



PERMANENT MISSION
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GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR THE
PREVENTION OF AGGRESSION

For immediate release:

MEDIA ADVISORY: Universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Kampala Amendments on the Crime of Aggression

Telephone Press Conference: 7 MARCH 2014 at 12.30 (NZDT), AUCKLAND

- **Ambassador Christian Wenaweser**, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN ([bio](#))
- **Hon Judge Sang-Hyun Song**, President of the International Criminal Court ([bio](#))

The **International Criminal Court** is a permanent, treaty-based court located in **The Hague**, Netherlands. It was founded in 1998 with the adoption of the Rome Statute and brings to justice those individuals most responsible for **the worst crimes under international criminal law**, including **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression**. 122 countries are States Parties to the Rome Statute, including 18 from the [Asia-Pacific region](#).

In June 2010, States Parties adopted the Kampala Amendments that will **allow the ICC to investigate and prosecute those most responsible for committing the crime of aggression** committed by leaders of States involved in the illegal use of force against other States.

Thirty ratifications by States Parties are needed for the ICC to be able to exercise its jurisdiction. To date, 13 States have ratified the amendments. The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute must also decide to activate the jurisdiction, which it may do no earlier than 2017. The ICC will then become **the first international court since the post-World War II trials at Nuremberg and Tokyo able to investigate and prosecute individuals for the crime of aggression**.

Logistical Details:

7 March 2014

12.30 – 13.15 (NZDT)

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Background:

On 6–7 March 2014, representatives of Pacific States and of States from the surrounding Asian region will come together in Auckland at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand to discuss the goal of advancing of universality of the Rome Statute and the Kampala Amendments, with a special focus on the crime of aggression.

This workshop is supported by Liechtenstein and the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression and forms part of the global campaign for ratification and implementation of the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression (see: www.crimeofaggression.info). Speakers at the workshop include the **Hon Judith Collins MP**, Minister of Justice, New Zealand, **Tuiloma Neroni Slade**, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, as well as State representatives from the Pacific region, prominent academics, judges and representatives of civil society.