

ANNEX A

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President Albashir participates in African Summit on AIDS

on 2013/7/13 11:20:39



The President of the Republic Omer Albashir will take part in an African Union Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to take place in the Nigerian capital, Abuja on 15th July. The Nigeria President Goodluck Jonathan will from Monday July 15 to Friday July 19, 2013 host his fellow Heads of State and Government to the Abuja +12 Summit on HIV/AIDS TB and other infectious diseases. The theme of the Abuja+12 Summit is "Ownership, Accountability and Sustainability of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa: Past, Present and the Future." The Sudanese minister of health BahrEddin Abugarda who is currently in Abuja for the summit, said that the meeting of the African health ministers will discuss today Saturday papers presented by the specialized committees on the infectious diseases.

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Sudan's Bashir arrives in Nigeria to anger of rights groups

Sun, Jul 14 2013

ABUJA (Reuters) - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir arrived in Nigeria on Sunday for an African Union summit on HIV/AIDS as his hosts chose to ignore an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against him.

Bashir, accused of masterminding genocide and other atrocities during Sudan's Darfur conflict, which has left some 200,000 people dead, in theory risks arrest if he travels to one of the more than 120 states including Nigeria that have signed up to the ICC.

He has been refused trips to Uganda, South Africa, Malawi and Zambia in the past because of his indictment. This is his first trip to West Africa since the warrant was issued.

The African Union (AU) voted in 2009 not to cooperate with the ICC indictments, saying they would hamper efforts to end Sudan's multiple conflicts. Bashir rejects the ICC charges.

"The Sudanese president came for an AU event and the AU has taken a position on the ICC arrest order, so Nigeria has not taken action different from the AU stand," presidential spokesman Reuben Abati said.

Human Rights Watch International Justice Program director Elise Keppler said Nigeria had "the shameful distinction of being the first West African country to welcome ICC fugitive Sudanese President Sudan al-Bashir".

"Al-Bashir is sought on the gravest crimes ... and Nigeria's hosting is an affront to victims - he belongs in custody," she said.

The main African Union summit this month had to be moved to Ethiopia, which has not signed the ICC statute, after Malawi, heavily dependent on Western aid, refused to host Bashir.

Though initially welcomed by African leaders, the ICC has been accused of exclusively targeting African war criminals and failing to indict anyone from other continents, a charge the ICC and its backers says is unfair.

(Reporting by Tim Cocks, Camillus Eboh and Felix Obuah; Editing by Kevin Liffey)



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- Premium Times Nigeria - <http://premiumtimesng.com> -

Sudan's al-Bashir arrives Nigeria to red-carpet welcome

Posted By [Premium Times](#) On July 14, 2013 @ 20:48 In [Foreign,News](#) | [No Comments](#)

[1]

Omar Al-Bashir, Sudan President

Nigeria has made it clear it will not arrest Mr. al-Bashir despite the ICC warrant.

Sudan's leader Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide in Darfur, arrived Sunday in Abuja to a red-carpet welcome and a full guard of honor despite complaints from activists against the visit.

Mr. al-Bashir is expected to participate in an African Union summit on HIV/AIDS conference starting Monday.

He was indicted by the ICC in 2006, accused of masterminding atrocities during Sudan's Darfur conflict, which left hundreds of thousands dead.

He has been refused trips to Uganda, South Africa, Malawi and Zambia in the past because of his indictment. Only Chad and Djibouti have received al-Bashir in the past year.

The trip to Nigeria is his first to West Africa since the warrant was issued.

Minister of Police Affairs, Kenneth Olubolade, was at the Abuja airport to meet the private presidential jet conveying Mr. al-Bashir on Sunday, along with troops in ceremonial green and white uniforms and a military brass band, the Associated Press reports.

The visit, despite calls from rights activists to arrest Mr. al-Bashir, has sparked condemnations.

