

Considering Darfur at UCCS

Darfur is a topic that is constantly flickering on and off the public radar. Currently, there has been a resurgence of coverage on Darfur as the International Criminal Court decides to charge the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with genocide. Whether the situation in Darfur is defined as a humanitarian crisis or genocide is a controversial issue, not easily broached. Yet the conflict in Darfur remains real and constant. For those unfamiliar with Darfur, it is a region in Sudan populated with African tribes and ethnic groups. The current Darfur conflict stems from multiple reasons, but became main stream media as Darfuri rebels attacked an airport in Northern Darfur, killing Sudanese government officials. For further information on the Darfur conflict, see the *Further Readings* section below.

Here at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, students have a chance to learn about Darfur via the Writing Instruction Program. An English 141 course taught by Julie Mullebrouck uses the Darfur conflict as the focus for the research papers. I have had the opportunity to work with Julie's classes on several occasions, showing her students how to find research and data on their topics. From working with students, I was absolutely fascinated with the enormous amount of diversity of topics covered by the students. Each student had a different perspective and reflected on different topics relating to Darfur.

In honor of these different student voices, the second issue of the *Undergraduate Research Journal* is focused on Darfur and includes selected research papers written by English 141 students from the Spring and Summer 2008 semesters. Each paper focuses on a different aspect, from proposing a new definition for genocide to recommending more sustainable development in Darfur. These papers reveal the complexities of the Darfur conflict and propose methods to improve the current situation.

No matter your views, these papers on Darfur are enlightening reads. The *Undergraduate Research Journal at UCCS* looks forward to publishing more student research on a variety of topics in the future.

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Further Readings

"Darfur." *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. Ed. William A. Darity, Jr.. Vol. 2. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008. 226-227.

Foerstel, K. (2008, September 1). Crisis in Darfur. *CQ Global Researcher*, 2, 243-270. Retrieved November 17, 2008, from CQ Global Researcher, <http://library.cqpress.com/globalresearcher/cqrglobal2008090000>.