

June 4, 2024

Members of Congress,

We the undersigned **10 faith-based** organizations urge you to oppose efforts to sanction the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its employees. **Specifically, we urge Congress to vote NO on [H.R.8282](#), the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, introduced by Rep. Chip Roy (TX-21).**

U.S. policymakers, of course, may disagree with the ICC Prosecutor's decision to file applications for arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leaders over alleged war crimes in Israel and Gaza. However, attacking the court through sanctions of this kind undermines the United States in its stated objective to be a global leader in securing justice for victims and legal accountability for the worst crimes. Many U.S. allies, including [France](#) and [Germany](#), have voiced support for the court and respect for arrest warrants if issued. Sanctions will alienate the United States from allies who continue to support the important work of the court, even if they may disagree with the court's findings on particular cases.

If sanctions were applied to the ICC's personnel, civil society in the United States and around the world would be legally unable or feel too at-risk to continue engaging with the court in any meaningful way. Human rights organizations might therefore be unable to ensure evidence of crimes by any actor are documented and available to the ICC.

As Christians, we believe justice and reconciliation come through addressing truth in equity. **Therefore, we urge you to allow the ICC to fulfill its function as an independent source of justice by voting NO on [H.R.8282](#).** Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Signatories:

American Friends Service Committee
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
The Episcopal Church
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness

