

12th March 2009

Statement of the Sudanese Churches to the Government of Sudan and International Community on the announcement of International Criminal Court Decision on issuing a warrant of arrest for our President Omer Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir

*“Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the children of God”
[Mathew5:9]*

We, the Sudanese Church Leaders, have great concern regarding the consequences of the recent decision of the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for the President Omer Hassen Al Bashir on charges raised against him for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We appeal to the government of Sudan to handle the situation politically, diplomatically and with wisdom in regard to the decision of the court, genuinely and seriously address the conflict in Darfur, achieve full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, pursue a national reconciliation and healing process, and to work with the African Union, Arab League and international community to achieve these objectives in the interest of peace and stability in the country.

We call upon the government of Sudan to maintain peace, security and safety of every citizen at this trying moment.

We call upon all the armed groups in Darfur to pursue positive dialogue with the government as the only means to reach peaceful resettlement of conflict in Darfur

We have a great concern about the humanitarian situation in Darfur, we appeal to the government of Sudan to consider the humanitarian situation of the people in Darfur seriously as a result of closing operations of some of the Sudanese national humanitarian organizations and expelling international organizations who were delivering humanitarian support in Darfur. Therefore, there must be quick alternatives and filling the gaps

The Church believes in justice without compromising peace and stability of the nation. There is no dichotomisation. The absence of peace in Sudan will not hurt only Sudan as a nation, but will have serious repercussions in the region. The court case will affect Sudan negatively and its people at this time of transition. Whilst justice is extremely important, societies in transition like Sudan need other instruments and other models in order to supplement one form of justice. There should be holistic justice that encompasses accountability, truth recovery, reconciliation, institutional reform and reparations. It is necessary to develop an integrated solution, which enables society to pursue peace, while not overlooking the need for justice.

We appeal to the international community to continue maintaining peace and critical support of post-conflict reconstruction throughout the Sudan, as well as the particular humanitarian situation in Darfur at this time.

We call upon all religious communities to observe their God's prophetic calling in preserving peace, harmony and stability in the country. We call upon all religious communities to pray earnestly for the nation, the president, and the citizens of the Sudan at this time.

Africa Inland Church	Rev. James Lagos
Catholic Church	Fr. Abraham Abayo
Coptic Orthodox Church	Fr. Bishay Al Anthony
Coptic Orthodox Church	Fr. Antonious Fakious
Greek Catholic Church	Elder Daniel John Baima
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	Fr. Michael Gabriel
Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church	Rev. Nagi Kunagi
Sudan Interior Church	Rev. Abraham Lul
Sudan Pentecostal Church	Rev. Hani Khemis
Sudanese Church of Christ	Rev. Barnaba Mathias
Episcopal Church of Sudan	Bishop Ezekiel Kondo
Chairman, Sudan Council of Churches	Rev. Musa Kodi
General Secretary, Sudan Council of Churches	Rev. Peter L. Tibi