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News

# Did Trump threaten ICC with sanctions while seeking immunity? What we know

The Inter  
administ

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By Joe

11, 2025



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The rumor reported that officials against the

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inquiry. We also reached out to the ICC for comment and will update this article if we receive a response.

**The ICC**, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, says it "investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against

which the ICC to and top ons

have not comment



responded to our

humanity and the crime of aggression." It was formed in 2002 upon the ratification of the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**, which was adopted by a vote in the United Nations in 1998.

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This is to  
Criminal Court [redacted], [redacted] es not intend  
to become a party to the treaty. Accordingly, the United States has no legal  
obligations arising from its signature on December 31, 2000. The United States  
requests that its intention not to become a party, as expressed in this letter, be  
reflected in the depositary status lists relating to this treaty.

China, Russia and Israel are other notable world powers who are not members of the ICC.

Trump's battles against the ICC have been reported on at length, including during his first term when he **sanctioned ICC officials**, allegedly to slow down an **investigation** into potential war crimes perpetrated by the United States in Afghanistan. The sanctions were **lifted** by former President Joe Biden in 2021.



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On Feb. 6  
signed an  
**issued an**

Yoav Gallant, hi [redacted] [redacted] es and crimes  
against humanity committed during the Israel-Hamas war.

The executive order read, in part:



Any effort by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute protected persons, as defined in section 8(d) of this order, constitutes an unusual and

extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and I hereby declare a national emergency to address that threat.

According to the order, "protected persons" included "current or former elected or appointed officials of the United States Government; and any other person currently or formerly employed by or working on behalf of the United States Government."



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**Foreign Policy** magazine further pointed out that this move came as pressure grew for the White House to release the **full, unedited video** of a Sept. 2 double-tap strike on an alleged drug-trafficking boat.

The court appeared unlikely to change its position. In early December 2025, **NBC News** reported that **Judge Tomoko Akane**, president of the ICC,

told delegates during their annual meeting that the court would "never accept any kind of pressure."

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By Joey E

Joey Esposito  
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