

ANNEX 1

Public

Visit to Angola

AGOP

Luanda hosts ICGLR Heads of State summit¹

Luanda - Luanda will host next February the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), which will assess the mandate of Angola and discuss its continuity in the organization's managing board, announced on Thursday, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Chikoti

The minister was speaking to Angop at Luanda's "4 de Fevereiro" International Airport, concerning the request of the ICGLR member states for the Angolan President, José Eduardo dos Santos, to continue chairing the conference.

The minister said that after the convening of the meeting, the event is being prepared at various levels to assess the performance of Angola.

Apart from this aspect, said Georges Chikoti, the meeting will also address issues related to conflicts affecting the region, such as the ones prevailing in South Sudan, Burundi, CAR and DRC, and the election of the new executive secretary and his deputy.

He announced that Kenya will run for the post of executive secretary.

Under the summit, the official said that there will be meetings of experts of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, of the Ambassadors committee, of the ICGLR joint chiefs of staff of Armed Forces.

Chikoti worked in Kenya and Tanzania, where he discussed with local authorities the current situation in Burundi.

AfricaRenewal

The Private Sector Investment Conference for the Great Lakes Region of Africa²

The Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region (OSESG-GL) and the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), with the support of Government of the Democratic Republic of

¹ http://www.angop.ao/angola/en_us/noticias/politica/2016/0/1/Luanda-hosts-ICGLR-Heads-State-summit,eda39041-b651-4225-bca0-803d1a5832d8.html last accessed 13 July 2016

² <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/psic/private-sector-investment-conference-great-lakes-region-africa> last accessed 16 June 2016

Congo (DRC) are convening the Private Sector Investment Conference for the Great Lakes region of Africa scheduled to take place in Kinshasa, DRC, on 24-25 February 2016.

What are the objectives?

- To showcase existing business success stories and a selection of concrete investment opportunities in the GLR;
- To inform existing and potential investors on the investment climate, security situation and evolving risks, and financing options in the GLR;
- To promote networking opportunities among participants with a view to shape new ventures and an ever more conducive business climate.

What is expected at the event?

- First-hand experience sharing by leading businesses from the region, headlining discussions on growth sectors and areas of opportunity;
- Direct interaction with political leaders who will present the strides made towards achieving a secure and competitive business climate in the Great Lakes Region;
- Specific information about a selection of the most lucrative investment opportunities across seven (7) sectors, including Energy, Mining, Agriculture, Tourism, Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Finance;
- Financial institutions, development agencies, investment funds and other capital sources outlining financing options available for business opportunities;
- Networking spaces, meeting spaces and exhibition stalls offering participants opportunities to engage in formal and informal discussions and dialogue.

Who is coming?

- Representatives from the most successful businesses in the region and project sponsors;
- Leaders from the regional governments and key development partners;
- Leading international investors, operators and financiers, in the sectors featured at the event;
- Regional and international media.

International Justice Project

BashirWatch Letter to President of Angola on recent invitation to Great Lakes Conference³

June 13, 2016

H.E. José Eduardo dos Santos

³ <http://www.internationaljusticeproject.com/bashir-watch-letter-to-president-of-angola-on-recent-invitation-to-great-lakes-conference/> last accessed 16 June 2016

President of The Republic of Angola
Luanda, Angola

H.E. Manuel Domingos Vicente
Vice President of The Republic of Angola
Luanda, Angola

Dear President dos Santos and Vice-President Vicente,

The BashirWatch Coalition, a group of human rights organizations dedicated to accountability in Sudan, writes to express its grave concern that The Republic of Angola has welcomed the visit of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for the Great Lakes region conference in Luanda on June 14th, despite his record of human rights abuses.

President al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. He is perpetrating the ongoing atrocities in Darfur, where hundreds of thousands have died since 2003 and millions remain displaced. The last two years have seen the highest levels of violence and displacement since the height of the genocide more than a decade ago. In the first few weeks of 2016 alone, over 100,000 people have been newly displaced by an escalation of violence by the Sudanese government including largescale attacks on civilians.

The crimes in Darfur continue to rage, and violence has spread into other areas of Sudan, including South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Bashir has continuously blocked humanitarian aid from reaching those in need, and many people are at risk of starvation. Bashir has carried out his reign of terror with impunity for more than thirteen years, and bringing justice to his victims is long overdue.

Although Angola is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, non-member states are encouraged to bring international fugitives to justice. The situation in Darfur was referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council through UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005), which urges all members of the United Nations (UN) to fully cooperate with the Court. As a member of the UN, Angola falls within this exhortation and should act to bring Bashir to justice.

