



Rights NOW

The newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

The Challenge of Darfur

By Sarah M. Peck

The situation in Darfur is far from simple. Darfur, a region of Sudan roughly the size of Texas, began to unravel in 2003, when two rebel organizations attacked a government installation in North Darfur. The rebels and their supporters sought equal treatment for the people of Darfur, who have suffered years of neglect and discrimination at the hands of the Sudanese government.

The government responded swiftly and violently, arming Arab militia groups — commonly known as the Janjaweed — to attack civilians in a brutal scorched-earth campaign. The Sudanese army often participated alongside the Janjaweed, bombing and burning villages; killing, raping, and kidnapping civilians; and driving people out of their homes. The government, however, flatly denies any links with the Janjaweed.

Many have described this conflict as one simply between “Arabs” and “black Africans.” However, it is better characterized as a government-driven campaign of violence that has pitted pastoralist Arab ethnic groups against non-Arab agriculturalist ethnic groups.



2006 Courtesy of Erin Boyd

UUSC works in Darfur to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, and leads an advocacy effort — Drumbeat for Darfur — to mobilize to end the genocide.

Today, large parts of Darfur lie in smoking ruins, with over 300,000 dead, 2 million internally displaced, and another 250,000 refugees in Chad.

Four years later, the situation has cracked wide open. Arab militias and rebel factions have splintered, fighting each other, attacking civilians, and participating in banditry and armed attacks on humanitarian-aid groups, as well as African Union troops.

The Mahria and the Terjem, two Janjaweed groups that drove the Fur ethnic group off their lands, are now battling each other for that land and resources. This exemplifies the new Arab-on-Arab violence that is developing alongside the continuing violence, with each group seeking to secure as much land and resources as

they can before a resolution to the violence is reached.

While there have been attempts at peace talks, the stubbornness of the Sudanese government and the splintering of the rebel forces have so far prevented any real progress. Only one rebel group signed the

continued on p. 10

ALSO INSIDE

PAGE 3
Drumbeat for Darfur rolls through Washington, D.C.

PAGE 4
South Africa fighting new apartheid

PAGE 6
The invisible conflict in Uganda

PAGE 8
Innovative child labor strategies by women of faith in Kenya

PAGE 11
Sudan divestment act becomes law

Editorial Staff

Sarah M. Peck, Meredith Barges and Ki Kim

Design and Production

Mark Simon and Eric Grignol

UUSC employees are represented by Human Rights Workers Local 2661, **UNITE HERE!**

We Welcome Letters

Rights Now is grateful to readers for their interest and support. We invite you to share your questions and comments by submitting a letter to the editor:

rightsnow@uusuc.org

Rights Now Editor, UUSC
689 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Rights Now is published by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a membership organization working to advance justice throughout the world. UUSC members receive *Rights Now* three times per year. UUSC is supported by individual members, Unitarian Universalist congregations, and foundations that share our commitment to building a more just world.

Rights Now is a publication of the UUSC Communications Department.

© 2007 All Rights Reserved

Get *Rights Now* online

Would you prefer to receive *Rights Now* by e-mail instead of in your mailbox? Sign up today by sending an e-mail to uusuc@uusuc.org and begin receiving *Rights Now* by e-mail.



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

www.uusuc.org
info@uusuc.org
617-868-6600
617-868-7102/fax



Courtesy of Banielle Sikkford
Charlie Clements at a refugee camp in eastern Chad.

I'm occasionally asked, "What happened to your programs that focused on women?" or "What happened to your programs that focused on children?" If you were to read our annual report or visit our website, it is true our programs are no longer identified in those terms. Instead, you would find programs focusing on Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Civil Liberties, and Rights in Humanitarian Crises. These relatively new program areas are the result of a nearly year-long program review and refocus by UUSC staff and the UUSC Board of Trustees that I initiated shortly after arriving at UUSC four years ago. Thousands of members, domestic and overseas partners, former board members, and fellow NGOs took part.

