

Camp Farchana:

Fatna Mother



Fatna

Like many mothers around the world, Fatna cares deeply for her children. But unlike so many women, her eyes tell of the suffering she has felt since the day she fled her burning village.

She was walking with her husband in the market very early in the morning. First came the airplanes that dropped bombs. Then Arab tribesmen riding horses and in the backs of pick-up trucks rode into town and killed her husband in front her. Gunfire was coming from planes in the sky, and the Janjaweed chased her through the burning homes. There was not time to bury him or the 60 others from her village who were killed. She barely had enough time to retrieve her children before fleeing.



Fatna's Kitchen

Fatna walked 20 days with her seven children with no food, no water, nothing. They walked at night, stopping only to make a small fire to warm up from the harsh chill. They hid from the militia during the day. Attacks from above and bullets from the surrounding area chased her across the border into neighboring Chad.



Fatna's Family

Fatna's strength is apparent as she retells this story. Her emotions secured behind her eyes as she repeats, "I am suffering. I am suffering." Now all Fatna has is a small tent with two small beds made of sticks for all eight of them. One has a small blanket, but the other only has a patch of the tent for protection from the cold.

Fatna hopes that one day she can return to Darfur. Her hope lies in the chance for her children to be educated, and return to Darfur to make a difference. She is waiting for peace. Without peace, she will never be able to return home.