Human Rights Watch said in statement that Nigeria had "the shameful distinction of being the first West African country to welcome ICC fugitive Sudanese President Sudan al-Bashir".

Presidential spokesperson, Reuben Abati said Nigeria only acted in line with the position of the African Union, which had earlier rejected the warrant, initially saying it will hamper peace effort in Sudan, and later accusing the ICC of targeting only African offenders.

"The Sudanese president came for an AU event and the AU has taken a position on the ICC arrest order, so Nigeria has not taken action different from the AU stand," Mr. Abati was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying.

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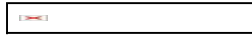
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PRESIDENT Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan's planned visit to Abuja for the HIV/AIDS international conference starting Monday may put Nigeria in the eye of the storm as a result of his indictment by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

This news broke the same day UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in reference to the recent Yobe attack on a school, cited Nigeria as being among countries where children are being killed for embracing education.

Ban spoke on Friday at the UN office in New York at a Youth Assembly session held to honour Malala Yousafzai, the survivor Pakistani girl, who was shot in the head by the Taliban for attending school, last year.

The news about Omar El-Bashir's trip to Abuja first came through the Sudanese media on Friday night that Bashir, indicted by the ICC since 2009, would be among the over 30 African Heads of State at the international conference.

Besides, Western news media, like the Washington Post and the Associated Press, have also started focusing on the news by yesterday morning.

At about the same time, Nigeria's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Prof. Viola Onwuliri, had briefed the Nigerian press that over 30 African Heads of State would be participating at the conference.

She attributed the expected large turnout of African leaders to what she said is Nigeria's rising significance in the world.

However, Onwuliri was not reported to have specifically listed the names of the heads of state and presidents expected at the meeting, nor was she reported to have specifically mentioned the name of the controversial Sudanese president.

But some countries have welcomed the Sudanese President, including Kenya, Chad and Djibouti.

An African Union's decision not to cooperate with the ICC is what some African diplomats allude to in advocating Al-Bashir's visit to some African countries. But, as a signatory to the ICC, Nigeria and several other African countries are expected, under their treaty obligations, to actually arrest the Sudanese President if he sets foot on their soil.

In an email interaction with a top presidency official over the weekend, it was confirmed that the Sudanese President might even have a sideline meeting with President Jonathan.

COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 July 2013

Nigeria Must Arrest Al-Bashir

Nigeria has international obligation to arrest Sudanese president wanted by ICC for graves crimes in Darfur

New York/The Hague—Nigeria must honor its obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) by arresting Sudanese President and ICC suspect Omar Al-Bashir or by cancelling his proposed visit to Nigerian territory, the Coalition for the ICC said today.

“Permitting President Al-Bashir to visit its territory without arresting him would constitute a failure of Nigeria to meet its obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC,” said Stephen Lamony, senior adviser for the Coalition for the ICC. “If Nigeria and other members of the ICC are committed to ending impunity, they must not allow ICC arrest warrants to go unenforced, and at the very least must not accept visits from suspects like Al-Bashir.”

News reports indicate that Al-Bashir is due to travel to Nigeria on Monday, 15 July to attend a summit on HIV/AIDS. As a state party to the Rome Statute, Nigeria is obligated to arrest Al-Bashir should he arrive in the country.

Al-Bashir has been wanted by the Court since 2009 for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the conflict in Sudan’s Darfur region. The following year, the Court issued an arrest warrant for Al-Bashir for the charge of genocide.

“The victims of the conflict in Darfur have suffered without justice for more than a decade due in part to the reluctance of some ICC member states to abide by the arrest warrants for Al-Bashir and other ICC suspects in Darfur,” said Lamony. “Nigeria must decide whether it will stand with Darfur’s innocent victims or ignore their right to justice.”

The ICC investigation in Darfur began in June 2005 after being referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council, which had determined the conflict there a threat to international peace and security. However, the Council has subsequently failed to ensure the cooperation necessary for ICC prosecutions to take place.

