

**General Purpose:** To inform

**Specific Purpose:** To inform my audience about the genocide occurring in Sudan, Africa.

## Introduction

- I. **Open with Impact:** I think we can all agree that the Holocaust was a horrific event in human history that should never repeat itself. The killing of innocent people, because of their ethnicity is something that does not happen anymore, right? Wrong!
- II. **Thesis Statement:** Since 2003 militias have killed approximately 400,000 black Africans, and sent 2.5 million fleeing from their villages in Darfur.
- III. **Connect with Audience:** Sometimes we all take for granted the many freedoms and advantages we have as Americans. Living in a country where we do not have to fear the government or worry about being killed because of the color of our skin is something we should cherish.
- IV. **Preview:** Today I am going to tell you about the genocide that is happening in the Darfur region of Sudan, some specific events, and what is being done to stop it.

## Body

- I. **Main Point:** Mass murder is happening right now in Darfur, a western region of Sudan.
  - A. It all started in February of 2003 when a group of black African rebels revolted against the government in search of freedom and equality for their people.
  - B. In response to the revolt the government sponsored their own Arab militias to wipe out these black natives.
  - C. These government backed militias are called the Janjaweed, which translated means "evil on horseback" which is exactly what they are. The militiamen come into the villages of Darfur 10 or 12 at a time. They travel by horseback, camel, or pickup trucks mounted with machine guns. They steal anything of value, burn all the huts and crops, slaughter or steal the livestock, shoot the men and boys, and rape or torture the women.
  - D. This genocide has also been described as "ethnic cleansing" because of the obvious intent to eliminate the black Africans from the territory. **According** to correspondent Scott Pelley, in an August 28th, 2005 article called *Witnessing Genocide in Sudan* taken from CBSNews.com, survivors claim that during these raids

the Janjaweed are heard yelling ethnic slurs, saying “You blacks, get out! You’re slaves. You’re hyena. Never come back!”

**(Signpost and Transition:** With all this happening you can bet the refugees that managed to escape have many horrible stories.)

**II. Main Point:** The Darfurians that are still alive are very lucky yet they still must deal with the traumatic memories of what has happened to them and their families.

- A. I found first hand accounts of the horrors that these people went through on NewsBank.com in an October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004 article called *The Tragedy of Sudan* by Simon Robinson.
  - i. Abdulkarim, a 25 year old refugee, will never forget her encounter with the Janjaweed. After hearing bombs being dropped overhead she ran out of her hut and was confronted by two men in military uniform, one carrying a whip, the other a knife. She turned to look for her husband and saw him lying beneath a man with a rifle while other men in the group burnt her home to the ground. She was then forced to the ground by the two men, only yards away from her dying husband. They then took turns raping her while calling her vicious names and to ensure she would never forget the assault they deeply slashed her left thigh saying the scar would mark her as a slave.
- B. There are many reports of the Janjaweed kidnapping women and keeping them as sex slaves for weeks before letting them go.
- C. Another survivor, named Melkha, recalls seeing one fighter unwrap a newborn baby from her swaddling cloth onto the dirt. He spared her because she was a girl and then moved on to a baby boy nearby. One of the men threw the helpless boy into the air while the other took aim and shot him dead.

**(Signpost and Transition:** Finally, I’m sure you’re curious as to what is being done to stop this.)

**III. Main Point:** Little progress has been made in the last five years to prevent the genocide from happening in Darfur.

- A. The U.N. has pressured the Sudanese government to stop the killings yet no change has been made.
- B. After four years of this war the U.N. finally authorized the deployment of peacekeepers in Darfur.
- C. Sadly, despite their efforts, the fighting has continued and the African people are losing hope in the international community’s ability to help.
- D. **In an article** published July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 titled *US House calls Darfur ‘genocide’* found in News.bbc.com on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008, there are reports that even the refugee camps are not safe havens. The

government attacks these camps at night, and even the aid workers that are there to help are being attacked and killed. On top of all this, disease and starvation are major problems for refugees and two additional threats to their survival.

## Conclusion

- I. **Summary:** Today you have all become more aware of the genocide that has been happening in Darfur. I have told you about the inhumane acts of violence that the Janjaweed have been inflicting on the natives and the pathetic attempts made by the U.N. to stop it.
- II. **Close with Impact:** If you take anything away from my speech, I would like it to be the knowledge that some of the issues we would rather leave in the past are still prevalent now. Even though many decades have passed since the actual Holocaust occurred, how far have we really come if genocide is still happening today?

## References

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