

033/2003 - US Military Aid and the International Criminal Court

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The Brazilian government have taken cognizance of the US decision to cut off military aid to Brazil and some fifty other countries that are not prepared to sign a bilateral agreement exempting United States citizens from prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC) established under the Rome Statute.

The aim of the ICC is to put and end to impunity for the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. It is the view of the Brazilian government that such an agreement runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the Rome Statute and constitutes a threat to the judicial equality of States. Furthermore, from a strictly legal standpoint, Brazil, as signatory to the Statute, cannot bilaterally fail to comply with an obligation assumed at a multilateral level. In view of the foregoing reasons, Brazil does not intend to sign the bilateral agreement proposed by the USA.

The military aid currently afforded by the USA to Brazil is not significant. The Brazilian government reiterate their interest in maintaining the traditional ties and the co-operation that exist between the armed forces of our two countries.