

DARFUR GENOCIDE, 2003 - PRESENT

The Sudanese government trains and arms Arab militias to kill, terrorize, and destroy the predominantly non-Arab Darfur region of Sudan.

Where?

Darfur is a region in Western Sudan that encompasses an area roughly the size of Spain. The population of Darfur is estimated at 6 million people. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic.

When?

Following independence from Britain in 1956, Sudan became embroiled in two prolonged civil wars for most of the remainder of the 20th century. Competition for scarce resources played a large role in these conflicts. Oil was discovered in western Sudan and the Sudanese government and international contributors became increasingly interested in the land in Darfur. The genocide in Darfur began in 2003 and continues today, driven by conflict between largely Arab grazers and non-Arab farmers.



Who?

Government-supported Arab tribesman (Janjaweed) systematically raid non-Arab villages in Darfur, killing and terrorizing the people and burning the villages. The goal is to remove the non-Arab farmers from the land to create a Pan-Arab state.

How?

Attacks on Darfuri villages commonly begin with Sudanese Air Force bombings followed by Janjaweed militia raids. All remaining village men, women, and children are murdered or forced to flee. Looting, burning of food stocks, enslaving and raping women and children, and stealing livestock are common. Dead bodies are tossed in

wells to contaminate water supplies and entire villages are burned to the ground.

In 2004, the United States declared the on-going conflict in Darfur to be 'genocide.' In 2006, President Bush called for the number of international troops in Darfur to be doubled. British Prime Minister Tony Blair called upon the members of the European Union for a unified response to the crisis.

In 2008, the UN issued a hybrid United Nations-African Union mission (UNAMID) to maintain peace in Darfur. A UNAMID force of 26,000 troops was authorized to use force to protect civilians, but despite this mandate, too few were sent and they lacked the necessary equipment to carry out their mission.

In 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir for crimes against humanity and, in 2010, a warrant for arrest on charges of genocide. The government of Sudan has yet to turn him over to the Court and, since the issuance of the warrants, the country has seen increased violence. The government forcefully expelled aid agencies, further jeopardizing the conditions for thousands of displaced and marginalized civilians.

In attempts to appease the Sudanese government, China and Russia, both permanent members of the Security Council, have blocked many United Nations resolutions. China is Sudan's chief diplomatic ally and invests heavily in Sudanese oil. Sudan's military is supplied by Chinese-made tanks, fighter planes, bombers, rocket launch propelled grenades, and machine guns. For decades, Russia and China have maintained a strong economic and politically strategic partnership. Russia is Sudan's strongest investment partner and political ally in Europe.

According to the United Nations, more than 2.7 million people are internally displaced and more than 350,000 are refugees in neighboring Chad. More than 400,000 have been killed; approximately 5,000 people die each month. The Sudanese government denies any culpability for the violence, displacement, and deaths.