



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**
**International
Criminal
Court**

Le Président
The President



Judge Tomoko Akane

President of the International Criminal Court

Presentation of the Court's Annual Report to the United Nations

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Madam President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Her Excellency Ms Annalena Baerbock on her election as President of this Eightieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Madam President, it is a particular honour to address this distinguished assembly while the UN celebrates 8 decades of work in service of international peace and security.

I recall that this year also marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Nuremberg Tribunal. The ICC judges, including myself, visited Nuremberg where we had the time to reflect on the foundation of international criminal justice and the universality of the need to pursue justice for the victims of atrocity crimes through fair judicial proceedings.

The International Criminal Court was created by the UN Member States because during the 20th century “millions of children, women and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity”.

States “recognis[ed] that such grave crimes threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world” and that collective efforts are required to tackle this problem. The ICC was thus created by the international community to deal with the criminal responsibility of individuals and not that of States. Sadly, crimes that shock the conscience of humanity continue to plague this world and the fight against impunity must continue with the full backing of the international community.

During my brief remarks today, I will provide an overview of the Court’s current state of affairs and selected topical issues, while the written report, issued as A/80/342, contains a more comprehensive account of the Court’s activities during the reporting period.

Madam President,

The Judges of the International Criminal Court act without fear or favour, lending legitimacy to the entire multilateral system and to the States Parties to the Rome Statute who elected them. Their judgments remind the international community that justice has a neutral voice that transcends borders and interests. But when these Judges are pressured, threatened, or undermined, the credibility of international law itself is weakened.

During the reporting period, attacks, threats and coercive measures against the Court and its officials have persisted, and continue to pose a serious threat to the administration of justice by the Court and to the global fight against impunity. Civil society and those working for international justice have also been targeted by such acts. As set out in the written report, these include the sanctions imposed and arrest warrants issued against the Judges and the leadership of the Prosecution as well as cyberattacks against the Court.

Each of you represents the sovereign interests of your nations, yet you are collectively stewards of a shared international order. Respecting judicial independence is an investment in the stability of that order. It is an affirmation that the rule of law should guide global relations. The Court calls upon all UN Member States to take action, both individually and collectively, in defence of the Court and the principles enshrined in the Rome Statute.

The unprecedented situation the Court faces has brought about a transformative shift in the Court's security posture, and this remains a key priority for the leadership of the Court. As part of the transformation in the Court's security profile, it is undertaking a variety of steps to upgrade and enhance its digital systems to make them more resilient. The Court has undertaken internal efforts to strengthen its security and has also engaged and worked with external partners.

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Madam President,

I would like to wholeheartedly thank States and other entities who have supported the Court in various forms during these difficult times. Without their support, the

Court cannot continue its crucial work in the fight against impunity. The Court not only needs and receives political and diplomatic support; the high number of cooperation requests sent during the reporting period proves how cooperation at the operational level is essential.

For States Parties, cooperation is a legal obligation under Part 9 of the Statute and the obligation to arrest and surrender is one of the means to give effect to the obligation to cooperate with the Court in the execution of its mandate. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 33 publicly known arrest warrants which remained unexecuted. The Court strongly urges States Parties to continue to fulfil their statutory obligations in line with the commitment made when signing the Rome Statute.

Madam President,

Universality of the Rome Statute is one of the most important means to increase the Court's legitimacy and reinforce the commitment made by the international community when the Court was established. As of 1 January 2025, for the first time since its establishment, the Court's membership has expanded to 125 States Parties, representing approximately two-thirds of the international community in all regions. Although this already represents commitments of extraordinary significance, the Court will continue its efforts to increase the number of States Parties, and it appreciates the efforts taken by our civil society partners in raising awareness and in promoting the universal ratification and full implementation of the Statute and to the European Union which continues to generously support activities aimed at achieving universality. During the reporting period, the Court also continued efforts to further enhance cooperation with regional and international organisations.

The United Nations is indeed a key partner of the Court. In line with the 2004 Relationship Agreement, during the past year, the Court has continued to receive crucial cooperation and support from various United Nations entities, departments, offices and special advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General, including those present in the field.

The cooperation and collaboration with the United Nations in all parts of the world have been vital for the ICC. A more detailed summary of the Court's cooperation with the United Nations is set out at paragraphs 86 to 97 of the written report. The Court expresses its sincere appreciation for such invaluable assistance, without which the Court's activities cannot be sustained.

