

Bearing Witness to 20th and 21st Century Genocides: Literature and the Arts

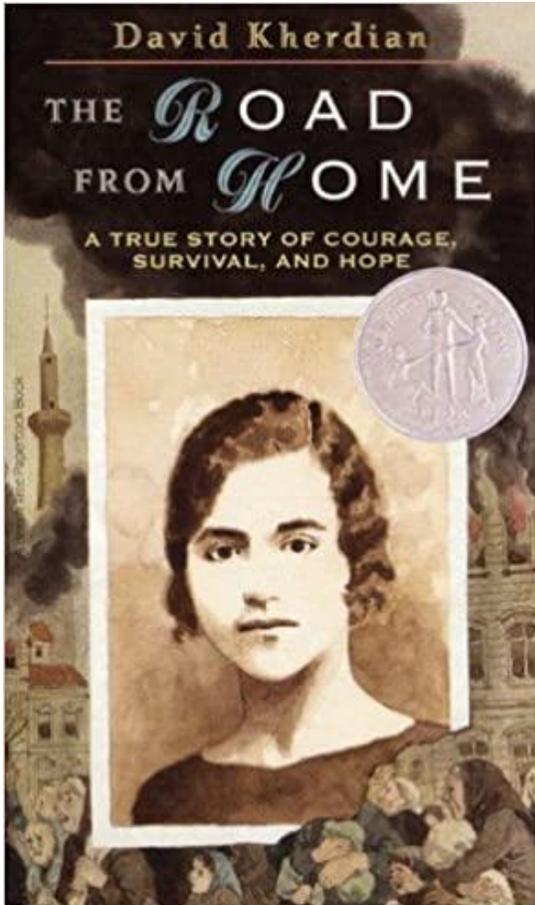
prepared by Jane M. Gangi, PhD

November 2020



The Armenian Genocide

The Armenian Genocide



I have read this book at least five times and it breaks my heart every time. It is impossible not to love Veron who endured so much yet continued to love family and friends without ceasing.

You might also enjoy this video by David Kherdian, Veron's son, on how he wrote this book:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK0QjffYkEU&ab_channel=FacingHistoryandOurselves

Veron did not lose her faith in God and her love of Armenian culture. This passage by Rose Wilder Lane (Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter) points to another way of dealing with genocide—through the arts.

The crochet stitch itself must be nearly as old as fingers, which seem mysteriously impelled to pull a loop through a loop. I say mysteriously, remembering how this impulse baffled the American Near East Relief workers who went into Caucasian Armenia [in 1918]...Every hut in every village was totally destroyed. In the ruins and in the miles of wild grasses the Americans found 25,000 orphaned children hiding, lost, sick, starving and dying.

Rose Wilder Lane, continued

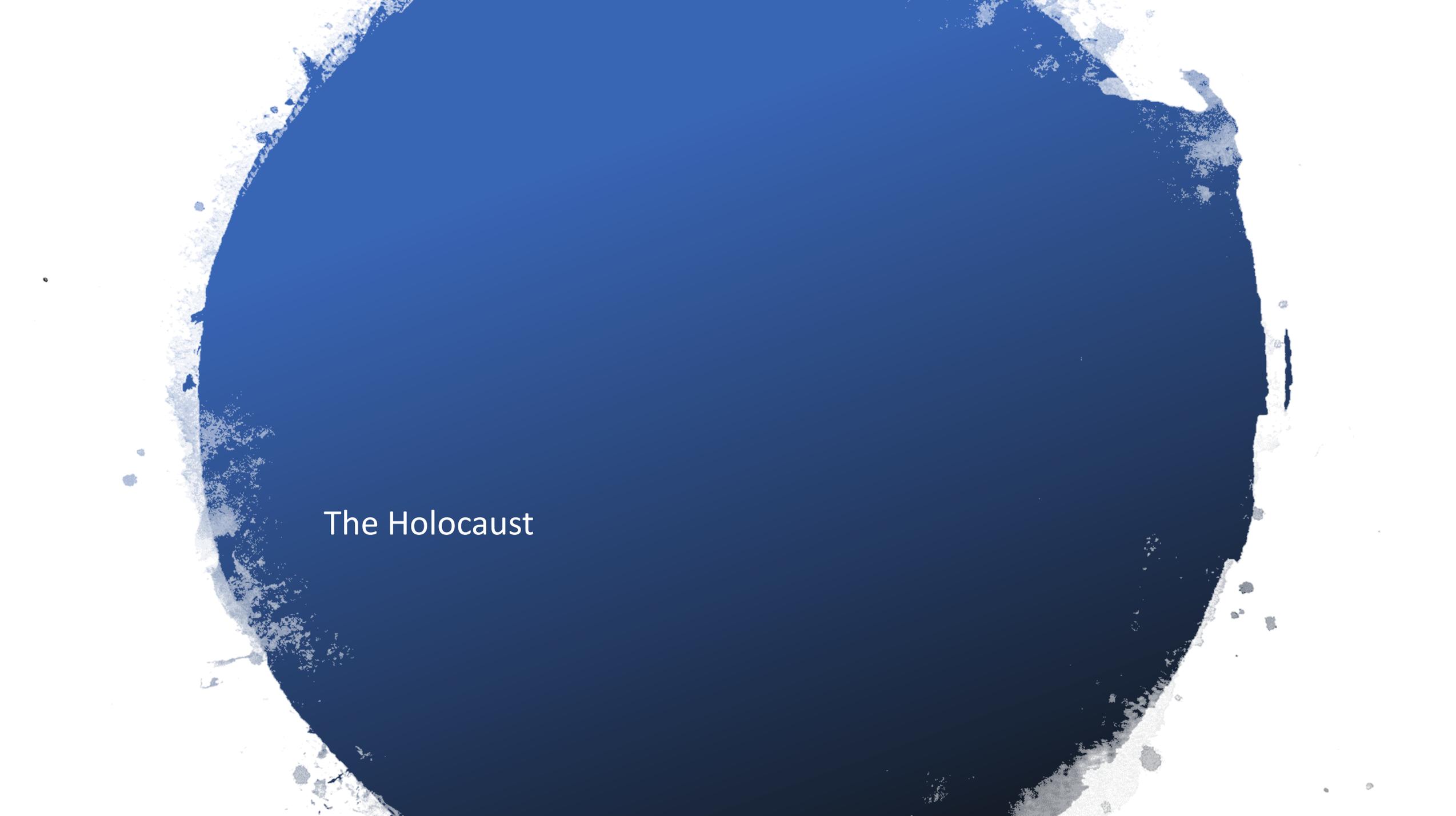
They were three to ten years old and knew nothing but hunger and fear. The Americans gathered them...cleaned, deloused, fed, healed and saved most of them alive. But it was impossible to keep bandages on their sores. Untaught, and constantly admonished not to, they couldn't resist pulling ravelings from the gauze and with their tiny fingers looping them into crude Armenian lace. (as cited in Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon, p. 18).

