

SUDAN:DARFUROVERVIEW

The Museum has issued a Genocide Emergency for Darfur.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been murdered and thousands of women raped in Sudan's western region of Darfur by Sudanese government soldiers and members of the government-supported militia sometimes referred to as the Janjaweed. Over 1.5 million civilians have been driven from their homes, their villages torched and their property stolen by the Sudanese military and allied militia. Some have escaped into the neighboring country of Chad, but most are trapped inside Darfur. Thousands die each month from the effects of inadequate food, water, health care, and shelter in a harsh desert environment. All are afraid to return home because the military and the militia are still marauding in the countryside.

The increasing ethnic and perceived racial basis of the violence has been documented by the U.S. Department of State, the United Nations, independent human rights organizations, and international journalists. The attackers identify themselves as "Arabs," while the victims are sometimes referred to as "Africans" and are mostly from the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit ethnic groups. Sudan's Khartoum-based government is fueling ethnic and racial violence by using the militia as proxies against Darfur insurgents who launched a rebellion in early 2003. But it is civilians who are suffering. Government-sponsored actions include:

- INFLAMING ethnic conflict
- IMPEDING international humanitarian access, resulting in deadly conditions of life for displaced civilians
- BOMBING civilian targets with aircraft
- MURDERING and RAPING civilians

Darfurians who have fled the violence provide chilling testimony. One refugee told New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof that "the Arabs want to get rid of anyone with black skin. . . . There are no blacks left [in the area I fled]."

The death toll exceeds 100,000 and may be more than 400,000. And the crisis continues—the lives of hundreds of thousands more hang in the balance today.

Print the poster: Genocide Emergency — Darfur, Sudan
<http://www.ushmm.org/conscience/alert/darfur/pdf/poster.pdf>