



**Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale**

**International  
Criminal  
Court**

## **Statement of Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), on the Occasion of the Day of International Criminal Justice, 17 July 2010**

17 July 2010, will be the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the ICC. At the first Review Conference held in Kampala this year, the States Parties to the ICC reflected broadly on the development of the ICC and decided to henceforth celebrate 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice. On this occasion, I would like to reflect on the significance of the work of the ICC and the system established by the Rome Statute.



*Judge Sang-Hyun SONG © ICC-CPI/Wim Beddegenoots*

The adoption of the ICC Statute in 1998 was a historic step, reflecting the determination of the world community to put an end to impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and to contribute to the prevention of such horrific crimes which threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world.

Only twelve years later, the Rome Statute has been ratified by no less than 111 States, and the Court has become a living reality, a fully functioning court with several cases before it in different stages. Furthermore, the first Review Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the States Parties to the goals of the Statute and their support for the Court's work.

Indeed we have good reason to celebrate 17 July as a day which signifies tremendous achievements in the field of international criminal justice. However, we should not be too satisfied, because countless innocent civilians still continue to be the victims of terrible atrocities in different parts of the world.

Let this day inspire us all to reach to new heights in our work. The States Parties have entrusted us at the Court with a tremendously important mission of turning into practice the noble principles embodied in the Rome Statute and we must do our best to achieve the best possible results every day.

I also hope that States will celebrate this day with full recognition of the fact that international criminal justice will ultimately only be successful if the national justice systems of each State function effectively, thereby enabling the ICC to serve its intended role, which is to be a court of last resort, complementing national jurisdictions.

I call on all States Parties to build on the momentum created in Kampala and to implement the provisions of the Rome Statute in their national legislation, enabling effective cooperation with the Court as well as the ability to prosecute the crimes contained in the Statute their national jurisdiction.

Finally, I encourage all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute.

*Judge Sang-Hyun SONG  
President of the International Criminal Court*