



## Remembering Rwanda and Defending Darfur: A Film Screening Guide

Each year, in the first week of April, we remember the hundreds of thousands of Rwandan lives lost in 1994. Unfortunately, for the past three years we have been faced with the bitter reality that, as we mourn the victims of one genocide, another is taking place in Darfur, Sudan.

Since 2003, more than 2 million civilians in Darfur have been displaced from their homes and more than 400,000 have died from the violence and the humanitarian crisis. **Africa Action notes that the Bush Administration has recognized the violence in Darfur as genocide and recently made a public commitment to a resolution that would authorize a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping force in Darfur. Yet, nothing has changed on the ground for the people of Darfur.** The need for a UN peacekeeping mission has become more urgent in recent weeks as the security situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate. We must continue to apply pressure on our elected officials to use all diplomatic means to ensure a multinational peacekeeping force is deployed to Darfur. We must send the message that millions of Americans will not accept anything short of full civilian protection.

Africa Action has created this guide to help activists organize film screenings in their community to commemorate the Rwandan genocide and generate discussion on the genocide in Darfur. We invite you to organize one mini film festival, featuring two films, one on Rwanda and one on Darfur, followed by a discussion. The films should be spaced apart to give people time to process the powerful messages and images contained in the films. With the understanding that a deep discussion will only follow both films, give the audience roughly 10 minutes to briefly touch on the first film before showing the second. After the second film, lead a longer discussion on both films and highlight the current situation in Darfur, 35-50 minutes. Many of the films on Darfur and Rwanda are brief, most under one hour and many under 45 minutes in length, with the exception of *Hotel Rwanda*. With careful planning and to maintain audience engagement, the mini film festival should last no longer than three hours. We suggest that bathroom, snack, or other breaks not be officially scheduled in to the event. Allow individuals to initiate their own breaks throughout the event. Please refer to Africa Action's film suggestions and discussion questions below as a guide. Please note that most films can be ordered via the website listed or rented from a local video store.

### **Recommended films:**

#### **RWANDA**

- ***Hotel Rwanda*** 122min  
Based on the true story of a hotel manager that provides safety for over 1,200 refugees in the midst of slaughter, *Hotel Rwanda*, provides a shocking visual representation of the brutality of genocide and the heroism of those who resisted the perpetrators.  
[For specific Hotel Rwanda discussion questions, a Rwanda-Darfur comparison, and more information on organizing film screenings visit Africa Action's Film Festival Kit \[link\]](#)
- ***Shake Hands with the Devil***: 91 min.

General Roméo Dallaire headed the ineffectual UN peacekeeping mission to Rwanda in 1994 and *Shake Hands with the Devil* details his return to Rwanda 10 years later, as he comes to grips with the events that have haunted him — his struggles with top UN officials, expedient Belgian policy-makers and Clinton administration officials who ignored his pleas for reinforcements. ([www.californianewsreel.com](http://www.californianewsreel.com))

- ***Ghosts of Rwanda*** 120 min.  
*Ghosts of Rwanda* examines the failure of the international community to respond and end the violence in Rwanda through interviews with key government officials, diplomats, soldiers, and survivors. (<http://www.pbs.org/>)
- ***God Sleeps in Rwanda*** 28 min.  
Uncovering amazing stories of hope in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, Academy Award-Nominee *God Sleeps in Rwanda*, captures the spirit of five courageous women as they rebuild their lives, redefine women's roles in Rwandan society and bring hope to a wounded nation. (<http://www.wmm.com/>)
- ***A Good Man in Hell***  
General Romeo Dallaire headed the ineffectual UN peacekeeping mission to Rwanda in 1994 and his first person account of his time in Rwanda, told through an interview in *A Good Man in Hell*. (<http://www.ushmm.org/conscience/>)

