

Fact Sheet**The Continued Sanctions on International Criminal Court Judges
Constitute an Attack on the Independence of International Justice
and Threaten Justice for the Victims of Palestine**

26 July 2026 – Statement of Facts

The continued U.S. sanctions imposed on several judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and members of the Office of the Prosecutor, despite the recent developments concerning the removal of former Prosecutor Karim Khan, confirm that these sanctions constitute a dangerous precedent aimed at undermining the independence of international justice and subjecting it to political pressure.

The sanctions imposed by the United States against ICC judges and members of the Office of the Prosecutor were adopted solely because they carried out their judicial responsibilities under the Rome Statute, particularly following the Court's proceedings concerning the Situation in the State of Palestine and the issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli officials. The continuation of these sanctions, despite the change in the leadership of the Office of the Prosecutor, demonstrates that the target is not specific individuals but rather the Court itself, its jurisdiction, and its institutional independence.

The U.S. sanctions have extended beyond diplomatic restrictions to include the freezing of assets, travel restrictions, and financial measures that have directly affected the judges and their family members. These measures have hindered their ability to conduct banking transactions and access essential financial services. The Court itself has described such sanctions as interfering with the personal and professional lives of the targeted officials and undermining the independence of the international judiciary.

The continuation of these measures constitutes a violation of the principle of the independence of international justice and is incompatible with the international obligation to respect the independence of the International Criminal Court and to refrain from any form of coercion or retaliation against its judges or prosecutors for carrying out their judicial duties.

The removal of former Prosecutor Karim Khan, regardless of its reasons or the procedures followed, does not affect the legality or validity of the ongoing investigations and judicial proceedings. It does not undermine the arrest warrants issued by the Court, nor should it be used as a pretext to delay or obstruct investigations relating to the Situation in Palestine, which continue to be conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor through the Deputy Prosecutors in accordance with the Rome Statute.

The continued sanctions and political pressure send a dangerous message to international judges and prosecutors that efforts to hold perpetrators of international crimes accountable may be met with personal retaliation. Such actions undermine confidence in the international criminal justice system and threaten the fundamental principle of ending impunity for the most serious international crimes.

The End