

Talking with Ahmat

Transcript of i-ACT 2005 interview

Ahmat: My name is Ahmat. I have sixteen years old.

Gabriel: Where are you from?

A: I come from Darfur State. Now I am refugee. I live in Kounoungo.

G: So tell us a little about, what was life like back in Darfur?

A: That was very good but here no good. In Darfur, we are eating meat; we have camels and goats; we drink milk. In here, our goats and camels, Janjaweed and (the government of) al Bashir they are take from us.

G: So they took all of your animals away?

A: Yeah, I don't have here anything.

G: As a young person, what did you like to do in Darfur for fun?

A: Ah! In Sudan there are many tricks. In Sudan, last year I had bicycle. I rode my bicycle when I go to school. After school, I come to my house.

G: Did you have a lot of friends in Darfur?

A: Yes, many friends.

G: What did you play?

A: We are football (soccer), basketball.

G: Football! Very good. Me too, football.

A: Yeah. Football and basketball. We have dancing. Someone who play dancing music and sing. That is fun to us. But here no fun tricks.

G: What happened in Darfur? What do you understand happened in Darfur? Why did you have to come (live here)?

A: Oh. In Darfur happen a big problem. That problem not happen in the world! We find someone, their name is Janjaweed, and with army of, with government of Janjaweed, and government of al Bashir, they come kill us; they hit us. We must run. By next we come to Tine (border town), from Tine we come to here.

G: From Tine?

A: Yeah. Our animals are take Janjaweed and (government of) al Bashir. They take. But in Kounoungo here, we are not have anything.