

## **Expelling Humanitarian Relief Organizations – A New War Crime in Darfur**

ACIJLP condemns the decree of the Sudanese government to expel 13 international organizations for humanitarian relief and aids from Darfur being a new war crime committed by the Sudanese President. ACIJLP calls upon the ICC Prosecutor to enlist this crime in the accusation list against the Sudanese President.

ACIJLP expresses its deep concern regarding the deteriorating human conditions in Darfur in the wake of expelling the international aid agencies which provide a lifeline to 4.7 million people in Darfur alone. UN spokeswoman said "With the loss of these NGOs, 1.1 million people will be without food aid, 1.1 million will be without health care and over 1 million will be without potable water,"

The expulsion decree was taken by the Sudanese government in March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in a retaliatory reaction to the ICC's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

ACIJLP sees this action on the part of the Sudanese government as – in addition to being a violation to the provisions of Geneva Convention (1949) on the protection of civilians during armed conflicts ratified by Sudan in September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1957 – a war crime in accordance with the provisions of Article (8) Paragraph (25) of Rome Statute which created the ICC "Intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions". The said paragraph considers these acts as a war crime.

ACIJLP indicates that Although Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statute, UN Security Council Resolution 1593 requires Sudan to cooperate fully with the Court and provide any necessary assistance to it and its Prosecutor based on the fact that Darfur crisis was referred to the court by virtue of Security Council adopted Resolution 1593 in March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.