Madam President,

I will now turn to the Court's prosecutorial and judicial activities and achievements. During the reporting period, the Court continued to observe a high workload, and the various Chambers of the Court have collectively issued 382 written decisions.

Allow me to start with the situation in Darfur, Sudan. I recall that in March 2005, the Security Council referred the situation to the Court by way of resolution 1593. The case against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was the first trial emanating from this referral. On 6 October 2025, after the submission of the written report, Trial Chamber I rendered its Judgment in the *Abd-Al-Rahman* case. After assessing 1,861 pieces of evidence and assessing the evidence given by 74 witnesses, the Trial Chamber convicted Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, a former *Janjaweed* commander, of 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, in Darfur, Sudan, between August 2003 and April 2004. He is now awaiting the decision on his sentence. 1,591 victims were authorised to participate in the trial and the Chamber is expected to issue a reparations order in due course. This is an encouraging example that shows that, even if with a delay, justice can and will be done.

In another situation referred to the Court by the Security Council, the situation in Libya, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued and unsealed several warrants of arrest during the reporting period. Notably, on 16 July 2025, Mr El Hishri, who is alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, torture, rape and acts of sexual violence in Libya, has been arrested by a State Party. When surrendered, the case against Mr El Hishri will be the first confirmation of charges proceedings arising from the situation in Libya. The Office of the Prosecutor has outlined to the Security Council a roadmap for the completion of the investigation phase in the situation by the end of 2025. The Court also welcomes the declaration submitted by the competent authorities of the Government of Libya on 12 May 2025, accepting the Court's jurisdiction pursuant to Article 12(3) of the Statute with respect to alleged crimes in its territory from 2011 to the end of 2027.

At the pre-trial level, the case against Mr Joseph Kony, alleged commander in chief of the LRA, constitutes the first case in which the Court proceeded with confirmation of charges proceedings in the absence of the suspect pursuant to Article 61(2) of the Statute. The Pre-Trial Chamber had found that the exceptional *in absentia* hearings are justified given that the victims of alleged crimes committed by Mr Kony have been awaiting justice for over 18 years and noted that such *in absentia* proceedings might be

the only way for the victims to express their views and concerns. Just last Thursday, on 6 November, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued its decision, confirming all of the charges. The trial can, of course, commence only once Mr Kony is in custody and the Court calls upon all relevant actors to cooperate in ensuring his speedy surrender.

In the situation in Afghanistan, the Court issued arrest warrants against the Supreme Leader of the Taliban, Mr Haibatullah Akhundzada, and the Chief Justice of the Taliban, Mr Abdul Hakim Haqqani, for the crime against humanity of persecution on gender and political grounds. Allegations of systematic discrimination and persecution against women and girls, as well as minority and opposition groups have been a priority for investigations by the Office of the Prosecutor.

In relation to the situation in the State of Palestine, arrest warrants were issued against the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, and the then Minister of Defence, Mr Yoav Gallant for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution and other inhumane acts. The arrest warrant issued against the highest commander of the military wing of Hamas, Mr Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri, was subsequently withdrawn due to his death.

With respect to the situation in the Philippines, Mr Rodrigo Duterte was surrendered to the Court on 12 March 2025, after being arrested by the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines. Confirmation proceedings with respect to the charges of crimes against humanity of murder and attempted murder are ongoing.

The summary of pre-trial activities as set out in the written report of course does not include many other warrants that were issued under seal as well as the enormous work done by the different Pre-Trial Chambers, which unfortunately cannot be shared due to their confidential nature. Active investigations by the OTP have been ongoing in several situations including Ukraine and Venezuela.

The Court has continued efforts to enhance its tracking capabilities but arrest warrants cannot be executed without the cooperation of States. Again, the Court urges all UN member States to assist the Court by cooperating on the arrest and transfer of individuals subject to outstanding ICC arrest warrants.

The Judiciary also continued to exercise oversight over the Prosecution's investigations in various situations and rendered several decisions on jurisdiction and admissibility pursuant to Articles 17, 18 and 19 of the Statute. On 12 September 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber II determined that the case against Mr Edmond Beina is inadmissible as the Central African Republic is willing and able to genuinely investigate and prosecute the case against Mr Beina, putting in practice the principle of complementarity.

