



Bashir Watch Coalition Calls on India to Arrest Sudanese President Bashir, Wanted by International Criminal Court on Charges of Genocide

The Bashir Watch Coalition a group of human rights organizations dedicated to accountability in Sudan calls on the Government of India to arrest Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir when he visits for the India-Africa Summit on October 28th. Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Darfur.

The tragedy in Darfur was referred to the International Criminal Court by the UN Security Council (UNSC) through UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005), which urges all members of the United Nations to fully cooperate with the Court. Although India is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, non-member states are encouraged to bring international fugitives to justice. As a member of the UN, India falls within this exhortation and should act to bring Bashir to justice.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died in Darfur since 2003 and millions have been displaced. According to the latest UN estimates, 2.5 million people from Darfur remain displaced.

Bashir has not only enjoyed impunity for the crimes identified by the ICC but also for new and continuing crimes in Darfur and throughout Sudan. In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states nearly 4,000 bombs have been dropped on civilian areas according to the news organization Nuba Reports. Bashir has continuously blocked humanitarian aid from reaching those in need, and many people are at risk of starvation. Just this month the Government of Sudan has blocked the delivery of food supplies to UN peacekeepers.

As the world's largest democracy and a leading Troop Contributing Country to UN Peacekeeping missions, India is in a position to make a strong, principled statement standing up for UN efforts toward peace and protection in Sudan and for the people who have been victimized by the brutality of Bashir's regime.

The Bashir Watch Coalition urges the Government of India to stand for justice for the people of Sudan and refuse to allow an individual charged with genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity into its territory. If Bashir enters India, this Coalition calls on Indian authorities to respect both the rule of law and their legal obligations to arrest and surrender Bashir to the ICC's custody to fairly face the charges against him.

For further information on the case against Bashir and his travels visit: www.bashirwatch.org



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