



Coalition for the International Criminal Court
www.iccnw.org

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Contact: Linda Gueye,
+256 (0) 777 660 398

Joseph Manoba
+256 (0) 772446613

PRESS BRIEFING, 29 May 2009, 11 a.m. at Imperial Royale Hotel:
Global Coalition for the ICC Calls on African States to Renew Support for Court

WHAT: A press briefing following a civil society gathering of 30 NGOs from across Africa to discuss the perceptions of the International Criminal Court (ICC) throughout the continent. Participants called on African states to revitalize their longstanding commitment to international justice, and specifically the ICC.

WHEN: Friday, 29 May 2009; 11am to 12 noon.

WHERE: Rose Hall (ground floor), Imperial Royale Hotel

WHO: Panel participants will include:

- >> William R. Pace, Convenor, Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
- >> Mohammed Ndifuna, Executive Director, Human Rights Network-Uganda (HURINET-U)
- >> Roger Muchuba, executive secretary of the Congolese NGO Héritiers de la Justice in Bukavu and deputy coordinator of the DRC Coalition for the ICC

CICC Africa Situations Liaison Annie Rashidi Mulumba will moderate the discussion

WHY: In the wake of the ICC's 4 March 2009 arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, the government of Sudan and its allies have been pressuring African states to withdraw from the Court. In response, the CICC has called a meeting of its most active African members to discuss strategies that counter this assault on justice.

Members have issued an explicit call for African states to both revitalize their commitment to the Court as a crucial ally in the global struggle to end impunity, and resist any pressure to revoke their membership in—or support for—the Court. Members will also urge states to cooperate with the ICC in its current and pending investigations.

The Coalition specifically calls on the government of Uganda, which will host the 2010 ICC Review Conference, to spearhead African support for the Court. At the Conference, states parties

to the Court will not only take stock of progress toward fulfilling the Court's mandate, but will also seek to finalize the long-debated definition of the crime of aggression, as well as consider adding other crimes to fall under the Court's jurisdiction.

Important notice: *The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), an independent NGO movement, is dedicated to the establishment of the International Criminal Court as a fair, effective, and independent international organization. The Coalition as a whole, and its secretariat, does not endorse or promote specific investigations or prosecutions or take a position on situations before the ICC. However, individual CICC members may endorse referrals, provide legal and other support on investigations, or develop partnerships with local and other organizations in the course of their efforts.*

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