



Working in Afghanistan required me to adopt local dress and customs. Until I spoke, Afghans wondered where in Afghanistan I was from.

keith harmon snow
war correspondent & photojournalist
genocide & human rights investigator

all things pass

summer 2006 newsletter

DARFUR: Genocide Goes Better with...Coke?

As a genocide investigator who has worked in both Sudan and Ethiopia, I have a unique perspective on the geopolitical situation on the Horn of Africa. To begin, the United Nations has not accepted the term “genocide” for what is happening in Darfur, Sudan. In the U.S. we are experiencing a massive perception management campaign which has succeeded in provoking good people to demand that the U.S. government or NATO intervene to “stop genocide” in Darfur. In reality, the U.S. military is already there. And they have been stirring the pot for years.

Virtually all information about the situation in Darfur stems from elite think-tanks, organizations or policy sources in the U.S. and Europe (e.g. see the *Center for Security Policy*: www.divestterror.org). Some U.S. business factions are cooperating with, and some seek to overthrow, the Islamic government of Sudan. However, Anglo-American military imperatives universally serve corporate interests. There is also the clash of fundamentalisms:



Child soldiers belonging to the Sudan People's Liberation Army—the southern faction that has been armed, trained and supported by the U.S. and its Ugandan allies.

Christianity and Judaism vs. Islam; U.S. vs. China.

This is not about “genocide”—but about global domination, the “war on terror,” and yet another covert (soon to be overt) resource war. Religious leaders met with George Bush about Darfur prior to the recent “protests” in Washington, DC against U.S. failure to intervene. While forcing a small number of multinational corporations to divest from holdings in Sudan, the Darfur “genocide” lobby is merely paving the road—quite literally—to get at Sudan’s resources; other factions are already benefitting.



This petroleum industry map reveals the oil at stake in Sudan: concessions are also seen in Congo and Uganda. *Bau= Barrick Gold Corp. mines, a George H.W. Bush interest, operating in five African countries.

Petroleum concessions in Darfur engulf the entire region. Uranium sought by Israel is also said to be fueling the geopolitical struggle. Exxon-Mobil is funding *Save the Children* to pave a road from the
(Continued on page 7)

Afghanistan: Sweet Little Sonam...Sorry U.S. War

Salaam aleikum. When the bombing of Afghanistan began, after 9/11, I was farming at the organic *Wildcat Garden for Peace and Re-Education* in Williamsburg, MA. That November I flew to India for an assignment about tigers, which was cancelled—because of the war—the day I arrived. I expected to follow tigers with a mission in solidarity with the Afghan people, who were by then suffering a vengeful U.S. war in Afghanistan. I got visas for Pakistan and Afghanistan, and then I lost my courage, skulked around Delhi, and flew home. I felt awful, like I had betrayed an entire country, and my self. On 25 February 2006, I flew from Delhi to Kabul to express my solidarity at last.

In Kabul I fell in love with Sonam, a six year-old girl clinging to
(Continued on page 8)



With my Farsi translators, I researched the heroin trade by interviewing poppy farmers working their fields in Sheberghan, northern Afghanistan; most of the north is ruled by “commanders” loyal to the profits of the international heroin trade. Under global inequality, many local farmers are just trying to keep their families alive.

On my website you'll find links to investigations, journalism, photography, custom programs and expeditions, resources and links, feedback, and how to get involved.



Other places my work has been published:

- **Center for Research on Globalization**
www.globalresearch.ca
- **Kyoto Journal: Perspectives From Asia**
www.kyotojournal.org
- **LA Steel Radio Show**
www.lasteelshow.org
- **Project Censored**
www.projectcensored.org
- **Rainforest Information Centre**
John Seed & RIC Small Grants Fund
www.rainforestinfo.org.au/projects/grants.htm
- **The Sun**
www.thesun.com
- **The Taylor Report**
www.taylor-report.com
- **Toward Freedom**
www.towardfreedom.com
- **Traprock Peace Center**
www.traprockpeace.org
- **World War 4 Report**
www.ww4report.com
- **Z Magazine** and **ZNET**
www.zmag.org



Support these small grass-roots NGOs!

- **Brainforest**
www.brainforest.org
- **Bruno-Manser-Fonds**
www.bmf.ch
- **Earthlands**
www.earthlands.org
- **Forests Monitor**
www.forestsmonitor.org
- **Healthy Tomorrow**
Project Stop Excision
www.stopexcision.net
- **Rainforest Foundation**
www.rainforestfoundationuk.org
- **Rainforest Information Centre**
www.rainforestinfo.org.au
- **Rettet Den Regenwald**
www.regenwald.org
- **Sacred Earth Network**
www.sacredearthnetwork.org
- **Traprock Peace Center**
www.traprockpeace.org

Ethiopia/Sudan: The End of the Anuak?

In October 2005 I was hired as a consultant on genocide to work for a United Nations agency to do genocide investigations on the Horn of Africa. My partner (a human rights lawyer formerly with Human Rights Watch) and I completed fieldwork under extremely dangerous and remote conditions, and we subsequently issued a 95-page report on the situation of the Anuak people and other innocent civilians being targeted by U.S.-supported government forces in southwestern Ethiopia.

Upon return to the U.S. in December I gave private briefings to high-level staff at the United Nations and to researchers on genocide law at Harvard Law School.

One of the conclusions of our report was that the Anuak people, culture and traditional way of life will disappear from Anuak areas in less than ten years unless there is serious and immediate action taken by the international community.

While the "genocide" in Darfur, Sudan has received a lot of press, the Anuak genocide is entirely in media white-out. The U.S. military has covert operations based in Hursu, Ethiopia which (I believe) fan out to destabilize Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Djibouti and Yemen. There is oil and big money to be made on "humanitarian" affairs in both places. These are the "politics of genocide" and "humanitarian" action (the misery industry). Learn about the Anuak situation on my website. 🌱

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It was a joy to see and hear the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, who is both the head of state and the spiritual leader of Tibet.

Tibetan Buddhism & The Kalachakra 2006

All things pass...I left Amaravathi the way I arrived: on my bicycle. It was 18 January 2006. The Kalachakra Empowerment Ritual was over. My faithful bike has toured me all over the world, and with some 150,000 people exiting the Kalachakra at once, and with trains in all directions sold out through the end of the

month, here was my liberation from suffering.

