



## Office of the Spokesperson

International Media Monitoring

[15/07/2008](#)



### **Bashir's indictment "giant step for international justice" - Darfur rebels**

15 July 2008

[BBC Monitoring Newsfile](#)

(c) 2008 The British Broadcasting Corporation. All Rights Reserved. No material may be reproduced except with the express permission of The British Broadcasting Corporation.

Text of report in English by Paris-based Sudanese newspaper Sudan Tribune website on 15 July

The Darfur [rebel] Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) called for the formation of a national unity government after a world tribunal accused the Sudanese President Umar Hasan al-Bashir of war crimes.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo asked pre-trial judges today to issue arrest warrants for Sudan president Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

Ocampo filed 10 charges: three counts of genocide, five of crimes against humanity and two of murder. Judges are expected to take months to study the evidence before deciding whether to order Al-Bashir's arrest

"In light of the recent developments we propose an interim transitional government that isolate no party in Sudan," JEM spokesperson Ahmad Husayn told Sudan Tribune.

The JEM official said that indictment of Al-Bashir is a "big day for Darfur and humanity and for seekers of justice".

"This is a giant step for international justice since Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders. It is a blow to the legitimacy of Al-Bashir," he added.

All Darfur rebel groups jubilantly hailed the ICC prosecutor's announcement saying it gives justice to their people. Some groups including JEM offered assisting the ICC with nabbing the suspects and sending them to The Hague. Many people inside and outside Sudan warned that arresting Al-Bashir would create chaos in the east African nation.

However, Husayn said that a broadly represented [government] would prevent such a scenario.

"The agendas for this government would include working for peace in Darfur and all over Sudan as well as implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed with the south," he said.

The JEM official outlined a series of pressing issues that a national unity government would treat as top priority.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
***Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel***

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

"We would need to ensure that we help with the voluntary and dignified repatriation of the displaced Darfuris to their villages through implementing a security plan and compensate them in a fair manner so they can build their livelihood," Husayn said.

"Also the new interim government would work closely with the international community towards Sudan's stability through supporting fair and free elections that would accelerate the process of democratic transformation," he stressed.

International experts also say more than 300,000 were killed and two million have been driven from their homes by the conflict in Darfur, a region that is roughly the size of France.

The conflict spilled into Sudan's neighbours **Chad** and the Central African Republic (CAR) with millions of refugees feeling in to these two countries.

## Los Angeles Times

### **Doing the right thing for Darfur; An ICC indictment of Sudan's president serves peace and justice.**

Sara Darehshori, senior counsel in Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program, interviewed refugees in Chad last July as part of her work assessing the International Criminal Court.

15 July 2008

[Los Angeles Times](#)

Copyright 2008 The Los Angeles Times

'When will Bashir be tried?' Darfurian refugees on the **Chad** border asked me time and again last summer. "We are here because of Bashir," they said.

Last July, I went to **Chad** to look into how the International Criminal Court, which has a field office in Abeche and works with refugees in the camps, is performing on the ground. As part of my assessment, I interviewed dozens of refugees.

Considering the hardships the refugees faced daily, I was not sure how they would feel talking about a topic as abstract as accountability in an international forum.

Thus I was surprised when their reactions to my questions were positive, with even a hint of impatience because the ICC prosecutor had not yet gone after the president of Sudan, Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir. A Sudanese official and a rebel leader had been indicted by The Hague-based court but, to the refugees, that didn't go far enough. The chain of command was clear.

On Monday, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the ICC chief prosecutor, sought a warrant from the court for the arrest of Bashir on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It may take months for the court to rule, but Moreno-Ocampo's actions will, no doubt, be greeted with joy in the camps.

Yet some commentators outside Darfur have argued that this "moment of jubilation" can only be a symbolic victory for the long-suffering people of that region. They contend that should the prosecution of top officials -- however terrible their crimes -- go forward, it will interfere with prospects for peace and security.

Sudan's history makes a strong case for the opposite conclusion: The persistent lack of accountability has instead undermined the prospects for peace and stability. There has been little peace to keep.

Since taking power in a military coup in 1989, the leadership of the ruling party in Sudan has conducted brutal campaigns to combat rebel groups in several regions, forcibly displacing millions of Sudanese and killing up to 2 million people in southern Sudan alone, all with impunity.

The strategy of burning and looting villages and arming tribal militias to kill and steal from ethnic groups deemed supportive of rebels was initiated in the south, and for years, much of the international community stood by silently. Not one U.N. Security Council resolution condemned the attacks throughout the 1990s.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

International negotiators, understandably anxious to secure peace, were silent on the issue of accountability for fear of its effect on the peace talks; perpetrators of the most serious crimes were never held to account. When the Darfur insurgency began in 2003 -- during negotiations between the north and south -- the Sudanese government returned to the same old tactics, committing widespread attacks on civilians in Darfur.

Today, it remains true that most of the international attempts to persuade Khartoum to end the violence in Darfur have resulted in little cooperation. In particular, relative silence on accountability and justice issues in Sudan has yielded extremely limited concessions from Sudan.

When the ICC issued the first two warrants against suspects in Darfur, the Security Council did not speak out against Khartoum's blatant refusal to carry out the warrants. (Not only did Khartoum refuse to turn over those who were indicted, but one was promoted within the government.) Apparently the Security Council hoped that downplaying justice would help in the deployment of peacekeeping forces or compliance with the peace agreement. However, despite a resolution authorizing a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur, Khartoum continues to obstruct full deployment. Few bases have been established, and the forces are at barely a third of their authorized capacity.

Now there is concern that a Bashir warrant from the ICC will in particular threaten humanitarian efforts in Darfur. Last week, seven U.N. peacekeepers were killed by attackers whose identities are still uncertain.

But with or without the Bashir warrant, the government of Sudan remains obligated under international law to ensure the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel to all those in need in Darfur. Attacks against personnel involved in a humanitarian or peacekeeping mission constitute war crimes. It is up to the Security Council to take measures, such as targeted sanctions, to ensure that Sudan abides by its obligations under international law.

In June, the Security Council issued a unanimous statement calling for Sudan to cooperate with the ICC. That reaffirmed the council's historic commitment to bring justice to victims in Darfur. The international community should now stand with the ICC as it considers warrants against Bashir, which is a further step toward meaningful accountability for the massive crimes in the region.

As one Darfur refugee put it to me, "There is no justice in Sudan. If there was, we would not be here."



### **Leaders pursued by the international justice system**

14 July 2008

[Agence France Presse](#)

Copyright Agence France-Presse, 2008 All reproduction and presentation rights reserved.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court sought the indictment Monday of Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir for warcrimes committed against civilians in Darfur.

He became the third-ever serving president to be sought by the international criminal justice system, and the first sitting head of state at risk of being indicted by the ICC, which came into being in July 2002.

The court can only prosecute crimes committed after its creation.

Previous such cases:

CHARLES TAYLOR: Liberian president Charles Taylor was charged in March 2003 with 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. At the time of the charges the former warlord was Liberia's head of state, having been elected in 1997. He is currently on trial in The Hague.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC: Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic, elected in 1997, was charged in May 1999 by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) with war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Yugoslav army against civilians in Kosovo province.

His long-running trial, which involved accusations related to the conflicts that tore apart the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, was brought to a sudden end by Milosevic's death in his cell in The Hague in March 2006.

As well as Taylor and Milosevic, **Chad's** former dictator Hissene Habre, who has lived in Senegal since 1991, is on the wanted list in Belgium and Senegal. It is not yet clear whether he will be put on trial, nor whether this will take place in an international court.



#### **FACTBOX-Violence stalks troubled Sudan**

14 July 2008

[Reuters News](#)

(c) 2008 Reuters Limited

July 14 (Reuters) - Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, on Monday charged Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir with genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

A spokesman for Sudan said the country did not recognise the ICC indictment.

Here are some key facts on Sudan and its conflicts:

#### GEOGRAPHY:

\* Sudan is Africa's largest country with an area of 2.5 million sq km (967,500 sq miles). It straddles the middle reaches of the Nile and is bordered by Egypt to the north; the Red Sea, Ethiopia and Eritrea to the east; Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the south; and the Central African Republic, **Chad** and Libya to the west.

#### OIL:

\* Oil exploration began in the 1970s, but operations were repeatedly interrupted by war, with southern rebels laying claim to oil fields that provided the government with vital revenue.

#### WAR AND PEACE:

\* In 1983, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the main southern rebel group led by John Garang, launched a war against the northern-based government, partly sparked by the imposition of Islamic law, sharia, by the government.

\* The war pitted the black African south, which is mainly Christian and animist, against the mainly Muslim, Arabic-speaking north. The war was complicated by tribal and factional fighting, as well as the conflict over oil.

\* In 2005, a deal, sealed by the SPLA and the Khartoum government, cleared the way for a comprehensive peace to end the 21-year-old civil war in the south that claimed more than 2 million lives.

#### DARFUR:

\* Rebels rose up against the government in February 2003 saying Khartoum discriminated against non-Arab farmers in Darfur in favour of Arab tribes. More than 2 million Muslim Darfuris, mainly subsistence farmers from a wide variety of ethnic groups for whom Arabic is a second language, have fled their homes.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

- \* Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) were among the first rebel groups to emerge.
- \* Arab militias, some known as the Janjaweed, have driven farmers from their land in a campaign rights groups say amounts to ethnic cleansing and the United States has called genocide.
- \* The Sudanese government has said the Janjaweed are outlaws and has vowed to disarm them.
- \* Experts have estimated about 200,000 have died from disease, starvation and violence. Khartoum has said about 10,000 people have died.

#### BORDER TROUBLE:

- \* Sudan's relations with **Chad** have been deteriorating for some time. The long and porous border with Sudan's Darfur has long been a base for rebels from both nations to stage attacks against their central governments.
- \* In 2008 Chadian rebels, which the **Chad** government said were supported by Sudan, attacked N'Djamena. The attack, which failed, was swiftly followed by Khartoum's offensive against three towns held by rebels that Sudan said were supported by **Chad**.
- \* In May rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked Khartoum, the first time in decades of civil war that rebels from Sudan's regions had brought fighting to Khartoum's doorstep. Sudan blamed it's western neighbour **Chad** and other unnamed "international powers" of masterminding the attack -- a charge which **Chad** denied.
- \* There are thousands of Darfur refugees being housed in United Nations' camps located along a 600-kilometre stretch of the **Chad**-Sudan border.



#### **AU chairman warns of 'coups and anarchy' if Beshir indicted**

John Kulekana

14 July 2008

[Agence France Presse](#)

Copyright Agence France-Presse, 2008 All reproduction and presentation rights reserved.

The African Union chair on Monday warned of "military coups and widespread anarchy" in Sudan if the International Criminal Court indicted President Omar al-Beshir for war crimes in Darfur.

"If Beshir is indicted and taken, there will be a power vacuum in the Sudan and that risks military coups and widespread anarchy reminiscent of what is happening in Iraq," Tanzanian Foreign Minister Bernard Membe told AFP, speaking on behalf of the AU chairman President Jakaya Kikwete.

"We in the African Union do not condone impunity, genocide and violence because we believe in due process of the rule of law," he added.

"But what we are calling for is a deferment in indicting Beshir because there is a risk of anarchy in a proportion we have not seen in this continent," he added.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the chief prosecutor of the Hague-based ICC, asked the court Monday for an arrest warrant for al-Beshir on 10 charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

If approved, it would be the first time the court had targetted a sitting head of state, and also the first time it had charged anyone with genocide, although other international tribunals have placed such charges.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

Sudan, which is not a signatory of the ICC convention, resisted the move that is feared worsen the conflict and scupper peacekeeping as well as aid operations for one of the world's worst humanitarian nightmares.

In addition, Membe admonished against antagonising al-Bashir "at this time when there are efforts to end Darfur killings, to implement 2005 north-south peace agreement and to ease tension between Sudan and **Chad**."

"Let us not be seen that we are opposing justice, but our position is that the ICC timing is bad because Beshir has shown compliance to peace demands. This is the time for the world community and UN Security Council to closely world with Sudan in restoring stability."

"When that is fully achieved, the prosecutor can then charge Beshir with the crimes he is suspected of committing."

In Addis Ababa, the spokesman for the AU commission echoed that warning that the prosecutors request "might jeopardise the peace processes in Sudan."

"Consultations are under way for an emergency meeting of the peace and security council to be held probably in Addis Ababa at a ministerial level," El-Ghassim Wane told AFP.

Wane added that the AU's peace and security commissioner, Ramtane Lamamra, would be in Sudan later Monday to discuss the issue.

The AU, of which Sudan is a member alongside 52 other African nations, also issued an official statement voicing its reservations about the unprecedented move against Beshir.

Anticipating Moreno-Ocampo's move, AU Commission chief Jean Ping had over the past few days consulted with the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation for the Islamic Conference on the issue, the statement said.

They had discussed "ways and means of addressing the situation and ensuring that the hard won gains made in the search for peace and reconciliation in the Sudan are not jeopardised," it added.

The UN says up to 300,000 people have died and displaced some 2.5 million from their villages since the Darfur conflict broke out in February 2003. The Sudanese government puts the death toll at 10,000.

### **Charging of al-Bashir may provoke a violent backlash.**

Simon Roughneen

15 July 2008

[Irish Times](#)

(c) 2008, The Irish Times.

OPINION: The International Criminal Court may lay genocide charges against President Omar al-Bashir, the Sudanese dictator, but he's unlikely ever to stand trial, writes Simon Roughneen.

'Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin.' The words of former US president Dwight Eisenhower may offer some long-term solace for those caught up in Sudan's regionalised wars, but yesterday's landmark charging of Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, with 10 counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court (ICC) may scupper any chance of bringing peace to the wider region.

Or so goes the argument. The "peace and justice" template has become a "peace versus justice" dichotomy, as immediate-term political realities prompt less idealistic observers to question the efficacy of courts and tribunals intervening in real-time conflicts.

To illustrate, in Uganda, ICC proceedings against senior figures in the millenarian-psychopathic Lord's Resistance Army are regarded as hindering the faltering peace process, after two decades of cult-driven rape, abduction and murder. Meanwhile, the ICC trial of Thomas Lubanga, a Congolese militia

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
***Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel***

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

boss accused of recruiting child soldiers, has stalled amid disputes over evidence being withheld from the defence.

Sudan might prove different, however. Not only are the charges more significant - including genocide - politically speaking, there is scant peace left for the ICC to destabilise. In early May, the Darfurian rebel group called the Justice and Equality Movement, backed by **Chad**, launched an audacious attack on Omdurman, just outside Khartoum - the first time in Sudan's long wars that the capital has been directly threatened by any militia.

Darfur's failed 2006 peace agreement was a dead letter partly because it did not address issues such as compensation, and made no provision for accountability at local, national, or international levels. In the end, only one rebel group signed. Thus, justice might well be a prerequisite for peace in Sudan.

Later in May, the south-central oil hub Abyei was destroyed, as government forces drove the former southern rebel group out of the town, which sits on top of perhaps 40 per cent of the country's proven oil reserves, and which could become part of an independent southern Sudan in 2011.

Since then, the two sides pledged to resolve the Abyei issue, and an electoral law has been passed, paving the way for landmark polls slated for 2009. But Sudan has known only three years of dysfunctional democracy - between 1986-89 - since independence in 1956, and during that time has been a war zone for all but 11 years.

Peace in Sudan is a facade. The former rebel group that government forces drove from Abyei - in reality those of the National Islamic Front (NIF) which took power in a 1989 coup - is the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, technically part of Khartoum's government since a 2005 peace deal ended a two-decade war between al-Bashir's government and the southerners.

Anticipating the indictments, UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon told France's Le Figaro newspaper that he is "very worried" about the prospect of al-Bashir's indictment, but then added, "but nobody can evade justice".

The fear now is that international agencies and particularly the UN/African Union hybrid peacekeeping mission will be targetted in retaliation. However, seven peacekeepers were killed last week in northern Darfur, in an attack that the UN believes bore all the hallmarks of a government-led operation.

In other words, the Sudanese had already trained their guns on the peacekeepers, who first came under government fire in the first week of deployment, in January 2008. Camps hosting Darfur's 2.5+ million people displaced by the violence could be more vulnerable now, however, not least if some of the more politicised groups in the camps organise demonstrations in support of the ICC, and the government reacts.

The UN/AU mission is under-manned and under-resourced, and would struggle to even ensure the security of its own people should the Sudanese up the ante. It seems unlikely, therefore, that the force will have the means or the will to protect Darfurians in the coming weeks, should Sudan's ruling NIF regime react.

Will the charges result in al-Bashir facing trial? The truth is, unless he is deposed, either by the type of coup he himself led in 1989, or by a unified political-military opposition, al-Bashir will almost certainly sidestep justice. For fantasists, the former outcome is most feasible, if only because NIF internal machinations are sufficiently opaque to make second-guessing difficult.

Al-Bashir can now justify increased violence in Darfur, undermining Sudan's democratic transition, which was always in the balance in any case. There was never much incentive for him to hold anything resembling fair elections in 2009, as the NIF could lose a legitimate poll.

Whatever security fallout ensues, it is likely to be regional, with implications for Ireland. A senior Sudanese official said as much to the state news agency Suna after the ICC announcement yesterday.

In the mix are Irish and other European troops, deployed to **Chad** and the Central African Republic to address the human fallout from Darfur's tragedy.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

Leaving aside revenge conspiracies targetting Eufor, the al-Bashir backlash will resonate across the border into **Chad** in any case, given that these conflicts are inextricably linked.

Beijing-backed al-Bashir has wanted rid of French-allied Chadian president Idriss Deby since at least 2005. This outcome would significantly improve al-Bashir's leverage in Darfur, and in turn, in the rest of Sudan.

However, Sudan and **Chad** were de facto at war long before yesterday, supporting each others' rebels.

Sudan's president has friends in high places and can call the ICC's bluff. Fresh from blocking a UN Security Council sanctions resolution against Robert Mugabe, Beijing - which dominates Sudan's oil industry - will likely invoke a clause suspending the ICC proceedings for 12 months, a move that Russia is likely to support.

However, there is some reason for cautious optimism. With ICC judges to spend the next three months considering the merits of prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's case against al-Bashir before deciding on how to proceed, we may see Chinese-induced pledges of co-operation and good behaviour from the president, and an ensuing bout of horse-trading over political negotiations in Sudan, and vis-a-vis the UN/AU force in Darfur.

The NIF has a history of responding to real sticks, even if only to save its own skin, as per the concerted US pressure that led to the 2005 north-south peace deal, when al-Bashir worried that his links to Osama bin Laden could spark American-backed regime change.

Maybe, just maybe, the ICC charges could prompt a volte face by the NIF leadership, not least as patron China will not want adverse publicity in the weeks leading up to its showcase Beijing Olympics.

#### **Fall-out from Sudan indictment.**

15 July 2008

[Irish Times](#)

(c) 2008, The Irish Times.

YESTERDAY'S INDICTMENT of Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir by the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur places the requirements of justice and peace in undoubted tension.

This is the first time a sitting head of state has been indicted, and a decision to go ahead with prosecution must be made by the court itself within three months. Having been utterly frustrated by Sudan's failure to do anything about earlier indictments over Darfur the ICC prosecutor has now gone to the top. But in doing so he risks undermining the larger peace process between the north and south of the country, which would destabilise the entire region.

Sudan is a huge country, straddling political, cultural, religious and strategic divisions within its own boundaries and in the wider African setting between predominantly Arab and African states. For most of its post-independence history it has been at war with itself. The last round of fighting began in 1983 and only finished in 2005 after two million deaths with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the north and south. The Darfur conflict in west Sudan is essentially a part of this conflict, sparked off by demands for autonomy and growing competition for land, water and resources between agricultural and pastoral peoples. It has been a vicious and highly destructive war, killing hundreds of thousands and displacing several millions more, including in neighbouring **Chad**, where Irish troops serve with other EU forces to protect refugee camps.

The question posed acutely by this indictment is whether its substance and timing will affect the larger agreement between north and south on which Sudan's peaceful future depends, or whether that should take second place to the urgent need for justice to be done on Darfur. Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo insists in strong and vivid language that President Bashir must answer for the crimes committed in Darfur. The United Nations Security Council gave him a mandate to investigate Darfur in 2005, but it has been scandalously unsupportive of his efforts to pursue the consequential indictments of two responsible officials, which Sudan has simply ignored. Mr Ocampo obviously hopes to change this by shaming the UN into action.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

Yesterday's reactions to his decision illustrate the conflicting interests at play. African Union representatives warned it could derail the north-south peace agreement, which provides for an independent international boundary commission, national elections next year and a referendum on possible secession or deep federalisation of the south in 2011. The Khartoum regime is in two minds about whether it could survive this process; but most regional states want to give the agreement a chance to succeed and anyway reject such a direct threat to national sovereignty.

Systematic delays and disgraceful indecision have characterised international approaches to Sudan's political future and deployment of humanitarian forces in Darfur. This legal jolt should bring its future to greater international attention and prospective action.

### **European Leaders Urge Sudan to Respect ICC Decision**

14 July 2008

[Deutsche Welle](#)

(c) 2008. Deutsche Welle.

Europe's leaders have called on Sudan to respect the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir on genocide and war crimes charges.

EU Development Commissioner Louis Michel called Monday, July 14, for an "end to the impunity" in Darfur, after an international prosecutor requested an arrest warrant for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Sudan's foreign ministry says it does not recognise the ICC or its decisions.

"It is important to bring an end to the impunity surrounding the crimes" committed in Sudan's Darfur region, he told reporters, noting Khartoum's "flagrant" lack of cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

His remarks came after ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo formally requested an arrest warrant for al-Bashir for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Sudan's conflict-torn Darfur region.

The ICC will take at least several weeks to study the new evidence before deciding whether any warrants should be issued.

If the judges agree to the request, it will mark the first time the ICC has brought charges against a sitting head of state, although such leaders as Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Charles Taylor of Liberia were charged by other UN-established war crimes tribunals while still in office.

"The prosecutor has concluded there are reasonable grounds to believe that Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir bears criminal responsibility in relation to 10 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes," Moreno-Ocampo's statement said.

"...Al-Bashir masterminded and implemented a plan to destroy in substantial part the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa groups, on account of their ethnicity. His motives were largely political. His alibi was a 'counterinsurgency.' His intent was genocide," the prosecutor said.

Moreno-Ocampo also said al-Bashir "obstructs international assistance" and accused him of responsibility for killing and torturing the civilian population of Darfur.

He further stated that he had evidence that al-Bashir "mobilized the entire state apparatus to subject the 2,450,000 people living in camps to conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction."

The EU's Michel said the move to issue an arrest warrant was "obviously a major development, which will clearly have a political impact."

France calls for Sudan to respect international law

Separately, the European Union's French presidency said that the bloc "has taken note of the statements made by the prosecutor of the ICC concerning the crimes committed in Darfur."

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
***Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel***

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

"It is now up to the judges of the pre-trial chamber of the ICC to determine what action they intend to take in response to the request issued by the prosecutor," a statement said. "The European Union recalls that the ICC plays a fundamental role in the promotion of international justice."

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner added that the Sudanese president must respect the decision. "It is a decision of the International Criminal Court and President Bashir must respect it," Kouchner told reporters. "He must take the court recommendations into account, period."

Last month, EU foreign ministers warned that the bloc "stands ready to consider measures against individuals for not cooperating with the ICC" if they flouted the UN Security Council resolution that obliges them to do so.

It came after Moreno-Ocampo called on the UN Security Council to demand that Sudan arrest two Darfur war crimes suspects -- Ahmed Haroun and Ali Kosheib.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown urged Sudan to cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

Speaking at his monthly press conference at his Downing Street office moments before the formal announcement, Brown stressed that the ICC had British support.

Brown said it was too early to comment specifically but added: "We call on the government of Sudan to cooperate with the International Criminal Court."

"The International Criminal Court has our support for its activities," Brown said. "We have raised with the Sudanese government the need to cooperate with the International Criminal Court. The foreign secretary raised this with the Sudanese president on July 9."

Human rights groups welcome decision

Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program director Richard Dicker welcomed the ICC move. "Charging President al-Bashir for the hideous crimes in Darfur shows that no one is above the law. It is the prosecutor's job to follow the evidence wherever it leads, regardless of official position," he said in a statement.

"The prosecutor's filing confirms that the highest authority of the government has been personally involved in planning the mass campaign of violence against the population of Darfur," said Souhayr Belhassen, president of the International Human Rights Federation (FIDH). "We believe that disclosing this evidence and indicting Beshir could contribute to stability in the region."

Iilana Soskin of the Darfur Emergency Collective said she was confident the judges would decide to act against Beshir, saying he was responsible for "ethnic cleansing" in Darfur.

The International Crisis Group, however, was more cautious. "The problem for international policymakers is that the prosecutor's legal strategy also poses major risks for the fragile peace and security environment in Sudan, with a real chance of greatly increasing the suffering of very large numbers of its people," it said in a statement.

UN calls for cooperation and protection for troops

Following the ICC announcement, the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that the UN respected the decision and called on the Sudanese government to cooperate with the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping operation in Sudan's Darfur region, which has been the target of attacks by armed militiamen allegedly with Khartoum's backing.

"The secretary general emphasizes that the ICC is an independent institution and that the United Nations must respect the independence of the judicial process," a UN spokesperson said.

"The United Nations peacekeeping operations in Sudan will continue to conduct their important work in an impartial manner, cooperating in good faith with all partners so as to further the goal of peace and stability in the country," the spokesperson said. "The United Nations will also continue its vital humanitarian and development work there."

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

Sudan promises UN, AU soldiers are safe

There are fears the arrest warrant could lead to attacks on UN peacekeepers in Darfur or the expulsion of Western diplomats, but Information Minister Al-Zahawi Malek said Sudan would guarantee the safety of foreigners.

"As for those who are here in the different diplomatic organizations, we don't think they are going to be under any pressure from the Sudanese citizens. Everything will be secure," The Sudan Tribune quoted him as saying Sunday.

But the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping mission in Darfur, UNAMID, has raised its security alert level to four, meaning that all non-essential personnel are being relocated.

UNAMID -- which has less than 10,000 of the planned 26,000 military personnel in place -- is already struggling to fulfill its peacekeeping role.

Seven peacekeepers died last week following an attack believed to have been carried out by government-backed Janjaweed militia and there are concerns within UN circles that the militia could step up raids and that rebel groups could also be emboldened by the charges.

"People are a little tense and there has been a lot of catastrophic thinking," a source within the UN in Darfur told DPA news agency. "Over the coming days, it is possible the rebel forces, which have been gathering faster than expected, might do something."

However, a few hours after the charges were announced, there appeared to have been little reaction in Darfur.

"Things have been calm. The locals do not seem concerned," the source said, adding that a lot of background diplomacy had been taking place to allow relief and peacekeeping missions to carry on as normal.

Much of the reaction is expected to come in Khartoum, where on several thousand people rallied Sunday in support of al-Bashir.

African Union calls for suspension of warrant

However, the chair of the African Union called for the decision to be suspended. "We would like the ICC to suspend its decision to seek al-Bashir's arrest for a moment until we sort out the primary problems in Darfur and southern Sudan," Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Membe told Reuters, speaking on behalf of Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete who chairs the AU. "We are asking ICC to re-examine its decision."

Membe added that it was "not the right time" to seek Bashir's arrest. "If you arrest al-Bashir, you will create a leadership vacuum in Sudan. The outcome could be equal to that of Iraq. There would be an increase in anarchy; there would be an increase in civil war. Fighting between **Chad** and Sudan would increase," he said.



### **France urges Sudan's Beshir to 'respect' ICC decisions**

14 July 2008

[Agence France Presse](#)

Copyright Agence France-Presse, 2008 All reproduction and presentation rights reserved.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner urged Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir Monday to "respect" the decisions of the UN war crimes court, after its chief prosecutor applied for an arrest warrant on genocide charges.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

"It is a decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) that President al-Beshir must respect. He must take the court recommendations into account, period," Kouchner told reporters following talks with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in Paris.

His remarks came after ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo formally requested an arrest warrant for al-Beshir for genocide, crimes against humanity and warcrimes in Sudan's conflict-torn Darfur region.

Asked whether France would support the ICC whatever the repercussions on the search for a political settlement in Darfur, he replied: "We know what the possible consequences are, but we are supporters of this international court."

"We know that it is not possible to protest against its decisions," Kouchner added.

Ban earlier urged Khartoum to guarantee the safety of UN peacekeepers.

"I hope that the Sudanese government will address this issue wisely and with a full cooperation with the UN," he told reporters in Paris.

"The International Criminal Court is an independent judiciary organ," he stressed, repeating his call for the Sudanese government to "do anything possible under their authority for the safety and security of UN peacekeepers and premises, and all international humanitarian workers."

France has provided 2,100 of the 3,500 troops of a European peacekeeping force deployed in eastern **Chad**, over the border from Darfur, aimed at protecting Sudanese refugees.



#### **Sudan terms Chadian accusations as "fishing in troubled water"**

14 July 2008

[BBC Monitoring Newsfile](#)

(c) 2008 The British Broadcasting Corporation. All Rights Reserved. No material may be reproduced except with the express permission of The British Broadcasting Corporation.

Text of report in English by UN sponsored Radio Miraya FM website, on 14 July

Monday, 14 July 2008: The Foreign Ministry has denied Chadian accusations of violating its airspace. The Spokesman of the ministry, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadiq described the Chadian accusations as "fishing in troubled water."

**Chad** accused Sudan of violating its airspace by flying over a Chadian town on the border with Sudan and said it will not tolerate any further violation of its territory.

Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Hissene said in a statement that "Sudan's air force has multiplied flights over ... Bahay, in **Chad**, over the last few days."

He added that **Chad** will not tolerate any further violation of its airspace.

The statement pointed out that steps had been taken to inform the U.N. Security Council and the African Union.

#### **Q&A-CHAD: U.N. URGES REFUGEES TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN FOOD**

By David Axe

[Inter Press Service](#)

(c) 2008 Global Information Network

GORE, **Chad**, Jul. 12, 2008 (IPS/GIN) -- United Nations-administered agriculture programs have reduced external food assistance to a minimum in the five years since camps for Central African refugees were established in Southern **Chad**.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

Since 2006, Boubacar Amadou, a 62-year-old **Chad** native, has overseen a portfolio of food self-sufficiency programs for more than 20,000 Central African refugees in the Chadian city of Gore.

The refugees -- who are among the 60,000 who fled fighting in the Central African Republic beginning in 2003 -- must often compete with local residents for access to limited land for farming and grazing cattle.

IPS asked Amadou to talk more about his work and his hopes for the area's refugees.

IPS: What does "food self-sufficiency" mean in the context of a refugee camp?

Boubacar Amadou: Right now the World Food Program gives refugees in Gore some of their food -- around 90 kilograms per person, per year, on average. [Overall, the program meets around half of the Gore refugees' food needs.] But it's necessary, in the long term, that they produce what they need on their own. Thus we sponsor agricultural, animal husbandry and other income-generating activities, so they can feed themselves. We want to help lead them there.

What we do is prepare the people for a degree of integration into the local economy. It's a durable solution to their food needs. Obviously, the best solution to a refugee's needs is repatriation. But the next best thing is integration. That's possible for certain refugees but not all. Some are too traumatized by their experiences in the Central African Republic. Integration is especially possible here in Gore because there is a lot of intermarriage between the refugees and the local population.

But integration requires sufficient land and sufficient tools, and all of those things are expensive.

IPS: You have different programs for farmers and herders, right?

BA: Yes. The farmers, they need research. They have very little land -- less than 1.5 hectares apiece - - so they need the best methods and the best tools. But there's not enough of anything. The refugee farmers came here with nothing, so it has been necessary to cover them, especially in the beginning, and particularly as far as seeds are concerned. [The U.N.] and our partner Africare give them seeds.

Every year we draw up an agriculture plan and discuss it with the farmers. For example, we found that each worker on a farm needs his own hoe. So we make a budget and give it to the U.N. refugee office. Now, [the U.N.] has a lot of refugees to take care of - 250,000 in the east - so there's never enough to go around. But the World Food Program contributes, and Africare does, too -- they have some big American donors. We got around \$1 million from the U.N. refugee office last year. One thousand dollars can set up the cultivation of 10 hectares.

The toughest thing for farmers' self-sufficiency is access to land. Really, each family needs 2.5 hectares. Right now the average in Gore is just 1.3 hectares. So we have tried to introduce better production systems.

For instance, we're trying to introduce the farmers to "rest crops," to take better advantage of the land. Many refugees grow rice, but it requires lots of fertilizer and depletes the land, so you need rest crops between rice harvests that can restore the land. Also, we've introduced "kitchen gardens" for growing small batches of vegetables. The refugees love these.

If you ask me, it's not just about the quantity of land -- it's about the methods of production. You can get more out of land if you use good processes. With the right methods, you can be self-sufficient.

Still, we continue to negotiate with the Chadian government for more land for the refugees. We never quit negotiating.

Finally, we've begun offering credit to farmers and small retailers. One refugee used credit from [the U.N. refugee office] to finance a tea house. Some farmers finance tools. They have to pay us back, of course, but they have plenty of time -- more than a year for tools, for instance. We want them to benefit for a while before repaying. And you have to wait until the harvest, in the fall for most crops, for the farmers to have any money anyways. And if you haven't got any land, you can set up a business, like the tea house, and make money that way. With this money, you can buy food, so it's another form of food self-sufficiency.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
***Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel***

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

For herders, the biggest priority is veterinary care. That care includes vaccinations. There are epidemic sicknesses here that can be prevented by twice-annual vaccinations in July and October. Without the vaccinations, the mortality for herd animals is around 20 percent annually. With vaccinations, it's just 2 or 3 percent. The refugee herders understand that they need the vaccinations -- and it's totally free.

We vaccinate the refugees' animals and some of the animals of the surrounding villages. But beyond the vaccinations, there are other maladies -- intestinal, for instance -- plus injuries. So the animals still need additional care. But as far as herding goes, the route to self-sufficiency is simple and fairly cheap. We're beginning to improve the animals' feed, too, but that program hasn't started yet.

IPS: Is there a risk that refugees, once they've become integrated into the Chadian economy, won't ever want to leave?

BA: There's no risk. You can't love any other country more than your own. There are some refugees who could stay -- who are too traumatized, who saw too many killed. For them the Central African Republic is finished. But the others want to leave. And when they leave, they will take with them the methods they've learned here. Those who stay, they can integrate with the local population. The vast majority will return, because they're attached to their country.



### **Interview with volunteer food and environmental security manager in Chad**

14 July 2008

[NoticiasFinancieras](#)

Copyright 2008 NoticiasFinancieras. All Rights Reserved.

Since 2006, Boubacar Amadou, a 62-year-old **Chad** native, has overseen a portfolio of food self-sufficiency programs for more than 20,000 Central African refugees in Gore. The refugees here are among 60,000 who fled fighting in the Central African Republic beginning in 2003.

But the refugees compete with local residents for access to limited land for farming and grazing cattle.

IPS reporter David Axe spoke to Amadou at the UNHCR office in Gore about his work and his hopes for the area's refugees.

IPS: What does 'food self-sufficiency' mean in the context of a refugee camp?

Boubacar Amadou: Right now the World Food Program gives refugees in Gore some of their food -- around 90 kilograms per person, per year, on average. (Overall, WFP meets around half of the Gore refugees' food needs.) But it's necessary, in the long term, that they produce what they need on their own. Thus we sponsor agricultural, animal husbandry and other income-generating activities, so they can feed themselves. We want to help lead them there.

What we do is prepare the people for a degree of integration into the local economy. It's a durable solution to their food needs. Obviously, the best solution to a refugee's needs is repatriation. But the next best thing is integration. That's possible for certain refugees, but not all. Some are too traumatized by their experiences in the Central African Republic. Integration is especially possible here in Gore because there is a lot of intermarriage between the refugees and the local population.

But integration requires sufficient land and sufficient tools -- and all of those things are expensive.

IPS: You have different programs for farmers and herders, right?

BA: Yes. The farmers, they need research. They have very little land, less than 1.5 hectares apiece, so they need the best methods and the best tools. But there's not enough of anything. The refugee farmers came here with nothing, so it has been necessary to cover them, especially in the beginning, and particularly as far as seeds are concerned. HCR and our partner Africare give them seeds.

Every year we draw up an agriculture plan and discuss it with the farmers. For example, we found that each worker on a farm needs his own hoe. So we make a budget and give it to UNHCR. Now, UNHCR

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**

Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034

has a lot of refugees to take care of – 250,000 in the east – so there's never enough to go around. But WFP contributes, and Africare does, too – they have some big American donors. We got around \$1 million from UNHCR last year. One thousand dollars can set up the cultivation of 10 hectares.

The toughest thing for farmers' self-sufficiency is access to land. Really, each family needs 2.5 hectares. Right now the average in Gore is just 1.3 hectares. So we have tried to introduce better production systems.

For instance, we're trying to introduce the farmers to 'rest crops,' to take better advantage of the land. Many refugees grow rice, but it requires lots of fertiliser and depletes the land, so you need rest crops between rice harvests that can restore the land. Also, we've introduced 'kitchen gardens' for growing small batches of vegetables. The refugees love these.

If you ask me, it's not just about the quantity of land. It's about the methods of production. You can get more out of land if you use good processes. With the right methods, you can be self-sufficient.

Still, we continue to negotiate with the Chadian government for more land for the refugees. We never quit negotiating.

Finally, we've begun offering credit to farmers and small retailers. One refugee used credit from UNHCR to finance a tea house. Some farmers finance tools. They have to pay us back, of course, but they have plenty of time -- more than a year for tools, for instance. We want them to benefit for a while before repaying. And you have to wait until the harvest, in the fall for most crops, for the farmers to have any money anyways. And if you haven't got any land, you can set up a business, like the tea house, and make money that way. With this money, you can buy food, so it's another form of food self-sufficiency.

For herders, the biggest priority is veterinary care. That care includes vaccinations. There are epidemic sicknesses here that can be prevented by twice-annual vaccinations in July and October. Without the vaccinations, the mortality for herd animals is around 20 percent annually. With vaccinations, it's just 2 or 3 percent. The refugee herders understand that they need the vaccinations -- and it's totally free.

We vaccinate the refugees' animals and some of the animals of the surrounding villages. But beyond the vaccinations, there are other maladies -- intestinal, for instance -- plus injuries. So the animals still need additional care. But as far as herding goes, the route to self-sufficiency is simple? and fairly cheap. We're beginning to improve the animals' feed, too, but that program hasn't started yet.

IPS: Is there a risk that refugees, once they've become integrated into the Chadian economy, won't ever want to leave?

BA: There's no risk. You can't love any other country more than your own. There are some refugees who could stay – who are too traumatized, who saw too many killed. For them the Central African Republic is finished. But the others want to leave. And when they leave, they will take with them the methods they've learned here. Those who stay, they can integrate with the local population. The vast majority will return, because they're attached to their country.

**For your information only - Not an official document**  
**Seulement pour votre information – Document non officiel**

**Penangnini TOURE, Spokesperson/ Porte-parole**  
Email: [tourep@un.org](mailto:tourep@un.org) – Intermission: 194 6353 – Mobile: +235 690 0034