



18 June 2021

**Statement: Election of Mr. Karim Khan as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**

On 16 June 2021, Mr. Karim Asad Ahmad Khan QC was [sworn in](#) and commenced his nine-year term as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Asia Justice Coalition (Coalition) warmly congratulates Mr. Khan for assuming office as Prosecutor and thanks Ms. Fatou Bensouda, the outgoing Prosecutor, for her service, contribution, and unwavering dedication to international criminal justice during her tenure.

The ICC's pivotal role in securing justice and accountability for international crimes in Asia cannot be emphasized enough. The Office of the Prosecutor (Office) is currently seized of investigations into the [Myanmar/Bangladesh](#), [State of Palestine](#), and [Afghanistan](#) situations, and of preliminary examinations into potential crimes against humanity in the [Philippines](#). It is imperative that perpetrators of international crimes under international law are held accountable for their actions. Victims and survivors will undoubtedly look to Mr. Khan to make inroads against impunity and provide them with redress. The Coalition is confident that Mr. Khan and the Office will conduct thorough, independent, and impartial investigations and prosecutions of these alleged crimes with a view of seeking truth and justice.

We also note that that the Asia-Pacific region has amongst the fewest states per region that have ratified the Rome Statute. In this vein, the Coalition welcomes and encourages Mr. Khan's willingness to engage with non-States Parties with a view towards finding common ground and eradicating international crimes.

The Coalition welcomes Mr. Khan's recognition that civil society is "[an essential partner](#)" to the Office and appreciates the goal of building strong relationships with civil society. To this end, the Coalition stands ready to support and engage with the Office, to meet the aims of justice and accountability.

The Coalition wishes Mr. Khan success in this new endeavor, and supports the ICC in this new chapter.