Bicycling out of Amaravathi was itself a deeply spiritual experience. I thought about all the contradictions of Buddhism that I had seen. Did you know that meditation can physiologically alter the mind, transforming negative thoughts to

positive? Or that the Dalai Lama teamed with the Central Intelligence Agency to accept funding and weapons, and to send armed Tibetans into occupied Tibet to provoke the Chinese? Do you believe in enlightenment now?

"Go, go, go beyond, go absolutely beyond, to the ultimate state of enlightenment," the Dalai Lama told us. "All thoughts, all mindsets, and all actions that I will be having," we recited, after him, in the final Kalachakra Empowerments, "will be for the welfare of all sentient beings. The nature of this world can take care of everybody's need, but not their greed. I must cultivate Boddhichitta. I must cultivate a sense of concern for others." 🌱

Read the abridged story in *Kyoto Journal*, June 2006, (www.kyotojournal.org and available at bookstores); read the full story, "Kalachakra 2006: A Lament for Andhra Pradesh" on my website.



I found a special loveliness in the Anuaks: these refugee children followed me around, and tugged at my clothes, until I reached into my pocket and gave them each a surprise they had never seen: imagine a world with no balloons.

Stop Violence in Tibetan Monasteries

While covering the Kalachakra some Tibetan monks asked me to write about violence in Tibetan Monasteries. Said one monk: "Yes they are beating people very badly. It's not right. The discipline masters have not studied child psychology. Most of them are very angry when they do this."

At the Kalachakra I questioned Jado Ringpoche, ex-Abbott of Namgyal Monastery Dharamsala, about disciplinary beatings, which routinely occur inside and outside Tibet. "I myself have been hit quite a lot as a little boy," he replied, laughing, "but besides that I excelled in my studies. Some teachers will give [monks] a bit of a hit, but they are not beating them for fun or out of hatred but to bring them back onto an educational, appropriate path."

"In Tibetan society, monks are beaten like animals," one monk answered. He showed me the scars on his arms and shoulders. "If you are against any rules, if you even talk in assembly, or play football [soccer], you will be beaten. Buddhism teaches about compassion, and the monks themselves are beating people like animals. They beat young monks, also elders. They beat people with leather straps, and with belts. We are not talking about a few friendly taps, a slap or token whipping out of joyful compassion. They are vicious beatings, by monks who are extremely angry."

Before departing India I joined with Tibetan monks to form an organization to challenge this practice, and I provided a \$100 donation to begin signature and letter writing campaigns. Monks have been afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation or ostracism. *Volunteers Against Violence in Tibetan Monasteries* is now a growing group of people concerned about "disciplinary" beatings in Tibetan Monasteries.

The goal is to petition to H.H. the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Government, Tibetan Human Rights Society, and all Monasteries in and out of Tibet to stop this violence. (The problem of sexual abuse in monasteries will be undertaken next). *Volunteers Against Violence in Tibetan Monasteries* ask all people to support this campaign by supporting the monks who are undertaking it. Donations are needed to cover expenses for mailings, posters, flyers and travel for monks within India. ☺



A young Tibetan pilgrim at the Kalachakra 2006.

Forum for Truth & Justice In Rwanda

Several years ago a team of lawyers and human rights experts from Spain filed a lawsuit against the current government of Rwanda on behalf of Spanish citizens killed during the cataclysm of 1994, and Congolese citizens killed during the subsequent war in Congo. The legal team cited my work in Central Africa in their brief, and my research and investigations are important to the ongoing suit. In 2005 a groundbreaking lawsuit by the International Forum for Truth and Justice in the Great Lakes Region of Africa (www.veritasrwandaforum.org) was accepted by Spanish courts. Last December, I met with a Forum lawyer in Barcelona, Spain to discuss efforts to support this lawsuit. I have been asked to identify witnesses while working in Congo, and to provide briefs of testimony, for each witness, to be given to the Spanish judge(s): your financial support is critically needed to enable me to do this. I will also be required to appear as a witness in Spain. ☺

The Gorey Details of Climate Mayhem

What happened to cloud seeding (1950s-1970s) and the billions of dollars of U.S. government investment in environmental modification? There are bills before the U.S. Congress today—U.S. House Bill 2995 and U.S. Senate Bill 517—that will facilitate the "coming out" of Pentagon weather warfare technologies that already exist. To understand some of what the media does not report about the real climate threat, please read my detailed report on my website: [Out of the Blue: Black Programs, Space Drones, and Emerging U.S. Military Offensives in Weather as a Weapon.](#) ☺

"Keith, I have read your pieces about the manipulation and engineering of our weather. Thank you many times over for bringing this hidden-in-plain-site issue to people's attention. We are soon going to have a government department of weather modification. This is so terrifying, since nature has always been the refuge for humanity, where we could always come back to reality when our minds might have been spinning too much. Now nature too will be spun."

Harriett Fels, Grass Valley, CA

"We want to point out the exceptional work and engagement of Keith Harmon Snow on behalf of the people of Africa. We especially thank him for assisting our lawsuit in Spain, to expose the hidden truths in Rwanda and DR Congo. The information and exceptional pictures that Keith has collected will be very influential to the International Tribunal that will one day rule on genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in these countries. May these truths bring justice and facilitate a sustainable peace and development in Central Africa."

Juan Carrero & Jordi Palou-Loverdos, *International Forum for Truth and Justice for Africa's Great Lakes Region*

Keith's comment: "My deepest respects go to my teacher, Juan Carrero Saralegui and the *S'Olivar Foundation*. Since 1994 Carrero and his foundation have actively denounced the massacres of Hutus in Rwanda and Burundi. In 1996, Juan Carrero walked one thousand kilometers to Geneva to draw attention to the situation in Central Africa. One year later he went on a 42-day fast in front of the European Union Council headquarters. His campaign was supported by 19 Nobel Prize winners including Rigoberta Menchú, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu."

