



2nd GENEVA SUMMIT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, TOLERANCE AND DEMOCRACY

March 8-9, 2010

Session: Genocide and the Humanitarian Challenge: Case Study of Sudan

Speech of Mr. Amer Adam Hesabu, Darfuri Refugee

I would like to thank Mr. Jan Pronk, Former Special Representative in Sudan of UN- Secretary General – Koffi Annan - for all the effort, hard work and determination to protect civilians you showed when you discovered the terrible situation in Darfur.

I would like also to Thank- Simon Deng, for his years of dedication to highlighting the whole issue of Slavery in Sudan ,

My Name is - Amer Hesabu , I am from Darfur and now live in UK, I represent Dar fur community in the UK , mad up 1000,00 people. I will explain my experiences.

Darfur people had been living in peace for up to 800 years-over 160 different groups got on well with respect for each other, the real problems started, not when the British colonised Sudan, but when they withdrew in 1956 and left Arab in charge. Darfur people are not Arabs an there has been conflict ever since!

In 1991, when I was 19 years old the Janjaweed, known as Arab Forssan, first started the slaughter. Armed by the Government of Sudan to fight against the Sudanese liberation Army led by Dawod Bulad and the SPLM from the South, led by John Grang -the Areb forssan went from village to village hunting for the rebel soldiers. As they went they burned houses, tortured people and burned them alive cut them in pieces too many dead body laying on streets, rape women, throwing children on fire, calling them devil- for joining with Christians from the South, against the Sudan Government .

They come to my village an into our family home, demanding to know where were the rebel and accusing us of hiding them, they beat each one of us, even my father they took my brother with them, releasing him days later, after torturing him, they stayed in the village for a month. Many



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people fled and market, schools and hospitals were all closed. They forced us to help them or be killed.

I went to the next village for protection, but when I got there it was worse than from where I had come from and there were only women left. Part of the village had been burned and men had fled to mountains to train as soldiers to fight the Janjaweed. Many women had been killed, many more raped. The men came back each night for food and check the women and children, and the next night I followed them into the mountains and then trained with them.

A year later I managed to escape and went to Khartoum to study and from there to Egypt and then The Netherlands, finally arriving UK in 2003. My Darfury friends in UK have similar stories. 600.000 people have been killed in Dar fur and a further 2.7 million are living in refugee camps in Darfur and neighbouring Chad and a further 2.5million are living in Sudan. It is very painful for us to know that the slaughter continues in Darfur and that our family and friends are still there.. In my family alone 37 people have been killed including my 2 oldest brother and sister husband and left between three to six children each living to day at Kalma Refugee camp in Nyala, central of Darfur. Our people are in constant danger, we knew people digging their own graves. Rape is used systematically as a tool of war, of burning people alive and cut them in pieces.

So what do I think should happen?

Firstly the International Community need to act

It should insist that the aid agencies are allowed to return. Only last month another 25 aid agencies in Chad and Darfur were told to leave by the Sudanese Government. Chad is poor, the people need enough food and education to live and to have hope of rebuilding their lives when they can eventually return. From Coventry, we have collected and sent a container full of education materials for the children in the camps. But this is clearly not sustainable. The aid agencies need to return to the camps.



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International pressure should also result in UN peace keeping forces going into Darfur to protect. The UNAMAD Troops from Africa have been there for 5 years but have failed to protect the people. They have themselves been kidnapped and killed by Janjaweed.

Peace agreement sounds good. But for 20 years, President Basheer has been signing documents promising peace in Darfur, but actually there is no progress on the ground and people are still suffering. He has been named as a war criminal and refuses to comply with international criminal court

The international community needs to act. The Darfur people have a right to live and to Self Determination.

Thank you for listening