

His Majesty the King of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
General Secretariat of His Majesty Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Affairs
Marj Al Hamam, Airport Road Amman, Jordan

27 March 2017

Your Majesty,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court—a global network of more than 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership for a fair, effective, and independent International Criminal Court (ICC)—to express our concern about the invitation that has been extended to President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan to attend the 28th Arab League Summit in Amman, Jordan.

President al-Bashir is subject to two outstanding arrest warrants issued by the ICC in 2009 and 2010 on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed in Darfur, Sudan. These arrest warrants resulted from an investigation by the ICC Office of the Prosecutor following the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) which referred the situation in Darfur to the Court – a situation the Security Council deemed a threat to international peace and security. According to UN reports, approximately 300,000 people were killed, and over two million people were forced to leave their homes between 2003 and 2008, as part of the Government of Sudan’s counter-insurgency campaign in Darfur. In authorizing the arrest warrants for President al-Bashir, the independent ICC judges agreed that there are substantial reasons to believe President al-Bashir is responsible for the alleged crimes. The ICC represents one of the most significant opportunities to address these major and devastating crimes and to contribute to the restoration of peace in the region.

The success of the ICC depends on the strong support of those who brought it into existence. Jordan has been a very strong supporter of the fight against impunity in the lead up to and since the establishment of the ICC.

We respectfully urge Your Majesty to uphold the long-standing commitment and role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in ensuring an end to impunity by reconsidering the invitation that was extended to President al-Bashir to attend the Summit. Should President al-Bashir however travel to Jordan this week, we urge you to deny him entry or to arrest him as soon as he enters the territory.

The Coalition looks forward to continuing to work with your government in the future as well as with the ICC and all states toward ending impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, wherever they may occur.

Sincerely,



William R. Pace
Convenor, Coalition for the International Criminal Court

CC:
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