament
- Christophe Clergeau, Member of the European Parliament
- Claire Fita, Member of the European Parliament
- Consuelo Morales, Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C.
- Dr Parisa Zangeneh, Independent
- Dr. Gunal Kursun, İnsan Hakları Gundemi Dernegi
- Edgar Boydens, Former Dean of the Brussels Bar

- Elizabeth Shafer, Board Member, Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms
- Emmanuelle Marchand, International criminal law counsel and expert in conflict related sexual violence, investigation and strategic litigation
- Eric Sargiacomo, Member of the European Parliament
- Estelle Ceulemans, Member of the European Parliament
- Eva Sanjuan Guerrero, EP Assistant
- Evin Incir, Member of the European Parliament
- Dr. Fannie Lafontaine, Lawyer and Professor at Faculté de droit de l'Université Laval
- Dr. Farah Safi, Professor in law
- Farhatullah Babar, Human Rights Cell, Pakistan Peoples Party
- Dr. Florence Bellivier, Professor in law and criminal science, University Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne
- Dr. François Dubuisson, Professor in international law, University Libre de Bruxelles
- Gabrielle Cathala, Elected member of the National Assembly for Val-d'Oise (France)
- Dr. Gunal Kursun, lawyer and human rights activist
- Hana Jalloul Muro, Member of the European Parliament
- Indira Rosenthal, Independent
- Insaf Rezagui-Sbeih, Université Paris Cité; JURDI
- Isabelle Fouchard, CNRS/Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Jean-Marc Germain, Member of the European Parliament
- Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus, Member of the European Parliament
- Kaari Mattila, Academic
- Kenneth Roth, Senior Fellow, Yale University; former Executive Director, Human Rights Watch
- Krzysztof Smiszek, Member of the European Parliament
- Lara Wolters, Member of the European Parliament
- Laura Ballarín Cereza, Member of the European Parliament
- Luc Walley, Lawyer
- Marcel Bakanga Awachango, Europe Coordinator, Coalition Nationale (CPI RDC)
- Marco Tarquinio, Member of the European Parliament
- Maria Gevorgyan, Legal Advisor at Center for Truth and Justice
- Marta Temido, Member of the European Parliament
- Mathilde Lutak, Jurist in international law
- Matjaz Nemec, Member of the European Parliament
- Michael Lynk, Former UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (2016-2022)
- Mounir Satouri, Member of the European Parliament
- Murielle Laurent, Member of the European Parliament
- Nadia Attaire, Jurist in international law
- Nora Mebarek, Member of the European Parliament
- Patrick Baudouin, Lawyer and Honorary President of the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme and of the FIDH
- Penelope Faulkner, Quê Me: Vietnam Committee on Human Rights (VCHR)
- Pierre Juvet, Member of the European Parliament

- Rafendi Djamin, Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Indonesia's NGO Coalition for International Human Rights Advocacy
- Raphaël Glucksmann, Member of the European Parliament
- Rebecca Shoot, Co-Convener of the Washington Working Group for the International Criminal (WICC) Court and the ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions
- Reed Brody, Commissioner, International Commission of Jurists
- René Repasi, Member of the European Parliament
- Rima Hassan, Member of the European Parliament
- Sandra Gómez López, Member of the European Parliament
- Sandro Ruotolo, Member of the European Parliament
- Sarah Kasande, International human rights lawyer
- Sarah Sameur, Avocate au Barreau de Paris
- Dr. Sébastien Touzé, International law Professor and Director of the Fondation René Cassin - Institut internationale des droits de l'homme
- Terje Einarsen, University of Bergen
- Tathiana Flores Acuna, International Consultant
- Thomas Verfuss, Journalists For Justice
- Tiemo Wölken, Member of the European Parliament
- Tineke Strik, Member of the European Parliament
- Valérie Malabat, Professor
- Vesna Teršelič, Antifascist League
- Zoran Pusić, Civic Committee for Human Rights (CCHR)