



Announcement of the Pre-Trial Chamber decision on the Prosecutor's Application against Omar Al Bashir – Prosecutor's remarks

4 March 2009

The judges decided today that Omar Al Bashir shall be arrested to stand trial for crimes committed against millions of civilians in Darfur; his victims are the very civilians that he, as President, was supposed to protect.

In accordance with the law, Omar Al Bashir's arrest is necessary to ensure his appearance in Court, to stop him from destroying evidence and committing new crimes. Omar Al Bashir's rights will be respected.

The Government of the Sudan is obliged under international law to execute the warrant of arrest on its territory. If it does not, the UN Security Council will need to ensure compliance.

There is no immunity for heads of state before the International Criminal Court. As soon as Omar Al Bashir travels through international air space, he can be arrested. Like Slobodan Milošević or Charles Taylor, Omar Al Bashir's destiny is to face justice. It could take two months or two years, but he will face justice.

The Court decided. The Court issued an arrest warrant. It is time to protect the victims, to stop bombing civilians, to stop rapes, to stop the crimes.