



International Center for Policy and Conflict

Press Statement

African Union Resolution Denouncing International Criminal Court (ICC) Deplorable

Sunday July 5, 2009. The **International Center for Policy and Conflict (ICPC)** strongly condemns African Union Heads of State and Governments for condoning and dinnning with impunity by resolving not to cooperate with International Criminal Court (ICC) on Friday July 3, 2009 in Libya. It is extremely regrettable that African continent leaders can afford to give succour to regimes that abuse the human rights of their citizens and accept impunity for atrocities against innocent population. It is misleading for one to say that African nations and leaders are being targeted by the ICC. The Court is only a judicial forum of last resort based on the principles of international complementality.

ICPC supports the key role of the International Criminal Court in the promotion of international justice and urges Africa countries that never countenance any acts of impunity to stand against the decision of Africa Union Summit just concluded at Sirte, Libya. The African Union Summit resolution not to cooperate with ICC is affront to right to justice, human rights and democracy in Africa.

We are urging all African countries that are party to Rome Statute to cooperate fully with the ICC in order to comply with its obligations under international law and to combat impunity in the conflict prone continent. A grave systematic and deliberate killing, maiming and displacing civilian population is a regrettable crime that no any civilized society can entertain enjoyment of impunity. African Union and its collective leadership can't delegitimize a court that now enjoys world wide recognition. AU has to acknowledge that it (ICC) is critical player in the overall system of international justice.

ICPC would like to stress the urgent need for the African governments to domesticate the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to enable it provide complimentary jurisdiction in the individual country and thus help hold accountable those responsible for crimes committed during conflicts and war-like situations in the continent. The ratification of the Rome Statute by more thirty-one African countries signals no longer business as usual for perpetrators of war crimes and gender-based persecutions. The continent can't backtrack so as to protect irresponsible and criminal leadership.

The International Criminal Court, (ICC), established by the Rome Statute, is the first permanent, treaty-based International Criminal Court established to help end impunity on the part of perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

Signed by
Ndung'u Wainaina
Executive Director

About ICPC

The International Center for Policy and Conflict, ICPC, is registered in Kenya under the Trustee (Perpetual Succession) Act as non-government, non-profit organization fostering democratic, peaceful, secure and just societies in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa by engendering the principles of justice, accountability, the rule of law and sustainable human security. These goals are accomplished through research, documentation, capacity building and technical assistance, networking, dialogue, information sharing and advocacy. The Center's core programmes are: Transitional Justice; Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding; Gender Justice; Capacity building and Technical Assistance; and Human Security and Displacement.