



# Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Ms Fatou Bensouda  
Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court  
The Hague  
  
(By email)

23 February 2021

Dear Ms Bensouda,

As you may be aware, the Government introduced the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill to the UK Parliament last year and Parliament is currently debating this Bill. The Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, has considered the human rights implications of this Bill in its Report, "Legislative Scrutiny: Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill".<sup>1</sup>

In our scrutiny of the Bill, and in subsequent debates on the Bill in both Houses of Parliament, mention has been made of the role of the International Criminal Court and whether the Bill would increase the risk of the Office of the Prosecutor needing to consider cases relating the UK Armed Forces personnel.

Following the Prosecutor's determination on the preliminary examination of the situation in Iraq/UK issued by your office on 9 December 2020, we would welcome any observations you may have on the possible relationship between the Bill and the ICC's jurisdiction. A reply by 5 March 2021 would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP**  
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

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<sup>1</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3191/documents/39059/default/>