

# Darfur Awareness

The Newsletter of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.

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In our March/April issue of Darfur Awareness we called upon the public to support the 'Darfur Accountability Act' that was introduced in both houses of the US Congress in March 2005. The Act is a bi-partisan legislation calling for U.S. and international action to end the genocide in Darfur. Since then, the Darfur Accountability Act passed the Senate as part of the supplemental appropriations bill on April 22, 2005. The House version of the Act faced tremendous difficulties to move for vote; finally the Act did not pass in the House. While we thank all those who supported the Darfur Accountability Act, we also express our regret that the Bush Administration



*Osman Ali Jami  
Vice-President Darfur Rehabilitation Project*

did everything possible to kill the Darfur Accountability Act, and thus, preventing real actions against an ongoing Genocide. We in the Darfur Rehabilitation Project regard the Darfur Accountability Act as the most viable legislation that would help put an end to the ongoing Genocide in Darfur; the attempt to block it or downplay its importance, is an unfortunate judgment of poor reasoning.

*Osman Ali Jami  
Vice-President Darfur Rehabilitation Project Inc.*

*Why the White House led the effort to block the Darfur Accountability Act?...Read about this topic on page 2...*



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## Why the White House blocked the Darfur Accountability Act?

When Senator Jon Corzine and Senator Sam Brownback introduced the ‘Darfur Accountability Act of 2005’, they were convinced that the Act will resonate well with those who have passion about human suffering. Indeed, they were right, the Darfur Accountability Act passed unanimously in the Senate as part of the Iraq-Afghanistan emergency supplemental appropriations bill. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Donald Payne championed the House version – ‘the Darfur Genocide Accountability Act’ of 2005. Both the Senate and the House versions of the ‘Darfur Accountability Act’ call for an urgent actions to stop the killings in Darfur. These actions include the expansion of the African Union force on the ground; the establishment of a military no-fly zone over Darfur to stop the Sudanese government from bombing villages; the imposition of UN targeted sanctions against the Governemnt of Sudan; and the freezing of the assets of those responsible for the crimes in Darfur. Despite the soundness of this legislation in the face of an ongoing Genocide, when the Darfur Accountability Act reached the House of Representatives, the Bush administration decided to block it.

*Why the White House led the effort to block the Darfur Accountability Act?*

To answer this question we decided to pass to our readers the analysis of Nicholas Kristof of the The New York Times, who has been constantly reporting on Darfur since the outbreak of the Darfur tragedy in February of 2003.

In his article “**Nicholas D. Kristof: Day 114 of Bush's silence**” in The New York Times, May 4, 2005, Mr. Kristof stated: “*The White House was roused from its stupor of indifference on Darfur to send a letter, a copy of which I have in my hand, to congressional leaders, instructing them to delete provisions about Darfur from the legislation.*” In fact after pressure from the White House, including the letter mentioned by Kristof, the Darfur Accountability provisions were dropped from a larger bill called the wartime supplemental bill. The letter which obtained by Kristof and other sources was sent on April 25 from the White House’s Office of Management and Budget to House Appropriations Chairman Jerry Lewis, expressing the administration’s desire to strike the Darfur Accountability Act from the supplemental bill. The Bush administration no longer seems willing to put pressure on the regime in Khartoum over Darfur.

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Kristof credits Bush's earlier attention to the Darfur massacres with saving hundreds of thousands of lives and forthrightly calling the slaughter genocide. But then he asks:

*“So why is Bush so reluctant to do a bit more and save perhaps several hundred thousand more lives? I sense that there are three reasons.*

***First,** Bush doesn't see any neat solution, and he's mindful that his father went into Somalia for humanitarian reasons and ended up with a mess.*

***Second,** Bush is very proud-- justly-- that he helped secure peace in a separate war between northern and southern Sudan. That peace is very fragile, and he is concerned that pressuring Sudan on Darfur might disrupt that peace while doing little more than emboldening the Darfur rebels (some of them cutthroats who aren't negotiating seriously).*

