

to UN does not expect its Sudan forces to be attacked

Reuters
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UN forces in Sudan are making plans in case of violence if an international arrest warrant is issued for the country's president, but they do not expect to be targeted the UN peacekeeping chief said on Monday.

The official, Alain Le Roy, also said the two peacekeep-

ing missions in Sudan had no mandate to arrest President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, and would not attempt to do so, if the International Criminal Court puts out the warrant.

Judges at court based in The Hague have said they will announce today their response to a request by prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo for an arrest warrant for Bashir on charges of war crimes and genocide in Darfur.

Mr Le Roy told a news conference the two missions, one in Darfur and the other monitoring a 2005 north-south peace deal in Sudan, would neither move nor change their normal patrolling activities whatever the judges ruled.

"A decision which might affect the president of the country might have an effect on the ground, so it's important for us to be ready to an-

swer," he said.

"We'll have to see how we'll react. I cannot give you the detail of what we are going to do," Le Roy said.

Sudan's State Information Minister Kamal al-Ebeid said there would be "popular expressions" if the ICC issued a warrant for President Bashir but the authorities would not allow diplomats, their missions or foreigners to be targeted.