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March 27, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a global network of over 2,500 civil society organizations from 150 countries, urges you to lift the sanctions that your administration placed on the ICC Prosecutor in April 2019. We also ask you to overturn your administration's ICC sanctions policy, which treats the Court as if it were a hostile foreign power.

After World War II, the U.S. and its allies established the International Military Tribunals, a historic point in modern international criminal justice. Given this history, we are appalled that your administration has decided to undermine the ICC, an international criminal tribunal that expanded upon the principles and legacy of Nuremberg, with sanctions.

The sanctions against the ICC Prosecutor and those threatened against ICC staff are designed to impede investigations into allegations of international crimes in Afghanistan. We are deeply disturbed that such threats are even being levied at the families of ICC staff—an egregious abuse of the U.S. sanctions regime.

Mr. President, there is absolutely no justification for these punitive measures. We implore you to fulfill the global promise of "never again" and to lift all sanctions against the ICC Prosecutor and disavow the increasing threats against other ICC staff and their families made by Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo. We further urge the U.S. to investigate and prosecute U.S. nationals against whom there is credible evidence of their involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan.

Finally, our increasingly conflictual world greatly needs the ICC. Since the U.S. is one of the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, we call on your administration to adopt a responsible foreign policy that promotes peace, security, and justice in the world.

Thank you for your attention to our demands. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Izquierdo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ricardo Izquierdo
Legal Officer
Coalition for the International Criminal Court

cc: The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State