

Attention: Foreign Affairs LA
Support the Genocide Resolution
H.Res.193/S.Res.164



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign affairs aide
From: Abraham Niziblian, Government Affairs Director
Date: June 21, 2004

Re: *Help end the cycle of genocide*

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, in his column this Saturday (6/19/04), wrote that:

“The Sudanese authorities, much like the Turks in 1915 and the Nazis in the 1930's, apparently calculated that genocide offered considerable domestic benefits. . .”

The unfolding genocide in Sudan underscores the vital importance of the Genocide Convention and the need to constantly reaffirm America's commitment to this landmark international agreement to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. Please support U.S. and international action to end the mass murder in the Darfur region - estimated to have resulted in over 320,000 deaths this year alone.

Help end the cycle of genocide by working for the passage of the Genocide Resolution (H.Res.193 and S.Res.164).

If I can be of any help, please contact me at (202) 431-3806 or abraham@anca.org.

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The New York Times

ON THE WEB

Editorials/Op-Ed

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Sudan's Final Solution

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

LONG THE SUDAN-CHAD BORDER — In my last column, I wrote about Magboula Muhammad Khattar, a 24-year-old woman whose world began to collapse in March, when the Janjaweed Arab militia burned her village and slaughtered her parents.

Similar atrocities were happening all over Darfur, in western Sudan, leaving 1.2 million people displaced by murder, pillage and rape against the Zaghawa.

As this genocide unfolded, the West largely ignored it.

The night after the village massacre, survivors searched for the bodies of Ms. Khattar's mother and father; her brother was responsible for her 3-year-old sister as well as her brother.

Then, as they prepared the bodies, one moved. The brother was still alive. His parents had both been killed, but he had escaped.

That brother, Nuradin, gave up his duty to bury his brother with traditional medicines. Nuradin's bullet wound was the only family left. Over the next 46 nights, Nuradin dragged the bodies to the river.

Finally, they staggered over the dry riverbed marked with human teeth and cannot eat solid food. He is sick and in pain since. As I interviewed him, he bent over to retch.

Ms. Khattar and most of the other villagers decided to seek refuge on a nearby mountain.

Every other night, she crept down the mountain to collect water. Ms. Khattar recalled. "There were snakes and scorpions among the refugees. To feed her children, Ms. Khattar boiled the water.

Officially, Sudan had agreed to a cease-fire in Darfur, but soon after, the Janjaweed attacked.

"Ali had told me: 'If the Janjaweed attack, don't try to save me. You can't help. Don't get angry. Just keep the children and run away to Bahai [in Chad]. Don't shout or say anything,'" Ms. Khattar said. So she hid in a hollow with the children, peeking out occasionally. She saw the Janjaweed round up all the villagers, including her husband and his three young brothers: Moussa, 8, Mochtar, 6, and Muhammad, 4. "Even the boys," she remembers. "They tied their hands like this" — she motioned with her arms in front of her — "and then forced them to lie on the ground." Then, she says, the males were all shot to death, while women were taken away to be raped.

There were 45 corpses, all killed because of the color of their skin, part of an officially sanctioned drive by Sudan's Arab government to purge the western Sudanese countryside of black-skinned non-Arabs.

The Sudanese authorities, much like the Turks in 1915 and the Nazis in the 1930's, apparently calculated that genocide offered considerable domestic benefits — like the long-term stability to be achieved by a "final solution" of conflicts between Arabs and non-Arabs — and that the world would not really care very much. It looks as if the Sudanese bet correctly.

Perhaps Americans truly don't care about the hundreds of thousands of lives at stake — we have other problems, and Darfur is far away. But my hunch is that if we could just meet the victims, we would not be willing to acquiesce in genocide.

After two Janjaweed attacks, Ms. Khattar was left a widow, responsible for three small, starving children in a land where showing her face would mean rape or death. I'll continue her saga in Wednesday's column.

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-- New York Times columnist
Nicholas Kristof, commenting
on the cycle of genocide.

<http://www.nytimes.com>