



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
26 March 2007

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YEMENI PARLIAMENT RATIFIES ROME STATUTE

Number of Arab States Parties to ICC Set to Jump to Four and Total States to 105

New York, NY. On the morning of Saturday, March 24—after four hours of heated debate—the Yemeni House of Representatives voted in favor of ratification of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Once Yemen officially deposits its instrument of ratification to the United Nations Treaty Office, it will be poised to become the 105th State Party to the ICC, and the fourth Arab League member to the Court. Currently, the only Arab League members that are States Parties to the Rome Statute are Jordan, Djibouti and Comoros.

“Today is one of the happiest days of my life,” said Amal Basha, Middle East and North Africa Coordinator for the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and Chairperson of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights. “We have been working towards this ratification for more than two years. While some officials and parliamentarians expressed concerns over the years, we stayed firm because we believe in justice and want the region to be better represented in the ICC’s global struggle against impunity.”

Yemen’s ratification positions it in a leading role for the region and sets an important example for Arab states that have yet to ratify the Statute.

“We continue to urge other Arab states to ratify, or accede to, the Rome Statute as soon as possible,” said CICC Convenor Bill Pace. “It is vital that all States from the Middle East and North Africa join the global movement for international justice. Clearly, the implications for the region are immense, but there can be no representation of regional concerns without full regional participation.”

For more information on this development, please visit the Coalition’s website at <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=country&iduct=191>, or contact our experts:

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