



Darfur Survival Campaign

Darfur Fact Sheet

Sudan Background:

- Sudan, the largest country in Africa and the tenth largest country in the world, is home to 41 million people.
- The Sudanese Government, the National Congress Party (formerly the National Islamic Front), took power in a military coup in 1989.
- Sudan is ranked 141 (of 171 countries) in the Human Development Index. The HDI measures three criterion of living: health (measured by life expectancy), education (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity and income.)

War in the South:

- There was a conflict in south, between the Christians and animists, between 1955 and 1972 and began again in 1985.
- These conflicts resulted in an estimated 2 million deaths and 4 million people being displaced.
- The conflict ended in 2005 with the signing of the North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Darfur Background:

- Prior to the conflict, Darfur, the western-most region of Sudan, was home to 6.5 million people - 4 million 'non-Arab' Africans and 2.5 million Arabs.
- Non-Arab Africans are largely farmers who own livestock and most Arab groups in Darfur are largely nomadic herders.
- Darfur means "land of the Fur". The Fur is the largest ethnic group in Darfur. The other two major non-Arab tribes are the Zaghawa and the Masalit.
- Darfur, seen as peripheral by the rulers in Khartoum, has traditionally suffered neglect by the Sudanese Government; it has few roads, schools or health clinics.
- Darfurians began to arm themselves in the 1990s - the non-Arab Africans split into three main factions - 2 wings of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement. The Arabs, with funding and support from the Sudanese military, formed the "Janjaweed" militias.

The Violence in Darfur:

- The current, bloody phase of the Darfur conflict began in 2003, when non-Arab rebels from the SLA and JEM rebel groups attacked government military posts in El-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. The government responded with a scorched earth policy.
- Most of the violence is being perpetrated by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Janjaweed militias, though Darfurian rebel groups have also been implicated in attacks and violence.
- The attacks, as described by witnesses, are extremely similar across time and geographic distances. Early in the morning, government aircraft flew overhead. This was followed by the entrance into the village of the Janjaweed on camel, horseback and in pickup trucks. The Janjaweed systematically killed, raped, pillaged and burned villages, then chased people out of the villages into the desert.
- There are 2.5 million people displaced within Darfur itself (called IDPs, or 'internally displaced persons'), and 300,000 refugees living in camps in Chad.
- The Darfur Peace Agreement, which was signed by the Government of Sudan and the smallest of the three main rebel factions on May 5, 2006, was violated soon after being signed, has not brought peace to the troubled region.

Humanitarian Assistance:

- Darfur is the largest humanitarian assistance mission in the world. 14,000 aid workers (both international and Sudanese) care for these displaced persons at a cost of \$1 billion a year.
- Aid workers, who for many years in conflicts around the world have enjoyed relative safety, have themselves become targets of violence while providing life-saving aid. This is becoming a harsh reality in Sudan - aid workers have been harassed, threatened, attacked and even killed by both the Sudanese government, the Janjaweed militias and the rebels.

Lack of Adequate Protection:

- Despite the fact that the United Nations passed a Security Council resolution (1706 - on August 31, 2006) to deploy 20,000 UN troops and police in Darfur, there are no UN troops on the ground. The Sudanese government refused to allow these troops to deploy.
- There are approximately 7,000 African Union soldiers in Darfur, which is the size of Texas. These soldiers are under-funded and under-equipped. Their mandate is to monitor the ceasefire and protect themselves - they are not able to protect civilians from imminent harm.

Rape as a Tool of War:

- Rape has been all-too-prevalent in Darfur. A PHR study found that 40% of the women interviewed had been raped or had observed rape when their villages were attacked. Because of extremely high levels of proof required - 4 male or 8 female witnesses - rape is extremely difficult to prosecute in Sudan.
- So far there have been no prosecutions for rape in Darfur. Oftentimes, rape victims who come forward are then charged with adultery.

The International Stalemate:

- In 2005, President Bush declared that genocide was occurring in Darfur. Colin Powell had declared genocide in Darfur in June of the previous year.
- The Chinese, which procures 10% of its oil from Sudan, has been one of the major obstacles to progress on Sudan. It abstained from voting on UN resolution 1706 and has vowed to veto any sanctions on Sudan's oil industry.
- Russia, the largest supplier of weapons to Sudan, has also been recalcitrant with respect to criticizing its customer, Sudan.