

From -

To the Office of the Prosecutor,
International Criminal Court
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Dear Sir or Madam, date

I understand that under the Rome Statute members of the Public may refer to your attention alleged major war crimes for investigation and possible prosecution.

I note that under the Rome Statute you are empowered to consider such crimes. I further note that the very existence of your court helps to prevent such crimes by serving notice on those committing such crimes that they cannot do so with total impunity.

I further note that the Rome Statute directs your consideration to “the most serious crimes of international concern,” and that Article 8 of the above Statute stipulates: “The Court shall have jurisdiction in respect of war crimes in particular when committed as part of a plan or policy or as part of a large-scale commission of such crimes.” Furthermore that ‘for the purposes of this Statute, “war crimes” means ... (iv) ‘Extensive destruction ... not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly.’ And that furthermore “other serious violations” listed by the Statute include “intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives.”

I further note that these actions are, as the Statute requires, part of a “plan”. Israeli military authorities have publicly said as much, saying their “plan” requires many more days or weeks of continuing destruction. Their plan has now resulted in what the Lebanese government are calling a ‘catastrophe’, one inflicted on their civilian population, and that is continuing to create havoc and grave suffering, driving hundreds of thousands from their homes, destroying much of the civilian infrastructure of Lebanon.

I am therefore convinced that these crimes meeting the requirements for action of the Rome Statute I thus urgently ask that you immediately initiate research with a view to seeing if a prosecution is called for into the current devastating bombing and shelling of the state of Lebanon, including of its roads and road traffic, power stations, airports and sea ports, bridges and homes, by the political and military leadership of the State of Israel.

I further request that if you decide to investigate this, you make this public immediately. I ask in the hope that this will help in a small way to deter further crimes and help bring about a cessation of the current hostilities.

I am persuaded that, given your previous actions relating to war crimes committed elsewhere, no politician or general engaged in war crimes would wish to be submitted to your scrutiny.

I am aware that the State of Israel signed the Statute setting up your court.

I look forward to your response,

With respect