

SHORT BIOGRAPHY -2021

Mrs. Fatou Bensouda served as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court - (The ICC,) 2012-2021,) having assumed office in 2012. In 2011, she was elected by consensus by the Assembly of States Parties to serve in this capacity. Mrs Bensouda was nominated and supported as the sole African candidate for election to the post by the African Union. She is the first woman to serve as the Prosecutor of the ICC. Her nine-year mandate as ICC Prosecutor ended on 15 June 2021.

Under her leadership, Mrs. Bensouda has greatly reinforced the capacity of her Office through a number of strategic and managerial initiatives and expanded her Office's activities to cover 14 investigations, and countless active preliminary examinations in conflicts around the world.

Through her work, she has strived to advance accountability for atrocity crimes, highlighting in particular the importance of addressing traditionally underreported crimes such as sexual and gender-based crimes, mass atrocities against and affecting children, as well as the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage within the Rome Statute framework.

Between 1987 and 2000, Mrs. Bensouda was successively State Counsel, Senior State Counsel, Principal State Counsel, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Solicitor General and Legal Secretary of the Republic, and Attorney General and Minister of Justice of The Republic of The Gambia. Her international career as a non-government civil servant formally began at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she worked as a Legal Adviser and Trial Attorney before rising to the position of Senior Legal Advisor and Head of the Legal Advisory Unit (2002 to 2004), after which she joined the ICC as the Court's first Deputy Prosecutor. Mrs. Bensouda has served as delegate of The Gambia to, *inter alia*, the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the ICC.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the distinguished *ICJ International Jurists Award* (2009), presented by the then President of India P. D. Patil; the 2011 *World Peace Through Law Award* presented by the Whitney Harris World Law Institute, the American Society of International Law's *Honorary Membership Award* (2014), and the *XXXV Peace Prize* by the United Nations Association of Spain (2015). In addition to receiving several honorary doctorates, Mrs. Bensouda has been listed on two occasions by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world (2012 & 2017)); by the *New African* magazine as one of the "Most Influential Africans;" by *Foreign Policy* as one of the "Leading Global Thinkers" (2013), by *Jeune Afrique* as one of 50 African women who, by their actions and initiatives in their respective roles, advance the African continent (2014 & 2015), and by *Forbes* magazine as Africa's 50 Most Powerful Women (2020).

In 2018, Mrs. Bensouda received the Bled Strategic Forum's Distinguished Partner Award for the continuous commitment an her part, and on the part of the ICC, to international peace and justice. In the same year, she was invited and joined the eminent roster of *International Gender Champions*.

Prior to the end of her mandate, Mrs. Bensouda was awarded *l'ordre national du Lion du Sénégal* by the President of Senegal for her dedicated service in the advancement of international criminal justice, and her native country, The Gambia, announced that she will be awarded the country's highest civilian honour for her principled service as ICC Prosecutor. At the end of her mandate in 2021, Dr. Bensouda was awarded The Outstanding Achievement Award by The International Law Association American Branch (ABILA), and The Sapienza Human Rights Award from Sapienza University Rome, Italy. She has been chosen to receive the 2022 Prominent Woman in International Law by The American Society of International Law.

Mrs. Bensouda (and the Office she led as ICC Prosecutor) have been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of their accomplishments and work in advancing international criminal justice, without fear or favour.