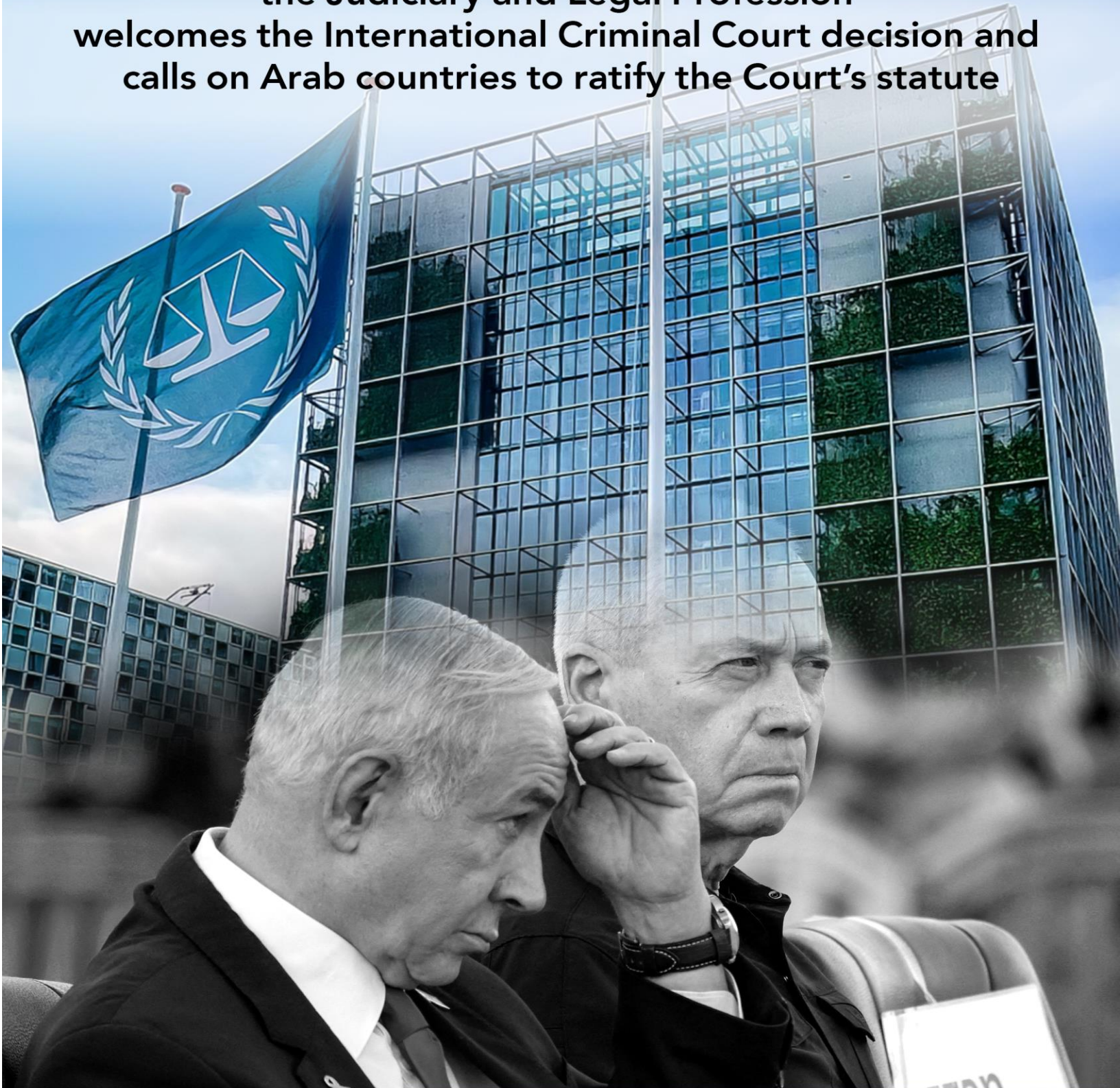


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the Judiciary and Legal Profession  
welcomes the International Criminal Court decision and  
calls on Arab countries to ratify the Court's statute**



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة  
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION  
( ACIJP )



مؤسسة دعم العدالة  
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

Cairo, 21 November 2024

**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession  
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**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** has warmly welcomed the decision issued today, November 21, 2024, by the First Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Galant, in response to the request submitted by the ICC Prosecutor.

The ACIJLP considers this ruling a vital affirmation of the significance of supporting and strengthening international criminal justice mechanisms in holding accountable those responsible for the gravest crimes. It underscores the imperative to eradicate the culture of impunity for individuals involved in war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression.

While welcoming the ICC's decision, the ACIJLP calls on Arab governments to reconsider their stance of refraining from acceding to and ratifying the Rome Statute, which established the Court. It further urges those Arab states that have not yet ratified the Statute to expedite the process, thereby bolstering the ICC's role in preventing and addressing genocide and war crimes.

This landmark ruling by the ICC also reaffirms the Court's independence and its steadfast resistance to political pressures exerted by certain member and non-member states attempting to obstruct investigations and prosecutions of individuals suspected of crimes under its jurisdiction.

The ACIJLP regards today's decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a significant milestone, symbolizing a renewed affirmation of the Court's neutrality and independence. The ruling refutes allegations of double standards—an argument frequently cited by some Arab governments to justify their refusal to join the Court. Notably, Arab membership in the ICC remains limited to Jordan, Djibouti, Comoros, Palestine, and Tunisia.

The ACIJLP further calls on ICC member states to fulfill their legal obligations under the Rome Statute by cooperating with the Court's bodies to ensure the enforcement of arrest warrants. This includes apprehending and surrendering individuals wanted by the Court if they are found within the territory of a member state.

On November 21, 2024, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC issued arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Galant, charging them with war crimes and crimes against humanity. These charges relate to actions committed during the period from at least October 8, 2024, to at least May 20, 2024—the date the prosecution submitted the requests for the warrants.

The warrants were based on the Chamber's determination that there are reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Galant bear criminal responsibility for the war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare. They are also accused of crimes against humanity, including murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.

Although initially classified as "secret," the arrest warrants were publicly disclosed due to the ongoing war in Gaza. The Court considered it vital for victims to be informed of the issuance of these warrants.

