

Factsheet: Genocide in Sudan

BACKGROUND

- Eminent Polish scholar **Raphael Lemkin** first coined the term genocide in 1944 as "**the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group.**"
- Lemkin specifically differentiated it from the crime of mass murder, as this term does not connote the motivation of the crime, especially when the motivation is based upon **racial, national or religious considerations.**
- The term was motivated by the genocidal actions of **Nazi Germany** in the Second World War and is thereby intimately connected with the **Jewish and Roma experience.**
- Post-Second World War, a number of measures such as the creation of the **UN Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide** and to some extent the **UN Declaration of Human Rights**, were undertaken in an effort to ensure that genocide would **never again** take place. Unfortunately, since then the crime has recurred around the globe. The **Inter-Parliamentary Alliance for Human Rights and Global Peace** has listed, among many others, the following examples:
 - Australia's Stolen Generation 1910-1970
 - The First Sudanese war 1955-1972
 - The Brazilian Indian Genocide 1957-1968
 - Tibet 1959-1966
 - Rwanda 1962-1963, 1994

GENOCIDE IN SUDAN TODAY

- The civil war between the north and the south of Sudan lasted longer than 20 years, **killing 2.5 million** and **displacing 5 million** people.
- Sudan split – **in 2011 South Sudan became the world's youngest nation.**
- Political fighting between President Salva Kiir (part of the Dinka ethnic group) and his former deputy Riek Machar (from the Nuer ethnic group) has **divided South Sudan along ethnic lines.**
- Over **1.7 million people** (equivalent to the combined populations of Birmingham and Manchester) have been forced from their homes.
- **10,000** people have been **killed** in the violence.
- The UN estimates that there are **11,000 child soldiers** serving in both the rebel and government armies.
- **224,900 Sudanese refugees** are living in unsanitary conditions in overcrowded UN **refugee camps** across South Sudan, after fleeing the violence.
- Instances of **rape and sexual violence** against women, men and children, carried out by the warring militias, are commonplace across the country; **74% of the victims are under 18.**
- The youngest victim of sexual violence treated by health workers was a **two year old girl.**
- Violence has caused disruption to farming and the production of food, meaning that **2.5 million people (over 22% of South Sudan's total population)** are severely hungry (at crisis and emergency phases 3 and 4 on a scale where 5 means famine).
- UNICEF projects that **50,000 children** under the age of 5 are likely to die of hunger.