

Editorial

Darfur - Year Three

December 1, 2006

In 2003, former Secretary of State Colin Powell identified the situation in western Sudan as genocide. Even so, the Islamic fundamentalist government in Khartoum has enjoyed rosy relations with the Bush Administration, which claims it has provided key intelligence on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.



Jerry Fowler/U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The United Nations, meanwhile, defends its own lack of action by accusing member states of footdragging. In particular, the Security Council refuses to authorize the necessary boots on the ground to stop the massacres. Equally criminal, money to fund relief operations along the border has not been forthcoming from donor countries.

Perhaps that's because there are oil reserves in Sudan. Contracts are at stake, and those who covet that precious commodity would rather avoid falling out of grace with Khartoum.

Clearly, the officials and government agencies responsible for enforcing human rights are un-



Tom Pritchard/Sudan Sunrise

willing to do so in this case.

As we celebrate the holidays this month, let's all try and set aside time to take up some of this unconscionable slack.

A donation to one of the charities listed below would be timely. Going on record with a letter to one or more elected representatives may be just as valuable, given the recent political shifts in Congress.

As long as the United States continues to soft-peddle Sudan's regime, the slaughter will go on - perhaps until the job is finished.

RESOURCES:

International Rescue Committee
Principle charity managing refugee camps along border with Chad. You can donate online or get more information on their website at theirc.org. Phone: 1-877-REFUGEE.

Save Darfur Coaliton
Activist organization lobbying

action against Darfur. It also sponsors the Dollars for Darfur campaign, organizing high school students to take action. Their website savedarfur.org tracks the latest news and publicizes campaigns by other groups around the country. Phone: 202.478.6311

Women for Women International
This charity is regularly featured on Oprah because of its successful programs worldwide. It recently established a field operation in southern Sudan. womenforwomen.org Phone: 202.737.7705.



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