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Why does the world talk as more die in Darfur?

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THE ARTICLE

Why is it that the international community does so little when there is genocide in Africa? The lessons of the horrors in Rwanda in the early nineties were enough to make the then world leaders say 'never again'. These words seem to be hollow. The slaughter of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives is with us again. Why are world leaders not acting?

"Time is running out. The violence in Darfur is not subsiding, it is getting worse," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the officials at an emergency session of the Security Council. The big question is why doesn't America take a greater lead? After all, it led the invasion of Iraq to rid Saddam Hussein of weapons that did not exist. The US can go to war based on false intelligence. Why can't it do anything now in Darfur? This time it is clear to see the truth – TV pictures show dying people every day. Are African lives less valuable than Western lives?

Newspapers are always reporting the African Union peacekeepers are too few in number and too poorly equipped to deal with the rebel forces in Darfur. What is needed to reverse this humanitarian catastrophe? There are currently 7,200 African Union troops to help protect an area the size of France – clearly not enough.

Meanwhile, Sudan's President Bashir said this week that U.N. troops were not welcome in his country under any circumstances. How can any government allow such wide scale massacre to happen on its soil? Why is it that leaders such as Bashir refuse to stop genocide? More than 200,000 people have been killed in the three-year conflict in Darfur and about 2.5 million have been displaced. Will this be the last genocide in Africa?

START

1. DICTATION: The teacher will read to you slowly and clearly the first paragraph, repeating passages where necessary. Students will write down the speech. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again.

Self correct your work. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total no of errors. 10 are acceptable. Any more is room for improvement!

2. READING: Get students to read passage. Swap readers every paragraph.

3. VOCABULARY: Students circle any words they do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

4. DARFUR and GENOCIDE IN AFRICA: Walk around the class and find out as much as you can about Darfur and genocide in Africa. When you have finished, find a new partner and share your information.

5. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

International community / officials / peacekeepers / government / leaders / emergency / newspapers / troops / genocide / Darfur / Africa / intelligence / Security Council / TV / rebel forces

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

6. AFRICA: With your partner(s), discuss other similar situations including genocide and war in the following African countries. Decide on the most important point of each one. Change partner(s) and share what you talked about. (You may need to use the Internet to find out information.)

- Ethiopia
- Zimbabwe
- Sierra Leone
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Sudan
- Somalia
- Congo

Get students to draw a map of Africa on the board. Ask students to locate each country. (Split into two groups if necessary using the countries in each column accordingly)

Discuss your findings with/to the class.

7. QUICK DEBATE: Students A believe more should be done by the international community to help the people of Darfur. Students B believe that the African Union troops are doing enough and there are more pressing issues in the world to solve. Debate this with your partner. Change partners often.

8. SENTENCE STARTERS: With your partner(s), finish these sentence starters. Change partner(s) and talk about the sentences you made.

- a. U.N. Troops were _____
- b. 2.5 million _____
- c. TV pictures _____
- d. African lives are _____
- e. Rebel forces should _____
- f. The Security Council _____
- g. World leaders _____
- h. The three year conflict _____

9. GENOCIDE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with genocide. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

10. UNITED NATIONS: Imagine you are a member of the United Nations. Talk with the other "members" in the class about the changes you are going to make.

GAP FILL:

Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Why does the world talk as more die in Darfur?

Why is it that the international _____ does so little when there is genocide in Africa? The lessons of the horrors in Rwanda in the early nineties were enough to make the then world leaders say 'never again'. These words seem to be hollow. The _____ of hundreds of thousands of _____ lives is with us again. Why are world leaders not acting?

"Time is running out. The _____ in Darfur is not subsiding, it is getting worse," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the officials at an _____ session of the Security Council. The big question is why doesn't America take a greater lead? After all, it led the invasion of Iraq to _____ Saddam Hussein of weapons that did not exist. The US can go to war based on false _____. Why can't it do anything now in Darfur? This time it is clear to see the truth – TV pictures show _____ people every day. Are African lives less valuable than Western lives?

Newspapers are always reporting the African Union _____ are too few in number and too poorly equipped to deal with the rebel forces in Darfur. What is needed to reverse this _____ catastrophe? There are currently 7,200 African Union troops to help _____ an area the size of France – clearly not enough.

Meanwhile, Sudan's President Bashir said this week that U.N. troops were not _____ in his country under any _____. How can any government allow such wide scale _____ to happen on its soil? Why is it that leaders such as Bashir refuse to stop genocide? More than 200,000 people have been killed in the three-year _____ in Darfur and about 2.5 million have been displaced. Will this be the last _____ in Africa?

intelligence

slaughter

innocent

violence

dying

community

rid

emergency

humanitarian

welcome

conflict

peacekeepers

genocide

circumstances

massacre

protect

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Why does the world talk as more die in Darfur?

