

Statement of the African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC ICC) on the opening of the trial against former Sudanese militia leader Ali Kushayb.

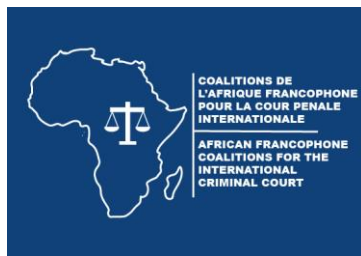
April 12th, 2022

Abidjan, Bangui, Bamako, Bujumbura, Conakry, Kinshasa, N'Djamena, Ouagadougou, Rabat.

On 5 April 2022, the trial against Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman alias Ali Kushayb opened at the International Criminal Court (ICC). This former Sudanese militia leader is accused of thirty-one (31) counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed between August 2003 and at least April 2004 in Darfur. This former collaborator of former president OMAR EL-BECHIR is the first person to be tried by the ICC for the abuses committed in Darfur by the Janjaweed, a government auxiliary force. These abuses, which targeted the Fur, Massalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups, caused more than 300,000 deaths and 2.5 million displaced persons (UN sources)

Transferred to the ICC on 9 June 2020, Mr Abd-Al-Rahman's first appearance took place on 15 June 2020. On 9 July 2021, Pre-Trial Chamber II confirmed all charges against him and referred him to trial.

This trial, which opens almost 20 years after the alleged acts were committed, sends a strong signal to all military and militia leaders who sow terror and desolation in Africa. It is an opportunity to bring justice to all the victims of the Darfur crisis.



The African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC ICC) welcome the opening of this trial, but recommend :

- **The Prosecutor of the ICC to take all necessary steps to bring the co-perpetrators and accomplices of the crimes in Darfur to justice;**
- **The Sudanese government to collaborate with the ICC by making available to it former President OMAR EL-BECHIR, as well as all persons wanted by the ICC in relation to the situation in Darfur;**
- **The international community to support and sustain the ICC's actions to end impunity.**

For the African Francophone Coalitions for the ICC,

The Coordinator

Mr. ALI Ouattara

Member organisations

- 1. The Burundian Coalition for the ICC**
- 2. The Central African Coalition for the ICC**
- 3. The Guinean Coalition for the ICC**
- 4. The Ivorian Coalition for the ICC**
- 5. The Malian Coalition for the ICC**
- 6. The Moroccan Coalition for the ICC**
- 7. The Chadian Coalition for the ICC**
- 8. DRC: BERCO and CAD ngos**
- 9. Burkina Faso: Nurukyor Association for Peace and Human Rights**