



Statement to the press by Ms Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor.

Conakry, 10 November 2010.

Your Excellency,
Ladies and Gentlemen

This is the third visit that the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has made to Guinea since 28 September 2009 and, for me, it is the second. I am delighted to be back here in Conakry and I would like to thank the Guinean authorities for their welcome and cooperation, especially the Minister of Justice, General LOHOLAMOU, who is here today.

I have come here on behalf of the Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, for two reasons.

The first is to take stock of the investigation being conducted by the Guinean investigating judges into the events of 28 September 2009. The whole of the international community concurs with us in believing that the victims must receive justice. During our preliminary examination, my colleagues discussed this matter with the judicial authorities and investigating judges. We will continue to press for this process to produce results so that the end of impunity is writ large across the new page that Guinea is currently producing in its history.

My second reason relates to the preventive mandate of the ICC Prosecutor. The Prosecutor's mandate is to ensure that those who perpetrate the most serious crimes are prosecuted. His mandate is also to prevent further crimes from being committed. Guinea is exiting a transition period that is extremely important to its future but which may also trigger violence, as we have seen in recent weeks. We know that violence can erupt during elections. We also know that electoral violence can lead to the commission of crimes within the ICC's jurisdiction, as happened in Kenya where we have subsequently opened an investigation. We would not wish for a similar scenario in Guinea: no violence, no crimes. We have been in close contact with the Guinean authorities over the last few weeks and we know that we can count upon their goodwill.

This is the message from Prosecutor Moreno Ocampo that I have come to reiterate. I am confident that this message will be heard by all Guineans, who understand that in order for there to be peace and development an end must be put to violence and impunity.

Thank you.