Despite the differences among the many individuals and institutions involved, suggestions for our future program areas centered around seven key issues. With these in mind, the board suggested that, rather than pursue programs addressing human rights issues relating specifically to women, race, or economic status, we should ground key programs in an analysis of gender, race, and class. This approach would help us understand which people are most affected by human rights violations and determine which organizations we should partner with in seeking remedies.

In this issue of *Rights Now*, you can see how these changes have shaped our human rights work in Africa.

Our piece on Darfur shows our focus on the plight of Darfurian women displaced internally and across international borders. UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program responds to breaches of human rights relating to violence against women in war and the particular obstacles women face to achieving postconflict recovery.

Another article reports on a legal proceeding in South Africa that we've helped to fund in which women from Phiri, one of the poorest townships in Johannesburg, are challenging the local water company to respect their human right to water as guaranteed in the constitution of South Africa.

An article arising from a UUSC staff visit to Uganda examines the dismal situation inside government-run internally displaced persons camps and the way the Lord's Resistance Army has conscripted thousands upon thousands of children as child soldiers — and how children who survive often struggle to reintegrate back into their communities.

Another article reintroduces readers to the Rock Women Group, a community-based organization working to strengthen the rights of child laborers in Kenya, while helping girls and young women aged 13 to 21 to gain valuable trade skills and go to school.

True — UUSC no longer defines its programs around groups like women or children. But because our four major program areas view their work through the lenses of gender, race, and class, marginalized people in all of these groups form part of our focus. So, while this subtle shift may not be spelled out in our publications, the concerns of our work remain fundamentally the same.

Charlie Clements



UUSC President Charlie Clements, UUSC Board Chair Bill Schulz, Rev. Gloria White-Hammond, and Rev. Marti Keller hold a UUSC banner before the march.

Drumbeat for Darfur Keeps Up the Pressure

By Shelley Moskowitz

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, UUSC's Drumbeat for Darfur campaign raised the decibel level of concern about the continuing genocide in Darfur. UUSC President Charlie Clements and Drumbeat for Darfur activists came together as part of UUSC's D.C. Days of Action to march and lobby Congress. Together, they sent a powerful message to policymakers to be a force for peace and justice in Darfur.

Our gathering could not have come at a more pressing time. Conditions on the ground in Darfur are deteriorating, peace talks are off to a rocky start, and the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission is not fully deployed.

D.C. Days of Action opened on December 8 with a welcome reception for advocates, followed by an evening screening of *The Devil Came on Horseback* and the new film *Darfur Now*. On Sunday morning, Drumbeat for Darfur activists attended a worship service at the Universalist National Memorial Church, where Clements gave a moving sermon. Afterwards, the group honed their advocacy skills

at a lobby training session organized by UUSC staff. They received the latest policy updates and learned about the challenges Darfurian women and girls face on a daily basis. (See p. 1.)

December 10, International Human Rights Day, began with powerful speeches delivered by Rev. Bill Schulz and Rev. Gloria White-Hammond at a solemn gathering at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Participants also viewed the plaque honoring UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp and toured the museum's Darfur Emergency exhibit, connecting UUSC's origins in antigencide efforts with Drumbeat for Darfur's current call to action.

Inspired and ready to raise their collective voice, UUSC activists joined with national coalition partners for a march to the White House and a press event at the Chinese Embassy. Clements was the first to carry the symbolic Olympic torch, urging the hundreds in attendance to use this unique moment in history, when China is preparing to host the 2008 Summer Olympics, to push the Chinese government to support a just resolution to the conflict. Actor Mia Farrow, as well as past Olympic athletes, spoke

about what is at stake in Darfur and the difference China can make in the lives of 6-7 million people in Darfur.

After the rally, UUSC activists headed to Capitol Hill, where they lobbied legislators to take swift action to fully fund the U.N.-A.U. peacekeeping force, pass the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act (SADA) to protect states that do not want pension funds supporting genocide, and urge the Senate to do more to protect Darfurian women and girls from gender-based violence. UUSC activists pressed policymakers to take action on Darfur before leaving for their holiday recess. Thanks to steady and escalating grassroots pressure, activists won striking victories: the SADA was signed into law on December 31 and funding for peacekeeping was included in a final funding bill. (See p. 11.)

