



## Citizens for Global Solutions

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### **U.S. NGO's SUPPORT DEFINITION OF CRIME OF AGGRESSION IN ROME STATUTE**

WASHINGTON, DC – Citizens for Global Solutions, along with other civil society organizations, opposes the U.S. administration's challenges to the consensus definition on the crime of aggression. The U.S. is the only observer of the Review Conference of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Kampala, Uganda to formally announce opposition to the definition.

“By questioning the definition of the crime of aggression, the U.S. disrupts a delicate consensus achieved after almost a decade of work by nations,” Citizens for Global Solutions CEO Don Kraus said. “The U.S. was the only major nation that declined to participate in the Special Working Group responsible for the definition's development despite invitations.”

Ambassador for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp spoke on Tuesday at the Review Conference and cited “leading civil society organizations” that agree with the U.S. government posture that the Court needs more time before considering the crime of aggression. However, this position on the crime of aggression is not shared among all U.S. civil society organizations dedicated to the advancement of the ICC.

“Contrary to the administration's statement, there are many key organizations that want to see forward motion on the crime of aggression and at the very least the adoption of a clear definition of the horrendous crime in Kampala,” Kraus said.

In advance of the Review Conference, Citizens for Global Solutions, along with the Center for International Policy, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the National Education Association and others, sent a letter to President Obama and Secretary Clinton stating that the U.S. delegation “should not re-open the discussion on the definition of the crime of aggression.” The letter urged the U.S. delegation to be respectful of the consensus definition already advanced by the Special Working Group.

Further, Citizens for Global Solutions believes that the Rome Statute should be amended to activate the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. Adoption of the amendment would strengthen the role and scope of the Court.

“Amending the Rome Statute to effectively prosecute the crime of aggression would be a critical step in the promotion of peace through the rule of law. Extending the ICC's reach to include this crime will deter States from waging unlawful war and bring to justice high-level officials who lead such conduct,” Kraus said.

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