

# ALERT: Genocide today in the DARFUR region of SUDAN

Committee on  
**CONSCIENCE**

The Committee on Conscience has declared a GENOCIDE EMERGENCY for Sudan.



## WHAT IS GENOCIDE?

Raphael Lemkin, a Polish-Jewish lawyer living in the United States, introduced the term *genocide* in 1944 to describe what was occurring in Nazi-occupied Europe. In 1948, the United Nations adopted the UN Genocide Convention, which defined *genocide* as the intentional physical destruction of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. In agreeing to the Genocide Convention, nations promised to “undertake to prevent” genocide.

The Committee on Conscience was established by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council to alert the national conscience, influence policymakers, and stimulate worldwide action to confront and work to halt acts of genocide and related crimes against humanity. Join our electronic network at [www.committeeonconscience.org](http://www.committeeonconscience.org).

Tens of thousands of civilians have died and well over a million have been driven from their homes in Sudan’s western region of Darfur. The victims are mostly from the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit groups, considered to be “Africans”; the attacks are largely by a government-supported “Arab” militia, known as the “Janjaweed.”

According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 350,000 or more civilians may die over the coming months.

The Khartoum-based government fuels ethnic and racial violence by using the Janjaweed militias as its proxies against Darfur insurgents. But it is civilians who are suffering. The government used similar tactics in southern Sudan:

- **PITTING** ethnic groups against each other
- **RESTRICTING** international humanitarian access, which threatens mass starvation
- **BOMBING** civilian targets with aircraft
- **MURDERING** and **RAPING** civilians

Darfurians who have fled the violence provide chilling testimony.

They report that the Sudanese military and allied militias are torching villages, murdering civilians, raping women and girls, burning food supplies, and destroying water sources. One refugee told *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof that “the Arabs want to get rid of anyone with black skin... There are no blacks left [in the area I fled].” A team of UN human rights investigators accused the government and its militia allies of imposing a “reign of terror” on Darfur. Roger Winter, a top USAID official, stressed that the Janjaweed “are not just some loose band of fellows on horses. They are an instrument of the government of Sudan.”

To learn more, visit [www.committeeonconscience.org](http://www.committeeonconscience.org).

# WHAT CAN I DO?

## Five things you can do to help prevent genocide

- 1. KEEP INFORMED.** Find out more about what is going on from various news sources and organizations. Sign up to receive the Committee on Conscience electronic newsletter or regularly visit our Web site for updates ([www.committeeonconscience.org](http://www.committeeonconscience.org)).
- 2. CONTACT THE MEDIA.** Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or to other news outlets to comment on their coverage of Darfur or to express your views about the importance of public attention to the story.
- 3. COMMUNICATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.** Contact your government representatives to let them know your views and concerns about events in Darfur.
- 4. SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS.** Find out more about relief organizations mounting efforts to help civilians affected by the crisis. They may have ideas of ways you can help. See the Committee on Conscience Web site for a link to listings of relief organizations operating in Darfur.
- 5. GET ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.** Talk about Darfur to your friends, family, members of organizations you belong to, and coworkers—help spread the word. Look for groups within your community who may also be working to help address the crisis.