

Update on Darfur

Susannah Sirkin

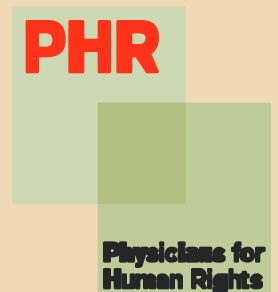
Physicians for Human Rights

APHA 2007



Physicians for Human Rights

- Mobilizes health professionals to advance the health and dignity of all people through action that promotes respect for, protection of and fulfillment of human rights
- Founded in 1986; U.S.-based; intl. federation
- Independent, non-governmental, non-profit
- Conducts investigations, exposes findings, advocates for change, educates professionals
- Goal to create a culture for human rights among health professionals



Outline


- Brief review of Darfur crisis
- Current humanitarian and political situation
- What's next?
- Cause for hope.....



200,000 - 400,000 Dead

Hundreds of Non-Arab Darfurian Villages Destroyed



A photograph showing a woman and a child sitting on a colorful mat on the ground. The woman is wearing a blue headscarf and a patterned blue dress. The child is sitting next to her. They are under a large tree with many bare branches. Various items, including a white bag and a patterned mat, are hanging from the tree trunk. The background is a dry, open landscape with some trees in the distance.

**More than 2.8 million
displaced**

Photo: Jerry Fowler, Committee on
Conscience

Hundreds of thousands risk disease and malnutrition



Photo: Jerry Fowler

Locating Darfur



Darfur, 'land of the Fur' (largest ethnic group), size of Texas/France

Bordered by Chad, Libya, Central African Republic

North - sandy desert, South - bush forest

Maps: Public Broadcasting Service

Roots of the Conflict

INTERNATIONAL:

- Interference by Libya, Chad for decades

NATIONAL:

- Long history of neglect by Khartoum
- Ruling elite in Khartoum feel that Arabs are racially and culturally superior to non-Arabs

REGIONAL:

- Famine in 1984-5 – 95,000 died
- Dwindling natural resources – decreased rainfall, desertification, less area for planting and grazing
- Local groups begin arming selves

Early 2000s: The GoS began to arm and support local Arab militias, known as *Janjaweed*.



www.edcnews.se

Land Scorched



Community Destroyed



Livestock Killed and Stolen



Destroying a Family

A 75-year-old man named Izzideen (right) lived with his family and flock in Faraqiya, a city in the Sudan region of Darfur that was attacked in 2003 and 2004 and is now ruined. In interviews with human rights investigators, he described the systematic destruction of his village and the animals that provided his livelihood.



STATUS: ■ IN REFUGEE CAMPS SINCE EARLY 2005 ■ MISSING PEOPLE AND STOLEN ANIMALS, ANY OF THESE MAY BE DEAD ■ DEAD



Izzideen and his wife.



7 children; four made it to a refugee camp in Chad.



Of an unknown number of grandchildren, 10 made it to the camp.

Izzideen escaped with his three donkeys, but two starved on the way to the camp. He had 133 animals before the attacks; he is left with the lone donkey.