***Third,** Sudan's leaders have increased their cooperation with the CIA... the CIA recently flew Sudan's intelligence chief to Washington for consultations about the war on terror, and the White House doesn't want to jeopardize that channel.*

*All three concerns are legitimate. But when historians look back on his presidency, they are going to focus on Bush's fiddling as hundreds of thousands of people were killed, raped or mutilated in Darfur-- and if the situation worsens, the final toll could reach a million dead.”*

Bill Clinton, other world leaders and Secretary General Kofi Annan up to this day are apologizing for their passivity in the face of the Rwandan Genocide eleven years ago. Today, Darfur is burning and its civilians are being massacred in hundreds of thousands; does Bush for whatever “political” or “practical” reasons really want to repeat the moral failure of his predecessors?!!

**“Bush might reflect on a saying of President Kennedy:  
"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a  
period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality."**

*Nicholas D. Kristof The New York Times  
MAY 4, 2005*

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## Sudan's secret relations with the CIA: Why the Bush Administration went soft on Sudanese Dictators?

Flash back to the White House stance on the atrocities committed in Darfur, there was Secretary of State Colin Powell testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee saying: "we concluded - I concluded - that genocide has been committed in Darfur, and that the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility, and that genocide may still be occurring." That was Colin Powell on September 9 of 2004. For those of us who -early on- understood the nature of crimes being committed in Darfur have hoped for real actions following Powell's announcement. Unfortunately, little has been done to pressure the Government in Khartoum to stop its campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Darfur. On the contrary, the Regime in Khartoum is enjoying a cozy relationship with the Bush Administration. We wonder why is that!! Well, the Los Angeles Times on April 29, 2005 revealed the secret of US weak policy towards the genocide in Darfur. Ken Silverstein, reporter for the Los Angeles Times laid out the secret relationship between the Government of Omer Albashir and the CIA. In his article "Official Pariah Sudan Valuable to America's War on Terrorism", Silverstein stated: *"The Bush administration has forged a close intelligence partnership with the Islamic regime that once welcomed Osama bin Laden here, even though Sudan continues to come under harsh U.S. and international criticism for human rights violations."*

Silverstein further stated: *"The warming relationship has produced significant results, according to interviews with American and Sudanese intelligence and government officials. They disclosed, for example, that:*

**Sudan has "given us specific information that is ... important, functional and current," Sudan's Mukhabarat could become a "top tier" partner of the CIA."**

*Said a senior State Department official*

- *Sudan's Mukhabarat, its version of the CIA, has detained Al Qaeda suspects for interrogation by U.S. agents.*
  - *The Sudanese intelligence agency has seized and turned over to the FBI evidence recovered in raids on suspected terrorists' homes, including fake passports.*
  - *Sudan has expelled extremists, putting them into the hands of Arab intelligence agencies working closely with the CIA.*
  - *The regime is credited with foiling attacks against American targets by, among other things, detaining foreign militants moving through Sudan on their way to join forces with Iraqi insurgents."*
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In April, 2005 the CIA sent an executive jet to Sudan to ferry the chief of Sudan's intelligence agency Major General Salah Abdallah Gosh to Washington for secret meetings sealing Khartoum's sensitive and previously veiled partnership with the Bush Administration.

General Salah Gosh is well known in Darfur for he is one of the masterminds of the genocide in Darfur. General Gosh and other senior Sudanese officials are responsible of directing military attacks against civilians in Darfur and creating the Janjaweed militias.

**"We have a strong partnership with the CIA. The information we have provided has been very useful to the United States."**

*Gen. Salah Abdallah Gosh, Sudan's Intelligence chief*

Today, as stated in the LA Times article "Gosh is keeping in contact with the office of CIA Director Porter J. Goss and senior agency officials."

On April 30, 2005, the Guardian Newspaper reported that in the Middle East and Africa, Sudan's agents have penetrated networks that would not normally be accessible to America. Sudanese agents have also helped the CIA to monitor Islamist organizations in Somalia.

