



PERMANENT MISSION
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GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR THE
PREVENTION OF AGGRESSION

Stop war-making through law: The Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC on the crime of aggression

Aggressive war-making is both immoral and illegal. It is the antithesis to peace. The Nuremberg Tribunal called it “the supreme international crime, differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole”. The principle that it is illegal for one State to aggressively wage war on another State has long been enshrined in international law and is at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations.

Until recently, however, it was almost impossible to hold the high-ranking *persons* responsible for such wars – Presidents, Prime Ministers, and others – to account. The worst crime that can possibly be committed had no court. But something has changed.

After years of intense negotiations and debate, States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2010 reached a historic agreement. Meeting in Kampala, Uganda, they found a definition of the crime of aggression. The ICC will be the first permanent, international independent judicial institution empowered to investigate and prosecute individuals for illegal war making and other acts of aggression. States Parties also agreed that this new system of accountability would start in 2017. Until then, two things must happen:

First, **30 States Parties must ratify the Kampala amendments**, ideally by the end of 2015, and at least two thirds of all States Parties must vote in favor of activating the Court’s jurisdiction in 2017. Is your country on track to be among those who will help effectively deter illegal war-making?

Second, **domestic prosecutors and judges must be empowered** to go after leaders who commit aggression. Does the criminal code of your country list aggression as a crime?

The Global Campaign for the ratification and implementation of the Kampala amendments will help you to answer both questions with yes. Visit us at www.crimeofaggression.info, like us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/RatifyCrimeOfAggressionAmendmentsNow>) or follow us on Twitter (@CrimeAggression). Together we can bring an end to impunity for the world’s worst crime!