

## Customizing the Template Letter on the ICC to the American Legion Magazine

The template letter is very brief in order to meet the space restrictions of the Vet Voice letters to the editor department. However, please feel free to make your letter longer if you would like. Even if it is too long for Vet Voice, someone at the American Legion will read it and be impressed that you are a genuine veteran committed to the ICC. If we have enough letters like that, the Legion will think again about its hostility to the Court. Also, this will help us get a reply article in the magazine where an expert with qualifications which will impress the Legion can convincingly make the case for the Court.

Accordingly, in addition to the information requested at the end of the letter, you may want to add a sentence or two about your military experience, and, if that is the case, aspects of it that showed you the need for the ICC. If you would like correct misstatements or errors about the Court in the *Tied Down* article not included in the template letter, here are suggestions about those.

Page 22, last paragraph. The ICC is independent, not part of the UN. All EU countries and all but 2 of NATO members have ratified the Court's Rome Statute. In "the West," the US is alone in its hostility to the Court. This is not a split.

Page 23, paragraph 4. The Rome Statute gives the U.N. Security Council the right to require by a resolution the ICC to stay away from a case or situation for a year. The Council can annually renew this resolution indefinitely.

Page 24, first paragraph under "**License for War**". An individual member of the Security Council cannot refer a situation or allegation to the ICC Prosecutor. Only the full Council can do so. This would require a resolution which the United States could and would veto.

Page 24, paragraph 5 under "**License for War**" (middle column). ICC officials are subject to the Rome Statute and cannot grant exemptions to it.

Page 24, "**Transformations**." The ICC is a true criminal court, intended to work as national criminal courts do. These courts do not pretend to "change human nature," and neither does the ICC. It will have as much or little success in shaming, punishing the lawless, or achieving justice as national courts. It is not intended to end conflicts but to punish those who commit atrocities in the course of them. The ICC will have a better chance to achieve deterrence eventually because it is permanent and the Nuremberg tribunal was temporary.

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