

**Security Council must urgently take action to end impunity in Darfur – ICC prosecutor** UN News 5 June 2013 Deeply frustrated and disappointed by the Security Council's failure to take any action against those responsible for war crimes in Darfur, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) stressed that the plight of the victims has meanwhile "gone from bad to worse."

"We have done our part and it is up to this Council to live up to the legitimate expectations of Darfur's victims, namely that individuals alleged to be responsible for their daily sufferings are brought to justice," Fatou Bensouda told the 15-member body during a briefing this morning. (...)

In 2005, the Security Council asked the Hague-based Court to investigate war crimes in Darfur after a UN inquiry found serious violations of international human rights law.

In March 2009, ICC judges issued arrest warrants against, among other top officials, Sudanese President, Omar Al-Bashir, for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur. Mr. Bashir, along with the other ICC indictees in the country, has yet to be arrested. (...)

There have also been reports that indictees Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, Ahmad Harun and Abdel Raheem Hussein – all Government officials – have been involved in crimes against civilians this year, with Mr. Kushayb, leading an attack on the town of Aby Jeradil in April which left more than 100 civilians dead and displaced 30,000 people into Chad. (...)

"These alleged crimes are of concern to the international community and require urgent and concerted action. Again, this is a question of potential individual criminal responsibility, not of group or organizational responsibility," Ms. Bensouda said.

"Regrettably, each briefing has been followed by inaction and paralysis within the Council, while the plight of victims of crimes committed in Darfur has gone from bad to worse," she said, adding that the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, hindering humanitarian access, and ongoing impunity have continued, causing despair among the population.

These few individuals must be prosecuted, Ms. Bensouda stressed, and noted that "as long as they enjoy impunity for the crimes they commit, they will continue to represent a threat to international peace and security."

She noted that while there have been reports of prosecutions of rebels under Sudan's anti-terrorism act, there have been no prosecutions of systematic crimes committed by Government forces. Working with regional actors such as the League of Arab States and the African Union (AU) could help address this challenge, and Ms. Bensouda called on the AU to implement the recommendations of its High-Level Panel on Darfur. (...)

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