

New York, 10 May 2011

**H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**  
President  
Republic of Uganda

Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the *Coalition for the International Criminal Court*, a global network of more than 2500 member NGOs in 150 countries. This includes over 800 African NGOs in more than 50 African countries, advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court and increased access to justice for victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes.

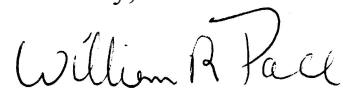
It has come to our attention that Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has been invited to attend your inauguration on May 12, 2011. While his plans to attend remain unconfirmed, we would like to take this opportunity to urge your government to reiterate its commitment to cooperating with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Al-Bashir is wanted by the ICC on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. As a state party to the Rome Statute, Uganda has legal obligations to cooperate with the Court, including by arresting and surrendering al-Bashir if he visits Uganda.

At the 2010 Review Conference of the Rome Statute, the Ugandan government pledged to “undertake activities to promote increased awareness on the activities of the ICC at national level, commit to improve legal training and capacity building on the Statute with the national judicial and education system, and development of legislation on victim and witness protection geared towards fulfilling implementing obligations under the Statute.”

Bearing in mind the past support and cooperation that you and your government have shown towards the Court, we strongly encourage you and your government to reaffirm its commitment to the Rome Statute of the ICC by stating that Uganda is obligated to arrest al-Bashir and surrender him to the Court if he enters Ugandan territory. An undeterred visit by al-Bashir to Uganda would undermine the letter and spirit of the Rome Statute as well as call into question your government’s commitment to justice and the fight against impunity and risks bringing controversy to your inauguration. Instead, a principled stand by Uganda would send a strong signal to war victims from Darfur that their right to justice is being respected. We urge your government to respect Uganda’s legal obligations and victims’ rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R Pace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'P'.

William R Pace

Cc:

Hon. Sam Kuteesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Khiddu Makubuya, Attorney General- Minister of Justice

Richard Buteera, Director of Public Prosecutions

Major General Edward Kalekezi Kayihura, Inspector General, Uganda Police Force