

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations, S-3800
New York, NY 10017 USA

27 March 2009

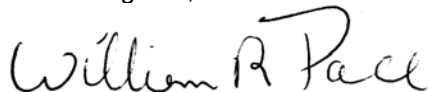
Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) has received conflicting reports that you may attend the Arab League Summit in Doha, Qatar on 30 and 31 March, and that you may be meeting with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir if he decides to attend the Summit. As you know, on 4 March 2009, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir. President Al-Bashir has consistently and persistently challenged the ICC and refused to cooperate with it. Since the arrest warrant was issued, he has again defied international justice by refusing to surrender to the Court, thus becoming a fugitive. In recent days, the leaders of both Eritrea and Egypt deemed it acceptable to meet with President Al-Bashir, in spite of the arrest warrant, thereby bolstering Sudan's defiance of international law and the global community.

We believe that meeting President Al-Bashir does nothing but strengthen him. As the Secretary General of the United Nations, you have played a key role in supporting the system of international justice and accountability for the most serious crimes. For this reason, we urge you first and foremost not to meet with a fugitive from justice. We cannot stress enough how important it is for you not to send the government of Sudan a message they could then use to promote impunity for the crimes committed in Darfur. If by circumstances out of your control, you end up being in the presence of President Al-Bashir, it is of the utmost importance that you reiterate to him and to all those present your strong support for international justice and accountability for the crimes committed in Darfur, and encourage him to surrender to the ICC.

In their 4 March decision, the judges of the Pre-Trial Chamber found that according to UNSC Resolution 1593 and Articles 25 and 103 of the UN Charter, the Government of Sudan has an obligation to fully cooperate with the Court which prevails over any other international obligation. While the issues surrounding Sudan are complex, international obligations to arrest and surrender suspects of grave international crimes must be respected and implemented. We hope you continue to deliver a message in support of the millions of voiceless victims of grave crimes in Sudan who count upon highly placed international officials like you to support them in their struggle for justice.

Sincere regards,



William Pace
Convenor, Coalition for the International Criminal Court

cc: Mr. Vijay Nambiar

**THE CICC IS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF OVER 2,500 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING
A FAIR, EFFECTIVE, AND INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT.**

Steering Committee: Amnesty International (AI), Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC-Nigeria), Comisión Andina de Juristas (CAJ), Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH), Human Rights First (HRF), Human Rights Network- Uganda (HUNEL-U), Human Rights Watch (HRW), No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), The Redress Trust (REDRESS), Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, and World Federalist Movement (WFM).