## DARFUR

- ***Darfur Diaries***  
On October 19, 2004 the team of three filmmakers left for Darfur, Sudan and eastern Chad and the result is *Darfur Diaries*, a documentation of the testimonies of the survivors and those affected by the ongoing genocide in Darfur. ([www.darfurfilm.org](http://www.darfurfilm.org))
- ***All About Darfur*** 82 min  
In *All About Darfur*, A Sudanese immigrant to the UK returns to her homeland to understand why the seemingly racially harmonious country of her memories has become the scene of one of the worst instances of ethnic cleansing in recent history. ([www.californianewsreel.com](http://www.californianewsreel.com))
- ***Translating Genocide:***  
This film is ideal for student audiences. *Translating Genocide* follows the experience of three students who travel to Sudan, to bear witness. ([www.mtvu.com](http://www.mtvu.com))
- ***Staring Genocide in the Face***  
Jerry Fowler, staff director of the Committee on Conscience at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, reveals the humanitarian crisis in Darfur by documenting his trip to Chad, where he met refugees from Sudan. (<http://www.ushmm.org/conscience/>)

## Questions to guide your discussion:

The subject of genocide is complex and deeply disturbing. Each film is powerful and will leave the audience with a lot of emotions. It may be necessary to give participants some time to reflect upon the images. You may want to give people five minutes to reflect on the film in silence or to write down their initial impressions on a piece of paper. You may start the discussion with the following questions:

- What image leaves a lasting impression?

- Are there any scenes in particular that made you angry?
- Are there any scenes in particular that made you feel guilty?

After people have shared their initial emotions and reactions, launch in to deeper questions.

- What are the impacts of genocide on the people in the film?

*There are five types of violence that are associated with genocide*

1. Killing members of the group.
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

How were these depicted in film, was each one shown?

- Why has genocide been termed “the worst crime against humanity”?
- Once people know genocide is occurring (the United Nations notified the world during Rwanda, the world has known for three years of Darfur) why is it so difficult for the international community to act?
- “The term ‘global apartheid’ describes the current international system of minority rule that keeps Africa poor. Global apartheid is a system of inequality that dictates access to wealth, power and basic human rights based on race and place.” – [www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org). How does international response to genocide in Africa, reflecting on Rwanda and Darfur, demonstrate Global Apartheid? How would reactions be different if the victims were citizens in Europe?

*In Sudan, like Rwanda, we see this racist neglect. At Africa Action we argue that U.S. Africa policy has largely placed less value on African lives as demonstrated in the slow and minute response not only to Sudan and other conflicts on the continent, but also in response to the AIDS crisis that claims 6500 lives a day, and the debt crisis which enables 30,000 children to die daily of preventable diseases on the continent. This reality where wealth, power and access to basic human rights is dictated by race and place is global apartheid. – [www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org)*

- What questions did the film raise for you?

*Participants may raise some very insightful and difficult questions. Please do not feel pressured to answer all questions. Only respond to those that you feel comfortable answering and please don't be embarrassed to say you don't know. You can use Africa Action resources to inform your answers or simply direct individuals to seek additional answers on the Africa Action website. We invite you to use the Africa Action resources attached below, “How to Stop Genocide in Darfur” and “Comparisons between Hotel Rwanda and Darfur” as well as Africa Action’s talking points on the Genocide in Darfur, located in the resources and analysis section*

of [www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org). You may also encourage participants to answer each other's questions.

- What in the film gives you hope?
- What can you do to stop genocide?

*At this point of the discussion we encourage you to cite some examples of action recommended by Africa Action below. Also, if you have ordered postcards from Africa Action or printed a sample letter to President Bush or Deputy Secretary of State, Robert Zoellick you can hand them out to the audience. Please ask the audience to sign and add personal comments to the postcard and/or letter. It is helpful if you can provide stamps or collect all the postcards/letters and mail them.*

#### Take Action Now! Campaign to Stop Genocide in Darfur

- ✓ Sign a **postcard**, on our homepage in the action center box, or order them from our office by writing to [mobilize@africaaction.org](mailto:mobilize@africaaction.org) with "postcard" in the subject line. Please send us your name, address, and the number of postcards that you are fairly certain you can distribute and send. We cap initial orders at 100 postcards. *Orders for April 7 must be received before **April 1** after that Africa Action will make no guarantees it will arrive by April 7. However, we can help you arrange printing your own at a local printing service.*
- ✓ In March Africa Action has launched a media campaign to raise the level of awareness concerning Darfur. To increase the media focus on Darfur, and thereby maintain a spotlight on U.S. leadership at the United Nations, write letters to the editors of local papers on Darfur and encourage community and religious leaders to sign op-eds on Darfur. [link]
- ✓ Write a letter to President Bush, Ambassador Bolton, or Deputy Secretary of State, Robert Zoellick today.
- ✓ We have a growing list of people willing to bird-dog President Bush, Ambassador Bolton and other key targets by attending speeches and asking questions on Darfur. To **be a part of our bird-dog team**, please email [mobilize@africaaction.org](mailto:mobilize@africaaction.org) with the subject "bird-dog".
- ✓ Activists in New York City and elsewhere have been engaging in vigils on Darfur. We encourage concerned citizens to **continue demonstrating** support for action to stop the genocide. Check the Africa Action calendar for vigils in New York. Tell us about your demonstrations and we can publicize it for your group.

*For more information regarding the background and current situation in Darfur visit the "Campaign to stop genocide in Darfur" section of our website [www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org).*



Photo by AJWS

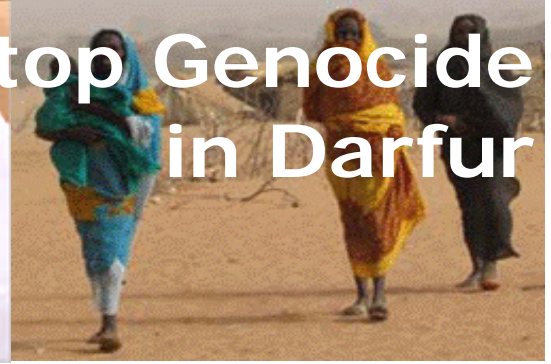


Photo By Refugees International

# How to Stop Genocide in Darfur



Photo by AJWS

## *You Have the Power to Protect*

It is natural to feel helpless when faced with a crisis in the world – especially something as overwhelming as the violence in Darfur, Sudan where more than 400,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million have been forced out of their homes since the government-sponsored genocide began in 2003. Indeed, you may ask, “What would it take to stop genocide, and is there anything that I can do to make a difference?” In the case of Darfur, there are specific steps that can be taken by the international community to stop the genocide. The country best equipped to initiate this action is the United States. As a result, individual Americans have a unique power to protect. As the situation deteriorates in Darfur, we must escalate our pressure on the U.S. government to take the action necessary to stop the genocide.

## *How To Stop Genocide*

The need for international intervention in Darfur is clear. In recent months, there has been a spike in violence, and humanitarian organizations face increasing risks to their operations. There is a growing consensus around the need for a robust international protection force in Darfur to stop the violence, provide security to humanitarian efforts, facili-

tate peace talks and support the voluntary return of displaced people to their land.

The U.S. is a permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, and thus has the opportunity to introduce a resolution that can save hundreds of thousands of lives and restore security to western Sudan.

As the situation in Darfur deteriorates, President Bush must not hesitate to introduce a resolution authorizing an international intervention with a strong protection mandate in support of the African Union observer mission in Darfur.



Photo by AJWS

## *What We Mean By “Intervention”*

Often people hear “intervention” and think “invasion”. We are not advocating for the U.S. to unilaterally invade Sudan. Rather, the U.S. has the unique responsibility to take leadership in the process of achieving a resolution for the international community to intervene to stop genocide. Genocide is a unique crime against humanity that requires international intervention to stop the vio-

lence. The United Nations is the appropriate international body to take action, as it is an institution with the central purpose of protecting nations and defending humanity itself.