■ www.spainview.com/people/biog_juancarrero.html

■ www.pangea.org/olivar

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE
OUTSTANDING WOMEN

**U.S. Representative
Cynthia McKinney, D-GA**

Cynthia McKinney is an honest woman, and there are few politicians I feel comfortable saying that about. She has stood up to Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney fiercely, and she has consistently and aggressively worked to limit or reduce expenditures on warfare, block immoral military actions, and expose the hidden agendas behind anti-democratic legislation hostile to all life on earth. Please support Cynthia's campaign for re-election by making a donation today. www.cynthiaforcongress.com/donate.php.

**"I know keith
harmon snow and
respect his work.
I respect his research
because I like to think
of myself as a serious
researcher, too. And
I know good work
when I see it."**

Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)

**Dr. Jill Stein for Secretary
of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts**

Another honest woman with great integrity, Dr. Jill Stein has a real possibility for an upset victory over a long-seated incumbent.

Says Jill, "To build real democracy we need now more than ever to take back our imperiled future and make it healthy, just and sustainable. We need to address the crises in democracy and influence-peddling and the consequences of these for our families, communities and our world. This is a wonderful opportunity; it's a two way race free from the influence of the spoiler effect."

Jill Stein is available to speak about linking the struggles for global justice with local health care and democracy.

Support the Jill Stein Campaign now: www.jillstein.org/contribute.html; info@JillStein.org; (781) 652-0053.

Tortures-R-US: Guantanamo Redux

On Sunday 11 June 2006, the New York Times ran a front page article titled "Three Prisoners Commit Suicide at Guantanamo". This topic swept across the U.S. news media, but the true story behind the deaths was swept under the rug of U.S. government and corporate media complicity in war crimes, and the reports were filled with lies uttered by U.S. officials.

The three men—from Saudi Arabia and Yemen—hung themselves to end the ordeal and raise awareness of the suffering of illegally held prisoners. Military officials were quick to point out that these are the first deaths that have occurred at Guantanamo, and that "the remains of the three dead man will be handled in a culturally appropriate manner." The Pentagon and the New York Times later blamed these victims—of inhuman torture, American style—for "concealing" their own suicides, as if they were shamelessly dishonest.

I recently witnessed a local talk given by Frida Berrigan to raise awareness of what is really happening at Guantanamo. Frida and other concerned U.S. citizens recently walked across Cuba to the gates of Guantanamo to raise awareness of ongoing torture and crimes against humanity committed by the U.S. military, without oversight or accountability, at Guantanamo.

"I thought about the profoundness and seriousness of the decision to die if one is not seen and heard," Frida wrote. "This is what we are responding to—that is the call we heard."

Prisoners have been obscenely and routinely tortured, and one tactic of the U.S. military is to keep them alive at all costs, while literally torturing them to death. Only then can the Pentagon say, "no deaths have occurred at Guantanamo." Well, the hubris and deceit of the U.S. military shines: they failed in their brutal mission, and now three men have ended their ill-fated lives by suicide.

While Frida was challenging Guantanamo, Robin Lloyd was challenging the School of the Americas—where torture, assassinations and massacres are taught. Robin spent three months in prison this spring for her compassion and solidarity with victims of U.S. military aggression.

Support these courageous women and their campaigns by sending letters and finding out how you can help end the atrocities. Frida Berrigan: www.witnesstorture.org; Robin Lloyd: www.soaw.org. ☘

Reporting With Heart: Apprenticeship Program 2007

Next spring I will be offering a rigorous apprenticeship program for people interested in combining guerrilla journalism with a sacred appreciation for life. Guerrilla journalism is honest, inclusive, comprehensive reporting, driven by truth and integrity and not economic or financial concerns, and is achieved by any means necessary. A "sacred appreciation for life" is one grounded in a higher moral and spiritual philosophy—everything universally lacking from the media today. The two-phase program is under construction, but I expect Phase One to begin in early spring 2007 and it will require a commitment of meeting one weekend a month for five months. (Phase Two will involve collaborative international fieldwork.)



Apprentices will gain insights into the nature of the media system, how to work independently, how to research a story. Actual case studies will be used to gain critical insights into the ethical and moral issues involved in media and journalism: examples will span the political spectrum. Cultural, social and historical factors will be examined to understand manifestations of ethnocentricity, racism, sexism and other biases. Techniques of interviewing and discovering information will be studied and put into practice. We will study tone, voice, perspective and article placement, and will consider literary journalism, travel writing, news clips and the positioning of these vis-à-vis wealth, privilege, class, gender, and empire.

Participants will be expected to define an investigative focus area to work on, with collaborative supervision, for the duration of the program; all participants will be assisted in publishing these works. Participants will also be expected to bring to this apprenticeship an appreciation for radical methods and ideas, and the commitment to using media of all kinds to explore and share alternative perspectives and ways of being. There will be a limited number of spaces. For further information—serious inquiries only—please contact me.



Earth Under Siege: Boycott Big Conservation

When I quit making weaponry as an aerospace engineer (1989) and switched to journalism the first five years of my life were heavily focused on nature, wildlife, and endangered species issues. Few of my early stories, while published, have made the transition to the e-world. Examples include my studies of the Asiatic lion and Maldhari people, the Philippine crocodile, the Iriomote wildcat and the Florida panther.

Researching the huge, secretive Congo Basin Forest Partnership for the book I plan to write, in December 2004 I traveled overland from Congo to Gabon where I was assisted by Marc Ona and *Brainforest* (www.Brainforest.org). In Gamba, I investigated the petroleum operations of Shell, Halliburton and Schlumberger, and the status of the Loango National Park. As in Congo, parks in Gabon are under assault by western mining, defense and tourist interests. Loango is known for its surfing hippos, but the Pentagon's link to Gabon is unreported, and the conditions of life for Gabonese people around Gamba—Shell Country—can only be described as Apartheid slavery: swimming pools and golf courses for the whites; poverty, destitution and despair for the blacks.



