
Interview: Osman Yosuf Kibr

The Western Media Is Lying About Darfur

Osman Yosuf Kibr, the Wali (Governor) of the State of Northern Darfur, Sudan, was interviewed by LaRouche Youth Movement leader Summer Shields, in the state capital Al-Fashir, on April 7, 2009. Shields was visiting Sudan as part of a four-person LaRouche delegation, April 4-10 (see EIR, April 24). The Wali's remarks were translated from Arabic.

EIR: What are the conditions like inside the IDP [internally displaced persons] camps?

Wali Kibr: The conditions are stable in the refugee camps, and the proof is that, one, there are no epidemics in the camps; and two, that the rate of mortality is declining, and that there is a steady improvement in the living conditions and a continuous decline in the rate of malnutrition. The level of nutrition in the camps is actually better than that in the cities. The humanitarian and security situation is stable.

EIR: There are accusations that the government of Sudan is committing atrocities, that there is a conflict between Arabs and blacks, and there are hundreds of thousands dead. What would you say?

Wali Kibr: This is absolutely not true. What we know about Darfur is that there are no whites or blacks at all. In Darfur all the people are a mixture, a cross-breeding of Arabs and Africans across the ages. And therefore, there is no pure African and there is no pure Arab here. Everyone here in Darfur is a Darfuri. Therefore, such a claim is unfounded.

EIR: Has there been an increase in the rate of deaths since the NGOs were kicked out of Darfur?

Wali Kibr: There has been no impact of these organizations. These organizations are intermediaries and not donor organizations. Their assignments were limited to conveying the aid. Some of them worked in marginal efforts, others in water, sanitation, and environmental improvement works. The truth is that the relevant ministries [of the government of Sudan], the national, and the other international organizations totally filled the gap that was left by the departure of these organizations. And thank God, the conditions are stable right now.

EIR: What message would you send to the people of the United States?

Wali Kibr: What I would like to convey to the people of the United States, is that the people of Sudan are not enemies of the people of the United States, and the people of Darfur are friends of the people of the United States. The issue of Darfur has to be seen with both eyes and listened to with both ears. There is a great deal of disinformation and distortion on the issue of Darfur. The issue is now limited to foreign interventions, personal and egotistic ambitions, and a distorting mass media.

We call on anybody who is physically capable to come over here to Darfur and witness for himself the reality. We assure you that the humanitarian and social conditions in Darfur are improving, and are not as bad as being transmitted through the media. That picture is very misleading. This does not mean that there is no problem in Darfur. There is a problem in Darfur. But it is not as dark as it is being portrayed to be.

The other issue is, that there is a great number of organizations that raise big sums of money from the American people, but none of that money is coming to Darfur. This money is never sent to Darfur, and the whole thing is becoming a business to get money from the donors to be spent somewhere else. And, I take full responsibility for what I am saying to you.