Here Ellis Barowsky and I write about how literature and the arts help in the healing process after experiencing atrocity:

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Listening+to+children%27s+voices%3a+literature+and+the+arts+as+means+of...-a0206851504>

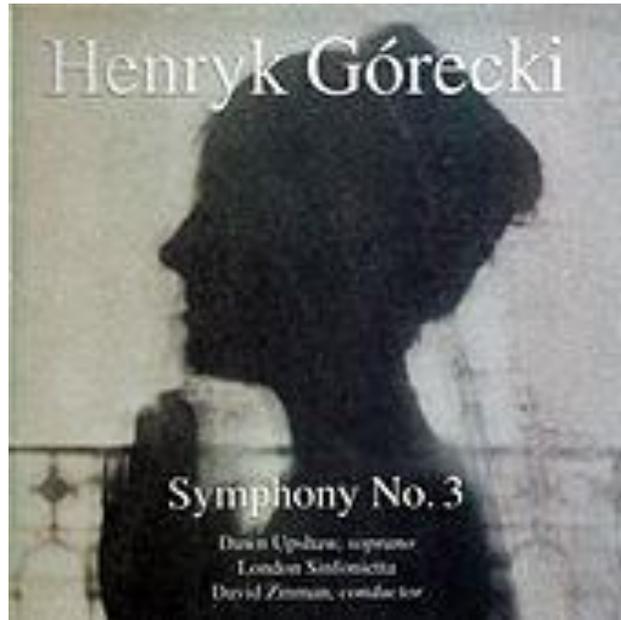
Isabel Bayrakdarian always touches me emotionally. Here she sings Komitas Vardapet's *Andouni* (Homeless) at the annual April 24th memorial march in Yerevan, Armenia. (Open with hyperlink).





The Holocaust

Another song by Bayrakdaraian: "O Mamo nie płacz nie—Niebios Przeczysta Królowo Ty zawsze wspieraj mnie" (Oh Mamma do not cry—Immaculate Queen of Heaven support me always). (Open with hyperlink).



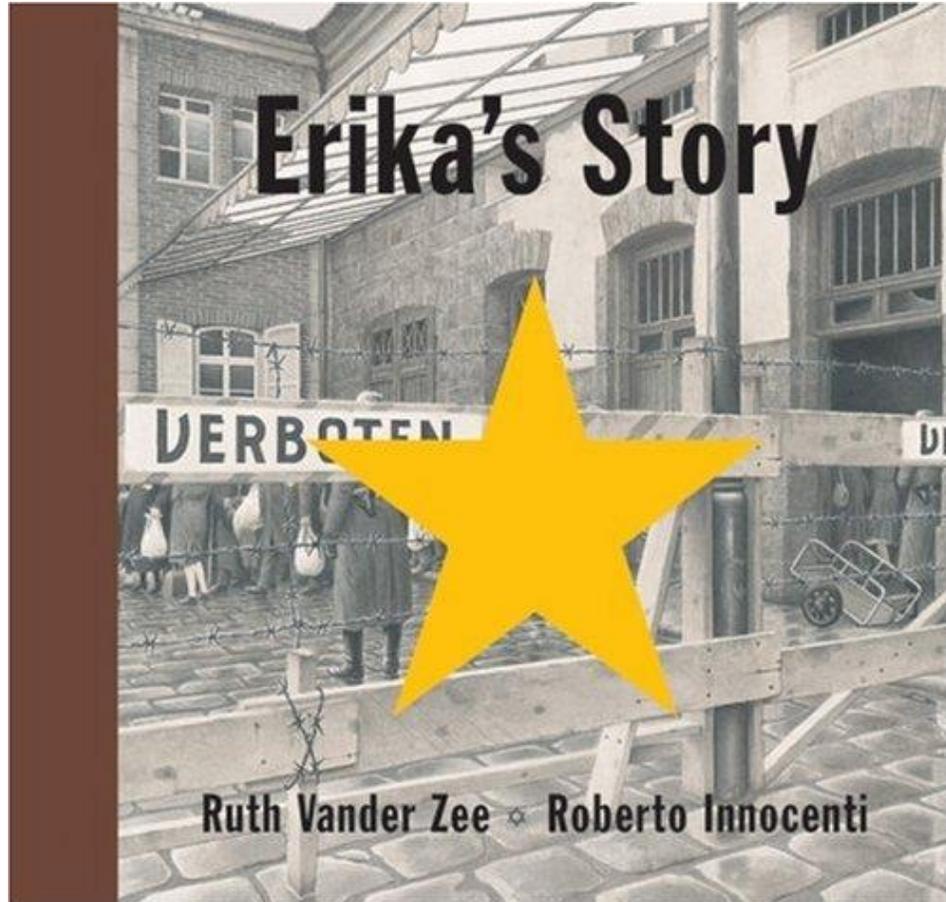
Message by an 18 year old girl on concentration camp wall during World War II: "No, Mother, do not weep,

Most chaste Queen of Heaven
Support me always.

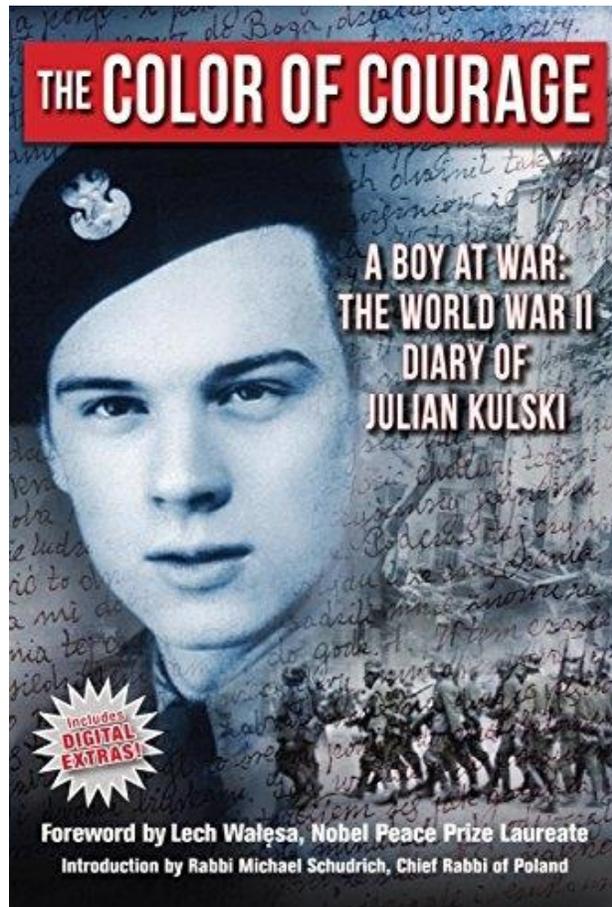
'Zdrowaś Mario.'"



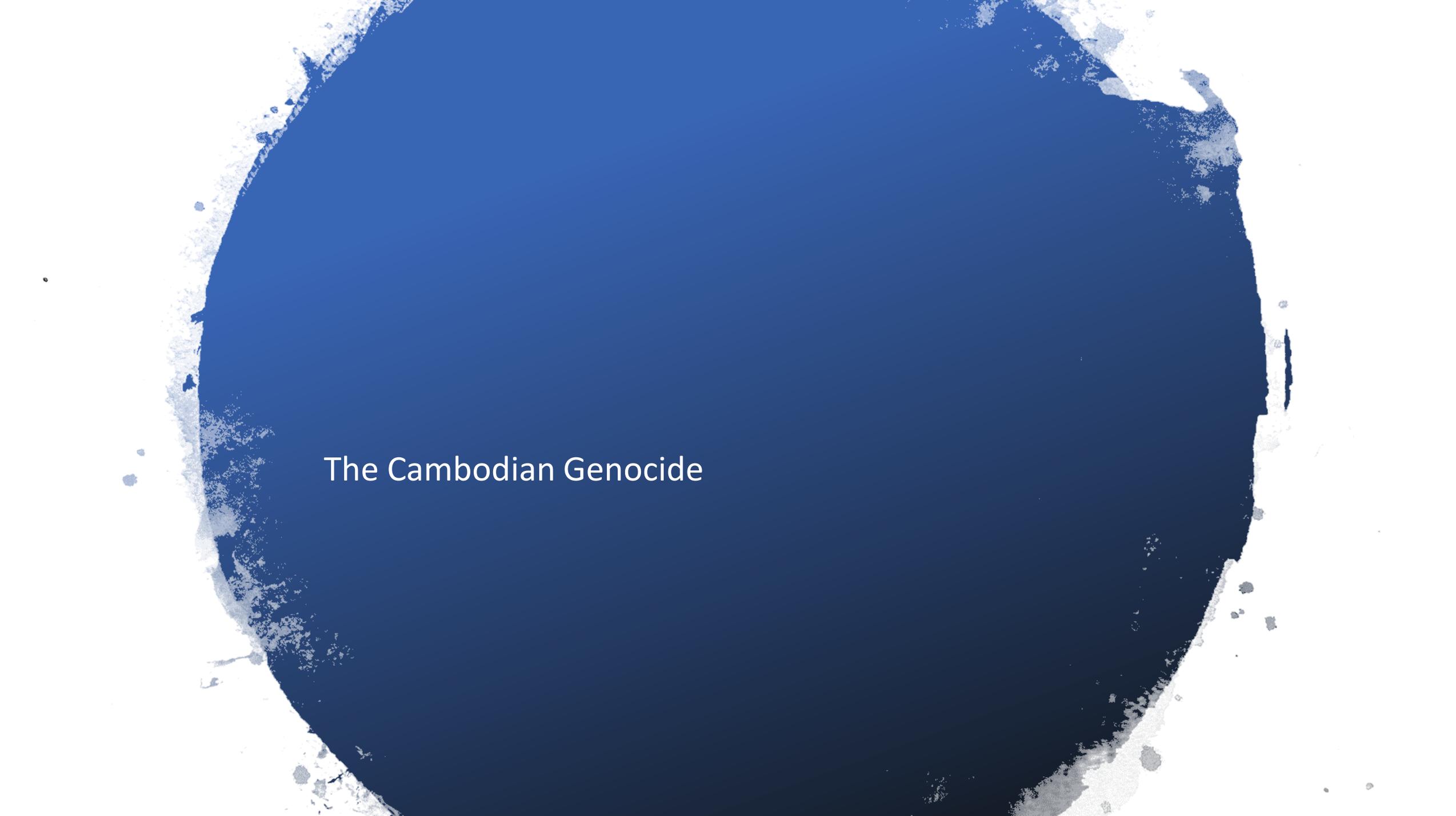
Marie Uchytlová and Jiří Hampl's *Monument to the Child Victims of War* in Lidice