Giant panda in Wolong, China, photographed in March 2006 for *Wingspan's* "Tao of Panda"

My 2005 travel magazine assignment on dolphins in Hawai'i plunged me into the world of marine mammals. "Talkin' Dolphins: Oahu and the Search for Higher Intelligence" was published in January, but the abyss is deep and dark, and our marine life—the oceans—are under massive assault by the military-industrial-mining complex. Development, pollution, industrial dumping, seabed mining and over-fishing all remain critically under- or mis-reported. Military programs in Hawai'i involve both undersea and on-shore devastation. I have yet to find the resources to write up the details of what I learned; as other pressing issues come to the fore. Unreported anywhere are the sagas about native Hawai'ians being dispossessed of all basic rights and property. Big

conservation NGOs (BINGOs) don't address these issues.

In December 2005, after years of research, I formally began writing about big gorilla conservation in Central Africa. This exhaustive exposé, under construction, has been heavily influenced and supported by Georgianne



Face to face with a gorilla at Mt. Karisimbi, Zaire (1991) where my Congolese odyssey began.

Nienaber. Check out her new book, *Gorilla Dreams: The Legacy of Dian Fossey*. "Although Fossey's death is officially unsolved," she writes, "recently released documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act offer new suspects, motives and opportunities." And stay tuned for my *King Kong: Hollywood and the Holocaust in Central Africa (Part Two): The Curious Activities Behind the International Monkey Business*.

My China story, "The Tao of Panda," will be published in *Wingspan* magazine in August. In the world of panda I met George Schaller, the grandfather of modern conservation. "Big conservation has completely failed," he said. I told him about the imminent extinction of the Northern White Rhino (Congo): big conservation won't tell you this, because it signals the monstrous failure of more than fifty years and billions of dollars in programs. George Schaller pioneered gorilla conservation in Congo's Kahuzi Beiga N.P. in 1957; he pioneered panda research in China (1970s-1980s), at Wolong Reserve. My interview with George Schaller will be published ASAP.

Driven by the bottom line, humanity is everywhere at war with nature. Amongst the most insidious problems are the relationships between "conservation" organizations and military, banking, mining, development and tourist interests. I cannot validate the integrity of ANY big conservation organization that I know; I can certainly validate the corruption. *National Geographic* magazine, one of our most trusted institutions, furthers the deceptions and hides the realities of these

(Continued on page 8)

"After attending all four of your Delhi lectures, I feel completely reaffirmed in my doubts about the awesomely destructive and schizoid nature of the global Anglo-American empire. Your lucid and well-researched presentations have given my thoughts firm and concrete shape and structure. I am deeply touched by your work and I salute your courage. Indeed, more people like you is what we urgently need, especially in places like India, where so much harm is done, ostensibly in the name of development."

Radha Kapuria, University of Delhi

Earthlands Workshops

Doing "the inner work" to more fully achieve inner peace, good health, happiness and greater personal power is as important as any action we can take on behalf of the earth and its beings. Offering tools to inner transformation, the *Instantaneous Power of Choice* workshop held at Earthlands (www.earthlands.org) in Petersham, MA from 28-30 April 2006 drew a healthy crowd of folks from as far away as Minnesota, Florida and Montreal. Facilitated by Ivan Ussach and myself, it was a wonder-full and challenging program offering a range of experiential programs and group processes.

The Instantaneous Power of Choice will be offered again from 1-3 December 2006, a beautiful season of transition at Earthlands; we are planning a sizeable program with four facilitators (2 men, 2 women). Please sign up early, tell others, and join us to usher in the new year by sharing insights and experiences toward greater achievement, personal communications and inner wisdom.

The Sacred Earth Network and John Seed also offer transformational programs; check out Earth Story, August 2006 at www.earthlands.org.

"Your piece on Rwanda is outstanding. I was also one of those who read Philip Gourevitch, etc. and had no idea about what was really going on."

Arundhati Roy, commenting on [Hotel Rwanda: Hollywood and the Holocaust in Central Africa](#)



Women and girls in Congo have been subjected to unprecedented sexual violence. Girls like these in rural Congo are forced into survival sex to feed themselves and their families.

"The work Keith Harmon Snow presents in his lectures and in his journals are documentations and topics that are missing in our basic knowledge and education of how our (bureaucratic/systemic) society works."

Maryann Koznar
Central CT State University

President Clinton's Ghost: Heart of American Darkness

The book *King Leopold's Ghost* tells the story of slaughter in Congo at the turn of the 19th century (it does not tell you that the author's family had a mining company there in the 20th century). A century later, we have the same sad story under the horrors of the Clinton/Gore and Bush/Cheney administrations.

My work in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been getting deeper, and I have been increasingly successful in illuminating the western plunder behind the war that has killed at least seven million people since 1996.

Since June 2005 I have been published widely on Central Africa. [Hotel Rwanda: Hollywood and the Holocaust in Central Africa](#) is an exposé about the celebrated Hollywood film and the hidden military interests behind the U.S.-backed coup d'état that occurred in Rwanda in 1994. "Operation Iron Fist" is about UN peacekeeping operations. "Behind the Numbers: Untold Suffering in Congo," first published by *Z Magazine* on-line, and then [Toward Freedom](#), has motivated the Congolese diaspora (U.S.) to organize and speak out about the war.

Last summer I accompanied MONUC forces on field missions in eastern and western DRC. These missions enabled me to get a clear picture of war in remote areas; I also worked to understand the political, environmental and economic realities in Congolese cities. Some of



With elections approaching in DRC, the Congolese people are wondering when the rest of the world will see through the facade of President Joseph Kabila's incumbency. Who's behind who? Joseph "Kabila" (believed to be Joseph Kanambe, far left) was, in 1995, the bodyguard of now Rwandan military leader Paul Kagame (center).

these missions took me deep into mining territory held by armed militias.

In July 2005, partnered with a Belgian filmmaker, I later led a mission deep into central Congo. Hiking with a caravan of porters some 300 kilometers into the forest, we built a raft, and floated for three weeks (600 kilometers) down the Lopori river, surveying western



In September 2005 I worked with Congolese soldiers being trained by the U.N. Observers' Mission for Congo (MONUC); soldiers in Congo are also the victims of a ruthless and corrupt international system which is stealing Congo's wealth and starving Congo's people.

"Keith Harmon Snow pointed out the subliminal messaging in newspapers with giant ads of Caucasian women selling bras for Lord & Taylor next to tiny articles about the suffering in Central Africa, and it angers me that we live in such an altered state of reality here in the United States."

