



Uganda Coalition on the ICC



HURINET-Uganda

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY- 17 JULY 2010: WORLD CELEBRATES 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW
GLOBAL SYSTEM TO END IMPUNITY

On IJD, HURINET-U and UCICC reaffirm the statement made by His Excellency Ban Ki- Moon during the Review Conference of the International Criminal Court that:-
“The old era of impunity is over. In its place, slowly but surely, we are witnessing the birth of a new age, *AN AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY*”.

At the recent ICC Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda the Assembly of States Parties, the body that governs the Court, passed the Kampala Declaration RC/Decl.1 acknowledging July 17th as International Justice Day. This is in honour of adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International criminal court, which was agreed upon on the 17th day of July 1998. To date there are 111 States Parties that have ratified the treaty. It is on this day that we celebrate international criminal justice and the achievements of the International Criminal Court.

Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET-U) and Uganda Coalition for the International Criminal Court (UCICC) in this light join the whole world in commemorating the World Day for International Justice. On this day we call for end of impunity and encourage the embracing of this new age of accountability.

Remembering the just concluded Review Conference of the ICC, we call upon States Parties to the Rome statute to operationalise and honour the declarations, pledges and commitments made during the conference. Referring to Review Conference Decl. 2 on state cooperation, we stress the importance of effective and comprehensive cooperation by States.

We are therefore disturbed by the recent media¹ reports indicating, that the Government of Uganda has invited President Omar Al-Bashir to attend the African Union summit slated for 19th to 27th July 2010 in Kampala. HURINET-U and the UCICC would like to remind the Government of Uganda that she has obligations as;

- 1) A member of the UN Security Council (which Security Council passed a resolution referring the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the ICC);
- 2) A State party to the Rome Statute (Is presently seeking cooperation from other States to apprehend the indicted LRA Commanders);
- 3) A State Party that had the mandate from 110 other States to host the just concluded 2010 ICC Review Conference; and
- 4) A State party that re-affirmed the Integrity of the Rome Statute at the AU Addis Ababa Meeting of the 30 African members of the Court between the 8th -9th June 2009, to, unequivocally disassociate herself with the resolution not to cooperate with ICC and arrest and surrender Omal Al Bashir upon citing him on the Ugandan territory.

Moreover, the Pre-trial chamber 1 of the International Criminal Court on 12th July, 2010 issued a second arrest warrant against President Omar Al Bahir of the Republic of Sudan on Charges of genocide.

Therefore on the occasion of the International Justice Day, we wish to urge the Government of Uganda to emulate the government of Botswana for its firm position on its commitment to the ICC, and the state parties to fully cooperate with the Court. It is only then that we can genuinely say the era of impunity is over.

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¹ Sunday Vision (Late Edition)- 11th July, 2010 Vol.17 No.27