**"The intelligence relationship is the strongest thread between Washington and Khartoum,...Khartoum is probably the only government in the Arab League that has contributed in a major way to the protection of US forces and citizens in Iraq."**

*US intelligence official told the Guardian*

Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail acknowledged in an interview that the Mukhabarat already has served as the eyes and ears of the CIA in Somalia.

We think the opportunistic behavior of the Sudanese government in the co-called "cooperation in the war on terror" to get off-the-hook while terrorizing its on citizens is a disgrace to human dignity. We hope that the US

understands that an exchange for temporary intelligence does not worth the loss of 400,000 lives of innocent civilians.

We wish the recent history of inaction in a face of genocide will not repeat itself. The Bush Administration will risk repeating in Darfur what Clinton's Administration ignored in Rwanda.

**Sudan's extensive cooperation with the U.S. has been noted in the State Department's annual reports on terrorism. The latest report said Sudan's assistance had "produced significant progress in combating terrorist activity."**

*Los Angeles Times, April 29, 2005*

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## **Darfur Rehabilitation Project calls for a forum in peace building and reconciliation**

The mission of DRP is to unify the voice of Darfurians everywhere in order to bring increased international attention to the genocide and other human rights violations there; to advocate for justice for war crimes; and, in collaboration with other individuals and organizations that share the same values, to foster the advancement of the people of the region through education, advocacy, direct services, and research.

**DRP** is working earnestly to transform the existing situation by mobilizing the Darfur Traditional & Tribal Leaders, International Community, Darfurians in the Diaspora, and Sudanese people wherever they may be towards this cause. In this context DRP is proposing a Reconciliation and Peace Building Forum with three discrete parts, through which DRP will facilitate the communication of Darfurian traditional, tribal and factions leadership, as well as civil society and academia about the institutionalized mechanisms for reconciliation and peace building and promote partnership for peaceful co-existence.

The establishment of peace in Darfur is of vital importance, not only for its own inhabitants, but also nationally, regionally, and globally; and here Darfur situation is not different from that of the southern Sudan. With the involvement of the government in the current war in Darfur, siding with some groups against others, it shattered all the bases of peaceful co-existence among Darfurians, and even raises the question of allegiance to the Sudanese state.

**DRP has as ultimate goals (1)** the promotion of peace and security, **(2)** being an advocate for the right of all Darfur people to coexist peacefully, DRP will accomplish this through the development and application of Darfurian leadership reconciliation mechanisms, by functioning as a facilitator of the peace building activities on the ground.



*Elnour Adam  
DRP Projects Director*

The forum aims to promote workable relationship that can cut across ethnic, social, and political barriers and achieve the overall goal of comprehensive reconciliation and begin the process of constructively transforming Darfur from a culture of conflict to a society at peace; Hence we look to create strong Darfurian leadership to stop the carnage in Darfur. It is a critical first step to bringing peace and stability to this troubled region.

### **Participants**

The proposal seeks to host 500 - 700 Darfurians, traditional, tribal and warring faction's leadership, as well as civil society, academia including the Diaspora. The purpose of the forum will be to develop a set of mechanisms that these leaders can take back to Darfur, to respond to existing and evolving conflicts that take place between members of the diverse, Darfurian tribal groups.

### **Forum Components**

- I. International Resource Consultative Committee.
  - II. Preparation and Development of mechanisms and materials.
  - III. Venue selection and Identification of Participants.
  - IV. Reconciliation and Peace Building Activities.
  - V. Post Conference -Pre Intervention Technical Assistance.
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## DRP proudly congratulates Jill Johnson on her graduation