A student at Central CT State University

logging and plantation operations, and quality of life, and taking human rights testimonies and documenting atrocities. A report about slavery conditions on western owned plantations, where people are paid only \$3 a month (that is not a typo), is underway.

In August 2005 I accompanied Congolese troops deep into the mountains in and around the Kahuzi Beiga National Park in eastern Congo. On the third day of an intense day-and-night march the troops pillaged people's huts as we passed through a small village. The soldiers arrested three young men suspected to be "rebels". After I talked with the commander, these men were released, and the DRC soldiers were forced to return everything they had stolen to the people of the village. It is an

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE PEOPLE OF CONGO. PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

amazing story: I was able to photograph and document everything and prevent unnecessary violence against civilians.

Through the support of others I gave over \$500 in life-saving donations to individual families; I also purchased a wheelchair (\$100) for Masamba, a man crippled by a polio vaccination who has for more than 15 years crawled around the city of Kinshasa on his hands and knees.

I have for several years now submitted my photography work to the *W. Eugene Smith Fund for Humanistic Photography* (www.smithfund.org), and while my work so far has not been up to their standards, I continue to strive to raise the visibility of war in Congo through my photography and I am again submitting a portfolio for their review (July 2006).

Inspired by my work, and with my guidance, nurse and journalist David Barouski is now working in Congo. I am planning to return to DRC in July: without your generous support this work in Central Africa will not be possible. ☺



Frightened by the prospect of being shot as Rwandese rebels, these young boys were taken prisoner by Congolese troops on a mission I accompanied. In the end they were released, partly due to my discussions with the commanding officer: they were obviously too young to be involved in the war in Rwanda.

"I would like to thank you in the name of the Congolese people for all that you do for our country. You are the only American journalist I know who says the truth such that it actually occurs on the ground. You take many risks in your work for us but know that the Lord will protect you in the name of the people oppressed and martyred in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are very grateful to you and let us encourage you not to give us up in spite of the pressures which you undergo."

Paul Gatanga Sasa, Burlington, VT

(Darfur, continued from front page)

capital of neighboring Chad to the Sudan border next to the Darfur region. While being used to support humanitarian relief, does the road also pave the way for U.S. military and allied access? Is this Exxon-Mobil's greasy campaign to secure easy access to Darfur's oil?

Sudan's Darfur region is agriculturally rich in gum Arabic and Sudan's gum Arabic is considered one of the world's largest and most prized crops. Gum Arabic is used by the pharmaceutical, chemical, and the food and beverage industries: Coca Cola, Pepsi, Pfizer, Unilever, Kraft and other companies rely on huge quantities of gum Arabic for their products: prices since 1997 have shot up due to the conflict in Darfur.

The victims are millions of innocent people in Chad, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. These countries are integral to the conflict in Darfur, but their connections are omitted by the press. Sudan is at war with Chad and Eritrea, and Eritrea is at war with Ethiopia. Arms are shipped in through Uganda, who is at war with Khartoum and Congo, and their own people in the north. Ditto for the clandestine role of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, who has funded, armed and trained rebel factions that perpetrate their own share of atrocities.

The U.S. backs the SPLA and the African Union. It doesn't get any uglier. This is a hornet's nest, and almost everything you will find in the U.S. media system—from the political left to the political right—has bought or peddled the propaganda. Similarly the "foreign policy" positions you will see in the media come from both Republicans and Democrats, who maintain what appear to be competing positions, yet all are vying for power and peddling corporate agendas. If the U.S. wants to end the violence in Darfur and elsewhere its first steps should be to stop participating in it. An open and honest accounting of U.S. involvement is an essential first step.

Want to help? Start with a total (personal) boycott of the mass media—especially the New York Times Corporation. Want to make a difference? Make a contribution that will assist me in exposing the Darfur story. I would like to go to Darfur. Keep an eye on my website. ☺

Got medical? Volunteers? My goal is mobile medical clinics operating in Congo and Sudan. (I often treat people, with minimum resources.) If we build it, they will come. Please get involved and support this goal.

Keynote Presenter at Friends of the Congo Conference

After reading my story, "Behind the Numbers, Untold Suffering in Congo," members of the Congolese community in Washington, DC (www.friendsofthecongo.org) invited me to be the keynote presenter at their conference on Tuesday, 27 June. I have also been invited to speak at the *International Monetary Fund*.

The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature

was published in May 2005 and is now receiving awards. I authored two entries titled "Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941-1995), Ogoni, and the Pacification of the Tribes of the Lower Niger," and "Bruno Manser (1954-2000) and the Indigenous Penan of Sarawak." Consider buying the two-volume set for your family, and recommend or donate it to your local school or library. www.religionandnature.com

Let The Sun Shine in!

The Sun is one of few publications in the U.S. that operates 100% advertising free and they are publishing my photographs. In January I received a special note from *The Sun* staff asking where they should send a donation to my work. I wrote back and told them: "Sorry, can't accept a donation from *The Sun*—I am always hoping to send a donation to you!" Please buy a subscription to keep this wonderful institution alive and ad-free, and help them pay their contributors. It's the most honest publication I know and—with its great writing—it's really the only magazine I routinely read. www.thesunmagazine.org

Sponsor a Child: Seeds in His Garden Orphanage

Want to make a serious difference in a child's life? For the past six years I have been a regular visitor at the *Seeds in His Garden* orphanage in Kenya. Orphans living at *Seeds* were rescued from the slums or the streets of Nairobi. Backed by the love and care of director Becky Adams, children have a safe home, a place to play and learn, and the chance to grow up and lead happy, healthy lives. Volunteers are always welcome, and sponsorship for the kids is always needed. You can also contact me for more info. www.seedsinhisgarden.org

“In a humble and informed manner Keith Harmon Snow shared with myself and a rapt audience a plethora of concrete data, and through his beautiful photographic images I received a palpable sense of the political and social realities in Afghanistan. Much more than is possible from months of close attention to other sources of media. It was sobering and inspiring, and the very next day I found myself taking a stand for what I believe in a way I hadn’t before.”

