



Barreau Pénal **International** Criminal Bar

The International Criminal Bar (independent representative body of counsel before the International Criminal Court) assumes the entire Preamble of the Rome Statute, and, specifically, the consideration of the significance of the establishment and the effective management of the International Criminal Court for the investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes concerning the humanity as a whole, this in the interest of present and future generations.

ICB encourages and will encourage in the future all the efforts carry out by the International Criminal Court and the States Party to enforce these principles.

ICB emphasize the importance of the principle provided in the tenth paragraph of the Preamble, article 1, article 18, 2 and other articles related of the Rome Statute, establishing the International Criminal Court as a complementary of the national criminal jurisdictions in the investigation and prosecution of the most serious international crimes.

ICB encourage and will encourage in the future all the efforts carry out by the national criminal jurisdictions that exercise jurisdiction accordingly to the principle of universal justice and similar jurisdictional international principles aimed at the investigation and prosecution of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other international crimes according to humanitarian law, committed whether before July 1st, 2002 or subsequent to this date over which the national criminal jurisdictions exercise preferential or complementary jurisdiction

ICB wishes to express its entirely institutional support to the decision of the Spanish Courts on April 6th, 2005, applying the Universal Justice principle, beginning the investigation of the most serious international crimes committed in Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of Congo between 1990 and 2002, producing hundreds of thousands of Rwandan and Congolese innocent victims, actually several millions of civilians, -also other victims such as Spanish, Belgians, Canadian, British, Croatian, Italian and other nationalities- investigation carried out by *The International Forum for the Truth and Justice in Africa of the Great Lakes Region*.

Additionally, ICB sincerely wishes that the International Criminal Court go on working on the first investigation n° ICC 01/04 assigned to *Pre-Trial Chamber I* in relation with the international crimes committed – and currently committed in present time- in the Democratic Republic of Congo under the temporary period which the Court is competent, that is, after July 1st, 2002, investigation that should be carried out with all the guarantees and respect to the provided rights, in particular the defense right, both for victims and their relatives and for those who appear as accused.

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