

## Talking Points on the Crime of Aggression

The ICC can already try individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, but the recent historic decision in Kampala may one day allow the ICC to prosecute the world's most egregious crime – the crime of aggression – which is when a state illegally wages war against another state.

1. While the crime of aggression had previously been included in the ICC's founding statute, the Court has not been authorized to prosecute individuals of this crime. States have agreed upon a definition of the crime of aggression, which is a historic step forward for the Court and its ability to hold leaders criminally responsible for starting wars.
2. The U.S. historically has played an important role in addressing the crime of aggression, dating all the way back to the Nuremberg Tribunal. That continued at the recent International Criminal Court Review Conference held in Kampala, Uganda. The U.S. was engaged in the review conference and provided a positive influence on the decisions made—a break from the U.S. hostility to the court for the last 8 years.
3. CGS was represented at the Kampala review conference, and with the support of our members, was able to participate in and influence the positive outcome of the conference. As long-time supporters of the ICC and its past and future success, we strongly believe in the prosecution of aggression.
4. As the U.S. is not currently a party to the ICC, Americans will not be affected by this decision. That means that the U.S. still can engage in coalition forces, humanitarian intervention and deploy U.S. military personnel. However, CGS and our members continue to advocate for U.S. involvement with the Court and eventual ratification.
5. It will be at least another seven years before the ICC will be able to investigate the crime of aggression. Before that can happen States must convene at another review conference and vote to give the ICC the power to do so.
6. Seven plus years is a long time for the victims of illegal wars to wait for justice. Over the coming years, it is critical that advocates keep moving forward on the crime of aggression. Together, we can urge the U.S. and its allies to support allowing the Court to prosecute heads of state that wage illegal war.
7. At Citizens for Global Solutions our members have always been committed to the abolition of war—in fact we think it's so important it is included in our mission statement. We strongly feel that the steps the ICC is taking towards prosecuting the act of aggression are moving us in the right direction. We cannot allow heads of states to act with impunity any longer. Please support us as we continue our campaign to promote positive U.S. engagement with the International Criminal Court.