Lani Nahele, Cummington, MA



Healthy Tomorrow

In April 2006, a U.S. immigration lawyer from the King and Spaulding law firm in Washington, DC contacted me: his Malian client was seeking asylum from deportation to Mali—and genital mutilation if she returned there. The lawyer had discovered my writing, *The Realities of FGM in Mali*, written for *Healthy Tomorrow*, and published by IMPACT—the *International Network to Analyze, Communicate and Transform the Campaign Against FGM*. Basing his legal argument on my report, the lawyer, in June, won a stay of deportation for the woman and her family.

Healthy Tomorrow Director Susan McClucas’s hard work in Mali is paying off: more and more FGM excisers are abandoning their “livelihoods” and over 20,000 people have signed the Healthy Tomorrow Pledge Against Excision.

Save a girl’s life: support *Healthy Tomorrow* (www.stopexcision.net).

(Afghanistan, continued from front cover)



Sweet little Sonam lives with her family in a bombed out building in Kabul. They are forgotten people, struggling for survival, within their own country.

hope in a bombed out building that was cold, dark and dangerous. I tried to understand how to help Sonam, short of giving money to her mother, which I did. At this the father fell on his knees to pray for me, and the family was a little better off, a little less hope-less. Sonam’s existence haunted me the whole time I was in Afghanistan.

I don’t know much about Afghanistan, yet, and I don’t yet know what I will do, but I do know this: it is a country with a long history of wars, of which ours is perhaps the most egregious, and I must do something to shed light on and alleviate the suffering.

Little of the truth about U.S. soldiers returning in body bags, or what they do there, is reported. Torture is routine, by freedom-loving American soldiers, but it occurs outside of the media spotlight, at Bagram Air Base, or in clandestine “safe houses” run by the allied intelligence networks. There are no stories about radioactive (uranium) weaponry, or about the warlords and their ties to Bechtel, Dyncorp, USAID or other mercenary entities. It is an unaccountable U.S. military mission with a deeply hidden agenda, and a friendly media face.

The heroin trade out of Afghanistan has exploded since the U.S./E.U. occupation began (2001), and people are dying from heroin overdoses in the bathrooms of cafes (e.g. Haymarket Café in Northampton) and on the streets of cities like Hartford, Brattleboro, Pittsfield, Greenfield and Holyoke back home.

Life in Afghanistan is as beautiful as it is tragic. The land is packed with landmines, another business, and Western “humanitarian” agencies prolonging their missions—the misery industry—do not always serve the interests of the people. Corruption, arms rackets, drugs and money laundering all dictate the behind-the-scene realities of so-called “nation-building.” The war in Afghanistan continues.

I intend to return to Afghanistan, and to study the heroin trade from one end to the other, and to report everything I can about the illegal U.S. occupation there. I hope to find ways to help little Sonam and other children like her. The joy little Sonam shared in my presence lives in my heart, and her smiling eyes shined on me, and I cannot ignore her. Will you help me by supporting my Afghan project? ☺

“Your presentation was excellent, the result of brave and hard work. You showed the real life of the people of Afghanistan—the poor who get poorer and cannot afford food, their children die of hunger and disease, they do not have a place to live. Cats and dogs of America live better and eat better. I admire your interest in helping and thank you for your concerns about the children of Afghanistan.”

Ghulam Dastgeer, M.D.,
founder of the Afghan Physicians Association in America



Tanks litter Afghanistan, the legacy of decades of war and occupations. Children playing on abandoned weaponry and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) are frequently maimed or killed; landmines are everywhere.

(Wildlife, continued from page 5)

“interests”. While big conservation proclaims high-minded programs to empower indigenous people and steward lands, this is mere window dressing for the new imperialism of land acquisition and natural resource control. (See Mark Dowie, *Orion* magazine, Spring 2006.)

I encourage people to turn away from big conservation organizations and support grass-roots NGOs like those listed on page 2. ☺

Dear Friends of All Things Pass:

The world is rapidly changing. I speak to more people who are overwhelmed and undersure about the whats, whys, hows, wheres and who-done-its of our accelerated society. Everything is moving faster and people complain that there is less time to adapt, to think about things or to make appropriate choices. So much happens, altogether and at once, that people's heads are quite literally spinning (with cell phones attached).

On 22 June 2006 I received a note from my friends at *Bruno-Manser-Fonds*. Logging companies in Sarawak, Malaysia, have been for decades destroying the homelands of the indigenous Penan people, and Bruno Manser championed the Penan cause in the "civilized" world. Today they report that the Penan community of Ba Ibang has blockaded the logging roads. The press release includes a sorry picture of a logged land. The Penan story is in media white-out.

"Interhill [corporation] is operating with 80 bulldozers," says Panai Irang, a local community headman. "They are polluting our water and destroying our last forests. Our situation is critical. Even at night we can't sleep because of the bulldozers."

Deep in the rainforest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo the same story is playing out. I met community after community who described the roar of machines and scarcity of animals they depend on for food. I spoke to chiefs, took testimony and photos. It was the beginning of a deeper story I am working on. But you won't read this story anywhere. Not in the glossy brochures of the *World Wildlife Fund*, not in the *New York Times*. The saga of native Hawaiians is also invisible. In getting my dolphins story I saw the suffering and dispossession. NASA is taking native land, and the Pentagon taking more, and the Hawaiians are blamed for their own suffering.

Perhaps nothing is so uncertain anymore as "the news." Seems like every story has a dozen hidden stories behind it. If you look closely you find everything is about interests. We are everywhere deluged with commodities, some we want, some we don't, and the integrity and beauty of life is subordinated to speed, hype and glitter.

Nor do people anymore know whom to trust. Seems everyone is peddling something. Actor George Clooney took a break from his

multi-billion dollar real estate development in Las Vegas and flew out to Darfur, Sudan, and then back to Hollywood to peddle the humanitarian crises. Hollywood's links to the Pentagon were never questioned, and the horrors of the dying aren't Clooney's problem, no matter the concern in his voice, because such profits don't have to answer to anyone. So too for trusted environmental gurus like James Lovelock and self-help gurus like Dr. Andrew Weil, who are now peddling the globalization of nuclear power. Nuclear power is and always will be deadly to all life: the industry is deeply deceptive and profit-maximizing.

