

**Camp Farchana:
Mansur, age 10
Student and Artist**



Mansur and Friends



Mansur's Family



Mansur's Art

Mansur took us to the little hut that is now his room. With mud walls and a straw roof, it is not as hot as the tents in which most refugees live, but it is still very hot. It takes a couple of minutes for our eyes to adjust to the darkness, and then the drawings that cover most of the back wall reveal themselves.

Mansur wanted you to see the drawings he made, representing the last memories he has of his village in Darfur. They show images of war: men dressed in soldier's uniforms, riding in trucks with machine guns, shooting at the village. We see a small body in a corner of one drawing. "It is a baby that was shot and killed," Mansur tells us.

Mansur is now a refugee at Farchana, waiting for the day he can return home to a safe Darfur. He wants to be a doctor, but there will be little for him to do once he finishes primary school at this camp. Like other young men living in refugee camps, he wants to find a way to move forward and help his family, but he might instead be driven to join the rebels and try to fight for their land.

After years of living in the refugee camp dependent on handouts from aid agencies, Mansur was forced to make the dangerous journey to Darfur for basic necessities. The humanitarian aid agencies can no longer afford to provide soap or clothing on a regular basis. Instead of staying in the camp, instead of studying to be the doctor he wants to be, Mansur was forced to risk his life and return to Darfur. We still don't know if he has returned safely back to his family.