



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

“The Darfur Genocide” by Don Cheadle and John Prendergast (March 24, 2005) should be a wake up call to all Americans, many of whom seem to feel that since the US labeled this horror in Darfur a “genocide”, our task is complete. It is true that while the UN is splitting hairs over whether enough Darfurians have died, and whether the murderers had adequate specific intent to justify calling what is happening “genocide”, the pile of corpses in Darfur has grown. It is also true that if we have any reason to continue our support of the UN, it is to stop genocide. Indeed, the disgrace of genocide was the essential motivating factor for the UN’s creation. Its failure to intercede to stop this genocide is a wholesale abandonment by the UN of its mission and purpose. However, the US’ identification of these horrors as a “genocide” is actually a mandate for us to propel forward and take aggressive action to actually save lives. It was both the Rev. Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel who preached, “Few are guilty, but all are responsible.” As Cheadle and Prendergast suggest, if we continue to stand by idly, merely observing the genocide without taking action, we become culpable as bystanders, a status which is only incrementally better than those who are pulling the triggers.

Janice Kamenir-Reznik, President,  
Jewish World Watch  
an organization to combat genocide