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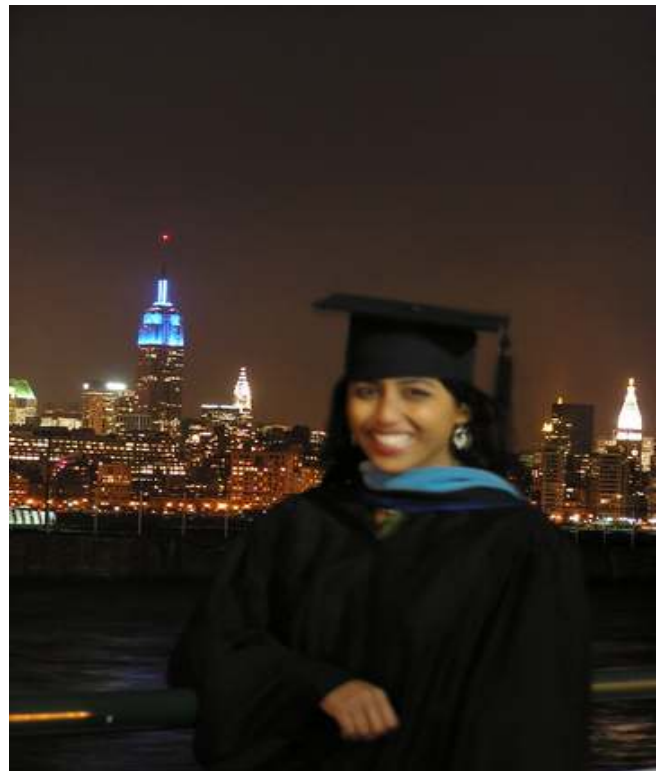
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DRP members express their heartfelt *congratulations* to Jill Johnson on her recent graduation from Seton Hall University. Jill earned Dual Master degree in Communication and International Relations. When Jill joined the DRP team as a volunteer, she was still working on her degrees. She worked day and night, taking five courses a semester and still was able to assist in the organization's work; she attended Board meetings, participated in public awareness forums, and took on the task of updating and maintaining the DRP's website. While she is ready to embark on her future career, Jill made a commitment to assist the people of Darfur until the Crisis is over.



Jill Johnson attending a high-level meeting between DRP and the office of UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Tuliameni Kalomoh (at center), on April 28, 2005 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

### Upcoming Events

**Long Walk for Darfur** - raising awareness through endurance in a trek from one end of Long Island to the other, at 7:30 am on Saturday, 28 May 2005, contact Tim Cavaretta at: [LongWalkForDarfur@gmail.com](mailto:LongWalkForDarfur@gmail.com)

**100 Days of Action campaign**, April 6, 2005 to July 16, 2005, for more info email: [<info@genocideinterventionfund.org>](mailto:info@genocideinterventionfund.org)

### Upcoming DRP Publication 'The Darfur Reader' An inside factual analysis on Darfur

The Darfur Rehabilitation Project will issue in the near future a publication entitled 'The Darfur Reader' that will detail the events surrounding the crisis in Darfur since February 2003.

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## Raising Public Awareness Mission of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project

Every month DRP is engaged in several activities that help to generate increased public awareness about the situation in Darfur. We learned from various reports of human rights organization working in Darfur, and from our won sources on the ground in the three Darfur provinces that violence, torture, and raping of women are still taking place around big cities and in and around refugee camps. Just during the month of May several abandoned villages have been burned again by the Janjaweed and government forces. This is a senseless



tactics aimed at warning displaced persons of ever thinking to return to their lands. We encourage the public to mobilize, rally, and send letters to policy makers and the media to unravel the truth about Darfur atrocities.

*At Seton Hall University students, faculty, administrators, and community members engaged in serious discussion about the situation in Darfur. Prof. Robert Manley, DRP board member chaired the meeting.*

DRP has participated in briefings and discussions at Congressional Black Caucus in Washington DC on April 6, 2005.

*Adel Khamis,  
Osman Jami and  
Ishag Ahmad,  
DRP Board  
members among  
participants.*



We are willing to come to speak at your schools, community outfits, and public gatherings educating the public about the crisis in Darfur. Contact us: tel: 973-274-9424; fax: 973-274-9426; email: [drp@darfurrehab.org](mailto:drp@darfurrehab.org)