However, during this election year, continuing pressure is needed to keep Darfur on the political and diplomatic radar and to ensure full implementation of U.S. commitments.

Shelley Moskowitz is UUSC's manager of public policy, based in Washington, D.C.

South Africa is Fighting a New Apartheid

South Africa struggled for almost 50 years to end apartheid — sadly a new apartheid may be emerging.

By Rebecca Brown

“Those are the last few liters of water for this month,” says Jennifer Makoatsane, as her elderly mother fills up a bucket to do laundry from a backyard tap. She explains that no one in her household is employed (South Africa’s unemployment rate stands at 40 percent) and the only income for the household comes from her mother’s pension. They cannot afford to pay for the most basic services and so depend on the 6,000 liters of free basic water per household per month (or 25 liters per person per day) provided by Johannesburg Water, Ltd. The utility company controls their flow of water by way of a prepaid meter it installed in their front yard.

Makoatsane’s family of eight, four adults and four children, live in a two-bedroom home in a poor township called Phiri (pronounced “Piree”) in Soweto, South Africa. The basic monthly provision of free water for a household of eight allows each member of the family to take a bath twice a month and the toilet to be flushed once every few days. They must plan ahead to have enough water to do their laundry and cooking. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared 50 liters per person per day to be the minimum daily requirement to meet basic human needs.

Makoatsane and others in Phiri were not always limited to 6,000

liters per month. Johannesburg Water began installing prepaid meters in 2003 as part of a “cost recovery” program. For those in Phiri who wanted to keep their indoor plumbing, having a prepaid meter installed was mandatory. The less attractive alternatives were either installing a standpipe, which, while unmetered, requires using buckets for all water needs, or no water services at all. To underscore the inequity, prepaid meters were only installed in low-income, black neighborhoods.

This situation galvanized the Coalition Against Water Privatisation (CAWP), with the support of UUSC, to step in and mobilize Phiri residents to stand up for their rights.

The South African constitution is one of the most progressive in the world, protecting not only civil and political rights, but also economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. Section 27 of the constitution specifically protects the right of access to water, requiring the South African government to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to water on a progressive basis within available resources. The constitution also includes clear provisions on respecting the equality and dignity of all citizens.

CAWP’s strategy was to file a constitutional challenge in the High Court of South Africa against both Johannesburg Water and the Department of Water Affairs and

Forestry, and mobilize grassroots organizers to encourage people to speak out and raise awareness of the water disparity in South Africa.

UUSC first enlisted the Freedom of Expression Institute in South Africa to explore the case. A legal team was formed around Jackie Dugard, a senior researcher at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) at the University of Witwaterstrand, with Wim Trengove, the most respected constitutional lawyer in South Africa, arguing the case.

From December 3-5, 2007, Phiri residents filled the chambers of the High Court. Outside, CAWP community organizers Virginia Setshedi and Patra Sindane led a rally and march of community members protesting the prepaid-water-meter system. They held up signs declaring water to be a human right and sang songs of human triumph over state and corporate repression.

Inside, the legal team attacked Johannesburg Water policy. They argued that the installation of prepaid meters in only low-income, black areas violates constitutional rights to equality and nondiscrimination and that the government failed to respect the right of access to water. They also argued that because the government is constitutionally bound to “progressively realize” the right to water, it cannot undertake measures that would limit services to low-

income persons. The team asked the court to order Johannesburg Water to provide a free basic water supply of 50 liters per person per day and the option of a credit-metered delivery mechanism installed at the cost of the City of Johannesburg.

Important to this case, Johannesburg Water and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry have never argued that there is not enough water to increase household allotments to WHO standards or that they lack the resources to cross-subsidize water for low-income families. Their cost structure shows that because the first block of water beyond the free amount is the most heavily taxed, the cost burden is falling heaviest on low-income households. Industrial, large-scale agricultural, and luxury users enjoy a decreasing tax structure the more water they consume. But most

inequitable, the requested increase from 25 to 50 liters per person per day stands in stark contrast to the 250-400 liters per person per day consumed in wealthier communities. The United Nations Development Program has labeled this phenomenon “water apartheid.”

