A S.T.A.N.D. UPDATE Be Informed

Meetings Every Tuesday 20:30 G.K.G.3

STAND AT JCU

STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, envisions a world in which the international community protects civilians from genocidal violence and elected officials are held accountable for their actions, or inaction, in the face of genocide.

Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide wherever it may occur. The mission of the STAND chapter at JCU is to provide individuals and communities with a comprehensive understanding of the nature, limits and characteristics of genocide.

Over the year, JCU STAND has continued to volunteer and donate to the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, the Darfur Stoves Project (http://www.darfurstoves.org), The Strathmore Scholarship Fund for Kenyan teachers (http://www.strathmore.edu/News.php?NewsID=707) , the ACODO Cambodian Orphanage (www.acodo.org), and are currently in the process of donating to SELFSudan (http://www.selfsudan.org/) an organization that is building schools in South Sudan. We are able to donate to these organizations from the money we raise with our used book sale for school textbooks, the Christmas Tree Project and donation box which we had at the end of Fall semester, and other projects throughout the year. So far Stand has donated 1660 Euro to the projects listed above.

STAND volunteers every Friday at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center. Join us!

We meet at the H Bus stop at 9:00 am in Piazza Belli.

Joel Nafuma Refugee Center
Via Napoli 58
00184 Roma, Italy

CONFLICT IN SUDAN

The world promised never again...so what about right now?

Currently in Sudan, there is a lot of ethnic violence occurring in the border region South Kordofan region as the Sudanese government is attacking civilians directly through airstrikes. As South Sudan has just separated from the North it faces many challenges being the newest country in the world and starting from scratch. These challenges do not stop in building new roads, schools, hospitals, and houses, but also in building unity among the tribes. Tribalism is a plague that has haunted the Southern Sudanese for decades and it is one of the biggest challenges which the new government faces. Recently, two tribes in the Jonglei Area fought over land and cattle, resulting in the massacre of 57 people, with the majority being women and children and displacement of 60,000 others.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15529551
http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/13/us-southsudan-tribal-killings-idUSTRE80C0S620120113

A S.T.A.N.D. STORY

After asking me what I was doing in Rome, I revealed to him that I was a student. He told me that as a young boy he always struggled with school – he joked about how he was lazy.

He told me that this infuriated his parents because he was privileged to be going to such a nice school. As a result his parents kicked him out, sending him to go live and work with his uncle who owned a Coca-Cola distributing plant in Kabul.

Abid strived to gain back his families respect and trust. As such, he was successful while working with his uncle. While he did not specify what his position was exactly, it became clear that he was either in charge of delivery or some sort of salesman. He explained to me that he drove a late 1990's VW Golf, he made sure I understood that it was a German car. This car was either used for deliveries or some kind of promotion.

He described to me how he ended up having to leave his country. On a particularly trafficked road in Kabul on a very hot day, Abid was working as usual. He told me that traffic was at a standstill and there appeared to be some kind of commotion up ahead. Two men approached his car and casually struck up conversation with him. At first they discussed the heat and speculated on what could have been holding up the traffic. They asked him what he did (it was implied that Abids car was marked by his uncles business in some way). He explained to them that he worked for his uncle also revealing the name of the company. The two men were increasingly curious in Abids life, what part of the city he lived in, where he was from originally, etc.

As the traffic began to clear they told him that they were interested in attacking a section of the city that had a number of Americans and Italians. They wanted to use his car to transport an explosive of sorts. He refused. They forced themselves into his car, one of them hitting him in the head with a hard object, again forcing him to drive. He did as they told. They told him to drive to his house. He stopped the car after some time and got on his bicycle, which I presume was in his car. The pair of extremist (Taliban) drove off.

Not knowing where to go first, he biked to his parent's house. He told his father the entire story, his father kicked him out, once again. Abid says he forgives and understands his father to a certain extent. His father didn't want the family to be targeted by the Taliban, unfortunately it was too late for that. Next he went to his uncle, who then also told him to leave. Eventually the police caught up with him, and after numerous, "interrogations" they accused him of collaborating with terrorists. Not having a family to go to, and actually being unable to go to the police he felt abandoned and thus saw his only viable option was to flee his country.

> LOOK OUT FOR *TRAVELING FEET* STANDS' NEW PUBLICATION WITH
>
> A COLLECTION OF STANDS' STORIES FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!

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Special Thanks to STAND members Niveen Laa, Matt Carlebach, Micayla Burrows, and past president Hannah Wolkwitz for their contributions in this update.

COUNTRIES ON GENOCIDE WATCH 2012: Sudan, Burma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Columbia, China, Iraq, Iran, Zimbabwe, Uzebekistan, Egypt, Cote d'Iviore, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Algeria, Philippines, Lebanon, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, Israel/Palestine