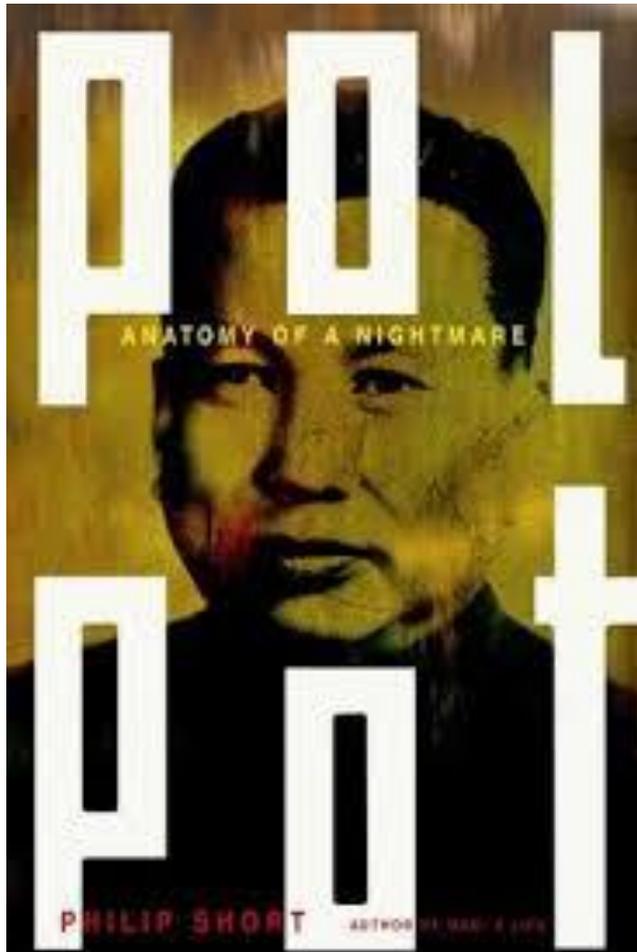
This a true story of an infant whose parents threw her out of the train carrying them to certain death. A German woman adopted and cared for “Erika.”



Another incredible story of “the helpers.”



The Cambodian Genocide

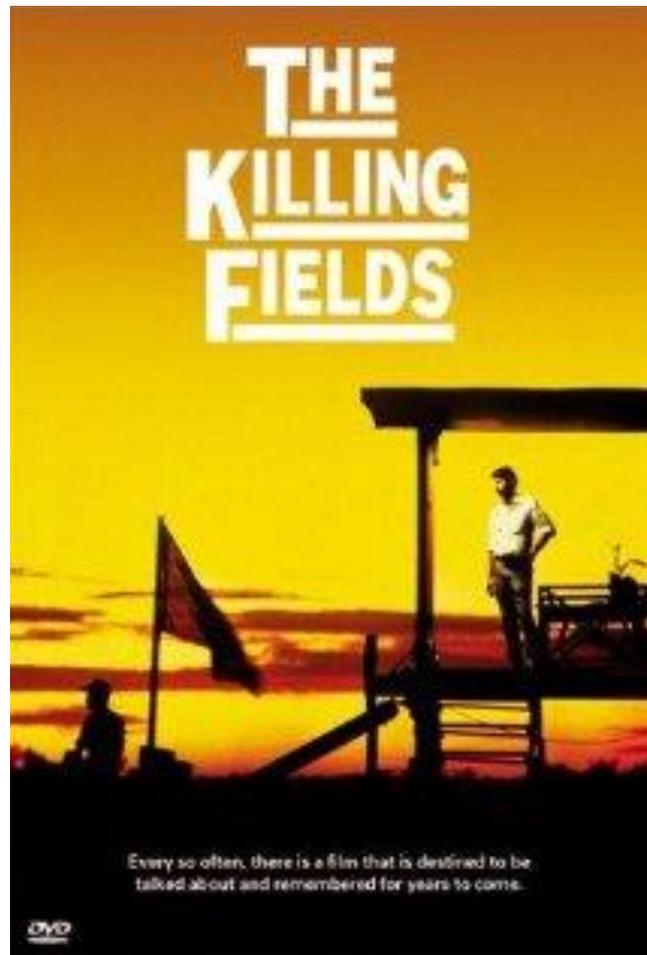


This is a gripping biography by Philip Short.

Amnesty International's Cambodia Photo Exhibit,
which evoked Lee Ann Fujii to study genocide
(open with hyperlink)



The Killing Fields, directed by Roland Joffé



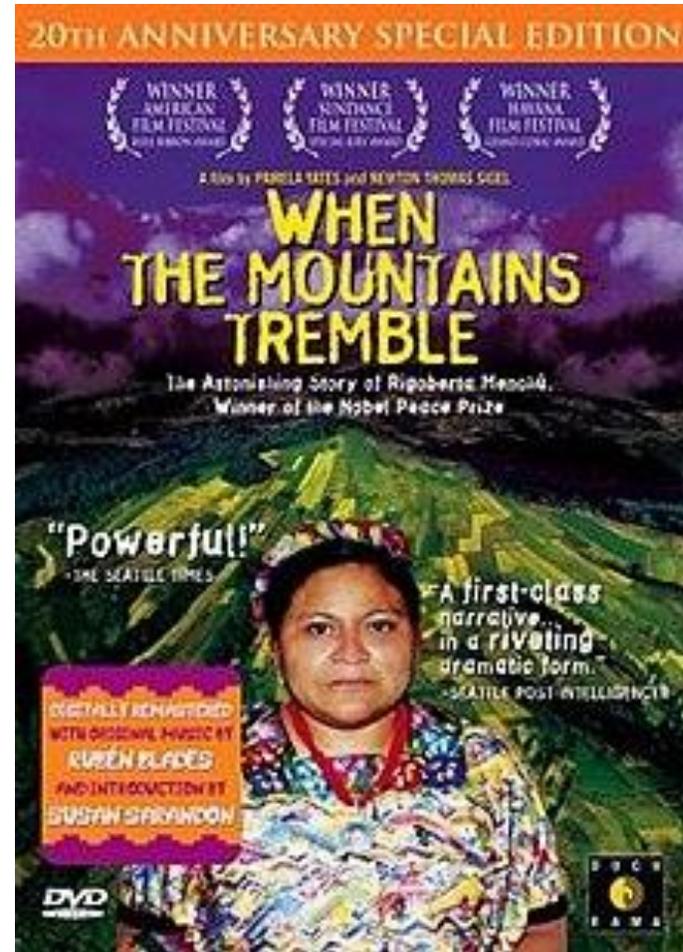


The Guatemalan Genocide

(Open with hyperlink).



