

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

Index: AMR 32/001/2011

Date: 20/05/2011

GRENADA BECOMES THE 115TH PARTY TO THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

On 19 May Grenada deposited the instrument of accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute) at the UN Headquarters, recognizing the complementary jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court on its territory and over its nationals abroad when genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes are committed.

Amnesty International welcomes the historic step forward taken by Grenada on acceding to the Rome Statute and thus ensuring that those responsible for the most serious crimes are brought to justice, either before national courts or at the International Criminal Court (Court) in The Hague.

Grenada becomes the 115th state party and the 12th member state of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to become a party to this treaty.

The adherence to the Rome Statute is a positive step. However Grenada must now implement it in domestic law in a public and transparent process in which civil society should play a key role. In addition, Grenada should promptly adhere to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.

All states that ratify the Rome Statute commit themselves to cooperating fully with the Court and to investigating and prosecuting genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes before their national courts. The Court can only step in when the national authorities are unable or unwilling genuinely to do so. Without full cooperation, the Court will struggle to operate effectively. Without national investigations and prosecutions, the Court will be overwhelmed.

Amnesty International hopes that this step in the right direction will soon be followed by the adherence of Grenada to key human rights treaties, since its record so far has a number of fundamental gaps.

Grenada has not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, among other treaties of universal scope.

ENDS/

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK: Josefina Salomon on +44 7778 472 116 or email: jsalomon@amnesty.org
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, <http://www.amnesty.org>