

US Threatens ICC With More Sanctions to Prevent Future Prosecution of Trump: Report

“Amending the Rome Statute to exclude non-state parties will never happen,” said one professor of international law.

By JON QUEALLY | Dec 10, 2025

Exclusive reporting by *Reuters* on Wednesday cites an anonymous government official who says that the Trump administration has privately reached out to the International Criminal Court in order to threaten new sanctions against the ICC unless it pledges not to prosecute President Donald Trump for any crimes he may have committed.

According to the news agency:

The Trump administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Washington has communicated its demands to ICC members, some of whom are U.S. allies, and has also made them known to the court. The United States is not a party to the Rome Statute that established the ICC in 2002 as a court of last resort, with the power to prosecute heads of state.

The demand and the threat to resume the U.S. sanctions campaign towards the court have not been previously reported.

In February, just a month after taking office for his second term, Trump announced US sanctions against ICC officials following the issuance of arrest warrants for Israeli government leaders for their role in the military assault and humanitarian embargo on Gaza, characterized by a United Nations investigative body and numerous human rights groups worldwide as a genocide.

The unnamed official who spoke to *Reuters* said there “is growing concern” that after Trump leaves office in January of 2029, “the ICC will turn its attention to the president, to

the vice president, to the secretary of war and others, and pursue prosecutions against them. That is unacceptable, and we will not allow it to happen.”

According to the source, the solution is for ICC members states “to change the Rome Statute to make very clear that they don’t have jurisdiction” over US heads of state, including Trump, for any possible crime no matter its nature or where it takes place.

As *Reuters* notes, “Enshrining blanket immunity for specific individuals would be seen as undermining the court’s founding principles and would need approval by the court’s governing body, the Assembly of States Parties.”

Kevin Jon Heller, a professor international law at the University of Copenhagen and a special adviser to the ICC Prosecutor on War Crimes, said in a social media post Wednesday that it is highly unlikely that member states would bow to the US pressure. “Amending the Rome Statute to exclude non-state parties will never happen,” said Heller.

The official did not say which acts of the president have caused the most worry within the administration as it concerns a possible prosecution.

During his second term Trump has—among other possible crimes and violations of international law—ordered the bombing of Iran, unleashed numerous strikes against Somalia and Yemen that have resulted in civilian casualties, provided political support and armed Israel as it carries out a genocide in Gaza, and conducted, since September, a series of extrajudicial murders in the Caribbean and Pacific with aerial bombings that have claimed the lives of at least 87 people.

Reuters reports Friday that it was told by two ICC deputy prosecutors that they had not received any requests to investigate US actions regarding Venezuela.