

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

13 October 2011  
Index: AFR 18/001/2011

## **Amnesty International welcomes Cape Verde accession to the International Criminal Court**

Amnesty International today welcomed the accession of Cape Verde to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Cape Verde became the 119<sup>th</sup> state to join the ICC when it lodged its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute at the United Nations on 10 October 2011. The ICC is the world's first permanent international court with a mandate to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes falling under its jurisdiction.

The move by Cape Verde affirms its commitment to tackling impunity for crimes under international law, said Amnesty International. Cape Verde joins 32 other African states that have acceded to the Rome Statute, but it is the first Portuguese speaking nation in Africa to do so.

### **Background Information**

Countries that accede to the Rome Statute commit themselves to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes before their national courts and agree that, if they are genuinely unable or unwilling to do so, the ICC may step in. The Cape Verde Parliament will now need to pass effective legislation to ensure domestic laws are in accordance with these obligations under the Rome Statute and international criminal law, said Amnesty International.

On the same day, Cape Verde also acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities. Amnesty International welcomed these accessions as a demonstration of the commitment to strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons in Cape Verde.

For further information on the ICC see Amnesty International's Campaign for International Justice - <http://www.amnesty.org/en/international-justice>