Welcoming President al-Bashir only serves to embolden a leader of a regime that continues to bomb civilian areas and cut off humanitarian aid to those in dire need. Therefore, it is imperative that, The Republic of Angola refuses to allow an individual charged with war crimes into its territory. Should Bashir enter Angola, this Coalition calls on the Angolan authorities to arrest and transfer him to the ICC to face the charges against him in a fair trial.

Thank you on behalf of the Bashir Watch Coalition,

The Coalition of the International Criminal Court, NY, USA

United to End Genocide, DC, USA

The International Justice Project, NJ, USA

Waging Peace, London, UK

Darfur Women Action Group, DC, USA

Visit to Qatar

Gulf Times

Bashir and Abbas due in Doha today⁴

Sudanese President Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir and Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas arrive in Doha today on a visit to Qatar. HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will meet President al-Bashir to discuss bilateral relations and review issues of common concern. On Saturday, HH the Emir will discuss with President Abbas bilateral ties as well as the latest developments on the Palestinian arena.

The Peninsula

Sudan President arrives today⁵

Doha: Sudan's President Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir will arrive in Doha today on a visit to Qatar. Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will meet the Sudanese President to discuss bilateral relations and review important issues of common interest, reports QNA.

The Peninsula

Emir meets Sudan President⁶

Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Sudan's President Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir at Al Bahr Palace yesterday. They discussed cooperation between the two countries, means of enhancing relations and the latest regional and international developments. Ministers and Al Bashir's delegation were present. The Emir also hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of Al Bashir and his delegation.

⁴ <http://www.gulf-times.com/story/498292/Bashir-and-Abbas-due-in-Doha-today> last accessed 16 June 2016

⁵ <http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/qatar/385136/sudan-president-arrives-today> last accessed 16 June 2016

⁶ <http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/qatar/385246/emir-meets-sudan-president> last accessed 17 June 2016

Visit to Saudi Arabia



Sudan's Bashir in Saudi Arabia for Umrah pilgrimage⁷

Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir Thursday was received by the Saudi Arabia's King Salman in Makkah where the Sudanese leader arrived to perform Umrah rituals.

In an unannounced visit to Saudi Arabia, Bashir performed the Umrah pilgrimage. Upon his arrival at the Grand Holy Mosque, he was received by a number of religious officials and the special force for the security of the Mosque.

King Salman received at Al-Safa Palace before Maghreb prayer President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir of Sudan.

Also, the Saudi King received Prime Minister and Interior Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani, and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim.

⁷ <http://www.geeskaafrika.com/20579/sudans-bashir-in-saudi-arabia-for-umrah-pilgrimage/> last accessed 4 July 2016

All of them took part in the Iftar banquet with the King who also held a meeting with Bashir in presence of a number of princes and government officials, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

The Sudanese president who used to perform this religious ritual every year was accompanied by Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour and Presidential Affairs Minister Fadel Abdallah Fadel.

It was not clear if he held political discussions with the Saudi King.

Sudan News Agency

President Al-Bashir Returns Home from Saudi Arabia⁸

Khartoum, July 4 (SUNA) - President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, Monday morning returned home from Saudi Arabia after performing Umrah.

He was received upon return at Khartoum Airport by the First Vice - President of the Republic, Lt. Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih, and a number of ministers.



The Foreign Minister, Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, who accompanied President Al-Bashir in the visit, said in a statement to SUNA that Bashir met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz, and held talks on means of consolidating bilateral relations, regional Arab issues and the international political situation.

Prof. Ghandour said that President Al-Bashir also met in Saudi Arabia with the Yemeni President, Abdu-Rabu Mansour, and discussed the bilateral relations, the political and security situation in Yemen and the talks being held in Kuwait.

He said that the Yemeni President has thanked Sudan for its continuous support to Yemen and appreciated the role of Sudan in the Alliance for restoration of legitimacy, security and peace in that country.

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⁸ <http://suna-sd.net/suna/showNews/300533/en> last accessed 6 July 2016.

Visit to Rwanda

Sudan Tribune

Sudan's Bashir to attend African Union Summit in Rwanda⁹

July 12, 2016 (KHARTOUM) - Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir will travel to Rwanda on Saturday to attend the African Union summit in Kigali, Sudan Tribune learnt.



Sudan's President Omer Hassan al-Bashir, left, is welcomed by Indian foreign minister Vijay Kumar Singh as he arrives for the India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, October 28, 2015. (Photo AP/Saurabh Das)

The 27th African Union Summit will take place in the Rwandan capital Kigali from the 10th to the 18th of July 2016.

Al-Bashir attended the African Union summit in South Africa in June 2015 although South Africa is a member to the International Criminal Court (ICC). A local court ordered to prevent him from leaving the country, but Johannesburg government facilitated his return to Sudan.

In May of this year al-Bashir visited Uganda and Djibouti, which are ICC state members of Rome Statute.