The UN peacekeeping force in Darfur would be made up of troops from around the world and their role would be to protect civilians and humanitarian operations and enforce, not just observe, the ceasefire. The

UN force would not be declaring war on Sudan, nor would this force attempt to seize assets or political power; on the contrary, the purpose of the intervention would be to protect civilians from this crime against humanity. The UN peacekeeping force would remain in place long enough to provide security and support the return of displaced people to their homes, but would not remain in Darfur indefinitely.

### **Africa Action**

1634 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 810  
Washington, DC 20006  
[www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org)  
202.546.7961

## The African Union Cannot Go It Alone

The African Union (AU) troops on the ground in Darfur are doing a commendable job, but they number only 7000 in a place the size of Texas. Their mandate allows them to observe the systematic rape and pillaging of villages and attacks on camps for internally displaced people, but they do not have a mandate to protect civilians. It is critical that the UN act now in Darfur, as it has worked with African regional bodies in the past to reinforce their efforts in peacekeeping operations where many lives are at stake. Genocide is not an African problem, it is an international problem, and as such, it requires an international response.

## The UN Resolution We Seek

Under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the Security Council may take such action as necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. The members of the UN have previously shown their willingness and capability to invoke Chapter 7 peace enforcement and peace-building instruments in response to conflict in Africa. Precedents in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Burundi show that the UN is a viable source for effective and appropriate international intervention to stop genocide and other crimes against humanity.

There are two steps to achieving an immediate international intervention in Darfur

and the U.S. is uniquely positioned to seek UN action:

The first step is to build on the force that is already there. The African Union (AU) mission in Darfur must be "re-hatted" with blue helmets as a UN operation, with a strong mandate from the international community to protect civilians. Since the AU troops are already in Darfur, this authorization from the UN would take effect immediately, retaining the AU troops' valuable experience on the ground and saving time pending the deployment of a larger international force. In addition, putting UN blue helmets on the AU would provide them with international authority

and backing, which could offer an important boost to the troops themselves and help increase the confidence of civilians in Darfur in the AU operation.

The second step is to reinforce the African Union mission with a larger UN force. An international intervention force must be deployed to Darfur immediately to build upon the AU and provide protection to the people of Darfur. The deployment of a UN intervention force must follow swiftly upon the "re-hatting" of the African Union. The total force needed in Darfur is at least 20,000 troops, based either on the

the ratio of peacekeeping troops to hostile forces. These two steps are clear-cut, and they can work. Previous examples of successful cooperation between African regional bodies as "first responders" and the UN as reinforcement show that, with proper planning and coordination, a UN intervention in support of an African mission can act as a deterrent to violence and as a catalyst for peace.



TOM BROWN - STAFF

### TAKE ACTION NOW!

Sign a postcard to the President, write a letter to the editor, participate in a national call-in day or a rally.

You can take these actions and learn more on the Africa Action website at [www.africaaction.org/darfur](http://www.africaaction.org/darfur).

Will you join us?

**Will You Use Your Power to Protect?**

## The U.S. Must Lead UN Action

The U.S. must provide leadership within the United Nations (UN) to ensure these steps are taken now. The U.S. is the only government to have publicly acknowledged that genocide is taking place in Darfur, and this provides it with a unique obligation to obtain international action on this crisis.

Reports from the White House and State Department indicate that key decision-makers favor the concept of an international intervention in Darfur. While this news is encouraging, we know that the U.S. will not introduce a resolution at the UN without hearing strong voices from

people across the country empowering it to do so. Your action can help to build pressure on the Bush Administration to take the action necessary to stop the genocide in Darfur.



