



**ACTION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PAIX ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
DANS LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS**

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Comité International pour le Respect et
l'Application de la Charte Africaine des
Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples



International Committee for the Respect
and Application of the African Charter on
Human and Peoples' Rights

CIRAC - ICRA

Le CIRAC est une organisation non gouvernementale dotée du Statut Consultatif auprès de l'ECOSOC et du Statut d'Observateur auprès de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples

Press Release

DECLARATION OF AIPD-GL AND CIRAC ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT OF ICC AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OMAR EL-BECHIR OF SUDAN

The International Criminal Court in The Hague (ICC) issued on 4 March 2009 an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar El-BECHIR, accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur conflict.

International Organizations of African Civil Society AIPD-GL and CIRAC, like the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and several organizations of human rights defense, express their strong indignation and disapproval of this **unfair and selective decision**.

AIPD-GL and CIRAC **condemn the openly selective nature** of the decision of the ICC and protest **a two-speed justice, exploited** by the major world powers on the basis of politico-economic and strategic agendas.

These two Interafrican organizations of human rights are indeed surprised to note the deafening silence of the ICC towards the serious and numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated with impunity by some Western heads of state in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere, in violation of basic norms of human rights.

GL-AIPD and CIRAC are convinced that the international arrest warrant issued against President Omar El-Beshir does not contribute neither to the peaceful resolution of the Darfur crisis, nor to the establishment of a lasting peace in Sudan and Africa. On the contrary, it exacerbates the tension and mistrust within the international community, at a time when the peace process in Darfur and other ongoing negotiations in Doha, Addis Ababa and elsewhere continue to be a strong hope.

The disturbing eagerness of the ICC against Africa is matched only by the heavy silence of this international institution towards the massive violations of human rights and the nameless crimes of Western Heads of State and major powers, specially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (6 million dead since 1998), occupied Arab territories by Israel, Myanmar (Burma) and in other hot spots of the planet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the above, AIPD-GL and CIRAC recommend the following urgent actions:

1. At the International Criminal Court

To interrupt the execution of the international arrest warrant issued against President Omar El-Beshir, under Article 16 of the Rome Statute, as requested in particular by the African Union.

2. At the African Union

- To continue its tireless mediation efforts under way to find a **pan and lasting solution** to the political, military and humanitarian crisis in Darfur.
- To intervene with the Security Council of the United Nations to ask him to stop unacceptable disdain and selective prosecution of the ICC against Africa and its peoples.
- To make the Security Council aware of **the possible consequences** of unilateral maintenance by the ICC of an arrest warrant, also controversial and widely disputed by many actors of the international community (governments and civil society).
- To make all efforts to prevent the attempts of partition and dismemberment of Sudan.
- To promote the **full enjoyment by the people of Sudan of its so coveted natural resources**.

3. At the African civil society

- To work tirelessly to find African and relevant solutions to the Darfur crisis, on the basis of African and traditional mechanisms of conflicts' resolution, in the spirit of the **Charter of Kouroukan Fouga** (Mandé, 1226).
- To fully support the **non-confrontational approach** advocated by the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and several platforms, working for a lasting peace in Africa and Darfur.
- To strongly denounce the openly discriminatory and neocolonial treatment of the international arrest warrant issued against President Omar El-Beshir, even if the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity, specially in Iraq, DRC and Palestine continue to enjoy **total impunity**.

- To remain mobilized against any imperialist drift to **recolonize Africa and its peoples** and to maintain them in humiliation, division and chronic dependency, as in the time of transatlantic slave trade.
- To take advantage of the Durban Review Conference to be held in Geneva in April, to denounce and condemn the policy of double standards established in the literature of action by the major Western powers, as well as racism and contempt, underlying the arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court (ICC) against President Omar El-Beshir.

CIRAC and AIPD wish to express their solidarity with the brotherly people of Sudan and with all the protagonists of the crisis in Darfur, working for the restoration of stability and peace in Sudan.

Geneva, 10 March 2009

For AIPD-GL

For CIRAC

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MALUZA Wasiluadio M.
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