(Open with hyperlink).





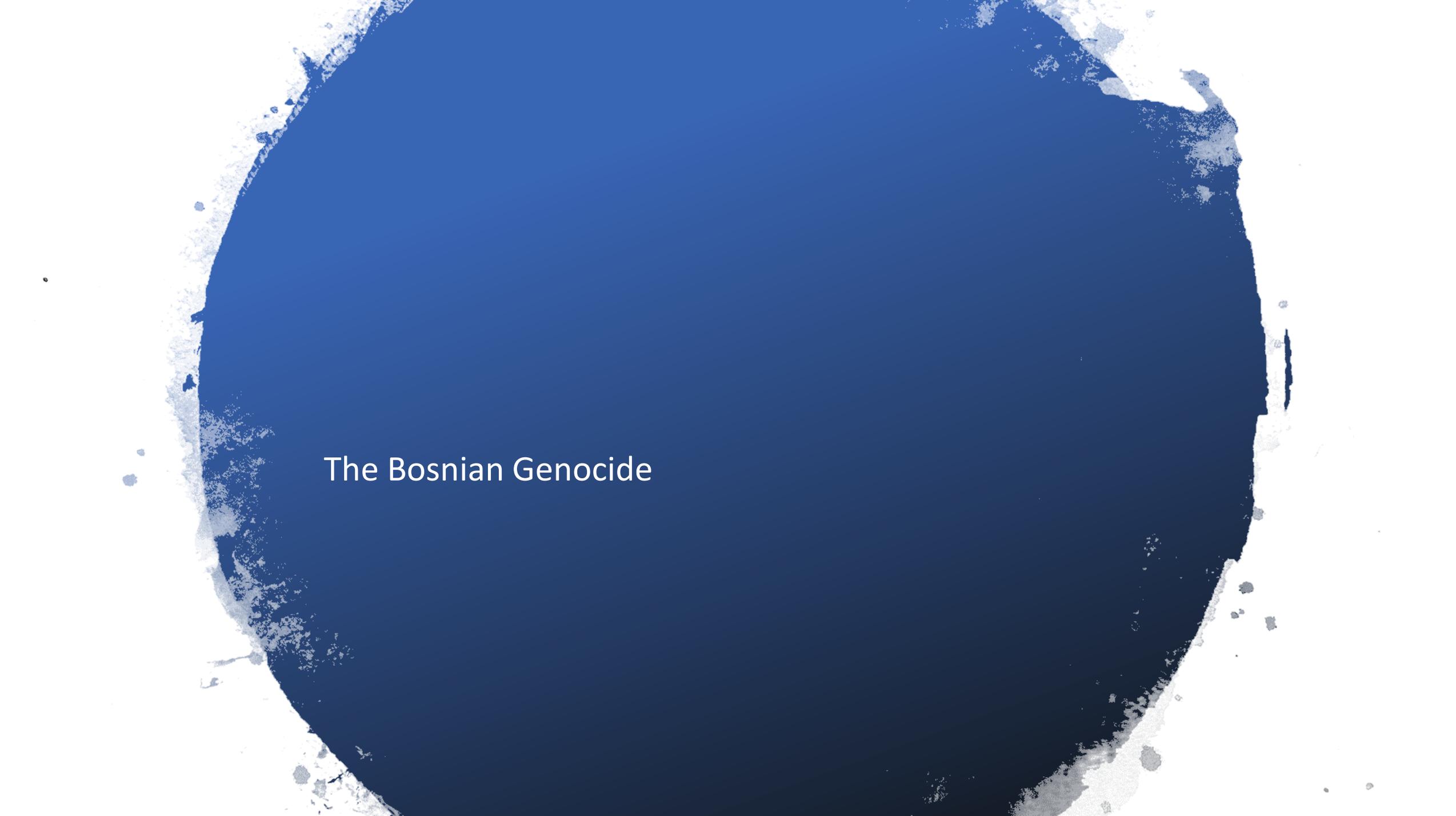
The Genocide of Iraqi Kurds

Memorials to the Victims of the Kurdish genocide in Halabja



A well-researched document helpful in understanding what happened.

Human Rights Watch/Middle East. *Iraq's Crime of Genocide: The Anfal Campaign against the Kurds*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1995.

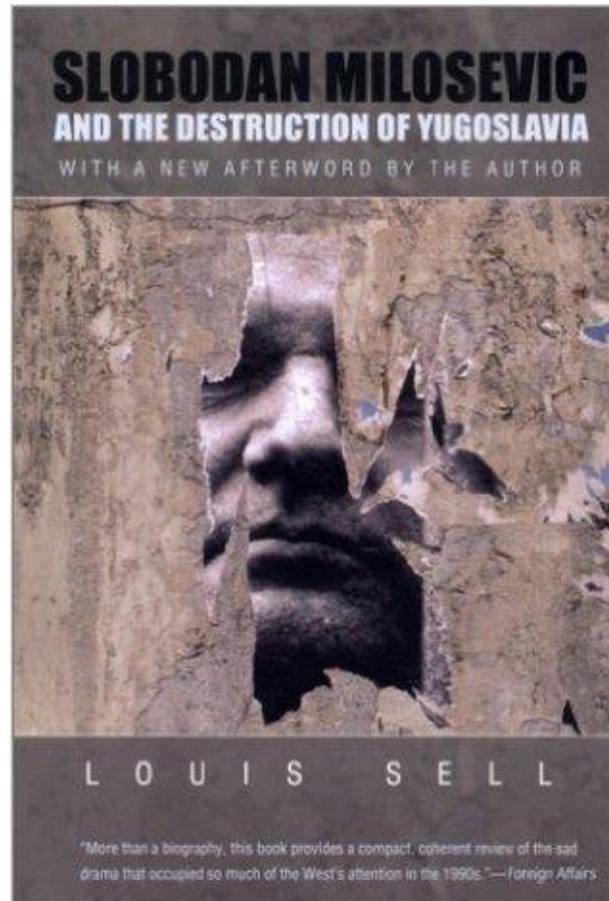


The Bosnian Genocide

Crimes against Children in the Siege of Sarajevo (2010) documents every child killed in the Serbian siege of Sarajevo

