

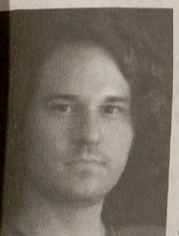
OPINION

THE BATTALION

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Sudan Solutions

U.S. must not ignore genocide in Sudan but should offer necessary assistance



JONATHAN SMITH

During this election year, President Bush has clearly stated that Americans should be proud of their country's role in removing a harmful government that hurt the Iraqi people. Yet the same Bush administration has avoided action against the more pressing genocide of peaceful people in a Sudanese civil war. This crisis requires a smart, swift solution.

The civil war in Sudan is not a new problem, but has waged on for 20 years. Yet, in early 2003 the violence reached new heights when a rebel group began attacking civilian targets in Darfur, the eastern farming region of Sudan.

This Islamic group, called the Janjaweed, has been accused of "killing thousands and using mass rape against non-Arabic groups," according to the BBC. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict, and more than a million people have fled their homes to live in refugee camps.

Yet, the option of fleeing is not available to every victim. One 15-year-old girl, who was raped by five Janjaweed men for more than a week, said "when the Janjaweed were not raping me, they tied my arms and legs together so I could not run away."

The Sudanese government has tried to separate itself from the Janjaweed. "The Sudanese government ... never armed or encouraged the Janjaweed," said Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Ismail. Ismail also said Sudan had arrested "100 of the Janjaweed leaders and will put them in court."

Yet a group called Human Rights Watch said it has four documents that connect the rebels with the Sudanese Government. Even in the circumstance that the Sudanese government is not aiding the Janjaweed, it is still part of the problem since it cannot prevent the abuses done by this group.

To make matters worse, Arab newcomers have arrived to till the abandoned land once owned by the African Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups. This action has led many to believe that the actions taken in Sudan amount to genocide.

In fact, on July 23, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution to call the events "genocide." The resolution also advises the Bush administration to consider "multilateral or even unilateral intervention to prevent genocide should the United

Nations Security Council fail to act."

So what is the response so far from Bush's administration? U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and the rest of the administration have been careful to avoid the word "genocide." This is because a 1948 U.N. convention obligates the international community to prevent and punish genocide in the world.

Yet, Powell does recognize the problem in Sudan. He insists that "not enough is being done to break the hold of the Janjaweed." Yet,

instead of direct action, currently the administration is proposing a U.N. resolution that would bring economic sanctions against Sudan.

Unfortunately, economic sanctions have a bad record of curbing human rights' abuses. Economic sanctions forced the people of Cuba to suffer economically while their communist leader, Fidel Castro, used the animosity created by these U.S. actions to stay firmly in power. Larry W. Yarak, African history professor at Texas A&M, said that "sanctions are no way to respond to the immediate humanitarian crisis in the region."

There are, however, options available to the United States and the international community, the best being an "African Solution." The BBC reported that leaders of the African Union are going to work out a solution to the situation in Darfur during a special summit in Ghana, called by the African Union chairman, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

The international community should back the efforts of the African Union and encourage an expanded military and humanitarian presence of African personnel as much as possible.

If any international organization has the right to curb violence in Africa, it is the African Union. Supporting the AU is a far better idea than sanctions. Sanctions will not move all the displaced peoples back into their homes. In fact, sanctions might actually increase the violence by escalating the competition for resources in the country.

This is an African problem that should be dealt with by African leaders, and the United States should fulfill its humanitarian responsibility by providing the funding and equipment that will be needed to end the conflict.

The United States and the world cannot ignore the violence in Sudan. The international community, under the direction of the African Union, must take swift action. The United Nations and the White House must call this conflict what it is: Genocide, and act accordingly.

In the war against terror, those who wish to harm innocents in Sudan perfectly fit the description of a terrorist. Nowhere in the world should anyone be allowed to murder and rape innocents. The U.S. Agency for International Development predicts that up to one million people may die in Sudan if nothing is done. History is not forgiving to a superpower that sits on its hands while thousands of families are being systematically eradicated.

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Graphic by Rylie Deyoe

Democrats are unwisely associating with loose cannons

U-WIRE IOWA CITY, Iowa — The Democratic National Convention began Monday, full of concomitant fanfare and self-indulgent pomp. This year's guest of honor appears to be Michael Moore, the filmmaker whose animosity for the Bush administration and all things Republican is matched by his willingness to play fast and loose with facts.

Moore's trafficking in highly suspect (to put it generously) conspiracy theories, cobbled together with the ethics of an ad executive, managed to score him an Oscar for the best documentary from the fawning masses in Hollywood, despite the fact that documentaries generally presume to use some degree of objectivity in examining subjects. Despite this "acclaim," Democratic insiders were always leery to acknowledge Moore's existence in public, particularly after Moore did most of the work in sinking Wesley Clark's presidential campaign, namely by referring to President Bush as a "deserter" while onstage at a campaign event with Clark.

Well, times have certainly changed. The Democrats have ceased treating Moore and his ilk with the disdain that his spurious politics merit and instead have welcomed them into the folds of the party's mainstream.