Photo credit: Brian Steidl

## **Comparisons between *Hotel Rwanda* and Darfur:**

### **Government and Armed Militia v.s. Civilians**

*In Hotel Rwanda* we see that the President of Rwanda was killed and the government taken over by a military force. The military and a militia made up of armed Hutus perpetrate the genocide, killing the Tutsi population and moderate Hutus. While there are armed Tutsi rebels, the majority of people killed are innocent civilians.

*In Sudan*, the government is also in league with an armed militia, called the Janjaweed, who are systematically killing the people of Darfur. The victims of genocide in Darfur are civilians.

### **Ethnicity Determines Victim from Perpetrator**

*In Hotel Rwanda* the genocide is clearly based on ethnicity. Those claiming to represent the interests of the majority in power, Hutus, are killing the minority, Tutsis. This division on ethnic lines had some exceptions, as shown in the movie. There were Hutus who did not participate in the killing, and some, like Paul in the movie, who actively worked to protect the Tutsis. There were also Hutus killed for association with or protection of Tutsis.

*In Sudan*, a small minority of ethnic groups who consider themselves Arab hold the most power. The government of Sudan is attempting to destroy, in whole or in part, three African ethnic groups: the Fur, Zaghawa and Massaleit. All of the ethnic groups on both sides of the conflict are Muslim, but those in power self-identify as Arab, while those targeted self-identify as African. While there are slightly more variables than in Rwanda, it is clear that the killing and raping is based still on ethnicity and race.

### **Peace Treaty before Genocide**

*In Hotel Rwanda*, the government signs a peace treaty between Hutu and the rebel Tutsi. Many, including the hero, Paul, take this as a sign that the violence will end. However, soon the President of Rwanda is killed (Tutsi are accused) and the genocide begins.

*In Sudan*, the civil war that spanned two decades was resolved in a peace treaty signed in January of this year. Many hoped that this would signal an end to the violence in Darfur, but the treaty said nothing about the genocide in Darfur.

### **UN: "Acts of Genocide" or "Genocide"?**

*In Hotel Rwanda* the authoritative voice of a US State Department spokesperson is heard on the radio saying that while there are clearly "acts of genocide" happening, they are unwilling to describe the violence as "genocide".

*In Sudan's* case, the U.S. declared genocide in September, but has yet to take any significant action to end it. The UN, in the first week of February, issued a report that states that while there are clearly "acts of genocide" and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur, it is not a genocide. Africa Action maintains that genocide is occurring in Darfur. Again, like Rwanda, the international community doesn't want to use the word "genocide", which lessens the pressure on them to take action.

### **The World Keeps Eyes Wide Shut**

*In Hotel Rwanda* the global community does not intervene. The UN Peacekeepers try to help to protect the people, but they are limited in number and by their role. Everyone celebrates in the movie when the Belgian troops arrive, hoping at last that this would be the multi-national intervention needed to stop the violence. As it turns out, they only came to escort the Westerners out of the country.

*In Sudan*, the U.S. government did declare that the crisis in Darfur is genocide, but they have not taken action to fit with this finding. The UN has reported that the crisis contains actions of genocide but is not genocide, so they too have not taken the action needed. The only official body aside from humanitarian relief organizations that has taken some action is the African Union. Unfortunately the AU troops are too few, under funded for a mission of this scope and their mandate does not allow them to protect people, only to observe. Unfortunately it will take at least three months for a UN Peacekeeping force to be deployed. The most immediate way to stop the violence is to give the African Union a mandate to protect civilians and funnel resources to the African Union to increase the number of troops on the ground as well as getting troop contributions from additional countries within and outside of Africa.

### **The 5 Types of Violence that Make Genocide**

There are five types of violence that are associated with genocide. 13

1. Killing members of the group.
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

*In Hotel Rwanda* viewers witnessed many of these five types of violence and heard about the others through the descriptions given by the various characters. For example, we hear that children were targeted "to wipe out the next generation."