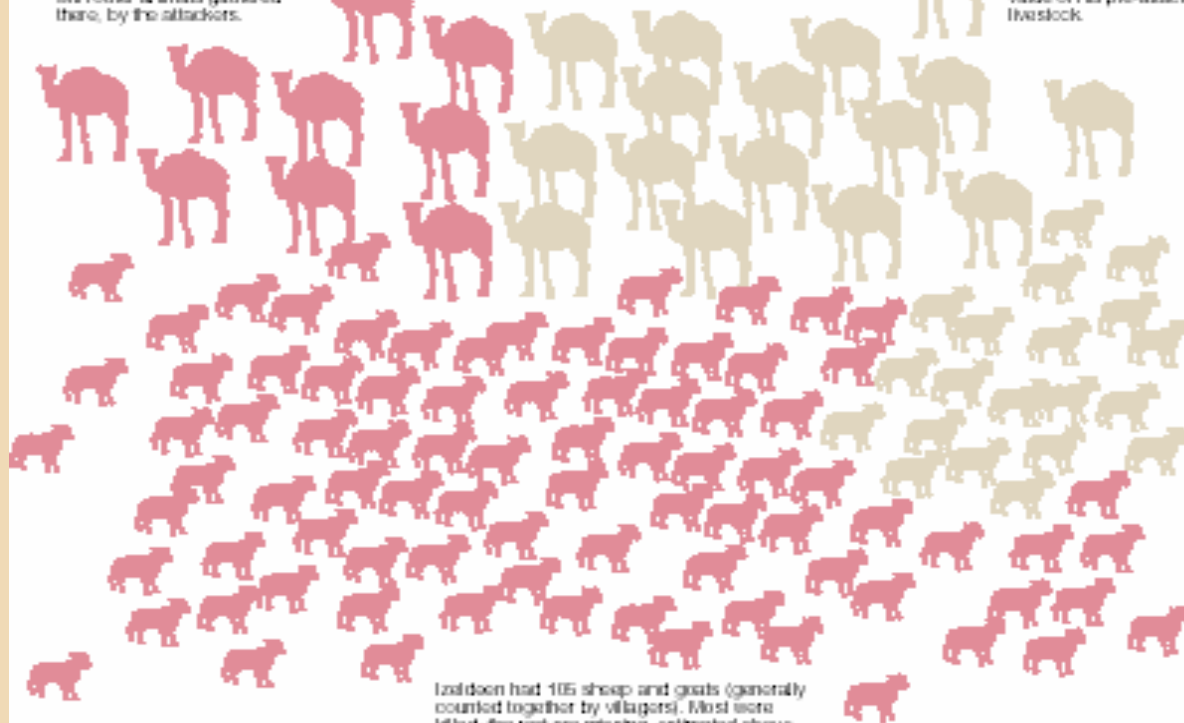


He had 25 camels. Most were stolen; the rest were killed at a village well, targeted, along with other animals gathered there, by the attackers.



Izzideen's family was prosperous for his village, where livestock serves as barter.

Izzideen is ill and has had two operations. One of the procedures cost him one camel and 20 goats, roughly one-seventh of the value of his pre-attack livestock.



Izzideen had 105 sheep and goats (generally counted together by villagers). Most were killed; the rest are missing, estimated above.

Source: Physicians for Human Rights

Bill Marlowe/© in New York Times



Sexual violence

- Thousands of women reported raped
- Strategy of war
- Women are afraid to report crimes;
- Virtually no prosecution results in conviction



Violence increasing in refugee and IDP camps



Photo: Jerry Fowler

Arab cattle herders have moved closer to the edges of many IDP camps, and conduct raids into the camps with increasing regularity.



2.7 million dependent upon international food aid/WFP









More than 2 million waiting to return to villages to rebuild lives and livelihoods



People will not return to villages
without security



Current Situation

- 7,000 African Union (AU) Peacekeepers on the ground
- Darfur Peace Agreement signed May 2006; unraveled
- Security situation deteriorating– aid groups evacuating
 - Rebel groups fractured, some attacking civilians; increased chaos, banditry; increase in malnutrition
- Nomads from Niger taking over emptied Darfur villages

- UN Security Council Resolution 1706 August 31, 2006 called for UN force of 20,000; Sudan blocked deployment
- July 31, 2007, UNSC passed Resolution 1796- deployment of 26,000 peacekeepers for Darfur
- ICC issued warrants for arrest of 2 alleged war criminals
- Peace talks in Libya with “no-shows” last week

Compensation for losses: Key demand of factions & victims



Current Issues

- “No longer genocide”? What does this mean?
- UN Force – delays, challenges
- Securing just and sustainable peace
- Continued humanitarian crisis
- Attacks on humanitarian workers
- Attacks in IDP camps and in Chad; sexual violence
- Failure to arrest war criminals
- Role of China – “Genocide Olympics”? Oil/divestment
- Darfur fatigue? CPA and N-S in jeopardy
- Political agendas: US, Sudan, Chad, Libya, China

Courage and hope in Darfur

- Sudanese Organization Against Torture
- Amel Center
- Women's groups
- Civil society development.....





**Dr. Mohamed Ahmed, Medical
Director, Amel Center, Nyala,
Darfur**

2007 RFK Memorial Human Rights Award

“Rebels and fighters have the arms. The civilians are innocent and this is our responsibility. We have to be one community and we have to stand against this together. We are fully qualified professional people. If we don't address this as professionals, we will lose our society.” July 15, 2006



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