

Report on Supply Chain Compliance Volume 3, Number 18. September 17, 2020 US sanctions ICC personnel

By Sascha Matuszak

In an unprecedented move, the United States placed the International Criminal Court (ICC) director of jurisdiction, complementary and cooperation division, as well as its chief prosecutor, on the Office of Foreign Assets Control's Specially Designated Nationals list.^[1] The move blocks all the designated individuals' assets and prevents U.S. citizens from doing business with them.

The sanctions come after the ICC ruled that an inquiry into war crimes in Afghanistan^[2] —by all sides— could move forward. The Trump administration objects to ICC jurisdiction over U.S. soldiers^[3] as well as ICC's scrutiny of Israel.^[4] It is yet unclear whether the inquiry into potential war crimes will continue or whether the U.S. sanctions against the ICC officials will derail the inquiry.

The court responded with a statement condemning the sanctions.^[5]

“These coercive acts, directed at an international judicial institution and its civil servants, are unprecedented and constitute serious attacks against the Court, the Rome Statute system of international criminal justice, and the rule of law more generally.”

¹ U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, “Blocking Property of Certain Persons Associated with the International Criminal Court Designations,” Recent Actions, September 2, 2020, <https://bit.ly/2FjXinw>.

² BBC News, “International Criminal Court officials sanctioned by US,” September 2, 2020, <https://bbc.in/3bPuzD2>.

³ Robbie Gramer and Jack Detsch, “Trump Order Treats International Prosecutors Like War Criminals,” *Foreign Policy*, June 11, 2020, <https://bit.ly/2FACAV8>.

⁴ Barak Ravid, “Trump administration coordinated ICC sanctions with Israel,” *Axios*, June 11, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3ivrDhw>.

⁵ International Criminal Court, “International Criminal Court condemns US economic sanctions,” news release, September 2, 2020, <https://bit.ly/35iRzJw>.

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