The political and financial support of UUSC has been essential to bringing this case to the High Court of South Africa. Phiri residents hopefully await the decision of the judge, due in the next few weeks. “We hope this case will help people all across Soweto and South Africa struggling for justice,” said Makoatsane. Indeed, the world has its eyes on this case and the struggle of the residents of Phiri to advance water justice.

Rebecca Brown is an associate in UUSC’s Environmental Justice Program.



Water facts

The average number of liters of free water per person per day provided to Phiri residents by Johannesburg Water: **25**

The number of liters of water per person per day the World Health Organization says is needed to meet basic human needs: **50**

The average number of liters of water per person per day consumed in the United States: **300-378**



2007 Rebecca Brown/UUSC

Left: Outside the High Court of South Africa, community activists protest the use of prepaid water meters and rally to declare water as a human right.

Rights in humanitarian crises

How Does a War Become Invisible?

Ugandans pay the price of an invisible conflict

by Martha Thompson

The war in northern Uganda is proof that the world can turn its face away from death, destruction, and cruelty. In 19 years of war between the rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan Army, tens of thousands have been killed and 1.7 million people have been involuntarily displaced from their homes, pushed off their land, and packed into squalid government-run internally displaced persons (IDP) camps to isolate them from the LRA. Yet, this conflict rarely makes the headlines.

The LRA's leader, Joseph Kony, comes from the Acholi People, an ethnic group in northern Uganda, which has borne the brunt of the LRA's indiscriminate acts of mutilation, murder, forced disappearance, torture, forced conscription, use of child soldiers, and rape.

The LRA operates by invading villages and camps, abducting children, conscripting them, and forcing them to commit acts of violence against their own communities and families. Human-rights groups estimate that 30,000 to 60,000 children between the

ages of 5 and 18 have been forcibly conscripted into the LRA. They are used as porters, workers, soldiers, sex slaves, and, above all, cannon fodder. Many girls are taken as "wives" for commanders, raped, and forced to bear children.

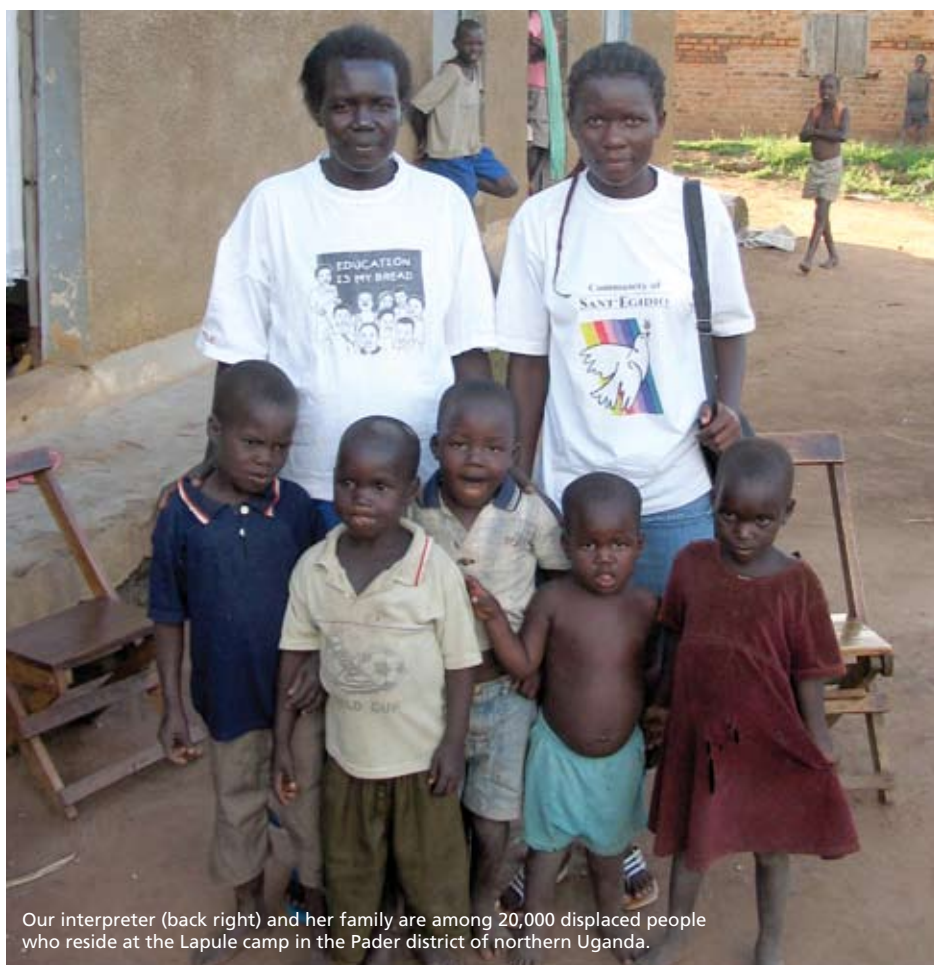
Life inside IDP camps is no safer. The LRA often attacked camps where the displaced were helpless to escape. "Everyone had to be inside by 6 p.m.," said one young woman in the Lapule camp in Pader district. Pointing to a flimsy tin door on her mud hut, she added, "We always slept with one eye open. The LRA could come at any time, bang the doors open, take people out, and kill them. Once they drove the soldiers out, they took over the barracks and kidnapped over 300 people."

