

COALITION OF CHAD NGOS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
(CSCT/CPI)
(ACAT-TCHAD, AEPT, AFJT, ATNV, ATPDH, AVCRP, CELIAF, JEC, LTDH, TNV, AI-TCHAD,
AJAC)

contact : 627 49 88 / 995 10 45 / 629 39 32 ; E.mail : acatchad@yahoo.fr
N'Djamena, 7 March 2009

PRESS RELEASE N° 001/CSCT-CPI/CP/09

The International Criminal Court: A Threat to African Pyromaniacs.

The Coalition of Chad^{ian} NGOs for the International Criminal Court (CSCT/CPI) welcomes the arrest warrant issued by the ICC for Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir.

The ICC was created to apply the principle according to which no one, even a head of state, is above the law and those who commit mass atrocities have to be held accountable before justice.

On 2 May 2007, arrest warrants were issued for Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Ali Kushayb for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur in 2003 and 2004.

On 20 November 2008, the Prosecutor requested the issuance of an arrest warrant for three rebels for war crimes that they allegedly committed against African Union peacekeepers in the military base of Haskanita (Darfur) on 29 September 2007.

Since the (UNSC) referral and the issuance of arrest warrants, the Sudanese government has been defiant and even expressly and **continually** refused to cooperate with the Court and the international community. Until now, no arrest warrant has been executed.

The arrest warrant for President Al Bashir sends a positive message for Sudan and all Africa in general: impunity will no longer be tolerated and a reconciliation between Sudanese people is now possible.

Today, the unprecedented decision marks the beginning of the end of impunity. Oppressive leaders and authors of war crimes will not remain unpunished. Sudan has the clear obligation to cooperate with the Court.

It is now up to ICC States Parties and other governments and international organizations to ensure that these arrest warrants are executed without any delay.

The CSCT/CPI stresses that conflict resolution in Africa requires **respect for** law and justice. The issuance of an arrest warrant represents an important step towards the end of total impunity. The fight against impunity is a commendable objective, this is why the Coalition of Chad NGOs for the ICC exhorts member states of the Africa Union and the Arab League, China, Russia and South

Africa to support the ICC as a means of taking a major step forward in the fight against impunity.

For the Coalition:

ACAT-TCHAD

AEPT

AFJT

ATNV

ATPDH

AVCRP

CELIAF

JEC

LTDH

TNV

AI-TCHAD

AJAC

[Unofficial translation provided by CICC Secretariat]