

The Darfur Diaries

In the year 2004, Aisha Bain, Adam Shapiro and Jen Marlowe documented the on-going crisis in Darfur, located in west Sudan. The film was aimed at harboring the experiences and sentiments of Darfur residents who hid from took flight from the bombardments of the government-headed militias. It was meant to expose the often underestimated Sudanese conflict. Little did the society know these people were in pure torment. Darfur Diaries, both a movie and a book, became the end product of the activists' project in Sudan (Weaver).

It was successful in drawing the world's attention to the current condition of Sudan and its people, where many have been displaced and found dead. The documentary was filled with pain, despair and fear, the emotions that shroud the people of Darfur. It was a provocative set of scenes, which makes us think: What is happening with the world? This is a conflict that encompasses gender, age and status. While we enjoy basking in the sun, these people, on the other side of the world, are shivering in the cold of the night – with eyes wide open, expecting for the worse, and utterly scared of death though they have seen it so many times.

The conflict in Darfur was said to have started 20 years ago, when the lands have become increasingly barren. Though Sudan is a multiracial nation, the depletion of land resources have cause conflicts to integrate into a battle between the government and its people. The Janjaweed, or the so-called militias have been causing the attacks on black civilian villages around Sudan. The bombing raids began when the civilians decided to fight back.

The solution to this on-going war is simple: It is to make the citizens the main concern. They have to be treated as equals, for all of us are humans. The problem here lies in the greed of Sudan's leader. For him, the black Sudanese are inferior. His color, in his own terms, decides whether he gets more or not. He is blinded by his motives, unaware that he has committed a massive murder of his own people.

The film showed just how helpless the citizens of Darfur are. The rebels are unexpectedly taking in children with them for combat. And though the rebels only carried arms for self-defense, it is a pity and a great defile of the children's rights. However, in spite of the prevailing anger and strife, a single cry of reconciliation was uttered in the movie, which makes the documentary more than a mere strip of film. Men in the documentary spoke of realizing just how numerous are killed in wars, and just how suffering affects both sides. No one ever wins a war. He stated, furthermore, that the government policies should apply equally for all Sudanese – Arab and African alike.

The best way, so far, in dealing with this problem is not another war, lest it will be another never-ending story of bloodlust. The United Nations should impose sanctions on the leader of Sudan. It could also provide relief to the victims of the war. For an absolute resolution and conclusion to this war, oust the Sudanese leader. And in his place, shall rule a leader elected fairly by the people of Sudan. As for ordinary people, like most of us, it is in being involved and hopeful that we can give out help to these people. There are many organizations that are open to volunteers or do accept donations. Prayers also do.

Reference:

Weaver, Carolyn. "Darfur Diaries' Shows Plight of Sudanese Victims of Government-Backed Violence." 2006.