

Kelly's notes on Darfur:

Two million people have fled their homes

currently 7,000 AU troops based there--who are often the objects of attacks

Security Council has approved sending a larger, better equipped UN peacekeeping force to protect civilians and guarantee security of aid workers--a good/important thing

note that the peacekeeping forces would not be expressly fighting either the Janjaweed/Sudanese government or rebel groups

Sudan claims that the UN force would compromise its sovereignty

govt. of Sudan claims that they could establish security if it had more regional support

Sudan a member of the Arab League, which is divided on the security council's resolution

“Here, almost everybody is fighting everybody” -EU commission president

AU realizes it cannot leave Sudan without peacekeeping forces, but recognizes that its force is under-equipped

AU force extended until December--meant to have left already, but has agreed to stay until December while the UN and Sudanese govt hopefully work out an agreement

life at refugee camps miserable and often AU forces are not allowed to go in them--at one camp, 21 women have been raped within the last week while going to fetch water. majority of deaths in the conflict have been from a lack of food, water, medicine, etc., and not actual violence.

EU announcing a \$70 million support programme for the AU

Sudan is an Arab-dominated country but Darfur's population is mostly black African

years, tensions exist between mostly black African farmers and mostly Arab herders, who compete for land

opposition groups in Darfur have long claimed that the govt neglects their province and discriminates against black Africans

began in 2003 when rebel groups launched offensive, attacking govt. targets

in retaliation, government launched military and police campaign

govt. aircraft have bombed villages, after which Arab Janjaweed militia would ride in on camels and horses to “slaughter, rape, and steal” -cited evidence for link between Janjaweed and government

some have called it a deliberate attempt to drive out black Africans

200,000 refugees crossed border into Chad--Eastern Chad ethnically similar to Western Sudan (Darfur)

those in camps depend entirely on food aid from international donors

aid agencies maintain that the continuing violence is making it difficult, or impossible, for them to provide the displaced with the help required *note* for the most part, Darfur is not lacking for those willing to provide aid--it is the implementation of aid that has been difficult/impossible

AU brokered a peace deal earlier in 2006 that Sudan govt. signed on but only one rebel group did

since then, the only change is that Minni Minawi's group, the ones that signed peace deal, are fighting on the government's side

“Interlocking wars”:

there are armed rebels in the South and East, and only recently did violence end in the South, which had been going on for fifty years

rebel groups in Sudan willing to exchange peace for ministerial posts in the Khartoum government, and right to hold a referendum on southern independence in five years

Darfur conflict sparked into bloody conflict b/c they felt that the North-South agreement ignored their own perceived marginalization of Darfur

some worry that agreement with Darfur will spark another rebellion in Eastern Sudan--Beja minority, and another humanitarian crisis that the media has largely overlooked

One key thing to understand--this is a conflict where rebels ARE fighting government forces. but, being fought in Darfur, which is why it is such a humanitarian crisis--civilians severely affected, and vast majority of them are black Africans. Also, Janjaweed accused of *possibly* genocidal intentions--have specifically and disastrously targeted civilians.

Sudan rejected the UN force, which is why AU force extended until December. after that, the AU is not sure if it can maintain its post--and is already understaffed

accused of "war crimes" although UN reluctant to call it genocide

govt admits to mobilizing "self defense militias" following rebel attacks but denies links to the Janjaweed, which has been accused of "cleansing" black Africans from large swathes of territory

many women report being captured by Janjaweed and used as sex slaves. other instances of systematic rape

Sudan officially pledged to disarm janjaweed--which it has not yet done

death toll is difficult to take, as most of the area inaccessible to aid workers and researchers, but the official/recent estimate is "no FEWER than 200,000"

WHAT AMNESTY SAYS:

"systematic" human rights abuses occurred including killing, torture, rape, looting and destroying of property--by all parties involved, but primarily Sudanese govt and -backed militia

TWO MILLION have died due to conflict in Sudan since the civil war began twenty years ago, out of a population of 41 million (most deaths previously in South)

Defining genocide..

US has used term genocide, but UN won't--if UN defines genocide,

there are a step of actions that must be taken. Also, complexity of accusing a member state, or anyone, of .. GENOCIDE

US has stopped saying genocide--Colin Powell was the person to come out and say it

-not officially retracted calling it genocide-

Article two of the convention on Genocide, which came into being in after Holocaust (definition)

“any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

killing members of the group

causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group

deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part

imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group

forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

some call this definition too narrow, so narrow that none of the mass killings perpetrated since treaty's adoption would fall under it

objections:

excludes targeted political and social groups

definition is limited to direct acts against people, excluding acts against environment which sustains them or their cultural distinctiveness

proving intention beyond reasonable doubt is extremely difficult

members states hesitant to single out other members or intervene, as was case in Rwanda--the fresh memory of what happened in Somalia one year earlier also hampered international response

there is no body of international law to clarify parameters of convention, though changing as war crimes tribunals issue indictments--

explain process/definition of "common law"

difficulty of defining or measuring "in part" and establishing how many deaths equal genocide

"genocide is distinguishable from all other crimes by the motivation behind it. genocide is a crime on a different scale to all other crimes against humanity and implies an intention to completely exterminate the chosen group. genocide is therefore both the gravest and greatest of the crimes against humanity" - person who invented the word, himself sole survivor of Holocaust out of his family

"those who SHOULD use the word genocide never let it slip their mouths. those who unfortunately do use it, banalise it into a validation of every kind of victimhood"

some maintain only one instance of genocide in our century--holocaust

(some) other possible genocides:

mass killing of Armenians by Ottoman Turks in 1915-1920.. something that Turks deny / censor the media for and are still extremely touchy about

Rwanda, where estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus machete'd to death.

Bosnia, massacres occurred as part of a pattern of genocide, though some doubt that was intent of Milosevic --Srebrenica

UN: not genocide because Sudanese government has not pursued an intentional policy of genocide

UN has not ruled out that if war crimes are investigated by ICC, it may find genocidal acts having been committed in Darfur, and some individuals guilty of having had "genocidal intent"