



## Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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### **GLOBAL COALITION URGES NEPAL TO ACCEDE TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT TREATY**

*Accession Would Affirm Nepali Commitment to Rule of Law and Strengthen Asian Voice for Justice*

**New York, NY.** In a letter to Nepali Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)—an international network of more than 2,000 non-governmental organizations advocating for a fair, effective and independent Court—urged the government of Nepal to accede to the Rome Statute, which is the ICC’s founding treaty. More than half of the world—104 countries—has joined the ICC, which is the first permanent international court capable of trying individuals accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

The Coalition’s letter welcomed the unanimous July 2006 endorsement of a “commitment resolution” (*sankalpa*) to accede to the Rome Statute by Nepal’s former House of Representatives. In recognition of these developments, the CICC and our partner organizations Forum Asia and INSEC jointly organized a mission to Kathmandu in August 2006 to meet with key political leaders who said the government was committed to joining the ICC. To date, however, there have been no further developments toward accession.

“How much longer do the people of Nepal have to wait for their government to join the global chorus of support for the ICC?” asked Evelyn Balais Serrano, Asia/Pacific Regional Coordinator for the CICC. “Nepal could be a leader in Asia, a force for peace and justice by becoming a state party to the ICC immediately. We welcome the government’s past support for the Court, but the time has come to act on those good intentions.”

Currently, only six Asian countries—Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, and Tajikistan—are States Parties to the ICC. In contrast, the majority of states in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean have joined the Court.

“Asia is vastly under-represented at the ICC,” said Serrano. “Nepal’s accession to the Rome Statute could energize support for the Court in a region where acceptance of the Court as a permanent, hopeful reality has been inexcusably slow.”

The Coalition’s letter also recognized the commitments to international human rights principles and values in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well as the ongoing political transition. “Nepal’s accession would send a signal to the international community of their determination to end impunity and strengthen the rule of law,” said William R. Pace, Convener of the Coalition.

***For more information, please contact:***

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