



Coalition for the International Criminal Court
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MEDIA ADVISORY
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1 JULY 2007: FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ROME STATUTE'S ENTRY INTO FORCE

What: 1 July 2007 will mark the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The treaty entered into force following the 60th ratification of the statute on 11 April 2002. Currently, 104 countries have acceded to or ratified the statute and 139 states have signed it. The Court is currently investigating grave crimes in four countries: Northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan (Darfur) and most recently, the Central African Republic. Later this year, the Court is expected to begin its first trial in the DRC child soldiers case against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo.

Why: After World War II, the world cried "never again," but it was only five years ago when the Rome Statute officially entered into force that the international community actually took a step forward on the path to ending impunity for the gravest of crimes. The entry into force 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.

The last century has been the bloodiest in human history with hundreds of millions of casualties of mass rape, forced expulsion, disappearances, torture, slavery and other assaults on human dignity. A permanent deterrent to these crimes was created on 1 July 2002 when the jurisdiction of the ICC began. The ICC is the first permanent and independent international judicial institution capable of trying individuals accused of the most serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

How: For further information about the fifth anniversary of the Rome Statute's entry into force, please contact Anaga Dalal, Head of Information and Communications at the Coalition for the International Criminal Court through the contact details listed above. To learn more about the history of the Court, please visit us online at <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=icchistory>.

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