As a host-country of the African summit, the Rwandan President Paul Kagame has announced that his country will not arrest President al-Bashir during his coming visit to participate in the African Union summit.

⁹ <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article59599> last accessed 15 July 2016

“President al-Bashir is welcomed in Kigali at any time. He will be free in his second home country. We will not respond to the ICC calls to arrest him. We will not take any action of such type against him”, Kagame said.

Rwanda is not a state party to the tribunal of war crimes but has the obligation as a member of the United Nations to cooperate with the court. However like many other African capitals, Kigali is critical to ICC and to its focus on Africa.

In April 2007, the judges at the Hague-based tribunal issued an arrest warrant for President al-Bashir, and for the governor of North Kordofan state Ahmed Haroun, who at the time served as state minister interior.

DJIBOUTI & UGANDA

On a related development, the ICC said Tuesday it had referred Djibouti and Uganda to the United Nation Security Council for failing to arrest al-Bashir while he was on their territory.

As ICC members, the two countries are obliged to arrest the Sudanese president. However, the African governments refuse to arrest him saying they are committed to an African Union decision calling to not cooperate with the Hague based court .

"On 11 July 2016, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court (ICC) decided that the Republics of Uganda and Djibouti had failed to comply with the request for arrest and surrender of Omar Al Bashir to the ICC and referred the matter to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute and the United Nations Security Council,". said a statement released on Tuesday.

"It is now up to them to take the measures they deem necessary regarding this matter," the ICC further said.

Al Bashir is facing two ICC arrest warrants for five counts of crimes against humanity, two counts of war crimes and three counts of genocide.

Africa News

Rwanda confirms that al-Bashir will attend AU Summit without issues¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://www.africanews.com/2016/07/14/rwanda-confirms-that-al-bashir-will-attend-au-summit-without-issues/> last accessed 15 July 2016

Louise Mushikwabo, Rwanda's Foreign Minister; has confirmed that Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir will be attending the 27th African Union Summit currently underway in Kigali.

According to Minister Mushikwabo, Rwanda as a country was not against justice, adding that when justice is politicized, "we (Rwanda) have to think twice", in apparent reference to the fact that al-Bashir was being sought more on political grounds.

"Anybody invited by the AU will be welcomed and hosted. President Bashir is among African leaders, duly invited and we'll host him," Rwanda's top diplomat said in a series of tweets.

"Anybody invited by the AU will be welcomed and hosted. President Bashir is among African leaders, duly invited and we'll host him."

"

.LMushikiwabo on President Bashir of Sudan coming to #Rwanda: Anybody invited by the AU will be welcomed & hosted. #AUKigali2016

— Government of Rwanda (RwandaGov) July 14, 2016"

Rwanda is not a signatory to the International Criminal Court (ICC) so President Bashir is guaranteed safe exit from the country after the summit of African Heads of State closes in Kigali.

Al Bashir is wanted by the ICC on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The ICC has thus sought his arrest whenever he is in the jurisdiction of any of their signatories.

In the past few months, three African countries have failed to arrest the Sudanese leader. South Africa refused to 'hold him,' despite a pending court ruling as to whether or not Bashir is allowed to leave the country.

Uganda and Djibouti have also failed to arrest him on the request of the ICC. The international judicial body has recently reported the two countries to the United Nations Security Council for failure to go by the ICC's arrest request.

All Africa

Rwanda: Govt Defends Bashir's Planned Visit, Criticises ICC¹¹

¹¹ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201607150166.html> last accessed 15 July 2016

By Ivan R. Mugisha

Rwanda has defended Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's expected visit to Rwanda, despite an arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes and genocide.

Mr Bashir is expected to arrive in the country on Saturday for the African Union (AU) Heads of State Summit that will take place over the weekend.

The first warrant for Bashir's arrest was issued in March 2009 and the second in July 2010, but no country that he has travelled to since then has implemented the warrants.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said the country will welcome the visit of Al-Bashir, and went on to criticize the ICC for being politically motivated and biased towards Africa.

"Rwanda respects deeply the decisions taken by the AU, which requested that Heads of State, if they have crimes reported against them, have immunity as long as they are on official duty," she said.

"The ICC has a lot of politics. No one can argue against this. Its establishment was welcomed by many countries in 2002, but along the way, it focused more on politicised agendas and not its mandate. For example, there is no explanation whatsoever as to why the ICC focuses on Africa and ignores the west," the minister said.

Withdrawal from ICC

She also said that many African countries now want to withdraw from the ICC and instead, focus on strengthening a continental justice body - all of which are critical issues that will be discussed at the heads of state summit which Al-Bashir is expected to be part of.

