

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE PROJECT

Legal Representatives for Darfur Victims Division



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For Immediate Release

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“Legal Representatives for Darfur Victims, Attorneys Raymond M. Brown and Wanda M. Akin, Urge United Nations Security Council Not To Defer Indictment of Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir”

Newark, New Jersey – Wanda M. Akin and Raymond M. Brown are American lawyers who for 5 years have represented the only victims recognized by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Darfur Situation. On behalf of their clients and supporters, Akin and Brown submitted an urgent request to His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Dabbashi, Charge d’affaires of Libya, President, **United Nations Security Council**, requesting that the Council not defer the prosecution of the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, pursuant to Article 16 of the Rome Treaty. Copies of the correspondence were provided to the Honorable Members of the Security Council and the Honorable Members of the General Assembly.

On 6 December 2007, the ICC in The Hague, formally recognized as victims 11 Darfurians represented by Brown and Akin. The historic ruling by the Court in the Netherlands was the result of years of work by Brown and Akin. The Defence and Prosecutor filed separate appeals of the historic Pre-Trial Chamber’s decision and the Appeals decision, rendered on 2 February 2009, strictly limited the rights of victims to participate in the investigation stage. Echoing the Court’s jurisprudence, the Appeals Chamber decision indicated that victims may have a greater voice in the “case stage” of proceedings, thus strongly emphasizing the need for the arrests of all of the accused from Sudan so that the “case stage” can commence.

Akin and Brown encourage the international community to cooperate with the Court in order to bring al-Bashir, Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb to justice. In doing so, victims of the Darfur atrocities will continue to be afforded the right to participate in the pursuit of justice and peace in Sudan.

Brown and Akin are trial lawyers and 2 of only 37 American attorneys admitted to practice before the ICC. Akin heads Wanda M. Akin & Associates, her private law practice in Newark, New Jersey. Brown is a partner in the Litigation Department at Woodbridge, New Jersey’s Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith and Davis LLP and Chair of the White Collar Defense and Corporate Compliance Practice Group. For more information on Wanda M. Akin and Raymond M. Brown and their work at the ICC refer to www.BrownAkin.com.