Even establishment Democrats have picked up on Moore's shtick in surreal displays of spittle-flying rage. Al Gore, in a June speech at Georgetown University, made reference to "the network of rapid-response digital Brown Shirts who work to pressure reporters and their editors for undermining support for our troops." The Brown Shirts, it should be noted, were Nazi soldiers who paraded through Munich carrying swastika flags to inspire fear in political opponents.

This comparison, which prompted a swift and public rebuke from the Anti-Defamation League, appears to have netted Gore his prime-time speaking engagement on Monday night. For good measure, Gore has also referred to Abu Ghraib as "Bush's gulag," thus proposing that the president is personally responsible for the actions of any and all American military personnel. In typical liberal calculus, Bush is accountable only for the atrocities; we do not hear about "Bush's newly built elementary school" or "Bush's refurbished hospital."

Not to be outdone, the Democrats also trotted out another party embarrassment on Monday: Jimmy

Carter. You will recall that Carter (whose glowing reputation speaks to the power of a liberal media after being crushed in the 1980 election by Ronald Reagan) was the man who, in a 1994 negotiating trip to North Korea, declared, "I don't see that it is an outlaw nation." Diligent students of history will also recall that on this same trip, after wringing numerous concessions from the United States out of Carter in exchange for abandoning their nuclear ambitions, the North Koreans happily permitted processing for these weapons while Carter's plane lifted off the Pyongyang runway, creating a foreign-policy crisis for the current administration in 2002.

But these widely acknowledged disasters do not prevent Carter from propagating the "Bush lied" canard, a claim that has become so ubiquitous and entrenched in liberal parlance that it is, anymore, unclear what exactly Bush lied about. Was it the uranium/Niger claim in the State of the Union address? No, Joseph Wilson has been exposed for the lying partisan hack that he is. Perhaps the claim that Bush inflated intelligence on Iraq? No, David Kay took care of that one, when he testified to a congressional committee that "I actually think the intelligence community owes the president [an apology] rather than the president owing [one to] the American people." But these conclusions fall by the wayside as the left, convinced by their passion but not by pure facts, continues to slander the president for political opportunism.

Mainstream Democrats cavalierly shrug at their party's newly minted association with these loose cannons. Stricken with the anti-Bush fever that is the party's unofficial platform, prudence and circumspection have been abandoned in favor of winning. So as Moore is feted by Terry McAuliffe, and Carter, without a hint of irony, delivers pedagogical lectures on foreign policy, voters are subject to a daily barrage of outlandish conjectures that represent the Democrats' best chance for winning the presidency. By completely succumbing to their thirst for office, liberals have managed to do a disservice not only to themselves, but to the American public as well.

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Insufficient punishment

Legal system failed by letting Stewart off too easily, giving her star treatment

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN — On Wednesday, Martha Stewart offered to begin the house arrest portion of her sentence in her Bedford, N.Y., home while awaiting the results of her appeal.

Stewart was convicted for conspiracy, obstruction of justice and making false statements to federal investigators about her sale of ImClone Systems Inc. stock in December 2001. The sale occurred the day before the FDA denied approval for a cancer drug, causing stocks to drop. The drug has since been approved, and the stock is higher than the value Stewart sold them for.

Stewart has been sentenced to five months in prison, five months of house arrest, two years of probation and a \$30,000 fine, the minimum sentence allowed by federal guidelines. U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum said that she gave Stewart the minimum sentence because she felt that Stewart had "suffered and will continue to suffer enough." It seems as though the judge has construed bad press as legally punitive.

Since the creation of the Justice Department's Corporate Fraud Task Force in 2001, at least 25 former chief executive officers have been charged or convicted of fraud through federal prosecution. This has led others to feel that Stewart has been treated harshly, a victim of the department's prosecution of white-collar crime. Congress has asked the task force to pursue obstructive conduct, indicating a pressure to prosecute Stewart.

However, many feel that Stewart has received star treatment, with 16 months in prison as the maximum sentence for her con-

viction.

This is why sentencing guidelines exist: To help prevent special treatment. Stewart's sentence falls within the range mandated, but five months of house arrest on a 153-acre estate in Bedford hardly seems to be more than a slap on the wrist when compared to five months in prison.

"Stewart's sentence falls within the range mandated, but five months of house arrest on a 153-acre estate ... hardly seems to be more than a slap on the wrist."

Sentencing guidelines exist to ensure that defendants receive roughly equal sentences nationwide, without regard to personal status. However, a 153-acre estate that cost almost \$16 million when purchased is not the same as a prison, or even a three-bedroom home.

Stewart will either be required to wear a bracelet with a set radius or have check-in times; but the area surrounding her will be nicer than the average American neighborhood. The quality

of life Stewart will live is markedly different from the average American, either at home or in jail. The existence of house arrest creates an inequality which sentencing guidelines have not remedied.

In the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Congress noted that the sentencing guidelines for white-collar crime needed to be made harsher. In January 2003 the sentencing commission voted to increase penalties for both corporate fraud and obstruction of justice related to corporate fraud investigations. The use of house arrest for white-collar criminals seems to go against this public directive.

This is not to say that house arrest does not serve a purpose in society: It is sometimes necessary to order murder suspects to remain under house arrest while awaiting trial. It makes sense to require this when a suspect is potentially dangerous. However, once a conviction has been established, the use of house arrest creates an inequality in punishment, as not everyone's home is the same.

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