

**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE DANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE OCCASION OF THE ICC`S ISSUANCE OF AN ARREST WARRANT AGAINST THE SUDANESE PRESIDENT OMAR HASSAN AHMED AL-BASHIR**

On July 14 2008 the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) requested that the Court issued an arrest warrant against the present Sudanese president Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir. Today, the Court has chosen to follow this request and has issued an arrest warrant.

On this background the Danish minister of Foreign Affairs Per Stig Møller states the following:

"Today the ICC has issued an arrest warrant against Sudan's president Bashir based on accusations of crimes against humanity and war crimes. Denmark has consistently demanded that those responsible for serious and ongoing atrocities against civilians in Darfur should be held responsible for their actions. As a member of the UN Security Council in 2005 Denmark was among those states that referred the Darfur situation to the International Criminal Court. The binding international Security Council resolution establishes that Sudan is obliged to cooperate with the Court. We expect that Sudan complies with this obligation.

On this occasion I also wish to draw to attention that the ICC is an independent institution. It is for the ICC to assess whether the evidence presented should lead to criminal responsibility.

I wish to emphasize that it is important to make sure that the peace processes in Sudan continue. Particularly, this means the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well as renewed efforts to reach a Darfur Peace Agreement under the auspices of the chief negotiator Bassolé assigned by the UN and the African Union.

Denmark continues to be actively engaged in creating peace, stability and a democratic development in Sudan. "

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, March 4th 2009