



October 14, 2015

The Honorable Abdelaziz Bouteflika
President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
El Mouradia
Algeria

Abdelmalek Sellal
Prime Minister, The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Algeria

Dear President Bouteflika and Prime Minister Sellal,

The BashirWatch Coalition, a group of human rights organizations dedicated to accountability in Sudan, writes to express its grave concern that the Government of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria has welcomed the visit of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, despite his record of human rights abuses.

President al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. He is perpetrating the ongoing atrocities in Darfur, where hundreds of thousands have died since 2003 and millions remain displaced. In 2014 alone, approximately half a million people were newly displaced in Darfur, and projections for 2015 are even grimmer, with up to 210,000 already displaced this year. The crimes in Darfur continue to rage, and violence has spread into other areas of Sudan, including South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Bashir has continuously blocked humanitarian aid from reaching those in need, and many people are at risk of starvation. Bashir has carried out his reign of terror with impunity for more than twelve years, and bringing justice to his victims is long overdue.

Although Algeria is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, non-member states are encouraged to bring international fugitives to justice. The situation in Darfur was referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council through UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005), which urges *all* members of the United Nations (UN) to fully cooperate with the Court. As a member of the UN, and particularly as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China falls within this exhortation and should act to bring Bashir to justice.

Welcoming President al-Bashir only serves to embolden a leader of a regime that continues to bomb civilian areas and cut off humanitarian aid to those in dire need. Therefore, it is imperative that in the future the Government of Algeria refuse to allow an individual charged with war crimes in to its territory. Should Bashir again enter Algeria, this Coalition calls on the Algerian authorities to arrest and transfer him to the ICC to face the charges against him in a fair trial.

www.bashirwatch.org

Thank you on behalf of the Bashir Watch Coalition,

The Coalition of the International Criminal
Court, NY, USA



The International Justice Project, NJ, USA



Darfur Women Action Group, DC, USA



United to End Genocide, DC, USA



Waging Peace, London, UK



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Cc: H.E. Madjid Bougerra, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United States