

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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More candidates must be put forward for the next International Criminal Court Prosecutor

Male candidates from western countries and Africa dominate the current list of candidates being considered for the next International Criminal Court Prosecutor, it has emerged.

A Search Committee for the next International Criminal Court Prosecutor reported that after more than five months of seeking potential candidates for the forthcoming election in December 2011, 26 persons are under consideration. Of those only five are women. Only two are from Latin America and the Caribbean, one is from Eastern Europe and no candidates are being considered from Asia.

The election of the Prosecutor will determine the success of the Court in the next decade. It is vital that a broad pool of highly qualified candidates is considered covering all regions of the world and a fair representation of men and women.

With the search for new candidates to close on 9 September, urgent measures are required to address the serious imbalances.

More must be done to reach potential candidates. Although outreach efforts have been conducted by the Search Committee and civil society, new strategies and additional resources are required to advertise the process in all regions of the world and ensure that it is brought to the attention of qualified women.

Amnesty International especially calls on the 116 governments that have ratified the Court's statute to disseminate information about the process within their national legal communities and civil society.

Candidates must be "of high moral character, be highly competent in and have extensive practical experience in the prosecution or trial of criminal cases. They shall have excellent knowledge of or be fluent in at least one of the working languages of the Court."

Expressions of interest or recommendations of qualified individuals should be sent to the Search Committee:

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Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague
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For additional information on the Search Committee see: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ASP/Elections/Prosecutor/>