

# DARFUR: A Call to Your Conscience

The crisis in Darfur, western Sudan, is the biggest challenge to the world's conscience since the Rwanda genocide in 1994. The ongoing devastation has killed an estimated 400,000 and displaced over 2.5 million Sudanese since February 2003. The UN has called it the "worst humanitarian crisis in the world."

A government-backed Arab militia known as the Janjaweed has been engaging in campaigns to wipe out communities of African farmers. Civilians who have survived village destruction have fled to camps in Darfur and across the border in neighboring Chad. Hundreds of thousands of Darfurians are at risk of starvation and disease. Colin Powell and Kofi Annan brought attention briefly to Darfur last summer. President Bush and the US Congress have declared that genocide is taking place. A major step toward peace was taken in southern Sudan in January, and the UN Secretary General has visited the region again. **But the tragedy of Darfur continues.**

Many religious communities and people of faith have voiced grave concern about the enormous suffering and loss of life. Funds are desperately needed for programs that will promote child protection, generate income for women, and encourage safe return to rebuilt villages. But before that can happen, the killing in the Darfur region must cease.

People of faith have graciously responded to relief efforts around the world. The time is now to help people of Darfur.

1. **Pray for the victims** and the persecutors in this terrible tragedy
2. **Write your elected officials** to generate action from the US government
3. **Call the White House** regularly to let the President know you care about Darfur
4. **Voice your concern** to neighbors and friends about this tragedy
5. **Offer donations** for humanitarian relief through the Save Darfur Coalition



Mother and 27-month-old child: At a camp for IDPs in Kebkabiya, North Darfur, a mother holds her malnourished child. Photo: USAID

*Thou shall not stand idly by the shedding of blood of thy fellow man.*  
-Leviticus 19:16

*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*  
-Matthew 5:6

*Because of this, we decreed for the Children of God that anyone who murders any person who had not committed murder or horrendous crimes, it shall be as if he murdered all the people. And anyone who spares a life, it shall be as if he spared the lives of all the people.*  
-Sura 5:32

*"I want to join my prayers to many other voices. Every few months we are driven away from one refugee camp to the other, so far in the desert where nothing, nothing at all exists. This is no way for a human being to live. No way to live in such a shocking place - uncultivated, waterless, treeless and barren region...! Everything is burning, Lord, around me, around us ... in me, in us ... Everything is barren, hell, hell...! Yet, Lord, we believe you are there, beside us. We pray for all the Africans living now our same condition. Bring back peace and tranquility to our beloved country. Peace which is desired by everybody, the old and young, rich and poor, women and men. Amen ... amen ... Let it be so."*

*-Prayer from a Darfurian Woman © Gloria Silvano, Sudan / CAFOD*

**[www.SaveDarfur.org](http://www.SaveDarfur.org)**