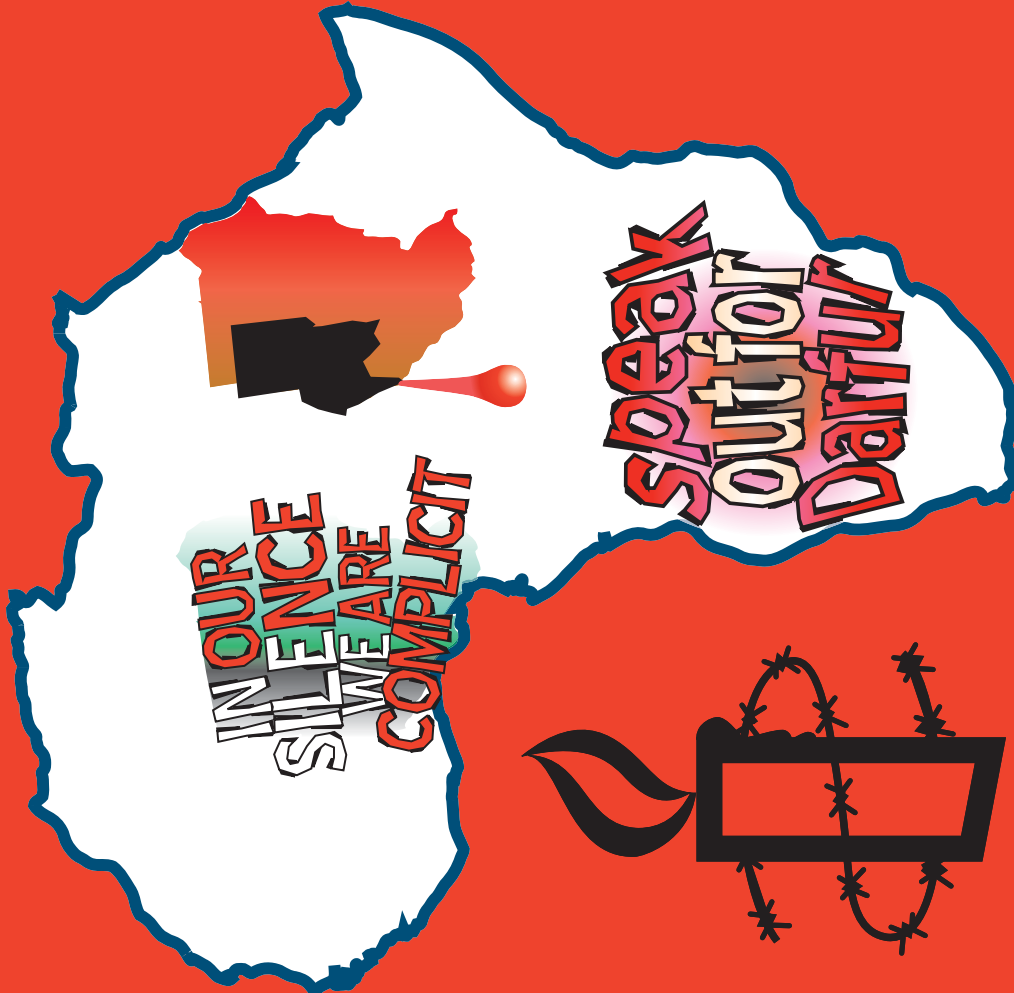


amnesty international
www.amnesty.org/sudan

PROTECT CIVILIANS IN SUDAN





What is June 26th?

June 26th is the **International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors**, a day commemorated by governments, human rights groups and others around the world. Amnesty Brooklyn is highlighting the victims in the Darfur region of Sudan as a reminder of the violence and insecurity in the region.

What is going on in Darfur?

Tens of thousands of people have been unlawfully killed or extrajudicially executed by government forces and *Janjaweed* militia armed and funded by the Sudanese authorities. More than 2 million remain forcibly displaced. Thousands of women have been raped and rapes are continuing. Rebel forces attack humanitarian convoys. Despite assertions by the government of Sudan that peace is returning to Darfur, violence against civilians continues. The government has failed to disarm the *Janjaweed* militias or bring those accused of crimes to justice.



Sudanese refugees. © AI

At the end of March 2005, the UN Security Council passed three resolutions on various aspects of the Sudan crisis, establishing the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), extending the arms embargo in Darfur to include the government, and referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Despite these resolutions, the situation in Sudan remains grave and even stronger measures are needed to restore security and prevent further mass deaths. In early June 2005, the Sudanese government stated that no Sudanese suspect would be handed over to the ICC and is setting up its own special tribunal.

In September 2004, then U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said: "that genocide has been committed in Darfur and that the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility -- and genocide may still be occurring." The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, by unanimous vote in July 2004 declared that the atrocities in Darfur were genocide. Despite these declarations, the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005 (approved by Senate) and the Darfur Genocide Accountability Act of 2005 (introduced by House) have not been passed.

Why a candlelight vigil?

Here in Brooklyn, we will light candles on June 26th in memory of the Sudanese who have lost their lives, and stand in solidarity with the millions of victims of rape, torture, and displacement.

What is Amnesty International?

Amnesty International is a Nobel Prize-winning grassroots activist organization with over 1.8 million members worldwide. Amnesty International undertakes research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

Amnesty Brooklyn, Chapter #27 is the local chapter of Amnesty International. The Brooklyn chapter meets every second Tuesday of the month for human rights discussions and actions.



Students in Nepal, taking action to stop the human rights crisis in Darfur © AI

Take action!

Write a letter or email to advise your elected representative of your views of the Darfur crisis. To find out who your elected officials are (and their contact information) visit <http://www.nypirg.org/> and click on "who represents me?" on the bottom left.

Join Amnesty Brooklyn! For more information about the chapter and how you can get involved visit: www.aiBrooklyn.org or send an email to carla@aibrooklyn.org