



## ***Sudan: Crisis in Darfur***

*Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Whenever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe."*  
- Elie Wiesel

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1. 1948 UN Genocide Convention defined genocide as any of the following acts undertaken with the *intent to destroy*, in whole or in a substantial part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, as such.
    - Killing members of the group
    - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
    - Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
    - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
    - Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group
  2. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Committee on Conscience asserts that the Sudanese government is:
    - A. Inflaming ethnic conflict.
    - B. Impeding international humanitarian access, resulting in deadly conditions of life for displaced civilians.
    - C. Bombing civilian targets with aircraft.
    - D. Murdering and raping civilians.
  3. Geographically, the Sudanese are exploiting desertification.
  4. Janjaweed militias are aiding the Sudanese government in inflicting the genocide.
  5. Since spring 2003 180,000-400,000 people have died.
  6. Estimated that 2.7 million have been driven from their homes.
  7. Over 200,000 have fled across the border to Chad.
  8. Humanitarian Aid organizations have limited access.

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### **What Can Be Done? The call for "Disruptive empathy"\***

**"If you want to make this move, you will have to change public opinion.  
You must make more noise." (Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell*)**

\*Rene Girard, Catholic philosopher, from Victoria Barnett's *Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity During the Holocaust*, 2000.



## Take Action to Stop Genocide in Darfur

- ✓ **Wear a "Not On My Watch" green wristband/ribbon.** Hand them out with a flyer explaining why it's important to draw attention to the situation in Darfur. Ask everyone to wear one!
- ✓ **Call those in power:** 1-800-Genocide (1-800-436-6243)
- ✓ **Check** your elected leaders' record on Darfur ([www.darfurscores.com](http://www.darfurscores.com))
- ✓ **Divest from companies doing business in Sudan** ([www.sudendivestment.com](http://www.sudendivestment.com))
- ✓ **Hold awareness demonstrations** and get the media to cover it to show that we will not stand by as people die and suffer.
- ✓ **Ask** religious and community leaders to speak about the crisis.
- ✓ **Write Letters**
  - to government leaders, including President Bush, your senators, congressperson, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Call 202-224-3121 to reach your Representative and Senators.
  - to the editor and Op Ed pieces. Ask for more coverage about Darfur.
- ✓ **Visit [www.BeAWitness.org](http://www.BeAWitness.org)** to tell media networks to cover it.
- ✓ **Raise Funds/Donate.** Make a contribution to a humanitarian organization that is providing aid to the people of Darfur.
- ✓ **Skip a meal** and donate the money you save to a humanitarian relief agency. Encourage others as well.
- ✓ **Collect signatures** for a petition calling for a strong response to the crisis in Darfur. Remember that to be considered legitimate, petitions must include the names and addresses of the signatories and the petition statement must be printed on the top of every page.
- ✓ **Write an email to a friend** and explain why this story moves you.

### Visit the following web sites for details, ideas, news updates:

- [www.keene.edu/cchs/darfur/default.cfm](http://www.keene.edu/cchs/darfur/default.cfm)
- <http://www.ushmm.org/conscience/alert/darfur/index.php>
- <http://www.savedarfur.org/>
- <http://www.darfurgenocide.org/>
- [http://www.genocideinterventionfund.org/GIF\\_index.php](http://www.genocideinterventionfund.org/GIF_index.php)
- [http://www.interaction.org/media/HOP/Hot\\_Darfur.html](http://www.interaction.org/media/HOP/Hot_Darfur.html) (contributions)
- <http://darfurscores.org/> (monitor your congressperson)
- <http://www.sentinelsource.com/main.asp?SectionID=49&SubSectionID=743>
- <http://www.networkforgood.org/topics/international/sudan/>