



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

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Letter to the Editor, LA Times

My name: Janice Kamenir-Reznik, esq. President, Jewish World Watch

Lawrence Kaplan seriously misses the boat when he cynically dismisses those who protest the genocide in Darfur as doing little more than “comforting their [own] sensibilities” (“If Iraq was wrong is Darfur right?” 4/23/06). In his broad-sweeping generalities, he makes many erroneous and insensitive assumptions, such as: (1) that all Darfur activists are liberals; (2) that they all oppose the Iraqi war; (3) that they all oppose military intervention to end the genocide; (4) that it would take massive US intervention to end the genocide; and (5) that the singular goal of Darfur activists is to end the genocide. Darfur activists are both liberal and conservative; moreover, they have differing views on the war in Iraq. Further, experts on the ground in Darfur have often stated that a mere tripling of the African Union forces in Darfur would save countless lives and substantially deter the *Janjaweed* attacks. Perhaps Kaplan’s most important omission, and that which reveals his utter insensitivity, relates to the matter of conscience which is wholly missing from his analysis. Those who have been roused to mobilize in behalf of the victims in Darfur, have demonstrated their humanity by expressing their moral outrage to the world. Is Kaplan suggesting that it is better to remain silent unless and until there is a unanimous decision that we advocate in a single voice for a full US military mobilization to bomb Khartoum? Further, activists, many of whom are elementary, middle and high school students, have raised millions of dollars to bring water and medical care to the victims who are trying to survive the horrific dislocation and onslaught perpetrated by the inhumane Khartoum government. Is Kaplan suggesting that we not teach our youth the values of human compassion, the expression of moral outrage, and helping those who are victimized by murderous regimes? While in Kaplan’s analysis such demonstrations of humanity and compassion may be simply a self-serving virtue, the mothers in the camps of Darfur would surely come to a different conclusion. Shame on Kaplan for his insensitive cynicism.

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An organization dedicated to organizing against global acts of injustice and genocide