The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms Urges Arab States to Join the International Criminal Court

The International Center for Supporting Rights and Freedoms (ICSRF), a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, urges Arab states to join the ICC as an affirmative action towards the realization of international justice and the implementation of progressive steps to improve their human rights records. The organization is participating in the twelfth session of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC, which takes place in The Hague from 20-28 November 2013.

Navi Pillay, United Nations Human Rights Chief commissioner, opened the twelfth session of the Assembly of States Parties giving a speech about the significance and the efforts of the ICC as a judicial tool to protect human rights. The president of the Court and the general prosecutor Ms. Fatou Bensouda were also present in the opening session. Ms. Fatou Bensouda is holding her position as the general prosecutor for the second successive year.

The president of the ICSRF stated that he had hoped not to witness the empty seats of the Arab states, especially those whose nations took part in the Arab Spring. Only four Arab countries have ratified the Rome Statute: Jordan, Tunisia, Comoros and Djibouti.

Few Arab states governments still commit violent crimes against their own nations, but these crimes are not proscribed or prohibited by local legislatures. For the previous reason, many officers who were put on trial—after excessive public pressure on authorities—for using excessive force against protesters are found not guilty by local courts (as the judge does not have a legislature that prohibits those actions), even if evidence is presented by the media.