*In Sudan* 215,000 people have been killed so far by government forces and militias. Bodily and mental harm has been inflicted upon thousands of women and young girls raped by soldiers and militia, many of whom are being held in "rape camps"; the destruction of homes, crops, water resources that have contributed to the two and a half million people now internally displaced in Sudan, 200,000 refugees have been forced into Chad and 200,000 have died as a result of the humanitarian crisis; the killing of pregnant women and the testimonies by rape victims that rapists said their intent was to change the ethnic identity of the child conceived by rape.

### **The Value of African Lives**

*In Hotel Rwanda* several characters explain the lack of international response by saying that African lives are simply not valued by the Western powers. The UN Peacekeeper, the head of Sabena, the Belgian company that owns the hotel and by the cameraman that predicts that people watching his footage will acknowledge the genocide, but then go back to their dinner. We also see that the intervention force comes in, not to stop the violence, but to escort out the Westerners.

*In Sudan* we see this racist neglect as well. At Africa Action we argue that U.S. Africa policy has largely placed less value on African lives as demonstrated in the slow and minute response not only to Sudan and other conflicts on the continent, but also in response to the AIDS crisis that claims 6500 lives a day, and the debt crisis which enables 30,000 children to die daily of preventable diseases on the continent. This reality where wealth, power and access to basic human rights is dictated by race and place is global apartheid.

While the international community has been largely silent about the genocide in Sudan, Africa Action invites you to speak out on this issue. Join us as we call on the U.S. government to assert leadership in support of a multinational intervention to protect civilians and support African Union efforts in Darfur.

April 7, 2006

From:  
Address:  
City, State, Zip:

Robert Zoellick  
2201 C St., N.W.  
Washington, DC, DC 20520

Dear Robert Zoellick:

I was dismayed to learn that the African Union decided not to welcome a UN mission in Darfur. It is absolutely essential that the U.S. redouble its efforts to persuade the African Union to accept an international peacekeeping force and to challenge the Sudanese Government to do the same. Without an international peacekeeping force creating security on the ground, it is unlikely that the peace talks in Abuja will succeed. It is time to use the leverage of this nation to pressure the principal decision makers to ensure protection for the people of Darfur through a UN peacekeeping operation. The people of Darfur cannot wait for six months or more for security.

Sincerely,

April 7, 2006

From:  
Address:  
City, State, Zip:

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC, 20500

Dear President Bush,

Today we all remember the 12th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, and promise to “never again” allow genocide to happen on our watch. In 1994 the world failed to intervene as 800,000 Rwandans were killed in 100 days. Since 2003, the world has failed to save over 400,000 lives in Darfur. Will you still refuse to take action to protect the victims of the worst crimes against humanity?

I urge you to introduce a resolution at the Security Council for a multinational intervention in Darfur to protect civilians. Let us remember Rwanda by defending Darfur. The U.S. must take every step necessary to negotiate an international peacekeeping intervention. Without immediate action we abandon thousands, perhaps millions, to a massacre.

Sincerely,

April 7, 2006

From:  
Address:  
City, State, Zip:

H.E. Mr. John R. Bolton  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
140 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. John R. Bolton,

Today we all remember the 12th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, and promise to “never again” allow genocide to happen on our watch. Yet, in the last two weeks thousands died in the on going genocide in Darfur, where the Sudanese government and their Janjaweed militias have successfully destroyed 80-90% of the villages. As the humanitarian crisis deepens and security collapses in the western region of Sudan, the genocide is expanding into neighboring Chad where the Janjaweed are systematically slaughtering targeted ethnicities.

The international community has a responsibility to protect people from genocide. The government most poised to initiate international action is the United States, giving each of us a unique power to protect. Let us remember Rwanda by defending Darfur. The U.S. must take every step necessary to negotiate an international peacekeeping intervention. Without immediate action we abandon thousands, perhaps millions, to a massacre.

Sincerely,