# ALERT: SUDAN

Because of substantial evidence that "acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity were occurring or immediately threatened," the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum declared a Genocide Emergency for Darfur in 2004.

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, has spent more than 30 years at war since its independence from Great Britain in 1956. With political power centralized in the north around its capital Khartoum and natural resources concentrated in the south, Sudan is further divided by religion, ethnicity, tribal differences, and economic disparities. Torn apart by two civil wars between the north and south, Sudan has also seen separate conflicts in its eastern and western regions. Since 2003, the heaviest fighting has occurred in Sudan's western region of Darfur, where the violence against civilians amounted to genocide.

From 1983 to 2005, civil war in the south killed at least 2 million people and displaced more than 4 million others. In 2003, spurred by decades of political and economic marginalization and a history of ethnic discrimination, rebel groups in Darfur took up arms against government forces. In response, the Sudanese government and its proxy militias targeted civilian populations in Darfur, killing at least 200,000 civilians, displacing more than 2.5 million people, destroying thousands of villages, and raping thousands of women.

Although rebel groups in both southern Sudan and Darfur have inflamed the conflicts at various times, the Sudanese government bears primary responsibility for atrocities against civilians.

A pattern of government sponsored actions include

- **TARGETING** civilians
- **COMMITTING** massive human rights abuses, such as murder, rape, and persecution, based on race, ethnicity, and religion
- **PITTING** ethnic groups against each other
- **IMPEDING** international humanitarian access and aid

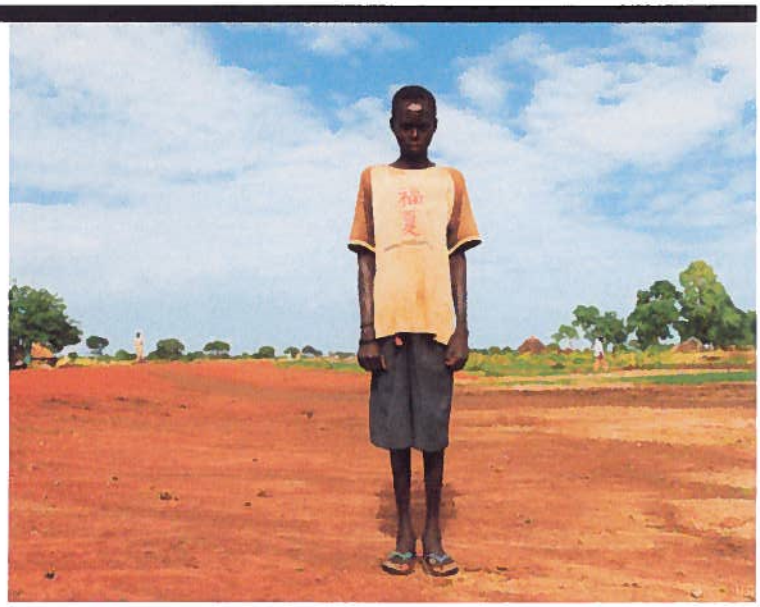
In the south, a 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement sustains a fragile peace. In Darfur, fighting continues. As a whole, Sudan remains at risk for genocide and related crimes against humanity.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum honors the memory of the Holocaust by confronting genocide and threats of genocide today through the work of its Committee of Conscience. Join our efforts at ushmm.org/conscience.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

# WHAT CAN I DO?

**Help the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum confront genocide and related crimes against humanity today. Learn how at ushmm.org/conscience.**



**1. JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF CONSCIENCE.** Visit our Web site, ushmm.org/conscience, and sign up for our Genocide Prevention e-Newsletter, download our Darfur layer on Google Earth, and subscribe to the *Voices on Genocide Prevention* podcast and blog. Learn more about genocide, the current situation in Sudan, and other places at risk.

**2. CONTACT THE MEDIA.** Tell them you want better coverage of Sudan. Visit their Web sites, call them, and e-mail them feedback on their efforts.

**3. COMMUNICATE WITH DECISION MAKERS.** Express the need to provide humanitarian assistance, protect civilians, and stop the violence in Sudan. Contact government officials and members of the United Nations, the European Union, and the African Union.

**4. GET ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY.** Talk about Sudan with friends, family, members of organizations you belong to, and coworkers. Help spread the word. Schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, and groups across the country are making a difference.

**5. SUPPORT EDUCATION AND RELIEF EFFORTS.** Support the ongoing efforts of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to draw attention to what is happening in Sudan. Find out more about who is on the ground in Sudan, what they are doing, and how you can help.

**YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
**DO NOT BE SILENT**

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024-2126 ushmm.org

COC 2160.FLY | NOV 2009