

**Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes
against Internationally Protected Persons, including
Diplomatic Agents
(New York, 14 December 1973)**

OBJECTIVES

Crimes against diplomatic agents and other internationally protected persons create a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations which are necessary for cooperation among States. The objective of the Convention is to establish effective measures for the prevention and punishment of such crimes.

KEY PROVISIONS

The Convention applies to the crimes of direct involvement or complicity in the murder, kidnapping, or attack, whether actual, attempted or threatened, on the person, official premises, private accommodation or means of transport of diplomatic agents and other "internationally protected persons". Internationally protected persons are defined as Heads of State or Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, State officials and representatives of international organizations entitled to special protection in a foreign State, and their families.

States parties are obliged to establish jurisdiction over the offences described; make the offences punishable by appropriate penalties; take alleged offenders into custody; prosecute or extradite alleged offenders; cooperate in preventive measures; and exchange information and evidence needed in related criminal proceedings. The offences referred to in the Convention are deemed to be extraditable offences between States parties under existing extradition treaties, and under the Convention itself.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Convention entered into force on 20 February 1977, the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification or accession (article 17)

HOW TO BECOME A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION

The Convention is closed for signature. It is subject to ratification by signatory States (article 15). The Convention is open to accession by any State (article 16).

OPTIONAL AND/OR MANDATORY DECLARATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS

The State party where an alleged offender is prosecuted shall communicate the final outcome of the proceedings to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (article 11).

RESERVATIONS

The Convention is silent with regard to reservations. States may declare that they do not consider themselves bound by article 13, paragraph 1, according to which disputes among States parties relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention which are not settled by negotiation will be submitted to arbitration and, failing agreement on the organization of the arbitration six months after the date of the request for arbitration, to the International Court of Justice (article 13).

WITHDRAWAL/DENUNCIATION

Any State party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such denunciation shall take effect six months following the date on which the notification is received by the Secretary-General (article 18).