



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

June 29, 2026

Judge Tomoko Akane, International Criminal Court President
Cc: Karim A. A. Khan KC, International Criminal Court Prosecutor
P.O. Box 19519
2500 CM, The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Judge Akane:

The United States Department of Justice unequivocally rejects any assertion of jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over U.S. persons. The United States is not a party to the Rome Statute and has never consented to the ICC's authority. As a matter of international law, a treaty cannot bind a non-consenting country. Accordingly, the ICC has no jurisdiction over U.S. persons—anywhere in the world—and any attempt to assert such authority is illegitimate, unlawful, and a direct affront to the sovereignty of the United States.

Notwithstanding these well-established principles, the ICC has acted in an increasingly lawless and illegitimate manner. It has repeatedly asserted jurisdiction over non-consenting countries, disregarded its own complementarity requirement, and pursued investigations that appear driven as much by political pressure and institutional self-interest as by legal merit. Its record of selective enforcement and credible allegations of internal misconduct raise serious doubts about the ICC's impartiality, credibility, and legitimacy. The United States will not recognize or submit to the authority of a body that claims powers it does not possess and exercises the authorities it purports to have in a selective manner, untethered to fairness or legal principle.

Congress has made the United States' position unmistakably clear since 2002, when it passed in the American Servicemembers' Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 107-206, tit. II, 116 Stat. 820, 899–909, which expressly repudiates ICC jurisdiction over U.S. persons, including U.S. servicemembers, government officials, and civilians. The statute prohibits cooperation with the ICC and authorizes the President to use all means necessary and appropriate to secure the release

of any U.S. person detained pursuant to any ICC warrant or request. 22 U.S.C. §§ 7423, 7427(a). This authority will be taken seriously and, if required, fully exercised to protect our people. Nor will the United States cooperate with any ICC investigation, inquiry, summons, or proceeding. We will neither extradite nor transfer any U.S. person to the ICC, and we will actively oppose any effort by other countries to do so. If any U.S. person is detained under purported ICC authority, the United States will take all necessary measures to secure that individual's immediate release.

President Trump said it best when he imposed sanctions on the ICC's chief prosecutor: "The United States unequivocally opposes and expects our allies to oppose any ICC actions against the United States, Israel, or any other ally of the United States that has not consented to ICC jurisdiction." Exec. Order No. 14203 (Feb. 6, 2025), 90 Fed. Reg. 9369, 9369 (Feb. 12, 2025). The ICC's lawless actions do indeed "constitute[] an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States," which we will not tolerate. 90 Fed. Reg. at 9370.

The Department of Justice is fully committed to defending our Nation's sovereignty and protecting the rights of U.S. persons against unlawful international overreach. Our Constitution—the supreme law of the land—vests the judicial power of the United States in its own courts, and our legal system is the envy of the world. The United States will not subordinate the liberty and security of our people to a foreign tribunal in The Hague with no accountability to any electorate or fidelity to the Constitution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Blanche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
of the United States