



THE UGANDA COALITION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (UCICC) IN COLLABORATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK UGANDA (HURINET-U) PRESS STATEMENT TO COMMEMORATE ROME STATUTE 20TH ANNIVERSARY.

Released date 17th July 2018

The Uganda Coalition on the International Criminal Court in partnership with Human Rights Network Uganda joins the world on this 17th of July 2018 to commemorate International Justice Day. This day which coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute that established the ICC affords us the opportunity to reflect on the progress and challenges facing International Justice.

The Rome System continues to grow the highest legal standards in its Jurisprudence and quest to hold perpetrators accountable for heinous crimes and most importantly the Rome Statute has also enhanced and progressed in enhancing victim participation in its workings more so during trials.

Uganda has witnessed firsthand the working of the ICC with the referral of Dominic Ongwen a former commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) that brutalized communities in Northern Uganda for over 20 years and in the process committing grave Human Rights violations for which he now stands trial at The Hague.

Similar successful prosecutions by the ICC have also been registered around the world notably Thomas Lubanga Dyilo a convicted war criminal from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi (also known as Abu Tourab) a convicted member of Ansar Dine, a Tuareg Islamist militia in North Africa and many others that stand trial at the court.

However, despite these achievements in Uganda, the warrant of arrest remains for the arrest and transfer of Joseph Kony of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel leader to stand trial at the Hague.

We also take note of the ongoing atrocities in the world such as South Sudan, Burundi, Syria, Somalia where unbelievable war crimes, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity

subsist and emphatically highlighting the continued relevance of the Rome System as a bastion of Justice.

Even as we commemorate this day and Rome System in general, we call upon States to corporate with the ICC, and call on the states under the African Union to renew their commitment and remain steadfast in their support of the ICC.

More fundamentally the States should look towards prevention of mass atrocities as a mechanism towards a more just world.

Signed;



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