At the trial level, Trial Chamber V issued the trial judgment in the case against Mr Alfred Yekatom, a former Member of Parliament and an anti-Balaka commander, and Mr Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, a former Minister and anti-Balaka coordinator. The Chamber convicted Mr Yekatom and Mr Ngaïssona of several war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the context of an armed conflict between the Seleka and the anti-Balaka groups in Bangui and in the west of the Central African Republic between September 2013 and at least February 2014. Mr Yekatom was sentenced to 15 years and Mr Ngaïssona to 12 years of imprisonment. A total of 1,965 victims participated in these trial proceedings and the Chamber will now consider the issuance of a reparations order.

Meanwhile, the trial against Mr Said, allegedly a former Seleka commander, is ongoing and the trial judgment is expected in 2026.

Mr Al Hassan, who was previously convicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Timbuktu, Mali was sentenced to a total of 10 years of imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber subsequently reviewed the sentence and reduced it by 12 months.

The Appeals Chamber continued its appellate work and is seized with the appeal arising from the *Yekatom and Ngaïssona* case and from the *Abd-Al-Rahman* case. It also continues to handle several interlocutory appeals which touch upon complex and important issues. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber also issued two Judgments on reparations.

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Madam President,

Victims of mass atrocities remain at the centre of ICC proceedings. The Court gives victims a voice, a space to tell their stories, and the hope that truth will be acknowledged and responsibility established. Providing suffering humanity with

hope and truth is at the very core of the Court's raison d'être. Reparations are also an integral part of ICC proceedings, which aim at realising restorative justice. The Court, together with its local and international partners, will continue to put in practice the principle of restorative justice that was inscribed into the Rome Statute system.

The Trust Fund for Victims is a vital pillar of the International Criminal Court's legitimacy. In 2024 alone, the TFV has delivered tangible reparative justice to thousands of victims, restoring dignity, healing communities, and reinforcing the rule of law in the wake of atrocity crimes. TFV-supported reparations have a transformative impact, enhancing victims' sense of justice, promoting gender inclusivity, strengthening community cohesion, and improving socioeconomic and psychological well-being.

In the situation in Uganda, Trial Chamber IX issued a reparations order in the case of *Dominic Ongwen*, who previously had been found guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in northern Uganda between 2002 and 2005. 49,772 victims were recognised as victims of crimes committed by Mr Ongwen and the Reparations Order awarded 750 Euros to every victim of the crime as a symbolic award. During the reporting period, the reparations order was confirmed by the Appeals Chamber.

I was in Uganda last month and interacted with representatives of the affected communities. I have heard directly from them as to how important the swift implementation of reparations is for the victims. Due regard must be paid to these expectations of the affected communities, and the Court calls upon States to consider making financial contributions for the implementation of reparations orders.

Contributions, even symbolic, send a powerful political message. They affirm the legitimacy of the ICC, demonstrate solidarity with victims, and reinforce the international community's commitment to peace, justice and accountability.

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Madam President,

For decades, the international community has worked to build a system in which relations amongst States are governed by the rule of law. It is worth recalling that the very idea of international criminal tribunals dealing with the most serious crimes was born out of the ruins of the second world war and out of the suffering of countless innocent victims. The genocide convention of 1948 already envisaged an international penal tribunal with jurisdiction for the crime of genocide and the ICC is a product of years of negotiations under the auspices of the UN. It is our collective duty to cherish this precious project created by the wisdom of mankind.

Earlier this year, in his address to this assembly, the President of the International Court of Justice, His Excellency Judge Iwasawa, stated that ‘the rule of law is not a static achievement, but a continuous and collective endeavour’.¹ Indeed, sustaining the international rule of law is a perpetual endeavour which requires collective action by the international community and the full use of the tools and institutions that exist to safeguard the international legal order. Yet, we are constantly reminded of the fragility of this endeavour and how a momentary lapse in our commitment can have a detrimental impact on decades-long work.

Despite all the challenges, the International Criminal Court will continue to carry out its judicial mandate to deal with individual criminal responsibility, with full independence and impartiality. In so doing, the Court hopes to offer its contribution to the rule of law in the international community.

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

That concludes the presentation of the Court’s annual report to this assembly. I thank you for giving me this opportunity today, and the Court looks forward to continued collaboration with the United Nations and its Member States. Thank you very much.

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¹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/press-releases/0/000-20251030-sta-01-00-en.pdf>