

Letters to the Editor

Article published Friday, March 2, 2007.

No U.S. response to Darfur tragedy?

The ongoing vicious cycle of extermination in Darfur brings to memory the horrendous scenes of senseless genocide and ethnic cleansing in Rwanda and Bosnia. The consequences of indecision exercised then are preserved in the pages of history to goad us forever.

According to United Nations estimates, more than 400,000 girls and women have been raped, maimed, and killed while 2 million are rendered homeless in the Darfur region. And now the carnage seems to have spilled over to Chad, a supposedly safe haven for those who came to seek refuge from the self-styled "genetically" superior Janjaweds who, in cahoots with the Sudanese government, are using rape as a weapon of war to ethnically cleanse Darfur and eastern Chad of blacks.

Apparently, in Darfur, the line between black and black runs very thick. We thought that the stark reign of "colored" terror wreaked by South Africa's apartheid-era was over. No way. Sudan's President Basheer is the new P.W. Botha incarnate. His government is playing a dangerously conniving game of deception.

Every time a new peace deal is brokered by the U.N., Sudan elects to dishonor it. The magnitude of the Darfur tragedy is compounded by the collusion of silence by the corrupt leaders of other African nations.

The United States has always been the first responder to every conceivable human tragedy across the globe, be it a tsunami in the Indian Ocean or an earthquake in Pakistan. Don't we have any responsibility in Darfur?

We need to be there now, equipped not only with food, medicine, and shelter, but also with a will to twist or even break the vicious arm of Sudanese arrogance. We owe it to the Darfurians; we owe it the sanctity of life and honor.

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