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Hélène Laverdière

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Hon. Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Global Affairs Canada

February 7, 2019

Re: Sudan

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you to respectfully request an update on Canada's response to the crisis in Sudan.

The International Criminal Court has issued two arrest warrants for President al-Bashir based on five counts of crimes against humanity, two counts of war crimes and three counts of genocide. These charges relate to the conduct of government forces in the Darfur region of Sudan, directed by al-Bashir, beginning in 2003. The Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa groups of that region were subjected to killings, sexual violence, forced displacement and torture.

Recent reports related to the crackdown against protestors suggest that al-Bashir has not been deterred by the warrants for his arrest and continues to violate human rights and international law.

Canada is in a strong position to promote human rights in Sudan and an eventual democratic transition. I ask that you work with your Sudanese counterparts to support human rights and the respect of the rule of law in the country and end the crackdown against protestors. I also call on you to be loud and clear – in words and in action – in your support for the International Criminal Court's efforts for justice in Sudan and to encourage our allies, who are also party to the Rome Statute, to do the same. Your efforts must include building pressure to execute the arrest warrants, and ensuring the ICC has sufficient funds to carry its necessary work.

In being steadfast in our commitment against impunity, we also build the foundations of peace.

Thank you for your timely response on this matter.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hélène Laverdière", written over a horizontal line.

Hélène Laverdière
NDP Foreign Affairs Critic