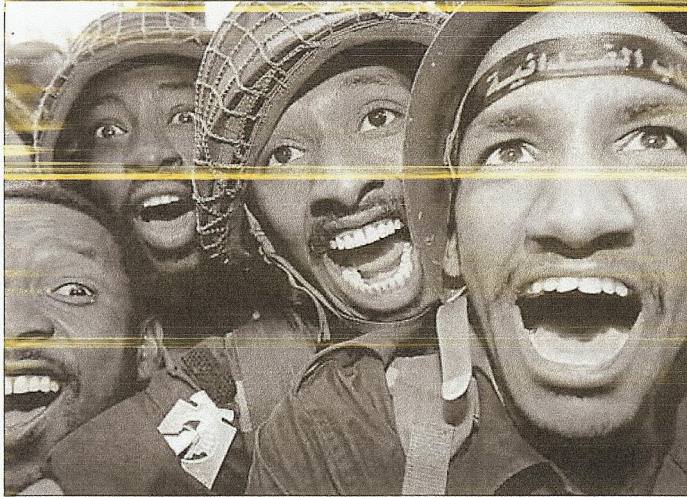


Bashir to 'rid Darfur of NGOs



RISING TENSION. Sudanese forces show support to President Omar al-Bashir during a rally by thousands of soldiers in the capital Khartoum yesterday. *Picture: AFP.*

SUDAN: Western aid 'gone in a year'

KHARTOUM – Sudan does not want any international NGOs in war-ravaged Darfur in a year's time, President Omar al-Bashir said yesterday in his latest act of defying the international community.

"I told humanitarian affairs officials that in one year we don't want any foreign aid organisation working on the ground with our citizens and that Sudanese organisations will fulfil these roles in Darfur," Bashir said.

"If they want to bring in aid, they will have to leave it at the airport," he added, addressing a rally in Khartoum attended by thousands of Sudanese soldiers who renewed a pledge to defend Bashir "to the death".

Sudan expelled 13 foreign

Snip
UN humanitarian chief John Holmes says Sudan does not have the capacity to make up the shortfall.

NGOs from Darfur after the International Criminal Court on March 4 issued an arrest warrant for Bashir for alleged crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur.

The targeted organisations, including Britain's Oxfam, the US Care as well as the Dutch and French sections of Doctors Without Borders, make up about half the humanitarian aid capacity in Darfur.

The United Nations has said that more than a million

people have already been affected by the expulsions, that figure set to rise dramatically if the 70 remaining international NGOs are told to pack their bags.

NGOs in Darfur distribute food and medical aid, help provide access to water for the 2.7 m people displaced by six years of fighting in the western region.

Sudan does not have the capacity to make up the shortfall, UN humanitarian chief John Holmes said last week.

Sudan last week issued a list of 19 Sudanese NGOs it will replace the expelled organisations, with the health ministry saying it would send 100 doctor's medicine to Darfur. — A