BACKGROUND: None of the four outstanding ICC arrest warrants against suspects in the Darfur investigation have been executed. The Sudanese government has openly defied and consistently refused to cooperate with the Court and the international community. On 26 March 2013, ICC pre-trial judges issued a decision of non-cooperation against Chad following a visit by Al-Bashir to the country. Similar judicial decisions were made by the Court in December 2011 and August 2010 and all were referred to the UN Security Council and Assembly of States Parties for them to take any action they deemed appropriate.

Summonses to appear have been issued for rebel leaders Abu Garda and for Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus for war crimes against African Union peacekeepers in Darfur. The two have been cooperating voluntarily with the ICC and the start of their trial is set for 5 May 2014. However, on 23 April 2013, the defense for Jerbo notified the Court of his death in North Darfur allegedly during an attack by a faction of the Justice and Equality Movement. The Court has not yet confirmed his death.

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COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

PRESS RELEASE

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The ICC is the world's first permanent international court to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Central to the Court's mandate is the principle of complementarity, which holds that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are unwilling or unable to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. There are currently eight investigations before the Court: the Central African Republic; Côte d'Ivoire; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Darfur, the Sudan; Uganda; Kenya; Libya; and Mali. The ICC has publicly issued 22 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear. The Court issued a judgment in its first trial on 14 March 2012. Two other trials are ongoing.

The ICC Office of the Prosecutor has also made public that it is conducting eight preliminary examinations on four continents: Afghanistan, Colombia, Comoros (in relation to the events of May 2010 on the vessel "Mavi Marmara"), Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Republic of Korea and Nigeria. The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. www.coalitionfortheicc.org

Experts from human rights organizations members of the Coalition are available for background information and comment. Contact: communications@coalitionfortheicc.org

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AFRICA

15 July 2013 Last updated at 09:45 GMT

Sudan President Bashir's Nigeria visit causes anger

Human rights groups have condemned Nigeria for hosting Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, and have demanded his arrest on genocide charges.

Mr Bashir is attending a health summit convened by the African Union (AU) in the capital, Abuja.

His visit was an "affront to victims" of the conflict in Darfur, rights groups said.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) accuses him of committing genocide in Darfur, a charge he denies.

The African Union decided in 2009, soon after the arrest warrant was issued, that member states should not enforce it.

It accuses the ICC of complicating peace efforts in the region, and unfairly targeting Africans.

'Wrong signal'

The BBC's Chris Ewokor in Abuja says Mr Bashir received a full guard of honour when he landed in Abuja on Sunday to attend the summit, which will focus on tackling malaria, HIV and tuberculosis in Africa.

New York-based campaign group Human Rights Watch said Nigeria had the "shameful distinction" of being the first West African state to welcome Mr Bashir since the arrest warrant was issued.

Its decision was an "affront to victims" of the Darfur conflict, it added.

"He belongs in custody," said Elise Keppler at Human Rights Watch.

Nigeria's government had breached its obligations under international law by inviting Mr Bashir, said Chino Obiagwu, chair of the Nigerian Coalition for the International Criminal Court (NCICC).

It was sending a wrong signal about the rule of law and could help fuel a culture of impunity in Africa, he added.

Some 2.7 million people have fled their homes since the conflict began in Darfur in 2003, and the UN says about 300,000 have died - mostly from disease.

Sudan's government says the conflict has killed about 12,000 people and the number of dead has been exaggerated for political reasons.

Mr Bashir has visited numerous African countries since the arrest warrant was issued - including Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Only Botswana and Malawi have threatened to arrest him.

In May, the AU called on the ICC to drop war crimes charges against Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta after accusing it of "hunting" Africans because of their race.

The ICC refused, saying it would press ahead with its case against Mr Kenyatta.

He is accused of fuelling violence after Kenya's 2007 election - a charge he denies.

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US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns is due to hold talks in Cairo later with leaders of Egypt's new military-backed government.

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