



Reflections of Camp Darfur

'Iolani School, Honolulu Hawaii, May 2010

Erin NaPier: Camp Darfur was a truly amazing experience. I was stationed at the holocaust tent for most of the day. Although it was depressing to sit in a tent filled with photos of mutilated bodies, it was a time when I could personally reflect on the holocaust while also educating others about it. I had a speech that I would more or less say every time a group came in. I didn't have to share much history because a lot of people already knew the back ground with the Jews and Adolf Hitler. What people didn't realize is that in the holocaust, the 6 million Jews were not the only people who were murdered. There were 5 million other people including disabled, homosexuals, polish, and non-Aryans. In total that is 11 million people. 11 million. That is the entire population of the state of Hawaii, 9 times. I must have said that number over 60 times and every time I said 11 million, the number still seemed unfathomable. To think that 11 million people could die in one genocide dumbfounded me. But what shocked me even more is when I would ask the groups if they knew what was happening in Darfur, only a small percentage raised their hands. It is amazing for me to think that RIGHT NOW in Darfur there is a genocide going on and still so few people know about it. I would then proceed to tell people that if we didn't step up and take on our responsibility as members of humanity, who is to say the genocide in Darfur would not end up as another holocaust with 11 million people killed. One of the most outstanding moments was when a jock and his friend were visiting the tent and were not really paying attention and by the end of me talking to them, they were both emotional. I could tell that they felt guilty for their ignorance and lack of taking action. After they looked at the photos for a few minutes, the jock turned to me and said, "What can I do to help?" That may not seem like much, but that meant the world to me. Our mission of Camp Darfur was to educate people about the genocide in Darfur and to see a high school jock, who knew nothing about the genocide, become a member of humanity, who thoroughly cares about the situation in Darfur, was amazing. A group of St. Francis girls visited on Saturday. After I told the girls about the holocaust, we talked about how completely unacceptable the situation in Darfur is. I could see that the girls were also getting emotional. When I told them that they should go to the other booths and especially the Darfur tent and the petition booth, one of the girls bent down and hugged me as I was sitting on my chair and thanked me. All she said was "thank you." And like the jock who came before, the fact that they showed some signs of caring touched me. It was moments like these that made ME, a ninth grader, feel like I was making a difference. Camp Darfur, though small, was a life changing experience for me. It showed me of my power as an individual to bring change. The first step to change is education and to have a role, no matter how small, was absolutely amazing. Words and evaluations cannot fully describe the power of Camp Darfur.

Jonah Yoshimura: How can I reflect on this event? We've done so much since the video was first made and released on the internet and entered into the 'Olelo contest. Never in my mind would I have imagined we would get this far. The experience of Camp Darfur was one I will never forget, and it was incredible. The feedback was great, and I personally liked the fact that I was one (along with many others, of course) that was giving about 1,000 kids the word about genocide and why it needs to stop. In

all of the struggles and exhaustion, I stop to reflect that this is only a fraction of the pain that the people down in Darfur go through everyday. Now, I can go through football conditioning and other struggles knowing that the pain and exhaustion is all about care, not abuse or fear.

Amy Kimura: Camp Darfur was an amazing experience that was brought to Iolani. So many people and myself were able to learn from it. Camp Darfur was very impacting because it related all of the previous genocides we learn in history to Darfur's genocide. It was even better because we were the ones explaining everything to our classmates to show them that there has to be action to stop this now. Thanks Gabe and KTJ for coming to Hawaii.

Jenny Totoki: Camp Darfur was a huge success. All the students, teachers, and all us students who participated in it learned so much about the different genocides. At first I was doubting whether or not the students would actually pay attention to what we were saying, but I soon realized that they were truly interested in learning. Also, this was good because hardly anyone knew about the different genocides, and if they did know it was only the name and not what really happened. The only one they knew in detail was the Holocaust. This was a great learning experience for everyone. Thanks Gabe and KTJ!

Taryn Aranador: Learning about the genocide happening now in Darfur was something that caught my attention. Having Camp Darfur at Iolani has surely raised awareness and had people asking what they could do to help. I learned so much from this experience. Not many people have heard of many of the past genocides, such as the Armenian one, and having students, teachers, and many others go through these tents has given them more knowledge to why Genocides need to stop now. Thanks KTJ and Gabe for traveling here to Hawaii and helping us out!

Lauren Uhr: Camp Darfur was an incredible experience. It changed my life and also changed everyone who went through the tents in some aspect. By teaching others and changing their lives, I felt that I was making a difference in the world for the better. Camp Darfur not only raised awareness in our own school, but also in the community. This awareness of the past genocides and the one taking place now in Darfur has inspired many people who went through the camp to take action in some way, big or small. Camp Darfur had been an amazing and unforgettable experience thanks to KTG and Gabe and the knowledge they shared with us.

Jordyn Yee: I really loved having Camp Darfur come to Iolani School! It took a lot of work to put it all together but it was definitely worth it. I learned so much, not only about the genocide in Darfur, but about all the other genocides around the world. It was great being able to teach others about what's happening now and how we can help the people in Darfur. There were so many people who came up to me and told me what a great idea this camp is and how they were amazed that something more wasn't being done. It made me feel good that these people were changed by this. I hope all those that came to Camp Darfur took away as much as I did from this experience, and that they will take action in stopping the horrible tragedies in Darfur. Thank you Katie-Jay and Gabe for bringing Camp Darfur to Iolani! It was an experience I will never forget!