



**Coalition for the International Criminal Court**  
**[www.iccnw.org](http://www.iccnw.org)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
17 July 2007

Contact: Anaga Dalal,  
(+1)646.465.8517, [dalal@iccnw.org](mailto:dalal@iccnw.org)

**WORLD DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE:  
JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF ICC TREATY MARKS NEW PHASE FOR  
COURT**

**New York, NY:** Today is World Day for International Justice, in honor of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC), on 17 July 1998.

Also today, Japan formally ratified the ICC treaty, marking a new phase for the Court that signals clear support for international justice in major capitals around the world.

"We sincerely hope that Japan will stand at the forefront of this great endeavor to transform the "culture of impunity" into a "culture of responsibility," said Osamu Nikura, co-representative of the Japanese Network for the ICC. "As the one and only country that has suffered the devastation of a full-fledged nuclear attack, we believe it is time that our country plays an active role in the promotion of peace and human rights in the world."

"Japan's ratification is a major endorsement of the ICC and the new system of international criminal justice established by the Rome Statute. Japan is an important world power; we hope its decision will press other major powers and more Asian states to join the ICC," said Convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) William Pace.

"With Japan, 105 states have now ratified the ICC treaty. Another 139 states have signed, but not ratified it. Most of the world's democracies; all but one European Union government, most of sub-Saharan Africa and most of Latin America and the Caribbean have joined the ICC," Pace added.

The ICC budget is approximately 90 million Euros per year; Japan will assume responsibility for about 19% of the budget. Japan has also nominated a judicial candidate for election to the Court in December.

"Besides progressing towards universal ratification, one of the most important needs for the ICC is to secure greater cooperation from governments in securing arrests," Pace stated.

Around the world, members of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court will be marking July 17 as "World Day for International Justice" with citizens in their community, government officials and members of the legal community. In the United States, Amnesty International will host "birthday parties" around the country from Miami, Florida to Seattle, Washington.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the national coalition for the ICC will host public conferences and screen films about international justice in the Bas Congo province, an area that has been greatly affected by the country's long-running conflict.

In Alexandria, Egypt, there will be a training on international human rights law and the ICC for lawyers throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

In Freetown, Sierra Leone, there will be a symposium on combating impunity for grave crimes through the ICC and other means.

There was a wide-ranging outreach campaign about the ICC to some 680 local government offices in Andalusia, Spain.

Activists in Nepal will stage a demonstration in Kathmandu to pressure the government to ratify the ICC treaty, and further south in the Philippines, our member organizations will host a forum reviewing the work of the ICC five years after the entry into force of the Rome Statute on 1 July 2002.

“The tremendous support for the ICC on World Day for International Justice demonstrates the growing global consensus that impunity for mass atrocities is no longer acceptable,” said Pace. “We believe the ICC is a ‘root cause’ institution, one that will contribute to the prevention and reconciliation of conflicts involving the worst international crimes. Nine years ago, when the Rome Statute was adopted, no one would have predicted how far we would come in such a short amount of time. Today, the Court is fully functional and increasingly attuned to the needs of affected communities.”

The Court is currently investigating grave crimes in four countries: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan (Darfur) and most recently, the Central African Republic, and has issued 7 arrest warrants. Later this year, the Court is expected to begin its first trial in the case against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo regarding the use of child soldiers. The court is reportedly looking into several other situations on three continents.

The adoption of the Rome Statute marks the first time that a truly international and permanent court, reflecting major legal systems and all geographic regions of the world, would hold individuals accountable for massive crimes.

To learn more about the Court and the Coalition, please visit us online at [www.iccnw.org](http://www.iccnw.org).

#### List of NGO Experts on the ICC:

<b>Mr. William Pace, Convenor, Coalition for the International Criminal Court</b> (New York, USA) Tel: +1 212 687 2863 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pace@wfm-igp.org">pace@wfm-igp.org</a>	<b>Mr. Richard Dicker, Director, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch</b> (New York, USA) Mobile tel: +1 917 747 6731 Email: <a href="mailto:dickerr@hrw.org">dickerr@hrw.org</a>
<b>Mr. Christopher Hall, Senior Legal Adviser, Amnesty International</b> (London, UK) Tel.: +44 207 241 1728 +44 207 413 5733 E-mail: <a href="mailto:chall@amnesty.org">chall@amnesty.org</a>	<b>Ms. Brigid Inder, Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice</b> (The Hague, Netherlands) Tel: +317 03 02 99 11 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brigid@iccwomen.org">brigid@iccwomen.org</a>
<b>Ms. Alison Smith, Legal Counsel, No Peace Without Justice</b> (Brussels, Belgium) Mobile tel: +32 486 986 235 Email: <a href="mailto:alison@sensible.it">alison@sensible.it</a>	<b>Ms. Mariana Goetz, ICC Program Adviser, The REDRESS Trust</b> (London, UK) (London, UK) Tel: + 44 20 7793 1777 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mariana@redress.org">mariana@redress.org</a>
<b>Ms. Betsy Apple, Director, Crimes Against Humanity Program, Human Rights First</b> (New York, USA) Tel: +1 212 845 5243 Email: <a href="mailto:AppleB@HumanRightsFirst.org">AppleB@HumanRightsFirst.org</a>	<b>Dr. David Donat Cattin, Director of Programmes, Parliamentarians for Global Action</b> (New York, USA) Mobile phone: +1 212 687 7755 x105 Email: <a href="mailto:donat@pgaction.org">donat@pgaction.org</a>

<p><b>Mr. John Washburn, Convener, American NGO Coalition for the ICC</b> (New York, USA)  Tel: +1 212 907 1317;  Email: <a href="mailto:jwashburn@unausa.org">jwashburn@unausa.org</a></p>	<p><b>Dr. Karine Bonneau, Director of the International Justice Desk, Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L'Homme (FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights)</b> (Paris, France)  Tel: +33 1 43 55 11 56 Mobile tel: +33 6 72 34 87 59  Email: <a href="mailto:kbonneau@fidh.org">kbonneau@fidh.org</a></p>
<p><b>Ms. Oby Nwankwo, Executive Director, Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre</b> (Enugu, Nigeria)  Tel: +234 42 453 739  +234 803 313 2494  E-mail: <a href="mailto:nwankwooby@yahoo.com">nwankwooby@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Anselmo Lee, Executive Director, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development</b> (Bangkok, Thailand)  Tel: +662 391 8801 ext. 502  Mobile: +66 0818 6891 78  E-mail: <a href="mailto:anselmo@forum-asia.org">anselmo@forum-asia.org</a></p>

###