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A Long Day's Dying: Critical Moments in the Darfur Genocide

Eric Reeves

A Long Day's Dying

The first genocide of the 21st century, unfortunately, has followed the pattern of genocides past – initially underreported, denied by the perpetrators, ignored by the international community. Darfur represents our modern day death camp. One man, human rights activist Eric Reeves, has chronicled the significant events that shaped the ongoing and deepening crisis in its first three years – from Nov. 11, 2003 through October 9, 2006.

His book, ***A Long Day's Dying: Critical Moments in the Darfur Genocide***, shows how the Khartoum regime is committing genocide in Darfur while the international community watches in silence or with mere hand-wringing. Publication of such an important book, at this critical moment in the Darfur genocide, offers to government officials, academics, humanitarian aid groups, human rights organizations, as well as to the broader public an in-depth critical assessment of the current situation in Darfur.

It also provides an unsparing assessment of the international community's diplomatic efforts, past and present, to respond to Darfur. Such an assessment comes at a defining moment. The world is watching clearly and yet responding weakly. Action is essential now if we are not to see a further extension of the international failures so conspicuous in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

A Long Day's Dying shows a timeline for the failed policies of the UN, the defining moments of murder and rape on a mass scale, the stalled interventions from the world, the ethnic cleansing of the black race, and the genesis of genocide. Reeves' book shares:

- 150 dated analyses of Darfur.
- Review of key reports from human rights and policy groups, UN offices, and aid organizations.
- Media reports of what was reported early on.
- An analysis of security and conditions in Darfur.
- An assessment of the regional and national responses to what was quickly recognized in some quarters as “ethnic cleansing.”
- A historical archiving of the ethnically-targeted destruction of non-Arab or African tribal populations in Darfur.

“The international community has waited too long, the words have come too late and the actions that such words now demand are even more belated,” says Reeves. “The terrible crimes occurring in Darfur must not be ignored. The crimes of the dead and dying demand justice; future genocidaires are listening closely, noting carefully all of the failures of the international resolve.”

Reeves’ book is based on a decade of work as a full-time Sudan researcher and analyst. His writings have been published by major publications, such as *The Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The New Republic*, and he’s been interviewed by *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *AP*, and dozens of global media outlets. The human rights activist, an English professor at Smith College, has testified before Congress and lectures widely on Darfur.

The documents contained in *A Long Day’s Dying* include:

- Copies of UN resolutions relating to Darfur.
- The text of the 1948 UN Convention on the Preventions and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- Eight pages of maps.
- 33 photographs.
- Report issued by the UN Inter-Agency Fact Finding and Rapid Assessment Mission.

One of Reeves’ earliest reports, from December 2003, puts the conflict into perspective:

“It is critical to realize that all evidence indicates that people being targeted by Khartoum’s Arab militia proxies, the Janjaweed, are overwhelming the ethnically African tribal groups of the Fur, Massaleit, and Zaghawa. These sedentary agriculturalists are perceived by Khartoum as the base of support for the two insurgency movements in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement. They are being displaced and destroyed accordingly. It no longer matters where the non-combatant populations are located, or whether there really is an insurgency military presence in the areas being attacked. The African peoples of Darfur are being attacked, displaced, and denied humanitarian access, because of who they are.”

Humanitarian operations remain in a free fall as the UN and international community have abandoned commitment to the military and police force defined by the August 31, 2006 Security Council Resolution 1706. The book concludes there are few options available to help the innocent citizens of Darfur, saying the oppressive National Congress Party regime has forced upon the international community a choice between only two options – a choice sufficiently stark that these shrewdly calculating genocidaires are confident it will be made in their favor.

About the author:

Eric Reeves has spent the past decade working full-time as a Sudan researcher and analyst, publishing his extensive writings internationally and in the United States. He is the author of

A Long Day's Dying: Critical Moments in the Darfur Genocide and is also a professor of English and literature at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Eric has testified before Congress, briefed elected officials, and submitted written testimony to Congress on matters concerning Darfur, Sudan peace, and genocide.

Eric's been interviewed on various issues relating to Sudan by *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Time Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Forbes*, *Associated Press*, *Reuters*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *Times of London*, and publications across the globe. Eric's also been interviewed by *BBC World News Service*, *Radio France International* (The World), *NPR* (Marketplace, Weekend Edition), *Air America*, *All Things Considered*, *Radio Netherlands*, *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*, *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, *Austrian Broadcasting Corporation*, and *Al-Jazeera Television* (Qatar).

He's made dozens of academic presentations regarding Darfur to prestigious schools that include: Yale, Harvard, Columbia University, MIT, Wellesley College, Brown, Boston College, and Swarthmore.

His writings have been published by *The Washington Post*, *L.A. Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *International Herald Tribune*, and many others.

He's earned a number of honorary degrees, including degrees from Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and Villanova University.

Eric's awards include Spirit of Scandinavia Award for Human Rights, Williams College Bicentennial Award, and Salem Award for Social Justice and Human Rights.

He's on the Advisory Board of the US Committee for Refugees (Washington, DC); the Board of Advisors for Genocide Watch and The International Campaign to End Genocide; the Darfur Rehabilitation Project; and a director of the "Schools for Sudan" initiative. He has also served as a policy and advocacy advisor to a number of nongovernmental organizations working on humanitarian and human rights issues in Sudan.

He resides in Northampton, MA. For more information, please consult: www.sudanreeves.org.

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Khartoum's actions come just days after regime forces seized Abyei, whose indigenous residents are overwhelmingly Dinka Ngok and see themselves as part of the south. The 2005 peace agreement promised them a referendum for self-determination, which Khartoum has aborted. Last month the regime launched a military attack to seize Abyei; the U.N. High Commission for Refugees reports that some 113,000 civilians have fled south — virtually the entire Ngok population. Eric Reeves, a professor at Smith College, is the author of *A Long Day's Dying: Critical Moments in the Darfur Genocide*. He is a consultant to several human rights and humanitarian organizations in Sudan.