

July 11, 2006

## **Young Darfuris in Need of Hope**

To the Editor:

Re “When Genocide Worsens” (column, July 9):

We just returned from Darfur and can attest that Nicholas D. Kristof’s assessment of the situation as becoming more volatile and unstable since the signing of the May peace agreement is true.

While his suggestions to improve security are good ones, another priority should be to develop the skills of Darfuris, particularly children and youth. They are among those who will be responsible for rebuilding their communities and for working toward a lasting peace.

During this precarious time, it is critical that children and youth have access to primary and secondary school, learn livelihood skills and have input into decisions that directly affect their lives.

Secondary school in the displaced persons camps is nonexistent, and the Darfurian youth are increasingly losing hope for their future.

In some camps, youths are becoming desperate and violent; this also makes them ripe for military recruitment.

Given the proper tools and support, these young men and women can be conduits of peace, development and prosperity and the key to Darfur’s future.

Megan McKenna

Jenny Perlman Robinson

New York, July 9, 2006

The writers are senior coordinators, Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

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