Tajikistan Begins Withdrawal from the ICC – Fourth Exit Since the US Push

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Why in News?

Tajikistan notified the UN on November 20, 2026 that it is withdrawing from the Rome Statute, becoming the ***fourth country to begin leaving the International Criminal Court (ICC)*** *since the US urged exits in July.*

About the ICC

- **Nature** – A permanent court at The Hague, created by the ***Rome Statute*** (adopted 1998, in force July 1, 2002); it is independent of the UN and has 125 states parties.
- **Mandate** – ***Tries individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression***, acting only when national courts are unwilling or unable (complementarity).
- **Functions** – Investigations by the Prosecutor, trials and appeals, and reparations for victims; it relies on states to arrest suspects.

Why Tajikistan Is Leaving

- **Arrest warrant** – In March 2026 the ICC found that Tajikistan failed to arrest Russian President Putin, wanted since 2023 for war crimes in Ukraine, during his October 2025 visit; the case went to states parties in May.
- **Politics** – Tajikistan calls the court politicised; Russia backs the move, and the US has urged states to leave.

Withdrawal Procedure

- **Article 127** – Written notice to the UN Secretary-General; exit takes effect one year later. Duties on crimes and cooperation from the membership period continue, and the notice can be revoked. Tajikistan remains a party until November 20, 2027.



Who Has Withdrawn?

- **Completed** – Burundi (2017) and the Philippines (2019).
- **Pending, with 2026 notices** – Niger (June 18), Burkina Faso and Mali (June 24), Venezuela (July 24), Chad (July 27), Nauru (September 23) and Tajikistan (November 20); exits fall in 2027.
- **Reversed** – Hungary cancelled its exit before it took effect in June 2026.

Quick facts

Tajikistan
• **Geography** – Landlocked, mountainous Central Asian country; capital Dushanbe; the Pamirs dominate. • **Borders** – Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. • **Groupings** – UN, CIS, CSTO, SCO, OSCE, OIC.

Reference

Al Jazeera | Tajikistan moves to leave ICC amid US push against court

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