

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT IN ENSURING JUSTICE

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Annotation: This article analyzes the foundations of the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its role in ensuring global justice. Based on the Rome Statute (1998, effective from 2002), the court's main functions include investigating and prosecuting genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and acts of aggression. The study emphasizes the ICC's contribution to ending impunity, restoring victims' rights, shaping international legal standards, and promoting global peace. At the same time, the paper critically discusses certain limitations of the ICC, such as the absence of major powers as members, political pressures, and the length of proceedings. The research concludes that the ICC plays a vital role as the 'court of last resort' in upholding justice for the gravest crimes against humanity.

Keywords: ICC, Genocide, Rome Statute, UN, President, International Court, Impunity Standards, Political Pressure, Security, Justice.

In today's rapidly developing world, the concept of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has become increasingly relevant as a symbol of global justice. When national laws and legal systems fail to resolve serious crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, the ICC provides an effective mechanism to ensure accountability and justice. The Court's establishment reflects humanity's commitment to prevent impunity for the gravest crimes and to protect fundamental human rights worldwide.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, deals with legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on international law. The ICC, on the other hand, prosecutes individuals responsible for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The ICC was established by the Rome Statute in 1998 and began operating in 2002, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. As of today, 124 states have ratified the Statute. The Court operates based on principles of complementarity, independence, and neutrality.. The ICC investigates and prosecutes four main categories of crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. These crimes represent violations of international law that threaten global peace and security. The Court ensures that justice is not hindered by political influence or lack of national capacity. If a state is unwilling or unable to prosecute a crime, the ICC steps in. This mechanism guarantees that no individual, regardless of their position, is above the law.

The ICC also plays an educational and preventive role by raising awareness about international humanitarian law. Its decisions and precedents contribute to the development of global legal norms. However, the Court faces significant challenges: the refusal of major powers like the United States, Russia, and China to join the Rome Statute, as well as delays in trials due to political and procedural complexities. Despite these difficulties, the ICC continues to symbolize hope for victims and a deterrent to potential perpetrators.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the International Criminal Court serves not only as a legal institution but also as a moral foundation uniting humanity under the principles of peace, truth, and justice. Each judgment delivered by the ICC reflects the enduring value of justice—an ideal that, though sometimes delayed, never disappears. Through its work, the ICC proves that even in the face of power and oppression, justice will ultimately prevail.

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