Cour Pénale Internationale

International Criminal Court

Le Président
The President

Judge Tomoko Akane
President of the International Criminal Court

Presentation of the Court's Annual Report to the United Nations

2 November 2026
United Nations General Assembly
New York

Mr President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr Khalilur Rahman on his election as President of this eighty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr President, every year the President of the International Criminal Court stands before this Assembly to present the Court's report in person. This year, I address you through a recorded message, and I am grateful to you, Mr President, and to Member States for making this possible. Apart from the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the first time that a President of the Court has addressed this Assembly remotely.

I hope that addressing you from afar will diminish neither the importance of this report, nor the significance of what the Court has achieved during the reporting period, nor the sincerity of my message to all of you. My remote address is due to extraordinary circumstances, which I must set out at the outset.

On 9 October 2026, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to a former Judge of this Court, Judge Navi Pillay, for her efforts to promote peace and international law. On the very same day, the United States imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court as an institution. The contrast could not be starker: on the one hand, global recognition of the value of international justice; on the other, an attempt to subdue the institution that embodies it. This unprecedented step follows a series of designations against thirteen independent Judges and prosecutors who serve the cause of justice, including myself.

This measure strikes at the heart of the sovereign equality of States, a founding principle of the United Nations. It targets an independent judicial institution, created by treaty and entrusted by 125 States Parties with investigating and prosecuting the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. It is an attempt to obstruct the course of justice and to prevent the Court from doing what it was created to do.

Let me be clear. The Court will continue to fully discharge its mandate, with independence and impartiality, acting only on the basis of the law and the evidence, for the sake of the countless victims of grave crimes.

Threats and coercive measures

Mr President,

The sanctions of 9 October are the culmination of coercive measures that intensified throughout the reporting period and since. I set them out because they bear directly on the Court's ability to carry out the mandate entrusted to it.

Under Executive Order 14203, issued by the President of the United States on 6 February 2025, eleven elected officials of the Court had been designated by the end of the reporting period: eight Judges and three officials of the Office of the Prosecutor. On 18 August 2026, I was designated as President of the Court, together with a staff member of the Office of the Prosecutor.

Today, nine of the eighteen Judges of the Court are under sanctions for nothing other than the performance of their independent judicial mandates. Civil society organisations cooperating with the Court have also been targeted. On 9 October, the Court itself was designated.

These measures are intended to disrupt the Court's operations and to intimidate its staff and all those who cooperate with it. Their effects reach far beyond the officials named: they touch staff members and their families, victims and witnesses, counsel, and the partners on whom the Court depends.

Coercive measures have also come from another direction. On 12 December 2025, a court in Moscow sentenced nine elected officials of this Court *in absentia*. Six of them are serving Judges, and I am one of them. The sentences range from three and a half to fifteen years of imprisonment. Our offence was to take judicial decisions.

The Judges of the ICC act without fear or favour, lending legitimacy to the entire multilateral system and to the States Parties who elected them. When Judges are punished for their decisions, whether through sanctions or through criminal convictions, it is not only those Judges who are targeted, but judicial independence itself, and with it the promise that the law applies equally to all.

The Assembly of States Parties has responded. On 3 December 2025, it expressed its grave concern at attempts to undermine the independence of the Court through threats and coercive measures, including sanctions, and reiterated its resolve that the Court must be able to carry out its mandate undeterred. Two days later, it urged States Parties to take relevant action to protect the Court and its resilience. I am grateful to the Secretary-General and to the many States and organizations that spoke out in defence of the Court after its designation on 9 October.

The Court has taken extensive steps to protect its operations, its personnel and its systems, and to ensure the continuity of its work. But resilience cannot be built by the Court alone. The Court has called, and once again calls, upon all UN Member States to take concrete action, individually and collectively, in defence of the Court and the principles enshrined in the Rome Statute, and to ensure that the Court keeps the means it needs to do its work.

Cooperation, universality and the United Nations

Mr President,

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the States and other entities that have supported the Court during these difficult times. The Court needs and receives political and diplomatic support, but it also depends on cooperation at the operational level every day.

For States Parties, **cooperation** is a legal obligation under Part 9 of the Statute, and the obligation to arrest and surrender lies at its heart. As at the end of the reporting period, 32 publicly known arrest warrants remained unexecuted.

During the same period, Chambers referred two findings of non-compliance with requests for arrest and surrender to the Assembly of States Parties. One of them, made by Pre-Trial Chamber II in March 2026 in the situation in Ukraine, concerned the failure of a State Party to execute the request for the arrest and surrender of Mr Vladimir Putin while he was on its territory, and referred the matter to the Assembly of States Parties. The Court strongly urges States Parties to fulfil their statutory obligations, in line with the commitment they made when joining the Rome Statute.

Universality of the Rome Statute remains one of the most important means to strengthen the Court's legitimacy. The Court welcomes Hungary's decision to revoke its notification of withdrawal. At the same time, six States notified their withdrawal during the reporting period, and another has since taken steps to withdraw. Withdrawal does not relieve a State of obligations arising while it was a Party, nor does it affect proceedings already under way. The Court remains open to dialogue with every State, and it thanks civil society and the European Union for their continued support for universality and full implementation of the Statute.

The **United Nations** is a key partner of the Court. In line with the 2004 Relationship Agreement, the Court continued to receive crucial support from United Nations entities, departments, offices and special advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General, including in the field, where the United Nations directly supported 61 missions. I also thank the Office of Legal Affairs, the Court's interface for judicial cooperation, and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, which supported the special session of the Assembly of States Parties held at Headquarters on 24 July 2026. Paragraphs 81 to 94 of the written report set out this cooperation in more detail.

Judicial and prosecutorial activities

Mr President,

I will now turn to the Court's judicial and prosecutorial activities. Despite the challenges I have described, the Court has not stood still.