"Withdrawal of multiple countries from the ICC is part of the discussions that will come up during the heads of state meeting. There is no conclusion yet but it has been discussed already in the last two years," she said.

"Many African countries believe that the ICC has become a very politicised court, and that Africa needs to take apposition on that. Obviously, withdrawal is a sovereign matter and so is joining the court, but what I know is that a number of countries are ready to withdraw," she said.

The ICC stated that it does not try individuals unless they are present, and that until President Al-Bashir is arrested and transferred to Hague, the case will remain in pre-trial stage.

On Tuesday, the ICC referred Uganda and Djibouti to the UN Security Council for failing to arrest Al-Bashir when he visited the countries in May.

Unlike Rwanda, both Uganda and Djibouti are signatories to ICC and were obliged to implement the arrest warrants.

South Africa also came under criticism from the ICC last year in June when it declined to implement the arrest warrants when Al-Bashir visited the country.

Observers argue that President's Al-Bashir's undisturbed travels within Africa, despite the ICC arrest warrant, highlights the court's weaknesses particularly in Africa where many of its signatories are contemplating withdrawal.

Associated Press

Sudan's al-Bashir, attending Rwanda summit, defies the ICC¹²

Sudan's al-Bashir arrives at African Union summit in Rwanda, defying the ICC

Sudan's al-Bashir, attending Rwanda summit, defies the ICC



The Associated Press

¹² <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/30970f039e73499cba53ebf018226384/african-leaders-meet-amid-south-sudan-violence-icc-concerns> last accessed 18 July 2016

Sudan president Omar al-Bashir, right, arrives in Kigali, capital of Rwanda, Saturday, July 16, 2016. Al-Bashir arrived in Rwanda to attend a summit of African leaders, defying an international warrant of arrest after public assurances from Rwandan leaders that he would not be arrested. (AP Photo/Ssuuna katera) The Associated Press

By IGNATIUS SSUUNA and RODNEY MUHUMUZA, Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir arrived in Rwanda on Saturday to attend a summit of African leaders, defying an international warrant for his arrest after public assurances from Rwandan leaders that he would not be arrested.

The African Union summit on Sunday is expected to discuss the continent's uneasy relationship with the International Criminal Court, which some say unfairly targets Africans.

Ahead of the summit, some African countries renewed efforts to quit the ICC en masse despite the opposition of some countries like Botswana. Nigeria, Senegal and Ivory Coast have been pushing back as well in recent days.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has led growing criticism of the ICC, calling it "useless" during his inauguration in May, an event that al-Bashir attended.

Some countries want a separate African court with jurisdiction over rights abuses.

"Withdrawal from ICC is entirely within the sovereignty of a particular state," Joseph Chilengi, an AU official, told reporters Saturday.

Al-Bashir is wanted by the ICC for alleged atrocities in the country's Darfur region.

He should be at the ICC answering to charges that include genocide, "not persisting in this game of cat-and-mouse with the court," Elise Keppler of Human Rights Watch said Saturday night.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said this week that Rwanda would not arrest al-Bashir.

"Africa doesn't support criminals, but when justice is involved with a lot of politics we take a pause to separate the two," Mushikiwabo told reporters.

The African Union summit also will discuss South Sudan, where clashing army factions raised concerns of a return to civil war. The chaos threatens a peace deal signed last August between President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar.

United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon, who is attending the summit, has called for an arms embargo.

New York Times

Sudan's Bashir Travels to Rwanda Despite ICC Arrest Warrant¹³

KIGALI, Rwanda — President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan has arrived in Rwanda to attend an African Union summit despite calls for his arrest by the International Criminal Court.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo told reporters this week that Rwanda's government would not arrest Bashir if he traveled to Kigali. She said the ICC had written to Rwanda urging its government to arrest Bashir if he travels there.

Bashir is wanted by the ICC for alleged atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region.

Bashir has recently traveled to other African countries, including attending the inauguration of Uganda's president in May.

Ahead of Sunday's summit of heads of state, some African countries have renewed efforts to quit the ICC en masse despite the opposition of some countries like Botswana.

Euronews

Sudan's al-Bashir in Rwanda for summit, despite ICC arrest warrant¹⁴

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir on Saturday arrived in Rwanda for an African Union (AU) summit, defying an international warrant for his arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Al-Bashir was offered assurances from Rwandan leaders that he would not be detained.

The continent's uneasy relationship with the ICC, critics say unfairly targets Africans, is on the agenda for discussion at the AU summit.

¹³ http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2016/07/16/world/africa/ap-af-african-union-sudan-president.html?_r=0 last accessed 18 July 2016

¹⁴ <http://www.euronews.com/2016/07/17/sudan-s-al-bashir-in-rwanda-for-summit-despite-icc-arrest-warrant/> last accessed 18 July 2016