



BashirWatch Coalition's Letter to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The BashirWatch Coalition and its partners write to express our grave concern about the situation in Sudan and to urge the UN Security Council and all United Nations member states to take into consideration justice and accountability as important human rights pillars as the General Assembly meets in the coming weeks to debate a framework for moving the global community beyond 2015. As the Secretary-General's High-level Panel noted, access to justice, peace, and accountability are "*core elements of well-being, not optional extras*" in a global development agenda.¹ We wish to humbly remind the members of the Security Council that accountability is the lifeblood of our international human rights system. Without justice, there can be no true peace and development.

We are extremely concerned about the long-standing crisis in Darfur, where over 3 million remain displaced or in need of humanitarian assistance and where violence has recently escalated, further deteriorating the already precarious security situation. Attacks in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile State are on the rise, and a blockade of humanitarian access has left about one million people displaced or severely affected.

The actions of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, against whom the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity upon referral from the Security Council, threatens the basic human rights of people around the world. When governments perpetrate horrific acts of violence against their own people without answering for their crimes, the resulting impunity hampers the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) relating to broader aims of development.

President Bashir continues to travel with impunity despite the ICC arrest warrant, even as his victims in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan endure unimaginable hardship and fail to benefit from the great progress the world has made under the MDG platform. Without accountability, these victims and other survivors of atrocities will again be left behind in the post-2015 world. The Security Council and General Assembly must not let this happen.

We therefore remind the Security Council that accountability is a critical component to creating lasting peace in Africa and across the world. To ensure that the next development

¹ SECRETARY-GENERAL'S HIGH PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: ERADICATE POVERTY AND TRANSFORM ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2013), http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf.

agenda meets the needs of our most vulnerable global citizens, the Bashir Watch Coalition urgently requests the Security Council to take every opportunity during the 68th Session of the General Assembly to remind the Government of Sudan of its responsibility to comply with Security Council Resolution 1593, which referred the Darfur situation to the ICC. We urge the member states of the Security Council to ensure that this resolution is fully implemented by insisting that states cooperate with the ICC and swiftly respond to incidents of non-cooperation by states if they should occur.

The Coalition further requests that the Security Council strenuously advise the General Assembly of the importance of incorporating international accountability into the post-2015 development framework and ensuring the end of impunity for atrocities once and for all. The Security Council must make it clear to President Bashir and the other fugitives of justice that impunity for such serious crimes is not an option.

Sincerely,

Ian Schwab, *Associate Director, Advocacy*
American Jewish World Service

Gene Binder, Chair of the Steering Committee
Bronx, New York Group., NY

Dr Jacky Mamou, President,
Collectif Urgence Darfour (France)

Ibrahim Mohamed Ishag, President,
Civil Society Alliance for free Darfur, Egypt

Mahmoud A. M. Braima, Ph.D., President
Darfur Association of the USA, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Mohammadain Ishag, President
Darfur Cultural Heritage, Brussels, Belgium

Martha Boshnick, Co-Chair,
Darfur Interfaith Network , Washington, DC

Sabir Abu Saadia, President
Darfur Solidarity Group, South Africa

Amal Alagabo, Secretary General,
Darfur Women Action Group, VA, USA

Caroline Cox, Founder and CEO,
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, UK

Mohamed Alhalengy
Human Rights and Refugees Affairs-Beja Congress UK

International Justice Project, NJ, USA

Jared B. Arader, Law and Policy Fellow
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Physician for Human Rights, USA

Basmat Ahmed, President
Refugees Service Center, Atlanta GA

Esther Sprague
Sudan Unlimited, San Francisco, CA

Thomas Andrews, CEO,
United to End Genocide, DC, USA

Olivia Warham, Executive Director
Waging Peace, London, UK

Gabriel Stauring, Director,
Stop Genocide Now, Redondo Beach, CA

Ismail Kardoly, President
Sudan Human Rights Organization, Washington DC

Esther Sprague, President,
Sudan Unlimited

Ajalo Judi Emorut Erongot, Project Assistant
Uganda Coalition for the International Criminal Court (UCICC)

Advocates for Public International Law (APIL), Uganda