

8 April 2015

His Excellency Joko Widodo
President of Indonesia
Office of the President of the Republic of Indonesia
Merdeka Palace
Jalan Medan Merdeka Utara Gambir
Jakarta 10160, Indonesia

Dear Mr. President,

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights are deeply concerned by reports that the government of Indonesia is going to allow Omar al-Bashir – who is wanted for genocide by the International Criminal Court - to visit Indonesia for the Asia-Africa Summit.

Mr. President, we urge you to deny Omar al-Bashir entry into Indonesia. His presence in Indonesia would be a stain on the nation and all of ASEAN. Denying him entry would send a strong and principled message that Indonesia is committed to holding those who are accused of the worst crimes against humanity accountable.

President Bashir is wanted for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. He has perpetrated ongoing atrocities in Darfur where hundreds of thousands have died since 2003 and millions remain displaced.

In 2014 alone, approximately half a million people have been newly displaced in Darfur, and projections for 2015 are even worse. Violence has spread into other areas of Sudan, including South Kordofan and Blue Nile. President Bashir has continued to block humanitarian aid from getting to those in need, and many people are at risk of starvation. He has been able to continue his reign of terror with impunity for more than twelve years. Mr. President, it is long past time to bring justice to his victims.

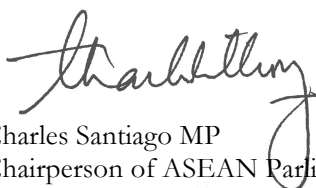
The tragedy in Darfur was referred to the International Criminal Court by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005) which urges all members of the United Nations to fully cooperate with the court.

Your Excellency, as the third largest democracy in the world and a leader in the Southeast Asia community of nations, Indonesia is in a position to make a strong, principled statement that will be heard around the world while standing up for those who have been victimized by the brutality of Bashir's regime.

Indonesia can declare in a most meaningful and powerful way that when genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed, those responsible must be held accountable and brought to justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles Santiago MP
Chairperson of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights