The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which came into force in July 2001, has been surrounded by controversy. The ICC has been riddled with disagreement and struggles over its perceived legitimacy and institutional power. Amongst the most controversial has been the ICC’s judicialization of justice through its conceptions of the victim and the perpetrator, as well as its temporal and spatial jurisdiction. These issues have contributed to the development of humanitarian demands for accountability through legal justice mechanisms, against which a vibrant Pan-African pushback has unfolded through the African Union’s (AU) refusal to cooperate with ICC extradition requests. This chapter is about the social politics of international treaty withdrawal. By examining the construction of a “victim to be saved” and a “perpetrator to be punished,” this chapter argues how this victim-perpetrator imagery reflects the emergence of a highly affective form of justice in the contemporary period. The strategic demands for amendments, threats of withdrawal and acts of non-cooperation all reflect a new push back against contemporary liberal legality and the formation of new campaigns that are being mobilized to produce new body-politics of citizen mobilizations.

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