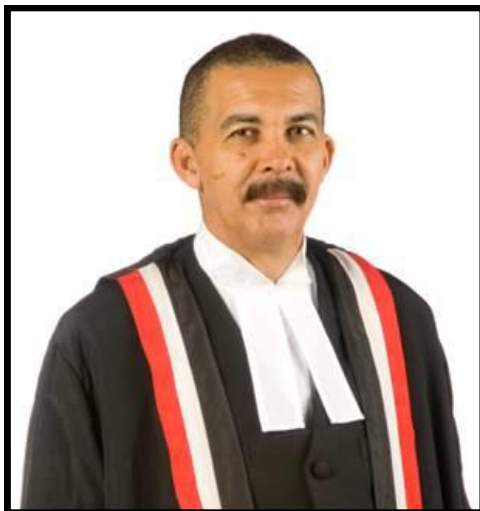




**MEDIA RELEASE**

**JUSTICE ANTHONY THOMAS AQUINAS CARMONA S.C.  
- SECOND NATIONAL TO BE ELECTED A JUDGE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**PORT OF SPAIN: 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2011**



Justice Anthony Thomas Aquinas  
Carmona S.C.  
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Elected to the  
International Criminal Court (ICC)  
Tenth Session of the Assembly of States  
Parties to the Rome Statute  
United Nations Headquarters  
December 12 – 21, 2011

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications

Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan last evening congratulated Justice Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona S.C., on his election yesterday at the United Nations (UN) as the second national to become a judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Justice Carmona will serve a nine year term at the court located in The Hague in the Netherlands. Justice Carmona was one of only two judges elected yesterday during the first round of balloting at the Tenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which commenced at United Nations Headquarters in New York on December 12, 2011. During the Assembly which will

run for ten days, States Parties to the Rome Statute will elect six judges to fill vacancies on the eighteen member bench of the Court in 2012. The remaining four judges are expected to be elected on the second day of the meeting.

While there were only two candidates for the one available vacancy in the Asia region which was won by the Philippines; Justice Carmona faced a much tougher contest where he was one of the five

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## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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candidates for the two seats available for the Latin American and Caribbean Area. Notwithstanding justice Carmona received 72 votes, the second highest number cast at yesterday's election.

In congratulating Justice Carmona, Minister Rambachan noted that in a very competitive election, States Parties had to choose from among eighteen candidates from Sierra Leone, Mauritius, Central African Republic, Philippines, Cyprus, Poland, Nigeria, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, Mexico, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, United Kingdom, Niger, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Minister also recalled that Justice Carmona is the second national of Trinidad and Tobago to be elected as a judge of the ICC. The first was Mr. Karl Hudson Philips, Q.C, who was elected among the first group of judges in 2002. He also advanced that the election of Justice Carmona was an achievement for the judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago as it has demonstrated that local judges can hold their own among the most eminent jurists representing the different legal systems of the world.

An independent civil society panel found Justice Carmona qualified to be an ICC judge. At panel discussions held at the UN in the run up to the elections, Justice Carmona was widely acknowledged as a most competent and articulate representative of our local judiciary.

Minister Rambachan also took the opportunity to pay tribute to former Prime Minister and President of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Arthur NR Robinson for his pioneering work in 1989, which led to the establishment of the ICC as the only permanent international criminal tribunal to bring to justice those accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

The Minister also complimented the staff at the Trinidad and Tobago Mission to the UN for raising the profile of Trinidad and Tobago which resulted in the election of both Justice Carmona and, earlier this year, Justice Anthony Lucky who was elected as a judge of the Hamburg based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

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