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Barbara LOCHBIHLER

To the Ambassador of the
Embassy to the Republic of Chad
Boulevard Lambertmont 52
B - 1030 Brussels
Fax: 02 216 35 26

Brussels, 14 February 2013

President Omar Al-Bashir's visit to Chad on 16 February 2013

Your Excellency,

I am contacting you in order to express my deep concerns on the invitation of Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir to the Community of Sahel-Saharan summit which will be held on Saturday, 16 February 2013, in Ndjamena, Chad.

President Omar Al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. There are two arrest warrants on him, issued by the ICC in 2009. Permitting President Al-Bashir to visit Chad without executing these warrants would run counter to Chad's obligations as a state party to the Rome Statute of the ICC, in particular Art. 86 and 89(1) of the Rome Statute. It would also send damaging signals to victims of the mass atrocities in Darfur and it would undermine Chad's credibility on issues of justice and accountability.

I thus urge you to cooperate with the ICC and to immediately arrest President Al-Bashir if he enters Chad. This would be an important way to demonstrate respect for victims of the crimes committed, along with Chad's commitment to end impunity.

Hoping that you will use your power responsibly,

I remain respectfully,

Barbara Lochbihler

Chair of the Human Rights Subcommittee in the European Parliament

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