

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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29 March 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
The White House
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Washington, DC 20500
Email: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Honorable Antony J. Blinken
US Secretary of State
United States of America
2201 C St NW, Washington, DC 20520,
Washington, DC 20520
Email:
<https://register.state.gov/contactus/ContactUsForm>

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Secretary,

Re: US Sanctions against the International Criminal Court and its Prosecutor

We write on behalf of Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), a committee of lawyers who promote human rights and the rule of law. LRWC is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN).

Please find attached a Statement released today outlining LRWC's deep concerns about US Sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor. The statement is also found on LRWC's website at: <https://www.lrwc.org/usa-attack-on-international-criminal-court-the-us-must-immediately-lift-sanctions-against-icc-personnel-statement/>. LRWC is requesting that your government:

- Immediately rescind Executive Order 13928 and remove all sanctions against ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, the ICC's head of Jurisdiction, Complementary, and Cooperation Division, Phakiso Mochochok, and any other person connected to the ICC or its investigation into Afghanistan;
- Remove all barriers obstructing the administration of justice at the ICC and the independence of the Office of the Prosecutor;
- Establish a cooperative relationship with the ICC and its personnel that respects the international rule of law and the duty of all States to uphold *erga omnes* obligations to prosecute international crimes.

The linked statement provides the background and rationale for these recommendations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Catherine Morris,
LRWC Executive Director

Copied to :

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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Mr. Robert Keith Rae, Vice-President,
Ms. Kateřina Sequeñsová, Vice-President
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Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji
President of the International Criminal Court
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Attention: Public affairs office: Fadi.El-Abdallah@icc-cpi.int

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