

Los Angeles Times  
Letters to the Editor  
March 20 2009

## **The U.S. and the ICC**

### [Re "Judging the ICC," editorial, March 16](#)

The Times' editorial ignores a gradual approach of U.S. reengagement that could lead eventually to ratification.

First, the U.S. could participate as an observer in the International Criminal Court's governing body, the Assembly of States Parties, from which it has been absent since the court was established in 2002.

Second, the U.S. could reactivate the U.S. signature of the ICC treaty, demonstrating that it will not undermine the treaty (as the Bush administration wanted) and signaling a commitment to international accountability for the perpetrators of atrocity crimes. The court, after all, is about these perpetrators, not about Americans.

Third, the U.S. should cooperate with the ICC on cases in its national interest. It does not need to join the court to do so.

All of these actions would help the U.S. become comfortable with the court and its goals and gain the goodwill of the 108 countries that have already joined the court.

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Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/letters/la-le-friday20-2009mar20,0,5628142.story?page=2>

Original article:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-icc16-2009mar16%2C0%2C923320.story>