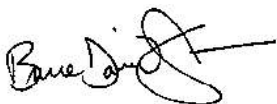


FACING SUDAN



A Note from the Director:

From the very beginning of making this film, I had the desire that it be used to help raise awareness about an important issue. I always thought that I knew more than the average person about Sudan and Africa in general. After all, I have a degree in history and I teach high school history and geography. What became painfully obvious, however, as I started on this project was my complete ignorance in regard to Sudan. There was so much that I simply did not know. And even today, almost three years after beginning this project, I still have questions. Sudan is a complex place. Hopefully, this film can help shine some light on Sudan and help others begin to understand the complexities. Sudan, in spite of all its problems, is a marvelous place. And I have had the pleasure to become acquainted with this country through its people and those who have made a special place in their hearts for Sudan. Thank you for using Facing Sudan to further your knowledge. I hope the film will sparks some wonderful discussions and inspire others to become involved.



Bruce David Janu
Dir., Facing Sudan

Facing Sudan is a documentary film that explores the situation in this war-torn country through the eyes of ordinary individuals who have been moved into action by what they have seen or experienced there. It is more than just about Sudan, however. It is about activism and what it takes to make a difference in this world.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some things that you learned from Facing Sudan? Anything surprising? Anything missing from the film that you would have like to have had addressed? Did the film leave you with more questions than answers?
2. The film uses images and song to tell the story and to evoke emotions. How successful was this? What images stand out in your mind now that the film is over? What about the music? How did the music contribute to the overall tone of the film?
3. Which person in the film did you most relate to? Why? Which story was most compelling? Explain.
4. The film's tagline is "Ordinary people can do extraordinary things. Even in Sudan." Did the film demonstrate that "ordinary people" can do extraordinary things? If so, what did these "ordinary people" have that allowed for them to do the things they did? Were these people ordinary or extraordinary? What do they have that others may not? How does someone become so altruistic?
5. What did you like most about the film? What did you like least about the film? If you could change one thing about the film or its message, what would it be?
6. Was the structure of the film conducive to conveying its message? If you were the director, what changes would you make? How would you tell the story? What themes would you emphasize?
7. What are some things that an "ordinary person" can do in order to help the situation in Darfur? Where can someone go to gain more information?

8. Most people in the United States have little knowledge about the situation in Sudan. Only recently has Darfur gained some media attention. Why is this? Why has not the media reported much on the situation in Sudan? There has been more news time devoted to stories about Paris Hilton or Michael Jackson than there has been about Darfur or South Sudan. Why is this? Is it that people just do not want to know, or is there something else happening?
9. What response should the United States have to the situation in Darfur? Although we are one of the few countries to declare it a genocide, little concrete action has been done to stop the killing. Why is this?
10. After World War II, the world came together to define genocide and to promise never to allow it to happen again. But it has happened again: Rwanda, Cambodia, Iraq, Bosnia, South Sudan and now Darfur. Why does genocide occur? Is it part of human nature? What has the world been doing wrong in preventing genocide from occurring?
11. How much blame should the international community have for the situation in Darfur? Is the situation in Sudan merely an “internal dispute?” What responsibility does the world have in Darfur?
12. Gum Arabic is a product that is grown almost exclusively in Sudan. In fact, some 90% of the world’s gum arabic comes from that region. Gum arabic is ubiquitous in western products from bread, to beer, to soda, to pills. It is an emulsifier that keeps the soda from settling and helps our bread rise evenly. However, due to intensive lobbying, gum arabic was excluded from a non-importation list in the mid-1990s when Sudan was declared a terrorist state. So, the only legal thing that can be imported from Sudan is gum arabic. However, some human rights groups have alleged that the money from the sale of gum arabic has gone to fuel the genocide in Darfur. How do you feel about this? How does this shape your views on the genocide there? What then is the responsibility of everyone who uses such products?

See the links on the next page for further information regarding this issue.

Sudan and Gum Arabic:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11224050>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/30/AR2007053002157.html?hpid=topnews>

<http://www.american.edu/TED/gumarab.htm>

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/sudan1103/28.htm>

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/africa/la-fg-sanctions18aug18,1,5661759.story?coll=la-africa>

General Sudan News:

<http://www.sudan.net/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/820864.stm

<http://allafrica.com/sudan/>

Darfur Genocide groups and activism links:

Save Darfur

www.savedarfur.org

STAND

www.standnow.org

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

www.ushmm.org/conscience/action

Darfur: A Genocide We Can Stop

www.darfurgenocide.org

Amnesty International

www.eyesondarfur.org

Human Rights Watch

www.hrw.org

Genocide Intervention Network

www.GenocideIntervention.net