

## **Genocide in Darfur: History's Lessons**

*The New York Times*

**April 5, 2006**

To the Editor:

Re "Sudan Blocks U.N. Official From Visiting Darfur Region" (news article, April 4):

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity planned a delegation to Darfur this week as part of its Nobel Laureates Initiative. But the government of Sudan told us that permission to enter the country was under review.

Elie Wiesel, the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, has sent the following message to the Darfur Coalition, which is organizing a rally in Washington on April 30:

"In Darfur, humankind's center of suffering today, men, women and children are uprooted, starved, tortured, mutilated, humiliated and massacred and the whole civilized world knows it. And little or nothing significant is being done to stop these massive violations of human rights.

"Who is guilty? Those who commit these crimes. But to the question, 'Who is responsible?,' we are compelled to say: Aren't we all?"

From the last century, the bloodiest in human history, we must take at least one lesson. Those who commit genocide cannot hide behind national borders and claims of sovereignty. There is no choice but to act in defense of defenseless people.

David L. Phillips

New York, April 4, 2006

*The writer is executive director, Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.*