In the past week I have received three new speaking engagements. One is at the *International Monetary Fund* in Washington D.C., but all three came through Congolese people in the U.S.A who read my story "Behind the Numbers: Untold Suffering in Congo." *Z Magazine* originally published this on-line and it comes out in hardcopy in July. The story has catalyzed a global movement calling for attention to Congo's plight. People are organizing, protesting, standing up to the silence and greed that has wracked their country since Henry Morton Stanley stole rubber and chopped off hands for King Leopold. Stanley was a reporter for the *New York Post*, and there's no irony in that: the auspicious curse first cast on the Congo continues under modern media relationships with western institutions plundering Africa.

I am independent, and I am fierce about it. My beliefs do not require you to believe what I believe. But I have worked tirelessly in analyzing the media, more than people can imagine (with the exception of Noam Chomsky, whose interview I have yet to post on my website). I like to compare myself with revolutionary John Reed, and maybe my version of *Ten Days That Shook The World* is yet forthcoming. Reed slammed editors saying: "Don't change what I write." Today it is hardly possible to find a publication of integrity and truth. Granted, my truth is mine, but freedom of speech is predicated on a diversity of voices—something sorely lacking in the western media system. We have freedom of speech, and press, by degrees: the problem is people's fear of hearing.

You will find that my version of truth diverges radically from *Time* magazine or *CNN*, which have recently published some nasty perception management (propaganda) about Congo. My works exhibit a more comprehensive reality than most reportage. You cannot so neatly summarize the complexity of war or

(Continued on next page)

Multimedia Presentations

Anyone with connections to help organize presentations? Colleges and universities are important venues for sharing information and summer is the time to begin organizing for fall events. Community gatherings are another way to connect, build community, and inform.

Prior to departing on my 2005 Congo mission, I shared my work with students and professors at Burlington College (thank you Ginni Stern), University of Vermont, Dartmouth and Smith Colleges. Friends organized a wonderful fundraising event in western Connecticut, and another in Northampton. (My special thanks to L.A. Steel and Gary Pontelandolpho, and to Doug Wight, Lila Valone, Wendy Thomson and Dave Snow).

In February 2006, India's documentary filmmaker Sanjay Kak helped me organize four unique lectures on three topics (Central Africa, Global Climate, Empire) at three colleges in New Delhi, India.

Since returning home I have presented at Central CT State University (thanks to Maryann Koznar and Danielle Albert), at the Old Creamery (thanks to Salena Levi), at the Northampton Committee to Stop the War in Iraq (thanks to Claudia Lefko and Frances Crowe), and at Traprock Peace Center (thanks to Sunny Miller).

"Thanks for your passionate sharing about Afghanistan. It inspired me in big, small, obvious and indirect ways and it stimulated lots of thought and discussion about community, isolation & information. It's still simmering."

Maureen Shea, Plainfield, MA

The Hilltown Coalition to End Domestic Violence (Massachusetts) meets monthly in Chesterfield, MA to promote peace in the home. Get involved!

Contact me or Gail Kielson, (413) 296-4088. March with us to End Domestic Violence in the July 4th Chesterfield Parade.

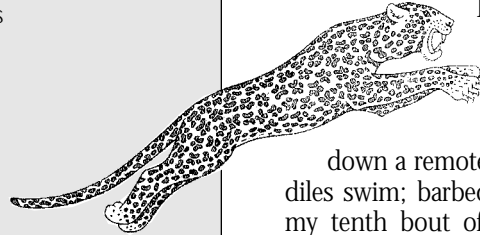
A Sincere Thank You

to the following organizations and individuals who, financially or materially, have supported my work. The projects and achievements described in this newsletter are the result of your generosity, kindness and concern for others. (If you have contributed to my work and I have forgotten to list you, my apologies; please send me a note.)

Rainforest Foundation (U.K.)
 Rettet Den Regenwald (Germany)
 Rainforest Information Centre (Australia)
 Bruno-Manser-Fonds (Switzerland)

Becky Adams
 Rebecca Adamus
 Lisa Baskin
 Michael Beattie
 Lisa & John Berry
 Patricia Billingsley
 John Boyd
 Larry Buell of Earthlands
 Geraldine Burke
 Isela Camilleri
 JK Canepa
 Charlotte Ann Capogna
 Bruce Casassa
 Deb Chandler
 Nan Clark
 Jackie Compton & John Kuzeja
 Brian & Lisa Conley
 Alice Cozzolino & Amy Pulley
 of The Old Creamery
 Tori & Armin Cullins
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 Dean & Mary Kent
 Gail & Dave Kielson
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 Robert & Ginnette Koczela
 Ruth Koczela
 Robert Kracauer
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 A.J. Lafleur
 Claudia Lefko & Malcolm Everett
 Robbie Lepzer
 Arthur, Emily & Elanora Lerner

Salena Levi
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 Joanna Macy
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 Eve Marko
 Lila Valone Mathieu
 Dick Meola
 Amy Mohr
 Tad Montgomery
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 & Leslie Goldstein
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 Carl Silver & Sarah Gott
 Julie Smith
 David Snow
 Jay & Michele Snow
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 Bill Strubbe
 Debbie Peloquin-Sventner
 Teresa Taylor
 Bron Taylor
 Sondra & Arthur Thatcher
 Wendy Thomson
 Paula Thomson
 Indra Tracy
 Elaine Ulman
 Ivan Ussach & Kathy Leitch
 Margo Valone
 Chrissy Walker
 John Walker
 Doug Wight
 Sarah M. Wilcox
 Judy Wolter
 Kelly Wypych
 Stephen Yoshen



(Dear Friends, continued from previous page)

religious fundamentalism in superficial sound bites (aimed to make people feel good and complacent). Faced with a system that thrives on information warfare, it is important that people appreciate the difficulty of working independently, and sustaining the work to produce penetrating, thoughtful, honest reportage. My costs can be very high. My standards are higher.

