

# **ANNEX 1**

## **Public**

## *Visit of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to the Republic of Uganda*

### **Sudan Tribune**

#### **Sudan's Bashir pays rare visit to Uganda on Thursday<sup>1</sup>**

May 11, 2016 (KHARTOUM) - Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir would start a two-day visit to Kampala on Thursday to discuss bilateral ties and the situation in South Sudan with his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni.

Following ten years of strained relations, Museveni visited Khartoum last September where he and Bashir agreed to work together to bring stability in South Sudan and the region, and to end tensions between the two countries over the issue of rebel groups.

An official at the Sudanese presidency told Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity Wednesday that Bashir would travel to Kampala on Thursday in an official visit but he didn't elaborate on the issue.

According to the official, Bashir would discuss with Museveni several joint issues and on top of which is the security issue.

The two countries have traded accusations of support to rebel groups from both sides. Khartoum accused Kampala of backing rebel groups from Darfur and the Two Areas while the latter accused the former of supporting the Lord Resistance Army (LRA).

The same source said that Bashir would be accompanied by the Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour, the director of the security services, Mohamed Atta, the Minister of Presidential Affairs Fadl Abdallah Fadl and several other ministers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article58931>, last accessed 12 May 2016.

Bashir is under two International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants since 2008 for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur.

The Sudanese president visited several African states members of the ICC but he was not arrested. However, the issue generated a large literature in the international law on Bashir's immunity.

Uganda is a State Party to the Rome Statute and has an obligation to arrest the Sudanese president.

However, during a presidential debate last February, the Ugandan President vowed to pull out of the ICC and described it as a "partisan" court, allegedly targeting Africans.

Established in 2002 to try war criminals and perpetrators of genocide never tried at home, the ICC has opened inquiries involving nine nations, including Kenya, Ivory Coast, Libya, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Uganda, Mali and, most recently, Georgia.

## **Jacaranda FM**

### **Omar Al Bashir arrives in Uganda amid calls for his arrest<sup>2</sup>**

Published: May 12, 2016, 8:28 a.m. by ANA

An international human rights group has urged the Ugandan government to arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir if he arrives in Uganda.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jacarandafm.com/news-sport/news/omar-al-bashir-arrives-uganda-amid-calls-his-arrest/>, last accessed 12 May 2016.

Human Rights Watch said on Wednesday that unconfirmed reports were doing the rounds that Al-Bashir would attend the inauguration of Yoweri Museveni in Kampala on Thursday.

In a sign of thawing relations between the two countries, Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir arrives in Kampala on Thursday as part of a two-day visit to Uganda to discuss bilateral ties and the situation in South Sudan with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

Sudan's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour, the director of the security services, Mohamed Atta, the Minister of Presidential Affairs Fadl Abdallah Fadl and several other ministers, are accompanying Al Bashir to Kampala.

Their arrival coincides with the heads of 17 states' arrival in Kampala as guests of Thursday's inauguration of Museveni.

The US and European Union, strong critics of Museveni, were not invited.

Ties between Sudan and Uganda have been strained over the last ten years with both governments trading accusations of support for rebel groups in South Sudan from the other side.

"Khartoum accused Kampala of backing rebel groups from Darfur and the Two Areas while the latter accused the former of supporting the Lord Resistance Army (LRA)," reported The Sudan Tribune.

A thawing of relations took place last September when Museveni visited Khartoum.

During talks the two leaders agreed to work together to bring stability to South Sudan and the region, and to end tensions between the two countries over the issue of rebel groups.

Bashir is under two International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants since 2008 for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur, reported the Tribune.

The Sudanese President visited several African states, members of the ICC, including South Africa but was not arrested.

Uganda is a State Party to the Rome Statute and has an obligation to arrest the Sudanese president.

However, during a presidential debate last February, the Ugandan President vowed to pull out of the ICC, describing it as a “partisan” court, allegedly targeting Africans, a sentiment echoed by the South African government.

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## **Polity**

### **Sudanese President Al Bashir heads for Uganda<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.polity.org.za/article/sudanese-president-al-bashir-heads-for-uganda-2016-05-12>, last accessed 12 May 2016.

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## **Mail and Guardian**

### **Uganda urged to arrest al-Bashir<sup>4</sup>**

12 May 2016 08:09 | Peter Fabricius

Activists are calling on Uganda to do what South Africa did not – arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir when he visits.

A prominent international human rights group has urged the Ugandan government to arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and send him to face trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, if he arrives in Uganda.

Human Rights Watch said on Wednesday that unconfirmed reports were doing the rounds that al-Bashir would attend the inauguration of Yoweri Museveni in Kampala on Thursday.

South African President Jacob Zuma and several other African leaders are already in the country for the event. Museveni, who has already been in power for 30 years, was controversially re-elected for a fifth term in February.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://mg.co.za/article/2016-05-12-uganda-urged-to-arrest-al-bashir>, last accessed 12 May 2016.

“Uganda’s President Museveni has banned social media and detained some opposition leaders, but he’ll tarnish his inauguration further by welcoming Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, an international fugitive sought for alleged atrocities in Darfur,” said Maria Burnett, senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

“Al-Bashir belongs before the International Criminal Court, not attending inaugural celebrations. If al-Bashir does enter Uganda, Ugandan authorities should arrest him and send him to The Hague.”

HRW noted that al-Bashir faces two ICC arrest warrants, issued in 2009 and 2010 over attacks that deliberately and systematically targeted civilians in violation of international law as part of the Sudan government’s counterinsurgency policy in Darfur.

The attacks led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people to refugee camps in Chad and to camps for internally displaced people in Darfur.

Uganda is a member of the ICC and has asked the court to indict members of the Lord’s Resistance Army, a brutal rebel group which was originally established in northern Uganda though now operates outside of the country.

HRW said that many countries had previously avoided a visit from al-Bashir as activists across Africa campaigned for al-Bashir’s surrender to the ICC.

“Trips to ICC member countries have been cancelled or curtailed, including to Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Central African Republic, and Nigeria, while countries such as Botswana have made clear he is not welcome,” Burnett said.

“In June 2015, al-Bashir travelled to South Africa amid diplomatic and public outcry. A domestic court issued an order that barred his movement, but he nevertheless left the country. The visit remains the subject of litigation in South Africa and before the ICC.”

South Africa’s Supreme Court of Appeal ruled earlier this year that the government had acted unlawfully and unconstitutionally in not arresting Al-Bashir when he visited South Africa in June last year to attend the African Union summit in Johannesburg.

The SA government announced last month that it would take the case to the Constitutional Court to try to overturn the appeal court’s ruling.



Pretoria argued in the appeal court that it could not arrest the Sudanese leader because he was protected by the immunity granted on all foreign leaders. – African News Agency

As reported on social media:



