

The Arab Coalition urges the international community to cooperate with the ICC on the handing over of suspects

The Arab Coalition for an International Criminal Court is concerned by the obstacles the International Criminal Court (ICC) is facing in the exercise of its duties and, in particular, in matters concerning the handing over of those involved in the most serious crimes against humanity.

The handing over of those wanted by the ICC is one of the most serious obstacles hampering the ICC from carrying out its work. In a press conference convened on 21st November 2007 in New York, the ICC proposed the establishment of a body via which States would be obligated to cooperate with the ICC in matters pertaining to the handing over of suspects, particularly in the cases of Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and Uganda.

The Arab Coalition expresses its solidarity with the ICC, and urges the international community to cooperate with the Court in order to establish justice and end the culture of suspects escaping justice.

The Arab Coalition urges the group of States Party to the ICC to sign the Rome Statute's Protocol which would put in place a permanent mechanism through which the ICC would be able to force States to hand over wanted individuals to international justice.

Since Sudan is a sovereign country, the Arab Coalition calls on the Sudanese government to abide by international law and implement Security Council resolution 1593 issued in 2005, by cooperating with the ICC, detaining wanted individuals and handing them over to the ICC.

The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP) believes that by remaining in his position Ahmed Haroun is able to control towns and camps, which reduces the chances of peace in Darfur. The Sudanese government must take advantage of the procedural guarantees of justice laid down in articles 65, 66, 67, 75 and 76 of the Rome Statute.

ACIJLP fears that the Sudanese government's behaviour and its rejection of cooperation with the ICC may force the Security Council to take action under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter in order to implement its resolutions, particularly articles 41, 43, 46 and 47 of the Charter issued on 26th June 1945 and adopted on 17th December 1963.

The ICC is an independent and permanent court which investigates individuals suspected of serious crimes of international importance (Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo etc) such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity where the State concerned is either unwilling (Sudan) or unable (the Democratic Republic of Congo) to do so. The office of the ICC's Prosecutor is currently running investigations into four cases all of which are in Africa (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, the Sudanese province of Darfur and the Central African Republic). The humanitarian situation in these areas remains deplorable with a huge number of victims in need of international justice.