Last year I went back to Congo. I worked with soldiers. I hiked into the rainforest, built a raft and floated for three weeks down a remote river. I swam where crocodiles swim; barbecued a blue stork; defeated my tenth bout of malaria. I hiked into the gorilla forests with sixty-five guerrillas who, day three, stole everything from local villagers. Because I was there, they had to give everything back. I interviewed gold-diggers, diamond smugglers, coltan thieves, mass murderers, military officials. I took testimony from the gentlest people (survivors) in the world. Visas cost hundreds of dollars. Air tickets cost thousands. Daily expenses add up. Translators and guides in Congo can cost me \$20-40 a day. My fixer/translators (two men and a car) in Afghanistan cost me \$70 a day and I will not pay an un-living wage. There is no news agency backing me with the profits built on the bloodshed of others. I eat all the costs, whether it's a failed camera, malaria or extortion by a rogue militia.

I couldn't do the work I am doing without the support from the people listed herein. Each of my supporters has underscored their faith, their hope, and their trust in what I am trying to do. Together we have raised the profile of suffering in Congo. We have empowered Congolese people in this country and in Europe to organize conferences, petition governments, and speak out. We have saved a whole village from rape and pillage. We have provided basic food, medical and transportation aid to scores of individuals and families by delivering the money into their hands directly. We have provoked the U.S. media system to report more—no matter how disingenuously—on war in Congo. Presentations have brought provocative perspectives to thousands of hungry students. You are responsible for these successes. Together we can change the world, for the better. We already have.



People's trust and faith is not all that has kept me going. There is also the mystery of life and the instantaneous power of choice—something we all share. It's the hope in the eyes of the people I meet, survivors of unspeakable injustice, disillusioned students, and the faith I have seen in people—Africans or Afghanis or Chinese or New Yorkers—that we Americans will pull ourselves together, stand up for what we believe in, and do the right thing.



Traveling with MONUC forces during "Operation Iron Fist" (South Kivu, Congo, July 2005). I was able to observe conditions of life in remote areas unvisited by outsiders for decades.

Financial support from people like you is crucial to this work, to our mission, to my independence. If you believe in democracy, truth and freedom, please reflect on your priorities, and share what you can. Think about your needs, and how much your support means to me. True power comes not by a *holding onto*, but a *letting go of*. This is the wellspring of wisdom and compassion, because nothing that is worth anything comes without sacrifice.

And so, while I have written this newsletter in the first person, it is a huge collaborative effort for which everyone should be proud and inspired. For those who have given, and those who wanted to give (but did not have the means), and for those who will give, please know that without your incredible generosity and caring hearts, there will be no "we" behind the "I". People are counting on us. Imagine everything. Never settle. All things pass, so too will the arrogance and foolishness of humanism. Consciousness is rising.

Love,

Keith Harmon Snow

"I saw keith harmon snow put on a presentation at the University of Vermont a couple of years ago. I was totally blown away by not only the content, but the very deep research and no holds barred information that he presents to people in regards to the genocide in DRC and Rwanda. There are not many people who have the guts to be going around and presenting this information. He is a truly noble human being who seems to have put the interests of the millions of suffering people in Africa ahead of his own. It is truly mind blowing stuff, and keith has a deepness of perspective that is so sorely lacking in the media, even the 'alternative' media."

Matthew Yezuita

Fourth Project Censored Award!

In May 2006, I received news that my radio interview with Phil Taylor, titled "DRC: The World's Most Neglected Emergency," was selected by *Project Censored* as the fifth most censored story last year. Known as "the alternative Pulitzer Prize," the award is presented by the Sonoma State University Communications Studies Department. Chosen from among more than 1,000 nominations, the *Project Censored* Award is designed to recognize crucial news reports that did not receive coverage in the U.S. press. Information and update about the story will be published in the book *Censored 2007*, and I will speak at the national awards ceremony at Sonoma State in November.

■ Project Censored

Spring 2006, #5
Spring 2005, #24
www.projectcensored.org/censored_2006/index.htm#5

Wildcat Garden for Peace and Re-Education

The *Wildcat Garden* on Route 9 in Williamsburg, MA, will not be producing vegetables this year, because I will be away after early July, and there will be no farm stand sales. The garden was overrun with weeds in my absence (and presence) and this year it will be seeded to a cover crop of rye. Expect a bountiful season of vegetables in 2007!

Read about the history of the garden in a story titled "Blizzard" (under Essays in the Journalism section).

Your support is much needed! Here's how you can help:

■ Please make a financial contribution and tell me which project(s) you want it to support.

Any amount is appreciated. Make checks payable to keith harmon snow, and send to me at: P.O. Box 228, Williamsburg, MA 01096 Or you can make a secure payment on my website, www.allthingspass.com, using PayPal.

\$5,000 \$1,000 \$500. \$100. \$50. \$25. Other _____

Please use for: Afghanistan Central Africa Sudan Ethiopia Tibet Wildlife Other _____

■ Please connect me to venues where I can share my work and multi-media presentations.

■ Please pass this newsletter along to friends who you think would be interested in supporting my work.

■ Partners, volunteers and collaborators with radical ideas for progressive change are welcome and needed.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

keith harmon snow

P.O. Box 228, Williamsburg, MA 01096



Documenting war and defending human rights in Central Africa, my missions have taken me into very hostile and remote territory. My award-winning reportage is shedding light on a war that has claimed over 7 million lives—these are stories that have been ignored by the Western media.

keith harmon snow

war correspondent & photojournalist
genocide & human rights investigator

all things pass

summer 2006 newsletter

Please join us for a panel discussion
on how to help the people of

D A R F U R

6 July 2006 in Northampton, MA
More info at: www.iacenter.org
and www.allthingspass.com

My work has taken me by dugout canoe down the Ikelemba River, in the heart of Congo. From there I traveled by mountain bike, deep into the forest, to gather human rights testimonies from survivors of war and injustice perpetrated by predatory capitalism.



"My name is Ngalula Kela and I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo. I just want to thank you, keith, from the bottom of my heart for everything you are doing to make people aware of the plight of the Congolese people. It is because of your hard work and dedication that many people know about coltan and the other natural resources being pillaged from Congo. We need more people like you in this world."

Ngalula Kela, Chicago, IL

www.allthingspass.com