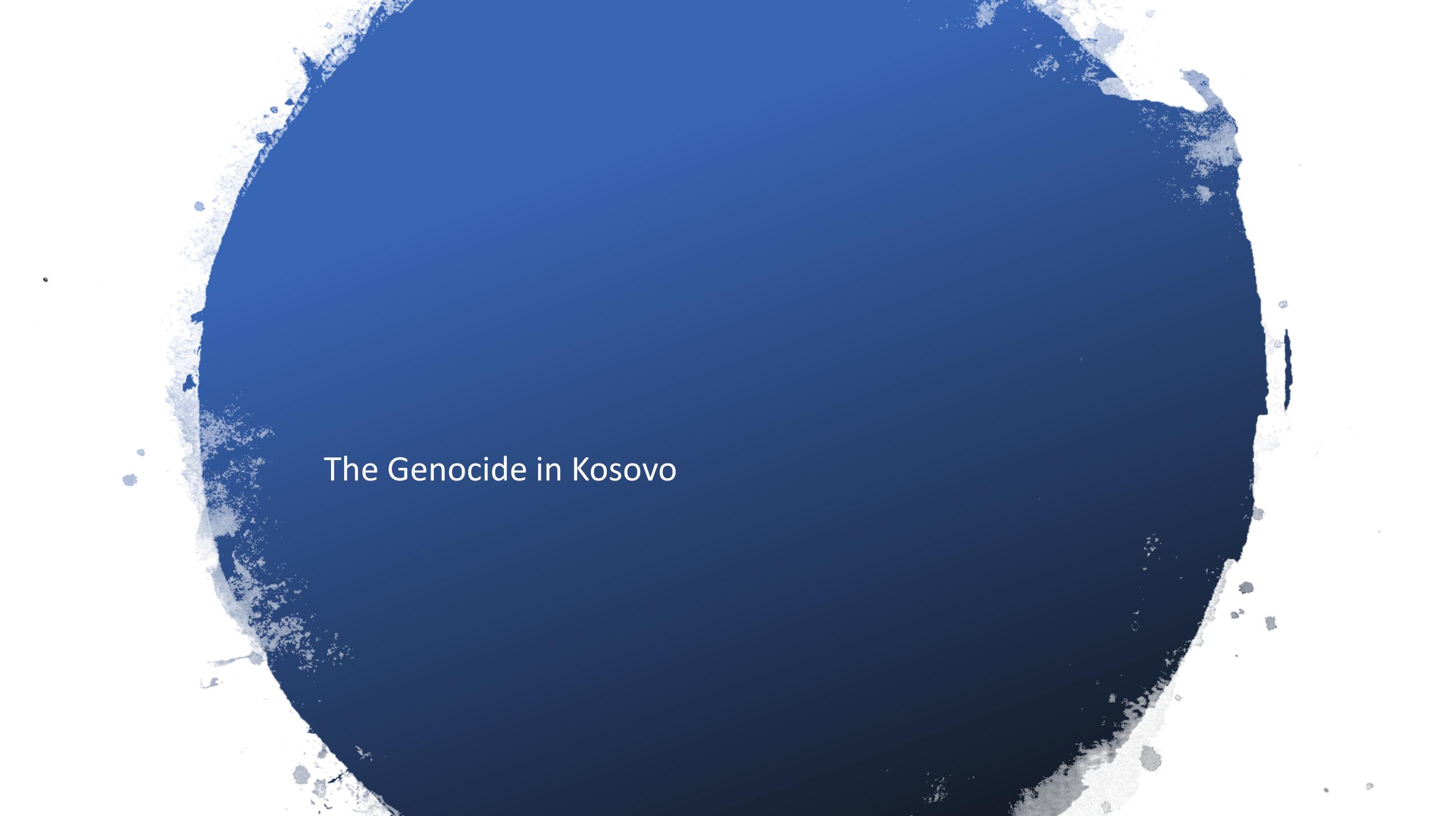


Slobodan Milosevic and the Destruction of Yugoslavia by Louis Sell

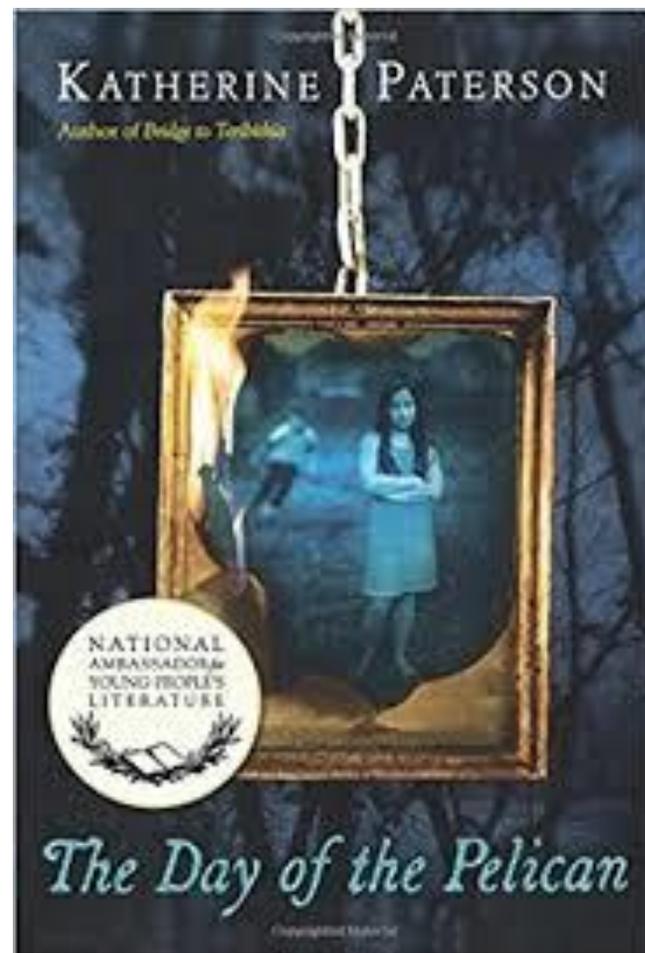
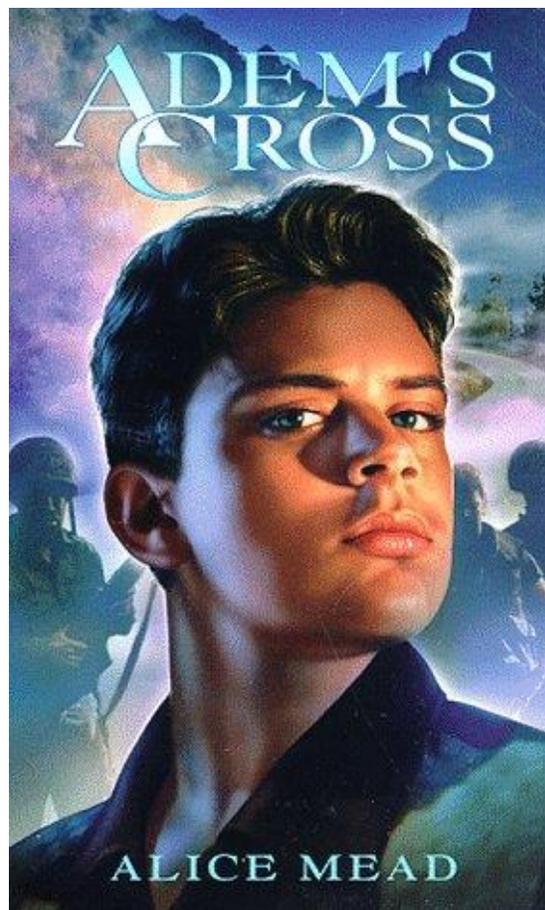


Monument to the International Community, From the Grateful Citizens of Sarajevo