Why is it that the _____ does so little when there is genocide in Africa? The lessons of the _____ Rwanda in the early nineties were enough to make the then world leaders say '_____'. These words seem to be hollow. The slaughter of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives is with us again. Why are world leaders not acting?

"Time is running out. The violence in Darfur is not _____, it is getting worse," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the officials at an emergency session of the Security Council. The big question is why doesn't America take a _____? After all, it led the invasion of Iraq to rid Saddam Hussein of weapons that did not exist. The US can go to war based on false intelligence. Why can't it do anything now in Darfur? This time it is clear to see the truth - TV pictures show _____ every day. Are African lives less valuable than Western lives?

Newspapers are always reporting the African _____ are too few in number and too poorly equipped to deal with the rebel forces in Darfur. What is needed to reverse this _____? There are currently 7,200 _____ troops to help protect an area the size of France - clearly not enough.

Meanwhile, Sudan's President _____ this week that U.N. troops were not welcome in his country under any circumstances. How can any government allow such wide scale _____ happen on its soil? Why is it that leaders such as Bashir refuse to stop genocide? More than 200,000 people have been killed in the three-year conflict in Darfur and about 2.5 million have been displaced. Will this be the _____ in Africa?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**humanitarian**' and '**rebel**'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. STUDENT "DARFUR" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about the crisis in Darfur.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| • horrors | • hollow |
| • iraq | • false |
| • western | • newspapers |
| • soil | • Sudan |
| • displaced | • America |
| • truth | • worse |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline want to make you read the article?
- b. Have you ever helped raise money for poor nations?
- c. Why does the world talk as more die in Darfur?
- d. Why is it that the international community does so little when there is genocide in Africa?
- e. Why are world leaders not acting?
- f. The big question is why doesn't America take a greater lead?
- g. Why can't it do anything now in Darfur?
- h. How would you feel if you were a refugee in Darfur?
- i. Should the United Nations do more to assist?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. Are African lives less valuable than Western lives?
- c. What is needed to reverse this humanitarian catastrophe?
- d. How can any government allow such wide scale massacre to happen on its soil?
- e. Why is it that leaders such as Bashir refuse to stop genocide?
- f. Will this be the last genocide in Africa?
- g. Did you like reading this article?
- h. What do you think about what you read?
- i. Would you raise money for the people of Darfur?
- j. Do you think Bob Geldof should step in to help?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Darfur and the different opinions people have of it. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DARFUR ARTICLE: You have just returned from the region. Write a newspaper article about the current situation. Discuss what the United Nations and African Union is doing there. Include your personal thoughts. Show your article to your classmates in the next lesson. Talk about which articles you liked best and why.

4. LETTER: Write a letter to Kofi Annan, head of the United Nations. Tell him what you think he should be doing to help. Give him some advice. Ask him three questions. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions. Which letter did you like best and why?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. F e. T f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. genocide | murder |
| b. catastrophe | disaster |
| c. troops | soldiers |
| d. massacre | killing |
| e. rid | remove |
| f. hollow | empty |
| g. intelligence | information |
| h. violence | fighting |
| i. innocent | not guilty |
| j. false | not real |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Sudan's President | said this week |
| b. Why doesn't America | take a greater lead? |
| c. Are African lives | less valuable |
| d. The violence in Darfur | is not subsiding |
| e. African Union peacekeepers | are too few |
| f. The international community | does so little |
| g. These words | seem to be hollow |
| h. TV pictures | show dying people |
| i. The US can go to war | based on false intelligence |
| j. Why are world leaders | not acting |

GAP FILL:

Why does the world talk as more die in Darfur?

Why is it that the international **community** does so little when there is genocide in Africa? The lessons of the horrors in Rwanda in the early nineties were enough to make the then world leaders say 'never again'. These words seem to be hollow. The **slaughter** of hundreds of thousands of **innocent** lives is with us again. Why are world leaders not acting?

"Time is running out. The **violence** in Darfur is not subsiding, it is getting worse," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the officials at an **emergency** session of the Security Council. The big question is why doesn't America take a greater lead? After all, it led the invasion of Iraq to rid Saddam Hussein of weapons that did not exist. The US can go to war based on false **intelligence**. Why can't it do anything now in Darfur? This time it is clear to see the truth - TV pictures show **dying** people every day. Are African lives less valuable than Western lives?

Newspapers are always reporting the African Union **peacekeepers** are too few in number and too poorly equipped to deal with the rebel forces in Darfur. What is needed to reverse this **humanitarian** catastrophe? There are currently 7,200 African Union troops to help **protect** an area the size of France - clearly not enough.

Meanwhile, Sudan's President Bashir said this week that U.N. troops were not **welcome** in his country under any **circumstances**. How can any government allow such wide scale **massacre** to happen on its soil? Why is it that leaders such as Bashir refuse to stop genocide? More than 200,000 people have been killed in the three-year **conflict** in Darfur and about 2.5 million have been displaced. Will this be the last **genocide** in Africa?