

Darfur: why did the media care?

 blogs.lse.ac.uk/polis/2008/05/08/darfur-why-did-the-media-care/

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We have a researcher looking at why the Darfur story has run so big in the media – especially the American media – compared to other African conflicts and crises. Pedro is at the beginning of his study so we welcome any input.

My theory is that since March 2003 this has been a narrative given legs by a series of co-incidences. First the UN took it up, then certain key figures in the US media such as [Nicholas D Kristof](#), and then some very committed and intelligent celebrities such as [George Clooney](#). And for political reasons George W Bush was happy to back diplomatic efforts. So Liberal America has taken it up as its chosen international cause.

But it also shows the limits of media. Darfur is still a mess. It will need a political solution by Africans in the region, not America. It is a very complex issue as Darfur expert Alex De Waal will explain at an event at the [Frontline Club](#) on May 22nd. [Concern](#) are giving a public update on Darfur from their people in the region. Here's details of their event:

Thursday May 15th, Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Avenue, 8.30am Speaker Janu Rao, Concern Country Director, North Sudan. RSVP to Audrey.laffitte@concern.net

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