The International Criminal Court (ICC), governed by the Rome Statute, is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. By virtue of the principle of complementarity, the ICC’s jurisdiction is intended to come into play only when a State is genuinely unable or unwilling to prosecute alleged war criminals over which it has jurisdiction. The ICC is thus intended to be a last resort in the event that a State fails or is unable to properly discharge its duty to prosecute with regard to these international crimes.

See Genocide [1]; War Crimes [2]; Crimes Against Humanity [3]; International Criminal Law [4]; Individual Criminal Responsibility [5]; Grave breaches [6];
ICC, The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

Mali, Destruction of World Cultural Heritage

Mali, Conduct of Hostilities

Mali, Accountability for the Destruction of Cultural Heritage

ICC, Confirmation of Charges against LRA Leader

International Criminal Court, Trial Judgment in the Case of the Prosecutor V. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

Syria, Syrian rebels treat captured Filipino soldiers as 'guests'

Georgia: Attacks against peacekeepers

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**

Suggested readings


BASSIOUNI M. Cherif, “Note explicative sur le statut de la Cour pénale internationale”, in *Revue Internationale de Droit Pénal*, Vol. 71/1-2, 2000, pp. 1-
41.


“Special Issue: Impunity – The International Criminal Court”, in *IRRC*, No. 845, March 2002, pp. 9 ss.

**Articles & particular issues**


SCHARF Michael P., “The Amnesty Exception to the Jurisdiction of the


“Atelier sur l’article 31, par. 1 c) du Statut de la Cour pénale internationale, coordonné par Éric DAVID”, in *RBDI*, 2000-2, pp. 355-488.

**Further readings**


STAHN Carsten & SLUITER Göran (eds), The Emerging Practice of the International Criminal Court


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/international-criminal-court

**Links**

[1] https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/genocide
bemba-gombo