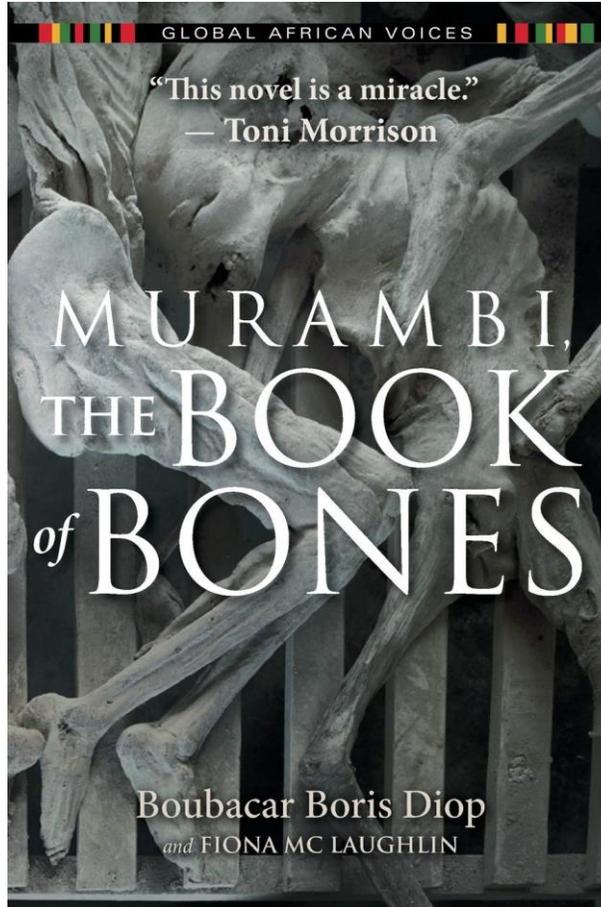


The Genocide in Kosovo





The Rwandan Genocide



GLOBAL AFRICAN VOICES

“This novel is a miracle.”
— Toni Morrison

MURAMBI,
THE BOOK
of BONES

Boubacar Boris Diop
and FIONA MC LAUGHLIN

The New York Times Bestseller!

