



Coalition for the International Criminal Court
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MEDIA ADVISORY
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**ICC JUDGES ISSUE ARREST WARRANTS FOR SUSPECTS IN DARFUR
INVESTIGATION**

Pre-trial Chamber Decision Increases Pressure on Sudan to Cooperate with Court

WHAT: At approximately 12 a.m. in The Hague on Wednesday, 2 May 2007, the judges of Pre-Trial Chamber I issued arrest warrants for the two individuals named by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Luis Moreno-Ocampo in his February filing on the Darfur situation. The Chamber held that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the two suspects - Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Rahman - bear criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur in 2003 and 2004. In view of the information provided by the Prosecution, the judges decided to request arrest warrants instead of summons to appear, since they considered that Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Rahman would not appear voluntarily before the Court and that their arrests appeared to be necessary at this stage.

The two arrest warrants lists 51 counts respectively, including persecution, murder and attacks against civilians, forcible transfer, rape, pillaging, destruction of property, inhumane acts, imprisonment, and torture.

WHO: According to the Prosecutor's February application to the Chamber, Ahmad Muhammad Harun is a former minister of state for the Interior of the government of Sudan, and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Rahman is a militia leader who is more commonly known as "Ali Kushayb" and is reported to be in Sudanese detention.

WHY: On 31 March 2005, the United Nations Security Council referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the ICC Prosecutor through Resolution 1593, "determining that the situation in Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security." On 6 June 2005, the ICC Prosecutor officially opened his investigation into the situation of Darfur, which was assigned to Pre-Trial Chamber I. On 27 February 2007, the ICC Prosecutor requested that Pre-Trial Chamber I summon Harun and Kushayb to appear before the Court.

COMMENT AND BACKGROUND: Experts from international and Sudanese human rights organizations are listed on the following page for comment and background.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please visit the Coalition's website at <http://www.iccnnow.org/?mod=darfur>.

List of NGO Experts on Darfur:

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