During the reporting period and since, proceedings have advanced at every stage, from investigations and arrest warrants to the confirmation of charges, trials, appeals and reparations.

Allow me to start with the situation in the Philippines. On 23 April 2026, Pre-Trial Chamber I confirmed all charges against Mr Rodrigo Duterte, comprising three counts of crimes against humanity. His trial is scheduled to open on 30 November 2026. An arrest warrant against Mr Ronald dela Rosa was unsealed in May 2026.

In the situation in Libya, referred by the Security Council, Mr El Hishri was arrested in Germany and surrendered to the Court on 1 December 2025. On 16 July 2026, Pre-Trial Chamber I confirmed all charges against him. His trial, which is scheduled to open on 4 May 2027, will be the first trial arising from the referral made in resolution 1970 (2011).

The situation in Darfur, Sudan, was also referred to the Court by the Security Council, in 2005. On 6 October 2025, Trial Chamber I convicted Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, a former Janjaweed commander, of 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, and on 9 December 2025 sentenced him to 20 years of imprisonment. It is the first conviction arising from a Security Council referral. Appeals are pending, and on 8 September 2026 the Chamber heard submissions on reparations for the victims.

In the **Central African Republic**, on 23 September 2026, after the written report was issued, Trial Chamber VI found Mr Mahamat Said Abdel Kani guilty of the crimes against humanity of imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty, torture, persecution and other inhumane acts. These crimes were committed in Bangui between April and August 2013. Over 130 hearings, the Chamber heard 61 witnesses, and sentencing proceedings are under way.

Appeals in the case against Mr Yekatom and Mr Ngaïssona are pending, and on 1 October 2026 Trial Chamber V held a hearing on reparations.

The Appeals Chamber also confirmed that the case against Mr Edmond Beina is inadmissible, as the Central African Republic is genuinely investigating and prosecuting it, demonstrating that the principle of complementarity is working and State sovereignty is respected.

In the situation in **Uganda**, Pre-Trial Chamber III confirmed the charges against Mr Joseph Kony on 6 November 2025, after the first confirmation proceedings held in the absence of a suspect. His trial can begin only once he is in the Court's custody, and the Court calls upon all relevant actors to cooperate in ensuring his speedy surrender.

In the situation in the State of **Palestine**, the Appeals Chamber confirmed on 15 December 2025 the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision concerning notice under article 18 of the Statute; the warrants against Mr Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr Yoav Gallant remain outstanding.

In the situation in **Afghanistan**, four arrest warrants against Taliban officials for the crime against humanity of gender persecution have been unsealed since the written report was issued.

The Office of the Prosecutor continued its investigations across situations, including **Afghanistan**, **Bangladesh/Myanmar**, **Ukraine, the State of Palestine** and **Venezuela**.

This summary does not include warrants issued under seal or the considerable confidential work, notably before the Pre-Trial Chambers. Arrest warrants cannot be executed without the cooperation of States. Again, the Court urges all UN Member States to assist in the arrest and surrender of individuals subject to outstanding warrants.

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Victims and reparations

Mr President,

Victims of mass atrocities remain at the centre of ICC proceedings. During the reporting period, more than 23,500 victims participated in cases before the Court, including more than 7,000 at the reparations stage.

Reparations are an integral part of the restorative justice inscribed in the Rome Statute. The Court has issued six reparations orders to date, and further orders are expected in the coming months. As at March 2026, 7,396 victims had received individualised reparations and more than 95,000 had benefited from collective measures.

In March 2026, the Trust Fund completed the reparations programme in the Al Mahdi case in Timbuktu, Mali, which addressed the harm caused by the destruction of protected mausoleums to individuals and to the whole community.

In April 2026, Trial Chamber X issued a reparations order in the Al Hassan case, assessing his liability at approximately 7.25 million euros. In northern Uganda, notification of eligibility to victims in dire need in the Ongwen case began in January 2026, and the programme, including a symbolic award of 750 euros for each victim, is due to start in 2027.

Closing

Mr President,

This year marks eighty years since the judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and the opening of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo. When the Nobel Peace Prize was announced on 9 October, Judge Pillay was in Courtroom 600 in Nuremberg - the very room from which modern international criminal law emerged and where the first brick of the ICC was laid.

Eighty years ago, the Nuremberg Tribunal held that “crimes against international law are committed by men, not by abstract entities, and only by punishing individuals who commit such crimes can the provisions of international law be enforced”. That insight is the foundation of the Rome Statute. The ICC is the product of years of negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and it is our collective duty to protect this precious project.

Sustaining the international rule of law is a perpetual endeavour that requires collective action and the full use of the institutions that exist to safeguard it. A momentary lapse in our commitment can undo decades of work. Future generations, and above all the victims of mass atrocities, will ask how we responded when an institution created to protect them came under attack.

Despite all the challenges, the International Criminal Court will continue to carry out its judicial mandate with full independence and impartiality, acting only on the basis of the law and the evidence. In so doing, the Court is firmly resolved to contribute to the rule of law in the international community.

But the Court cannot stand alone. Its fate now rests also in the hands of the States that created it. This is not just about defending a single institution, but about safeguarding the international order grounded upon the rule of law. This is a defining moment for the Court and for the idea on which it was built. Rome was not built in a day, and neither was the Rome Statute. Every day, we must ensure that this delicate fabric withstands the forces trying to tear it apart. History will judge how the international community protected the Court and the mandate entrusted to it by the Rome Statute. The time to act is now.

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

That concludes the presentation of the Court's annual report to this Assembly. The written report, issued as A/81/329, contains a more comprehensive account of the Court's activities during the reporting period.

The Court looks forward to continued collaboration with the United Nations and its Member States. Thank you very much.

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