

militia is committing genocide against non-Arab Muslims. Is the world waiting for Darfur to degenerate into another Bosnia or Rwanda? I am surprised by the evasive tactics of the Bush Administration and its European counterparts. After its blunders in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. does not want to be seen as antagonizing another Muslim state, and the E.U. is foot dragging, probably out of fear of reprisal attacks by Islamist militants. The defenseless people of Darfur need the intervention of the free world before they are exterminated. We must collectively rise up and protect those people, whose only "sin" is that they are black.

PAUL ONORIODE OTERI
Sapele, Nigeria

BEFORE *TIME*'S REPORT ON THE SITUATION in Sudan, I had no idea that the region had become so tense and that 50,000 lives had been lost in the crisis. Your story convinced me that African nations still need regular baby sitting if they are ever going to measure up to global expectations of internal peace and responsible political leadership.

PELU AWOFESO
Lagos

ANY NORMAL PERSON MUST BE TOUCHED by the images of the suffering of the Darfurians in western Sudan. But the pain and despair of the refugees can never be understood by anyone thousands of miles away reading about their hardships. The abject situation in Darfur raises several questions. How can the West, which so successfully championed the rights of Bosnians and Kosovars not long ago, ignore the plight of the Darfurians? Did the world not learn a lesson from the Hutu-Tutsi conflict in Rwanda? What is the point of arguing over the definition of genocide while Darfurians are dying? The refugees cannot cry anymore, for there are no tears left for them to shed. The only thing they can do is to wait for their day of reckoning, to leave this cruel and inexplicably harsh world.

TAN BOON TEE
Singapore

No Surrender

"THE STRUGGLE WITHIN ISLAM" DESCRIBED the battle between moderate and fundamentalist Muslims [Sept. 13]. I dream of the day when all the religious groups of the world may coexist peacefully, even though that may be several generations

away. Human nature and history tell us that as long as there are adults teaching children that their religion or philosophy of life is unique—and that any other should be destroyed—violence will be perpetuated. The best tool to change the thinking of those radical groups is dialogue. If that fails and the groups resort to violence to impose their views, then drastic actions will be necessary. The war in Afghanistan and the fight against the Basque terrorist group ETA in Spain are justified. Once strong measures have been taken, it is essential to be firm and not surrender to terrorists' blackmail. The withdrawal of Spanish troops from Iraq was a serious mistake. Spain's new government should more carefully analyze the long-term effects of its decisions before acting.

ANGELO GONZALEZ
Vigo, Spain

TRUE BELIEVER



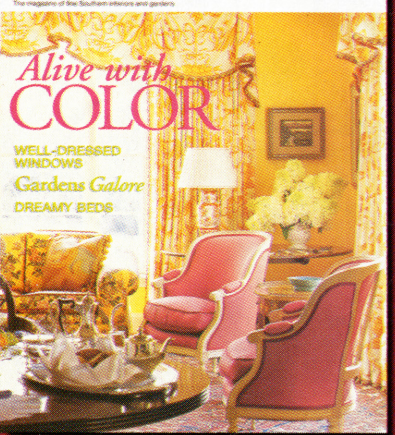
PETER SERLING

Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, best known for his studies of people who claimed to have had alien encounters, died last month after being hit by a

drunk driver [MILESTONES, Oct. 11]. *TIME* interviewed Mack in 1994 as his book *Abduction* was stirring scientific skepticism [April 25, 1994]:

"Mack says he expected the disbelief that has greeted the bizarre tales recounted in his book. 'This isn't supposed to be,' he explained to *TIME*. 'You aren't supposed to have little guys with big black eyes taking men, women and children against their wills on beams of light through walls and windows into strange craft and have this going on all over the country.' But after hearing dozens of such stories, Mack concluded that the abductions were real. Moreover, he discerned a motive behind them: **THE ABDUCTORS, IT SEEMS, WERE IMPLANTING MIND-TO-MIND MESSAGES URGING BETTER CARE OF THE PLANET** ... Mack's view of the UFO phenomenon reflects a larger philosophical stance that rejects 'rational' scientific explanations and embraces a hazier New Age reality. 'I don't know why there's such a zeal to find a conventional physical explanation,' he says. 'I don't know why people have such trouble simply accepting the fact that something unusual is going on here.'"

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