

ECBA STRONGLY CONDEMNS U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST JUDGES AND DEPUTY PROSECUTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA) unequivocally condemns the United States' decision to impose further sanctions on four International Criminal Court (ICC) officials. On 20 August 2025, the United States announced sanctions targeting Judge Nicolas Guillou (France), Judge Kimberly Prost (Canada), and ICC Deputy Prosecutors Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji) and Mame Mandiaye Niang (Senegal). These actions follow previous attempts to undermine the Court's work and independence.

As highlighted by the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA) in its statement, Judge Prost's designation was for her decision authorizing the ICC's investigation into alleged crimes by U.S. personnel in the Afghanistan situation, while Judge Guillou was designated for his role in pre-trial proceedings linked to arrest warrants for Israeli officials. The ECBA fully concurs with the ICCBA's assessment that such designations represent a grave attack on the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and prosecution.

The ICC was established through the adoption of the Rome Statute, a foundational treaty ratified by 125 States Parties. This treaty entrusted the Court's judges and prosecutors with the solemn responsibility of upholding justice impartially and without external interference. Sanctioning these officials for diligently performing their judicial and prosecutorial functions constitutes a profound assault on the principles of international criminal justice and the rule of law.

These punitive measures not only impede the effective functioning of the ICC but also risk severely eroding international cooperation with the Court. They discourage States from contributing to, or engaging with, its crucial proceedings.

Such developments have far-reaching and severe consequences for the global effort to provide justice to victims of the most serious international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.

The ECBA stands in solidarity with the ICCBA and calls upon all States Parties to the Rome Statute, as well as relevant international and regional organizations, to publicly and unequivocally affirm their steadfast support for the ICC's mandate. It is imperative to protect the Court and its officials from political retaliation and undue influence. Safeguarding the independence and integrity of the ICC is not merely a matter of institutional protection; it is essential to preserving the credibility and effectiveness of international criminal justice worldwide.

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