



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ICC PROSECUTOR:**

**VICTIMS OF CRIMES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED IN THE CONTEXT  
OF THE ARMED CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN  
HAVE UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2018 TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS  
TO THE ICC IN THE HAGUE  
ON THE OPENING OF AN INVESTIGATION**

The Hague, 20 November 2017

By this notice, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, informs victims of alleged crimes committed on the territory of Afghanistan in the period since 1 May 2003, as well as victims of other alleged crimes that have a nexus to the armed conflict in Afghanistan and were committed on the territory of other States Parties in the period since 1 July 2002, that she has requested authorization from Pre-Trial Chamber III to open an investigation into such alleged crimes, in accordance with Article 15(3) of the Rome Statute and Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

The Prosecutor considers that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation of the situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in relation to alleged crimes committed in the context of the ongoing armed conflict.

According to Article 15(3) of the Rome Statute, "*victims may make representations to the Pre-Trial Chamber, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence*".

Accordingly, the Prosecutor hereby notifies victims of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the context of the armed conflict in Afghanistan in the period since 1 May 2003 that they can send their comments to the Judges of Pre-Trial Chamber III on whether an investigation on such alleged crimes should be opened.

A summary of the Prosecutor's Request for authorisation to open an investigation in the Situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is available on the Court's website in English, Dari and Pashto at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/afghanistan>.

The victims or their representatives have **until 31 January 2018** from this notice to make representations to the Pre-Trial Chamber through the Victims Participation and Reparations Section ("VPRS") of the Registry.

Please note that victims' engagement with the ICC is strictly voluntary. Victims can make their representations in writing, preferably in English or French (the ICC's working languages), using the representation form developed by the Registry and ready for download as a PDF file from the ICC webpage <https://www.icc-cpi.int/afghanistan>. Victims can also choose to fill in the online form on the ICC website, available at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/vr/>. Filled-out representation forms that have not been filled out online should be sent to the VPRS to the postal address below:

International Criminal Court  
Victims Participation and Reparations Section  
Situation in Afghanistan  
PO Box 19519  
2500 CM, The Hague  
The Netherlands

Victims may also send their representations to the following email address:

[VPRS.Representations@icc-cpi.int](mailto:VPRS.Representations@icc-cpi.int)

Each victim/group of victims should **fill in only one form**, either the online version or the (identical) PDF version of the form, to make their representation.

Before filling in the representation form, victims should carefully read the instructions developed by the Registry, and accessible alongside the representation form on the ICC webpage <https://www.icc-cpi.int/afghanistan>. For any questions on how to fill in the representation form and any related issue, victims may contact the VPRS at [VPRS.Representations@icc-cpi.int](mailto:VPRS.Representations@icc-cpi.int).

The Pre-Trial Chamber may request additional information from any of the victims who have made such representations, and may hold a hearing if it considers it appropriate.

The Chamber will give notice of its decision on the Prosecutor's request to all victims who have made representations.

Should the Judges authorise the opening of an investigation, victims may also be able at a later stage to apply for participation in potential judicial proceedings and have the opportunity to present their views and concerns. In the context of a case, victims will also be entitled to request reparations.

The present notice has been posted as of today on the website of the ICC, and sent to the media worldwide, including the media of Afghanistan, and to a wide range of NGOs. The Registry is ready to receive victims' representations through the above channels with immediate effect.