This conflict has been an unthinkable horror for the young children forced to fight and kill for the LRA — and a wrenching tragedy for the families and communities who could not protect the children they lost so brutally.

During a UUSC visit to an IDP camp, a group of women danced a lament for their lost children. They sang a song they had composed: "Joseph Kony, give us back our children that you have taken into the bush."

Nearby, a girl who looked about 14 years old sat quietly, holding a young baby. Our interpreter told us that she was an abductee who had escaped from the LRA.

Although parents are passionate about finding their lost children,



Our interpreter (back right) and her family are among 20,000 displaced people who reside at the Lapule camp in the Pader district of northern Uganda.

2007 Martha Thompson/UUSC

oftentimes family members or neighbors shun those who manage to return because of the terrible acts they were forced to commit by the LRA. Girls who return with children are especially vulnerable to abuse and rejection.

The price of an invisible conflict, like this one, is paid by IDPs and refugees, whose access to food, health, water, shelter, safety, and education is far below minimum standards. The inadequacy of international and national aid in northern Uganda is shocking. Entire areas have little or no NGO presence or services. Children with signs of advanced malnutrition can be found walking the camps.

Despite the terrible conditions, this is a moment of hope as peace negotiations move forward between the LRA and the Ugandan government. For the first time in eight years, people are pouring out of the main camps into satellite camps closer to

their villages, where they are planting crops again. Although they do not dare return to their homes yet, they seem hopeful as they harvest the first crops of fresh peanuts, sorghum, and millet they have tasted for years.

UUSC is now developing a program in northern Uganda to support internally displaced persons as they begin to return to their homes and rebuild their communities.

“The people have swallowed poison and now they must bring it up,” said John Baptist Odama, archbishop of Gulu, in Kalong. “The people have suffered so much trauma, and now they must figure out how to talk about what happened, get the trauma out, recognize what happened, and rebuild the future.”

Martha Thompson is manager of UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program.



More than 300,000 children under 18 are currently being exploited in over 30 armed conflicts worldwide. Some are as young as 7 years old.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict entered into force on February 12, 2002. To date, 65 nations have ratified.



Many displaced Acholi people have moved into satellite camps that are closer to their home villages. Although services in these small camps are limited, residents can tend the land and grow crops.

