

# My arrest warrant a conspiracy - Bashir

10 charity groups suspended

UN to continue working with President Bashir

Reuters  
Khartoum

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said on Thursday an international tribunal's decision to seek his arrest on war crimes charges is a conspiracy aimed at destabilising the country and disrupting peace efforts in Darfur.

Speaking for the first time since he became wanted, Gen. Bashir told a Cabinet meeting that the court, the United Nations and international organisations operating in Sudan were "tools of the new colonialism" meant to bring Sudan and its resources under control.

"This is an attempt to get at Sudan," he said.

Gen. Bashir's government retaliated immediately after the warrant was issued Wednesday, ordering the expulsion of 10 leading international humanitarian organisations from Darfur, including Oxfam, CARE and Save the Children

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called it "a serious setback to lifesaving operations in Darfur."

Aid groups protested, saying they had no connection to the court and that their absence could lead to a crisis for more than two million war-weary Sudanese who need such basics as shelter, food and clean water.

President Bashir said the organisations aimed to disrupt peace efforts in Darfur and that every time his country reaches for a peace deal to end the six-

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Omar Al-Bashir  
Sudanese President

year conflict, it is hit with a new international decision

against it.

"We in Sudan have always been a target of the UN and these organisations because

we have said No," Gen. Bashir said. "We said the resources of Sudan should go to the people of Sudan." The arrest warrant

by the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court is the tribunal's first against a sitting head of state. UN offi-

cial said their staff will continue to deal with President Bashir in Sudan because he remains the president of the country.

Up to 300,000 people died and 2.7 million lost their homes in Darfur since the war in 2003, when rebel African groups, composed of discrimination and neglect, took up arms against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum.

In a warning again one who tries to help to arrest him, Gen. Bashir said his government will be "We will act as a responsible government," he said we will be responsible firm with anyone who gets at the stability, security of the country or whoever their position and presence in Sudan to violate the stability and security.

He said his government has ordered the expulsion of 10 international organisations from Darfur because they violate the law.

The president later appeared before a public gathering outside the Presidential Palace attended by thousands of supporters who swayed and danced with the crowd.



**YOU WON'T TAKE HIM: Mr Bashir's supporters demonstrate in Khartoum on Thursday.**

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