

Press Release: Perpetrators of war crimes not welcomed

Tuesday, 14 June 2011 05:49PM

The Malaysian Bar commends the stand taken by Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz in expressing grave concern over the invitations that have been extended to President Omar al Bashir of Sudan and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, to attend the Langkawi International Dialogue next week.

Both these individuals have been condemned internationally for various atrocities. Furthermore, Omar al Bashir is the subject of an indictment by the International Criminal Court ("ICC"), which issued a warrant for his arrest in February 2009 on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's Darfur region.

Particularly in light of the Malaysian Government's recent announcement of its decision to ratify the Rome Statute and thus become a member of the ICC, it would be highly remiss of the government to allow someone with a record of such severe breaches of human rights, and an outstanding warrant of arrest, to be its guest.

We call on the Malaysian Government to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law and the cause of international criminal justice, by effecting the withdrawal of the invitations to Robert Mugabe and Omar al Bashir.

Lim Chee Wee President Malaysian Bar 14 June 2011