



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

To: Letter to the Editor  
New York Times  
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Date: March 3, 2005

Relative to stopping the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, Nicholas Kristof ( The American Witness, March 2, 2005) correctly challenges us to defy the passivity with which we are so often and so deeply afflicted. Until we demand that our leaders make the cessation of genocide a priority, it will be relegated to periodic news coverage and declarations, as the mountains of corpses grow. Kristof correctly promotes passage of the Darfur Accountability Act introduced this week in the US Senate. Further, an outraged and mobilized public will give our US leadership the impetus to confront China for its complicity and to force the UN to act. The UN was founded because of and upon the ashes of genocide. While the UN is splitting hairs over whether enough have died to declare a "genocide", the situation worsens. We Americans must not allow the UN to abandon its core purpose and mission. If the UN fails to stop this admittedly mass homicidal inhumanity in Darfur, does the UN have any value? This is the message of empowerment that we must give to our leaders. Otherwise, while we may be better than the janjaweed militia, we are not free from guilt.

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