

# **The Darfur Genocide: Why We Should Care**

*The New York Times*  
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To the Editor:

In "The Slaughter Spreads" (column, April 16), Nicholas D. Kristof describes the Sudan-backed genocidal incursion by the janjaweed militias into neighboring Chad and cries out for America and France to intercede.

But why aren't Arab and other Muslim nations interceding against this crime against humanity?

The Arab street exploded over Danish cartoons that were deemed blasphemous, but now there is only silence.

Nor did the Arab street have anything to say about an Afghan citizen who was sentenced to death for the crime of converting to Christianity.

If Arab allegiance extends no further than one's tribe, and if what happens to nonmembers is a matter of indifference, why should American foreign policy consider Arab sensitivities beyond the needs of our own realpolitik?

If it suits our interests to support kings and dictators who abridge the rights of Arab peoples and stifle their economies, why should we care?

The nations of the West care because we recognize the humanity of all people and the sanctity of all human life, and our concept of right and wrong extends beyond our own parochial interests.

That is why Mr. Kristof appeals to us in his outrage, and not to the people who ought to be the focus of his entreaties.

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Montvale, N.J., April 16, 2006

