



October 18, 2004

Dear Friend,

You've seen the news images of suffering people in the Darfur Region of Sudan—*Do you wonder why this tragedy happening?*

I can tell you why. It's part of a struggle for political dominance among the religious and political groups in northern Sudan. I am enclosing a fact sheet to help you understand what is happening and why.

The horrific suffering in Darfur is related to what has been going on in southern Sudan *for more than two decades*. The people of southern Sudan have not known a day of peace for more than twenty years.

South Sudanese Friends International (SSFI) is helping Bloomington residents understand the Sudan crisis and the suffering of the Sudanese people. On Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30, SSFI and the Indiana University African Studies Department are presenting a free Sudan Awareness Symposium.

I hope you will attend this event and –

- Learn about southern Sudanese culture
- Gain insight into the mindset of the radical Islamists who are oppressing the Sudanese people
- Ask questions and discuss the Sudan situation with knowledgeable speakers
- Discover ways you can help the people of Sudan.

I am enclosing a flyer with event dates, times, and contact information. Wal and I will be there, and we look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Julia Duany

(email: aduany@indiana.edu)

PS Please include the people of Sudan in your individual and congregational prayers on Sunday, October 31. On this day, we are asking churches and individuals across America to turn their thoughts, hearts, and prayers in compassion toward these victims of a despotic regime. We pray that they will find the peace and freedom that is their God-given right as human beings.