

“What Darfuris Want”

Nikki Serapio

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William Reed's editorial "How to save Darfur" (November 23) suggests that the Save Darfur Coalition and other Darfur activist groups are acting like "imperial master[s]" through their advocacy. In lobbing this accusation, though, Reed forgets to heed the one demographic who should automatically have the most say on the Darfur issue -- i.e., the people of Darfur themselves.

On-the-ground interviews done by human rights and humanitarian aid groups indicate overwhelmingly that Darfuris want multinational protection and justice in Sudan. That is, Darfuris want peacekeepers to deploy and protect them, and they want the Sudanese Government's senior leaders to be tried eventually at the Hague -- and these are exactly two of the things that the burgeoning Darfur movement in the U.S. and around the world support.

Watch the new documentary "Darfur Now," and you'll see a Darfuri woman saying "Ocampo, Ocampo, Ocampo..." This woman has a dream that, one day, International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will bring Sudan's genocidal murderers to justice. So, it's apparent that the Save Darfur movement and the victims of genocide are aligned in heart and mind.

At the end, the Darfur movement is a movement of human solidarity. Reed is completely off-base in dismissing and accusing it.