



June 1, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans, and their families and survivors, wishes to express its deep concern regarding an effort by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to pursue investigations of United States service members and associated personnel for alleged war crimes related to Afghanistan. We urge you, as Commander in Chief, to take all reasonable measures to protect Americans who have done so much to protect us.

The ICC was formed two decades ago to serve as an international court of last resort to bring to justice those responsible for exceptionally serious international crimes, such as genocide. No U.S. president since, regardless of party, has asked the Senate to provide its advice and consent to the U.S. joining the ICC. The U.S. has thus remained outside the ICC.

Under the court's charter, the ICC is only authorized to investigate crimes committed by nations whose justice systems are "unwilling or unable" to conduct their own investigations. That is clearly not the case in the United States. We have one of the most credible justice systems in the world, and U.S. officials have extensively investigated credible allegations against U.S. service members and associated personnel.

Despite this, the ICC appeals court in March reopened a previously stalled investigation of U.S. troops and associated personnel. The ICC is exceeding its jurisdiction and authority. This could lead to the arrest, prosecution, and detention of American military personnel and veterans in foreign countries, including in countries that U.S. troops have fought and died to protect, and countries that American military personnel help defend to this day.

It is noteworthy that the ICC is also pursuing similar investigations against our close allies in the United Kingdom and Israel, while downplaying credible allegations related to Russia.

America's service members do not ask questions when ordered to deploy into harm's way and we have an obligation to stand with our troops and defend them when an unaccountable international court takes any action against them. Thus, we ask you, as Commander in Chief, to protect America's service members, veterans, and families from the politically-motivated and inappropriate actions of the ICC.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil
President,
The Military Coalition

See attached list of organizations

Air Force Association (AFA)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Association of the Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA)
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America (NCOA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
Vets First, United Spinal Association (VetsFirst)

Copies Furnished:

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
Congressman Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader
Senator Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader