

Darfur Awareness

The Newsletter of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.

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Darfur Awareness is published every two months by the board of directors of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project Inc. (DRP).

The DRP is a non-profit organization with Offices at 76 Prospect Street, Newark, New Jersey 07160
For more information contact:
Tel: 973-395-0171
Email: drp@darfurrehab.org

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Welcome to the first issue of the Darfur Awareness Newsletter. The Darfur Awareness Newsletter aims at providing information and raising awareness about the ongoing Genocide in the Darfur region of the Republic of the Sudan.

The situation in Darfur has been described by various UN agencies as the worst humanitarian crisis of our time.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan recently called Darfur "hell on earth."

Slaughter, rape, burning, and pillaging are daily occurrences in Darfur.



AfroNetizen – Map

- Since February 2003 more than 300,000 lives have been lost.
- 2.2 million people were violently displaced and made refugees.
- It is the policy of the current government of Sudan to force members of the African tribes of Darfur out of their homeland.

After two years of murder, rape and other brutalities, the atrocities in Darfur are still continuing and the international community has yet to stop the Darfur Genocide.



What the United Nations investigators said about the atrocities in Darfur

In October 2004, the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, acting under a mandate of the Security Council, established an International Commission of Inquiry in order to investigate human rights violations in Darfur, and determine also whether or not acts of genocide have occurred.

After three months of investigation, the Commission submitted a report on its findings to the Secretary-General on 25 January 2005. The commission reported that it had found a pattern of mass killings and forced displacement of civilians. On page 3 of the report the commission stated the following:

“Based on a thorough analysis of the information gathered in the course of its investigations, the Commission established that the Government of the Sudan and the Janjaweed are responsible for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law amounting to crimes under international law. In particular, the Commission found that Government forces and militias conducted indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging and forced displacement, throughout Darfur.”

The violence in Darfur started in February 2003. Since then acts of violence were conducted on a widespread and systematic basis.

The Commission concluded that such acts amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In fact such acts continued even while the UN investigators were in the country gathering evidence of them. The Government of Sudan claimed that its acts were

“The extensive destruction and displacement have resulted in a loss of livelihood and means of survival for countless women men and children.”

Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur

Jan. 25, 2005, page 3

only directed to outlawed groups, the rebels who took arms against it in 2003. The Commission dismissed the government claims and stated in the report that “most attacks were deliberately and indiscriminately directed against civilians.” The majority of the victims of the violations have been members of the Fur, Zaghawa, Massalit, Jebel, Aranga and other African tribes of Darfur.

The Commission said it had identified a number of people, including senior government officials and commanders, rebel fighters, militiamen, army officers and others linked to crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Even though the Commission believed that the atrocities committed in Darfur do not amount to a policy of genocide, nonetheless, the Commission went on to say that it recognizes that in some instances, individuals -- including Sudanese government officials -- "may commit acts with genocidal intent."

The Commission said that its finding that genocide had not been committed "should not be taken in any way as detracting from the gravity of the crimes perpetrated in that region," and that "international offenses such as the crimes against humanity and war crimes that have been committed in Darfur may be no less serious and heinous than genocide."

The report concluded that the crimes committed in Darfur should be sent to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.

The Commission declared that it "strongly recommends that the Security Council should refer the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court." It said the crimes in Darfur met the jurisdictional terms of the 1998 treaty which created the court.

The report found that Arab **Janjaweed** militias in Darfur were "**acting under the authority with the support complicity or tolerance of the Sudanese State authorities.**"

*Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur
Jan. 25, 2005, pages 31-32*

Read the full report on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/News/dh/sudan/com_inq_darfur.pdf

Sudan's National Security and Intelligence Service had a central role and "is responsible for the design, planning and implementation of policies associated with the conflict."

*Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur
Jan. 25, 2005, page 27*

Why has the international community failed to end the Genocide in Darfur?

From the mounting media reporting and extensive documentary evidence gathered by human rights groups and other agencies, the situation in Darfur cannot be described other than as Genocide unfolding. The US House of Representatives, The US Senate and the US State Department were correct in coming to this conclusion. The United Nations, representing the international community, admits in its report (cited in this newsletter) that the widespread and systematic crimes against civilians in Darfur “cannot be less serious and heinous than genocide.”

Everyone who comes to know about the atrocities in Darfur should be compelled to act. But the international community at large has failed to stop the Genocide and other crimes against humanity. Admittedly, the response of non-governmental organizations and other agencies, including the World Food Programme, in terms of humanitarian relief in Darfur and in refugee camps in Chad has been admirable.

The failure to stop the Genocide in Darfur should give pause to those of us who are very passionate about human dignity. Thus, we ask why the international community has betrayed the core essence of human life in Darfur?!!



*One of the hundreds of burned out villages in Sudan's Darfur region.
(AP Photo-WFP-Markus Prior)*

The United Nations Security Council has offered no significant explanations as to why, other than empty promises and empty threats directed to the Sudanese authorities.

We in the Darfur Rehabilitation Project believe that efforts to have the UN Security Council take action to end the Genocide in Darfur are being hindered by the positions of two permanent members of the Council, namely China and the Russia Federation. China and Russia have economic and military interests that rely on the stability of the government in Sudan, and therefore any resolution containing sanctions or possible intervention in Darfur would be vetoed. China in particular has a keen interest in Sudan's oil industry, and has been the major partner sharing oil revenues with the government of Sudan.

The government of Sudan then uses the oil money to buy weapons from the Russian Federation. Russia is a major arms supplier to the Government of Sudan. So far China and Russia have put their financial interests ahead of ending the death of tens of thousands of civilians in Darfur. Meanwhile, according to the World Health Organization up to 10,000 people die each month in Darfur.

What do we say to the victims in Darfur? That the international community, ten years after the Rwandan genocide, doesn't know what to do?!!



Hasn't the world learned from the Rwandan genocide!! (AP photo)

If the international community does not act in Darfur, where will it act? If it will not act now, when will it act?

The final acts in Darfur atrocities are yet to be written. But enough has already been told and found, to conclude that the international community has failed to deliver on the promises made in the wake of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 that it will “never again” waver in the face of genocide.

Members of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project meet with the Government of Sudan's delegation to the United Nations

On February 8, 2005 the First Vice President Ali Osman Taha and a government of Sudan delegation visited the United Nations Security Council session on peace in Sudan.

The members of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project (DRP) organized and participated in a rally across from the United Nations on that day protesting the policies of the government of Sudan in Darfur.

DRP members and the government of Sudan's delegation held a meeting in the UN Plaza Hotel in New York on February 9, 2005. During the meeting the parties discussed the current situation in Darfur and the depth of the humanitarian crisis.

DRP members insisted on beginning the discussion with consideration of the root causes of the crisis as a point of departure. The government delegates preferred to talk about the future and downplayed the past and the present aspects of the crisis. DRP members expressed their view that without genuinely addressing the roots of the crisis, progress toward resolving it would not be possible. However, a senior government official eventually admitted that the government had called on the Arab tribes of Darfur to assist in fighting rebel groups. As is well known, the Arab militias that were armed, equipped and backed by government air power went on to destroy hundreds of villages populated by African tribes throughout the Darfur region.

During the meeting some of the delegates, particularly Sudan's ambassador in Washington, expressed their view that the meeting was a positive and important step toward a genuine dialogue.

Unfortunately, diversionary tactics were then employed by some of the delegates when they asserted that foreign influences are to blame for the crisis. They stated that Jewish and Christian organizations were working to inflame the crisis. Furthermore, they accused non-governmental organizations of creating a business venue from the crisis -- saying that for them it's a big business.

DRP members refused to be diverted by such tactics and expressed their resentment at the utilization of such outrageous rhetoric when the Darfur tragedy could easily be ended if the government of the Sudan had the will to achieve this goal.

The meeting ended with an agreement that there would be further dialogue. However, the position of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project has been and continues to be that thus far the government of Sudan has not been at all trustworthy in bringing justice to the African tribes of Darfur.

DRP Warmly Welcomes its New Board Members

Prof. Robert Manley
Director Barkley Calkins

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For comments email:
drp@darfurrehab.org

Professor Robert Manley

Bob Manley is a professor emeritus with Seton Hall University where he served as chairperson of the Department of Political Science and as a founder of the Center for Public Service and the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

- From 1957 to 1959 he served with CARE in its programs in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Macau, Sri Lanka and Ecuador.
- He served as a U. S. Air Force Judge Advocate and in U. S. Navy officer training programs.
- He is a graduate of Colgate University, Cornell Law School, The Littauer School (now the John F. Kennedy School of Government) at Harvard University and the Graduate School of Public Affairs (now Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Public Policy) at the State University of New York at Albany.
- He studied at the Hague Academy of International Law under a grant from the Academy and at the University of Manchester in England on a Rotary Foundation Fellowship.
- He taught at the University Of Ghana Department Of Political Science as a Fulbright Scholar.

A member of the New York and New Jersey bars, he is founder and president of the International Public Policy Institute, a non-governmental organization established in 1975, which has consultative status with the United Nations.

Director Barkley Calkins

Barkley Calkins is the Director of the Nonprofit Sector Resource Institute, a funded arm of Seton Hall University's Center for Public Service. Prior to coming to Seton Hall, Mr. Calkins:

- Had a distinguished 25 year career with J. P. Morgan and Company in New York and London, during which he managed investment portfolios for individuals and institutions; provided financial analytical services for the bank and its corporate clients; and managed the bank's charitable contributions in the fields of international affairs and health care;
- Provided management consulting services, primarily to nonprofit organizations and foundations; and
- Directed the New Jersey program for the National Executive Service Corps, a nonprofit consulting organization that uses experienced executives, primarily from the management ranks of business, to provide consulting services to other nonprofits.

A graduate of Amherst College, Mr. Calkins was a decorated Marine Corps officer and pilot. He is currently in training to become a hospital chaplain. He is regularly involved in civic and volunteer activities.

Upcoming Events

100 Hours of Conscience - Voices to End the Violence in Darfur. March 17, 18, 19, and 20, contact www.savedarfur.org.
Wake Up Wall Street Rally, March 28, 8 am to 2 pm, at the New York Stock Exchange, contact Mark Crane at: mark@fightordie.org
Teens for Peace Rally in front of the Embassy of Sudan, April 15, 2005 at 4:00 pm.

Upcoming DRP Publication Will Recap Developments Since February 2003

The Darfur Rehabilitation Project will issue in the near future a publication recapping especially important developments regarding Darfur since February 2003.

Raising Public Awareness Mission of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project

As an organization concerned with the state of affairs in the crisis-torn Darfur region, DRP's mission is to keep public forums and gatherings informed about the atrocities in Darfur. Our staff and volunteers continuously work to educate the general public about the ongoing genocide in Darfur.



Knowing that it takes many people and many organizations to maximize commitment, DRP works together with various coalitions and institutions where the Darfur Crisis is being addressed.

Yahya Osman (at right), DRP Secretary General, in a one-on-one discussion about the situation in Darfur at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Among the institutions where DRP has participated in briefings and discussions are: Harvard Law School; Columbia University; University of Maryland, Seton Hall University; United Nations Association; the Newark Coalition to End Genocide in Darfur.

As a public resource, we maintain significant information and up to date news on Darfur. Complementing that, we have a comprehensive website entirely devoted to the Crisis in Darfur. Visit us at www.darfurrehab.org

Adil Khamis, DRP Director of Humanitarian Affairs, with a group of students and faculty at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.



A major focus of our work includes educating the public, lobbying for policies, documenting and reporting incidents. We do this through workshops, seminars, conferences, public speaking, distribution of materials, and creating print and other media.