Secretary Michael R. Pompeo Remarks to the Press

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U.S. Department of State

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Turning to the ICC, a so-called court which is revealing itself to be a nakedly political body:

As I said the last time I stood before you, we oppose any effort by the ICC to exercise jurisdiction over U.S. personnel.  We will not tolerate its inappropriate and unjust attempts to investigate or prosecute Americans.  When our personnel are accused of a crime, they face justice in our country.

It has recently come to my attention that the chef de cabinet to the prosecutor, Sam Shoamanesh, and the head of jurisdiction, complementarity, and cooperation division, Phakiso Mochochoko, are helping drive ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda’s effort to use this court to investigate Americans.  I’m examining this information now and considering what the United States’ next steps ought to be with respect to these individuals and all those who are putting Americans at risk.

We want to identify those responsible for this partisan investigation and their family members who may want to travel to the United States or engage in activity that’s inconsistent with making sure we protect Americans.

This court, the ICC, is an embarrassment.  It’s exposing and – we are exposing and confronting its abuses, and this is a true example of American leadership to ensure that multilateral institutions actually perform the missions for which they were designed.

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