

**SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
IN THE CASE OF  
*THE PROSECUTOR v. LAURENT GBAGBO***

**ANNEX 15**  
Public Document

Letter from Alassane Ouattara to the Prosecutor of the ICC dated 3 May 2011

*Presidency of the Republic*

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*The President*

*Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*

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*Union - Discipline - Labour*

Ref. No. 0086/PR

Abidjan, 3 May 2011

To  
**Mr Moreno Ocampo**  
**Prosecutor of the**  
**International Criminal Court**  
**The Hague**  
**THE NETHERLANDS**

**Mr Prosecutor,**

On 18 April 2003, acting pursuant to article 12(3) of the Rome Statute, the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, formally accepted the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court for the purposes of identifying, investigating and trying the perpetrators and accomplices of acts committed on Ivorian territory since the events of 19 September 2002. This declaration was made for an unspecified period of time.

Following my election to the Presidency of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 2 December 2010, one of my first decisions was to confirm, by letter of 14 December 2010, Côte d'Ivoire's acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

For reasons of which you are aware, the transfer of power following the presidential election of 31 October and 28 November 2010 could not take place in the peaceful manner for which I had hoped. There followed a period of serious crisis, during which it is unfortunately reasonable to believe that crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court were committed. So grave were those crimes that I call on your support to ensure that the main perpetrators do not go unpunished, thereby contributing to the restoration of the rule of law in Côte d'Ivoire.

In my capacity as President of the Republic, I will strive relentlessly to restore the independence and prerogatives of the Ivorian judicial system in their entirety. The Minister of

*Official Court Translation*

Justice, Keeper of the Seals, has already undertaken steps to elucidate a number of offences committed in recent months and years. No effort will be spared in reconciling Ivorians and finally ending a decade of violence and internecine conflict.

Against this background, and in light of consultations with the public prosecutor's office and the judicial authorities, it would nevertheless appear that the Ivorian judicial system is currently not best placed to try the most serious crimes committed in recent months and that any attempt to prosecute those bearing greatest responsibility might encounter a wide array of difficulties.

I hereby confirm that I wish your Office to undertake independent and impartial investigations in Côte d'Ivoire into the most serious crimes committed since 28 November 2010 throughout Ivorian territory and to ensure that those persons bearing the greatest criminal responsibility for these crimes are identified, prosecuted and brought before the International Criminal Court.

I reiterate my country's undertaking to cooperate fully with your Office throughout these investigations and prosecutions, and confirm my intent to ensure that Côte d'Ivoire becomes a State Party to the Rome Statute as soon as practicable.

Yours faithfully,

[signed]  
Alassane Ouattara