

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 9, 2025

Päivi Kaukoranta  
Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court  
President  
Oude Waalsdorperweg 10  
2597 AK, The Hague  
The Netherlands

Dear President Kaukoranta,

We are deeply concerned about the ICC's recent decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. This action severely undermines the principles of justice and threatens to politicize the Court's critical mission to prosecute the world's most egregious crimes.

The Rome Statute's principle of complementarity is clear: the ICC should act only when national jurisdictions are unwilling or unable to prosecute. Israel is a democracy governed by the rule of law, with an independent judiciary capable of addressing allegations of misconduct. Issuing arrest warrants against leaders of a democratic nation defending itself against Hamas—a terrorist organization responsible for heinous war crimes—sets a dangerous precedent that emboldens bad actors and delegitimizes the Court.

The ICC's decision risks eroding trust in the international justice system. At a time when the Court's efforts to hold Russia accountable for atrocities in Ukraine require global consensus, this decision diverts attention and resources from prosecuting genuine war criminals. It also sends a chilling message to democracies combating terrorism, potentially endangering broader international cooperation.

We strongly urge the ICC to reconsider these arrest warrants, refocus its efforts on clear cases of atrocity crimes, and uphold the integrity of its mandate.

Sincerely,



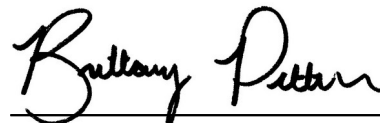
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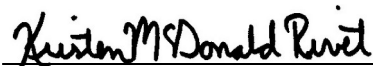
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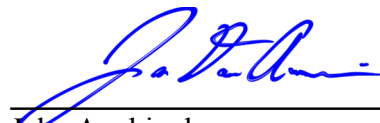
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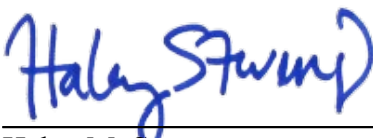
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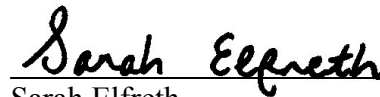
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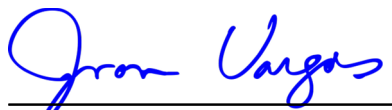
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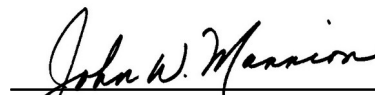
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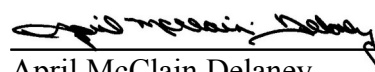
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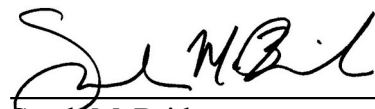
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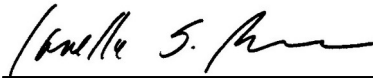
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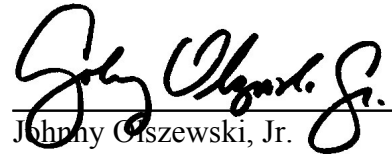
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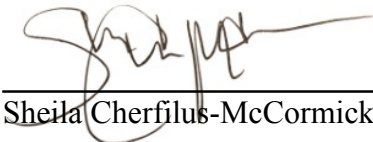
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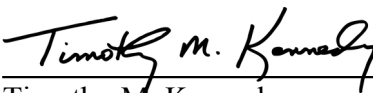
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