2007 Martha Thompson/UUSC

“I Am No Longer the Same”

UUSC support boosts innovative child-labor strategies by women of faith

by Johanna Chao Kreilick

In August 2007, UUSC representatives traveled to Kenya to meet with leaders and members of the Rock Women Group, a UUSC program partner based in Nairobi that works to strengthen the rights of children and young women working in the informal economy. The goal is to provide these workers with information, skills, and assets they need in order to live in dignity and build a brighter future for themselves and their community.

At a church meeting house in one of Nairobi’s outlying settlements, six members and leaders of the Rock Women Group opened the visit with a prayer and a song, “I Am No Longer the Same.”

Because of the Rock Women Group, girls and young women aged 13 to 21 in Nairobi’s poorest areas are learning valuable trades, such as tailoring, knitting, and hairdressing, which provide a sustainable income for young people who must work to live. At the same time, school-aged participants are able to continue their education through an alternative school program designed to meet the needs and schedules of child workers. Studying at informal schools, they work to complete education requirements that will provide access to higher education and a step up on the job ladder toward higher-paying jobs.

The Rock Women Group started out as a women’s prayer circle composed of primary- and secondary-

school teachers from Nairobi slums who decided to put their faith into action. They began by building on their close relationships with students and families in the poorest communities to develop a synchronized program that strengthens the human rights of women and girls in the informal economy. Their unique approach to skills development and education takes into account the impact of both gender discrimination and child exploitation on participants.

In Kenya, as in many countries around the world, the global HIV/AIDS pandemic has exacerbated conditions for child laborers, some of the world’s most vulnerable and marginalized workers. The disease has



Because of the Rock Women Group, girls and young women aged 13 to 21 in Nairobi’s poorest areas are learning valuable trades that provide a sustainable income for children who must work to live.

Rock Women Group leaders and members welcome UUSC staff with a song during a partner visit to Nairobi in August 2007.

“Each one of us had a hope of doing something, and then we joined up as a group. We thank God for each other and for UUSC, without which this work wouldn’t be possible.”

— Perpetua Ojiambo, Rock Women Group

orphaned countless children, leaving many responsible for supporting not only themselves, but also their younger siblings. In these desperate circumstances, the only option for many children is to drop out of school to earn money in whatever way possible — often by performing dangerous and unhealthy work. The easiest place for children to find work is in the informal economy, which remains outside the scope of most legal protections, where they are vulnerable to a range of human rights abuses.

The Rock Women Group seeks to ameliorate the worst effects of economic insecurity on working children. Its child-labor project is pioneering a new method of giving children a leg up by creating a base of political support that mobilizes to strengthen policy in support of street vendors and child workers.

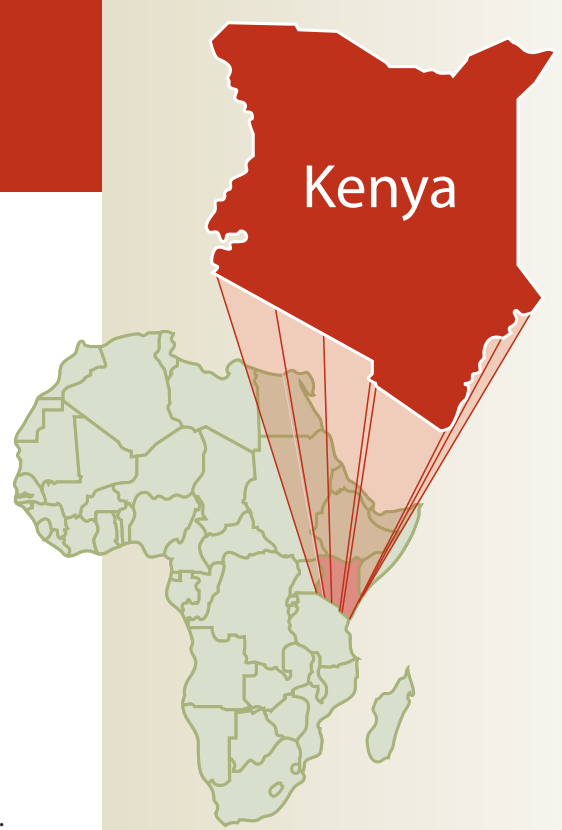
Through UUSC grant making and technical support, Rock Women Group members have developed their role as “teacher-activists,” drawing on the network of teachers in their communities to expand their programs dramatically. Their work, as it grows, will serve as a model of faith-based activism and organizing

in the important areas of child labor and the informal economy.

“My vision is to become self-employed,” explained 13-year-old Eda Musila, a head-of-household for four siblings. After she dropped out of formal school, the Rock Women Group sought Eda out, providing her with care, support, and access to alternative trades training and education programs. Eda is now trained in sewing and tailoring children’s clothes, which both fills a market demand and provides a safe, sustainable income for her and her siblings. She is also continuing her education during off-hours in the hope of passing the national education exam, which would give her access to university. “Because of this group and its generous heart, I am very happy because soon I’ll be called a tailor!”

Perpetua Ojiambo, one of the Rock Women Group explained, “Each one of us had a hope of doing something, and then we joined up as a group. We thank God for each other and for UUSC, without which this work wouldn’t be possible.”

Johanna Chao Kreilick is manager of UUSC’s Economic Justice Program.



UUSC leads fact-finding mission on Kenya crisis

A special delegation organized by UUSC visited Kenya in late January to learn firsthand the extent and root causes of the crisis that engulfed the country following the flawed presidential election in late December.

The delegation consisted of Charlie Clements, UUSC president; Atema Eclai, UUSC’s program director and a native Kenyan; and Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, UU minister and founder of the UU Trauma Response Ministry. They met with partner organizations and community leaders to assess the impact of the crisis on the lives of ordinary Kenyans.

To learn about the delegation’s findings and the effect of the crisis on our partners, visit www.uusc.org/kenya.

The Challenge of Darfur

continued from p. 1

Darfur Peace Agreement in July 2006, which has done little to improve the situation on the ground. Subsequent attempts at negotiation have failed.

Amid this high-level insecurity, the African Union maintained 7,000 soldiers and police, which did not have a mandate to protect civilians. These troops were also chronically under-funded and found themselves under attack by armed groups in Darfur.

On July 31, 2007, the United Nations approved a United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur, UNAMID, which does have a mandate to use force, if necessary, to protect civilians and uphold the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The international community is pinning its hopes on UNAMID as the best way to stop the violence. This 27,000-member force could be an effective way of restoring some order to the region, but its success depends on the international community's strong and consistent support. As this article went to press, UNAMID is on the ground in Darfur, but still lacks funding and other necessities, such as helicopters and landing areas. The peacekeeping force also has yet to reach its full 27,000-member complement.

What UUSC is doing

UUSC is addressing the Darfur genocide in two ways: working on the ground to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, and leading an advocacy effort — Drumbeat for Darfur — which engages in long-term lobbying efforts and mobilization to end the violence.

Systematic rape and gender-based violence is being used in Darfur against women as a weapon of war, leaving behind long-term emotional and physical scars for survivors and their communities. Armed groups attack women and girls when they leave their villages and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps to search for firewood, water, and grass for fodder. Traditionally, this is women's work, and women in the camps have explained that men have not taken on the role because, if found, they would be killed, while “we are only raped.”

Generally in conflict situations, rape is committed with relative impunity, and in Sudan, protection systems for women are close to nonexistent. Under Sudanese law, if a woman does not produce a witness to rape, she will be in danger of being convicted of adultery. One middle-aged survivor living in an IDP camp told a UUSC representative that she was raped while collecting firewood. She said she received treatment from the government hospital, but that the attending doctor refused to believe that she had been raped. He told her she was unclean and accused her of committing adultery.

UUSC is developing both income-generation projects and alternative-fuel possibilities for internally displaced women to limit their need to leave the camps and thereby reduce their vulnerability

In South Darfur, UUSC has engaged a consultant to work with women in newly established women's centers inside IDP camps. Our consultant has overseen an income-generation study for 10 camps and has found several alternative money-earning

projects. She has trained 15 male camp leaders about gender-based violence and brought women's voices to that discussion. This is critical as one reason why women in Darfur are vulnerable to rape is that, as a group, they often lack the standing to raise their protection issues with camp leadership. Already, six leaders have agreed to form gender-based violence committees within their camps.

What you can do to help

Join the Drumbeat for Darfur

By joining UUSC's advocacy effort to end the genocide — Drumbeat for Darfur — you will be kept up to date on important policy issues, legislation, and developments on the ground. UUSC will give you targeted action points, helping you focus on the most critical issues affecting Darfur. To join, visit www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur or e-mail drumbeatfordarfur@uusc.org.

Communicate with your legislators

UUSC is pushing for specific U.S. legislation aimed at helping the people of Darfur. At our recent D.C. Days of Action (December 8-10, 2007), UUSC activists and supporters urged their senators to appropriate \$724 million in funds for the UNAMID mission. Ongoing advocacy is critical to ensuring effective peacekeeping forces are placed on the ground to protect lives and end the killing.

Donate to UUSC's Darfur program to protect women from rape and gender-based violence.

To make your donation online, visit www.uusc.org/darfur/donate.html.

Sarah M. Peck is a member of UUSC's communications department.

Drumbeat Success: Activists Celebrate Passage of New Sudan Divestment Law

by Dick Campbell

Thanks to the persistence of UUSC's Drumbeat for Darfur activists and of our colleague organizations, a significant victory in the campaign to end the four-year genocide in Darfur has been won. On New Year's Eve, President Bush rang out the old year by signing into law the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act, which had been approved unanimously by both houses of Congress.

The measure permits state and local governments to divest from companies doing business with Sudan and provides them with protection against lawsuits. The new law provides similar legal

protection for private mutual-fund and pension-fund managers.

Several states already have divested from Sudan, and many others are considering the move. The new law was drafted after the National Foreign Trade Council successfully challenged the state of Illinois' divestment law in court.

Letting our money talk, divestment in the United States will put increased pressure on Sudan to end state-sanctioned violence against the people of Darfur.

Thank you for answering our calls to action!

Dick Campbell is UUSC's media and public affairs coordinator.



Officials at the Boston headquarters of Fidelity Investments received petitions signed by 150,000 people urging the investment giant to divest all of its holdings in PetroChina, a Chinese oil company. China is Sudan's major trading partner and its main supplier of military weapons. UUSC helped deliver the petitions collected by partner agency Investors Against Genocide.

JUSTICE SUNDAY 2008

The Cost of Iraq: Who Pays the Price?

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

The war in Iraq has drained this nation's resources, created a humanitarian crisis in Iraq, and left a multitude of needs at home unmet — including the disgraceful lack of resources and commitment to rebuild the Gulf Coast.

Your congregation's Justice Sunday service and UUSC's Simple Steps for Justice will empower us all to educate, act, and speak out.

Stand with us on Sunday, March 30. Visit www.uusc.org/justicesunday to learn more.

Advance Justice Globally with Matching Gifts and Stocks

Your charitable gift to UUSC is a vote of confidence for our work in defense of human rights around the globe. It says you stand with UUSC beside those struggling for a more just world.

Just think — a gift of appreciated securities does more than just support UUSC's work in promoting human rights. It also saves you — the donor — capital gains and income taxes.

UUSC will use your gift of stocks to support our human-rights programs, while you receive a double benefit — an income-tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities as of the date of transfer *and* no incurred capital-gains taxes on your donated securities.

As a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, UUSC qualifies for most employers' matching gift programs. This means you can double the impact of your gift-giving by asking your human resources office to match your charitable gift to UUSC (Tax ID # 04-6186012).

And you can leverage your contribution even further. Your individual, unrestricted gifts of \$100 or more are also eligible to be matched through a generous grant by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

For more information on planned gift giving, contact UUSC's Institutional Advancement Department by calling 800-766-5236.



2007 Sarah Peck/UUSC



Rights NOW

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
689 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02139-3302

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Providence, RI
Permit No. 980

Time to renew?
We need your
continued
membership!