

## OPEN CIVIL SOCIETY LETTER TO ICC PROSECUTOR FATOU BENSOUDA

June 14, 2021

Dear Madam Prosecutor,

As your term as prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) draws to a close, we are writing to thank you for your longstanding service and significant contributions to the ICC, as well as to acknowledge the progress that the Office of the Prosecutor has made during your tenure.

While civil society organizations have identified areas for improvement and will continue to advocate for changes to ensure effective investigations and prosecutions, the office has made considerable advances in a number of situations and preliminary examinations under your leadership.

We especially admire the high degree of independence you have exhibited during your mandate. Your office has opened investigations in the face of immense pressure and politicized opposition. You have done this work at great personal and institutional cost. Developments on the ground in Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Palestine over the last few months have confirmed that accountability in those and other situations is essential, especially when the ICC is the only remaining option for justice. We will call on the next prosecutor to build on this legacy and continue to ensure that the court fulfils its mandate, regardless of the nationality or position of alleged perpetrators.

Finally, we thank you for your office's—and your personal—constructive engagement and collaboration with civil society over the past eighteen years. As the office transitions into new leadership, civil society cooperation will be critical to the court's success, and we will continue to work hard to support the ICC.

We wish you the very best with your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture au Burundi  
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights  
Al-Haq  
Al Mezan Center for Human Rights  
All Survivors Project  
Amnesty International  
Asia Justice and Rights  
Asian Legal Resource Centre  
Asociación Civil Democracia Global  
Asociación Feminista La Cuerda, Guatemala  
Australian Centre for International Justice  
Bureau d'études et de réflexions pour le bien-être des communautés, DRC  
Center for Accountability and Rule of Law – Sierra Leone  
Center for Peace and Justice, BRAC University  
Centre for African Justice, Peace and Human Rights  
Centre for Democracy and Development  
Centre marocain de la loi et la paix  
Children Education Society, Tanzania  
CLEEN Foundation, Nigeria  
Club des amis du droit du Congo  
Coalition burundaise pour la Cour pénale internationale  
Coalition guinéenne pour la Cour pénale internationale  
Coalition ivoirienne pour la Cour pénale internationale  
Coalition malienne pour la Cour pénale internationale  
Coalitions d'Afrique francophone pour la Cour pénale internationale  
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos  
Congo Peace Initiative  
Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation

Economic Justice Network-Sierra Leone

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Global Justice Center

HEDA Resource Centre, Nigeria

Human Rights Watch

Impact: Center against Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence in Conflict

Informal Venezuelan NGO Network

Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa

Institute for Security Studies

International Center for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma

International Commission of Jurists

International Federation for Human Rights

International Platform of Jurists for East Timor

Iranian Center for International Criminal Law

Justice and Reconciliation Project, Uganda

Justice International

Kenya Human Rights Commission

Kurdish Organizations Network Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

Ligue burundaise des droits de l'homme Iteka

MADRE

MARUAH, Singapore

Naripokkho, Bangladesh

Nigerian Coalition for the International Criminal Court

No Peace Without Justice

Observatoire ivoirien des droits de l'homme

Odhikar, Bangladesh

Open Society Justice Initiative

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights  
Parliamentarians for Global Action  
Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court  
Reporters Without Borders  
Réseau Equitas, Côte d'Ivoire  
Rohingya Women Welfare Society  
Sexual Violence Research Initiative  
Society for Threatened People, Switzerland  
SOS-Burundi  
Students for Global Democracy-Uganda  
Sudanese Women Rights Action  
Swedish Foundation for Human Rights  
Transitional Justice Coordination Group, Afghanistan  
Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group  
United Nations Association – Greater Philadelphia  
United Nations Association of Sweden  
Vision GRAM-International  
Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice  
Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative, Nigeria  
World Federalist Movement-Canada  
World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy  
World Renewers Organization  
World Without Genocide