

DARFUR, SUDAN: the first genocide of the 21st century



STAND
The Student Led Division of
GENOCIDE INTERVENTION



Glossary of terms:

Omar al-Bashir: The dictator of Sudan who took power in a coup d'etat in 1989; currently indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity and genocide.

National Congress Party (NCP): The political party currently ruling Sudan with President Omar al-Bashir as its head. It has its roots in Islamist movements such as the National Islamist Front and the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Janjaweed: A tribal-based militia that is responsible for numerous human rights violations during the Darfur genocide.

Sudan Liberation Army (SLA): A rebel group that launched the attack against government military positions in Darfur in 2003 to demand increased development in Darfur; the government's response to the attack sparked the Darfur crisis. After the controversial Darfur Peace Agreement of 2005, the SLA split into over a dozen factions.

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM): A highly unpredictable rebel group in Darfur; launched an attack against the Government of Sudan in Khartoum in 2008.

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA): 2005 agreement to end the North/South civil war. The CPA calls for: a Government of National Unity, an Abyei Border Commission, a national census (2008), a national election (April 2010), and a referendum on the independence of the South (planned for January 2011).

Genocide Prevention Task Force (GPTF): Created in 2007 by a number of organizations to research possible ways the US government can prevent genocides; released its report in 2008.

Where we are now:

Sudan is the location of Africa's longest civil war – between the North and South from 1983 to 2005 – and the first genocide of the 21st century, which continues in the western region of Darfur.

The Darfur conflict, which remains unresolved, began in 2003 when the rebel group SLA attacked government bases at El-Fasher in South Darfur to protest continued disenfranchisement and neglect. The Government of Sudan (GoS) responded by arming militias to lead a scorched earth campaign in Darfur, leaving more than **300,000 dead and 2.7 million displaced**.

At the same time, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 finally ended the decades-long civil war between the North and South that resulted in nearly 2 million deaths. South Sudan remains a flash point for conflict due to the recently concluded national elections and the coming 2011 southern independence referendum.

How we got here:

Sudan features an incredibly diverse geography and citizenry, who trace their heritage to North Africa, the Middle East, and the indigenous peoples of central Africa.

Since independence in 1956, Sudan's development was focused largely around the capital, Khartoum, while other areas of Sudan remained chronically underdeveloped. This marginalization and underdevelopment spurred uprisings throughout the country. When uprisings have occurred, the Sudanese government has suppressed them by force through supplying firearms to rival tribes and factions and encouraging them to lead attacks on the civilians associated with the rebellion.

Our Response:

Due to the extraordinarily high number of violent civilian fatalities in Darfur and South Sudan and the combination of indirect violence due to mass displacement, limitations on humanitarian aid and widespread gender-based violence, GI-NET and STAND have named Sudan an **Area of Concern**.

GI-NET and STAND are working with partners to ensure the full deployment of the UNAMID peacekeeping mission, the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and successful peace talks to end the Darfur crisis.

The Genocide Prevention Task Force (GPTF) suggests that through strong leadership, early prevention, preventative diplomacy, military intervention, and the strengthening of norms and institutions in areas of violence, genocide might be avoided. Even though the genocide is already occurring in Sudan, the GPTF recommendations can be implemented to end the violence and prevent further killings, mass displacements, or gender-based violence in Darfur.

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