Foreword by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

Immaculée Ilibagiza
with Steve Erwin

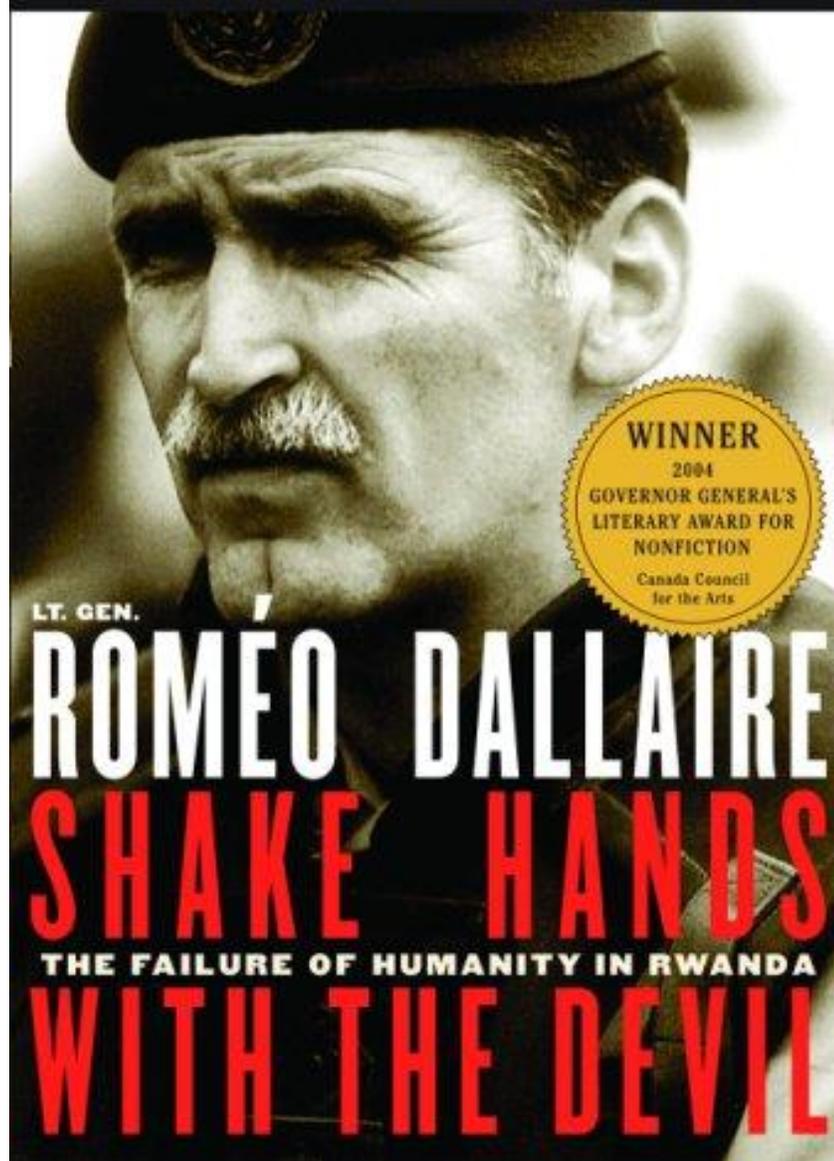
AS
SEEN ON
PUBLIC
TV



LEFT TO TELL

Discovering God
Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust

FOREWORD BY SAMANTHA POWER



LT. GEN.

ROMEO DALLAIRE

SHAKE HANDS

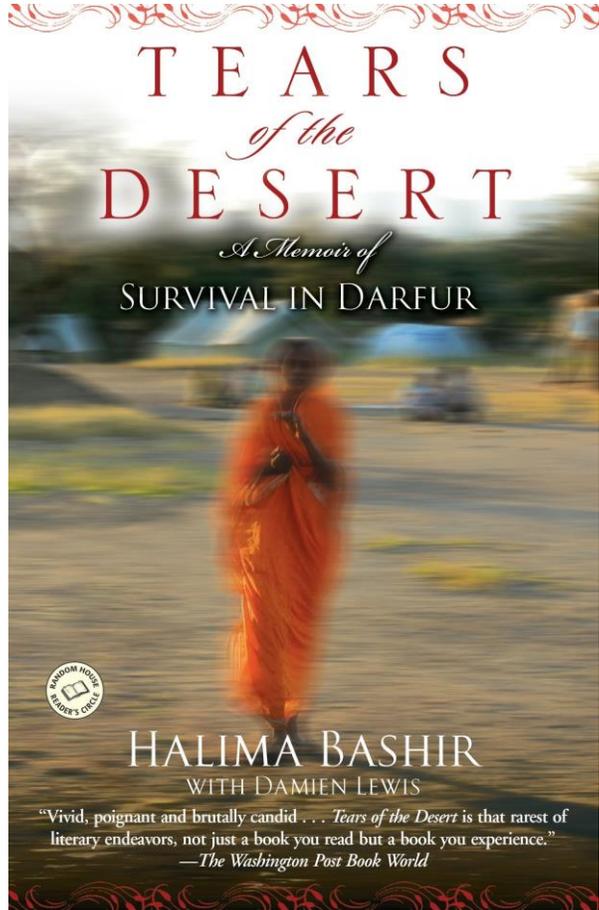
THE FAILURE OF HUMANITY IN RWANDA

WITH THE DEVIL

WINNER
2004
GOVERNOR GENERAL'S
LITERARY AWARD FOR
NONFICTION
Canada Council
for the Arts



The Genocide in Darfur

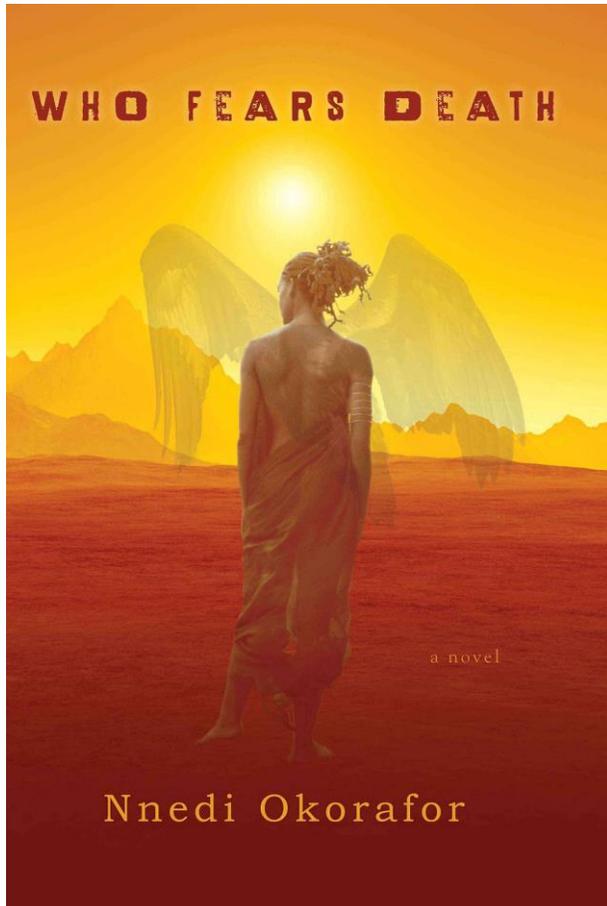


TEARS
of the
DESERT
A Memoir of
SURVIVAL IN DARFUR

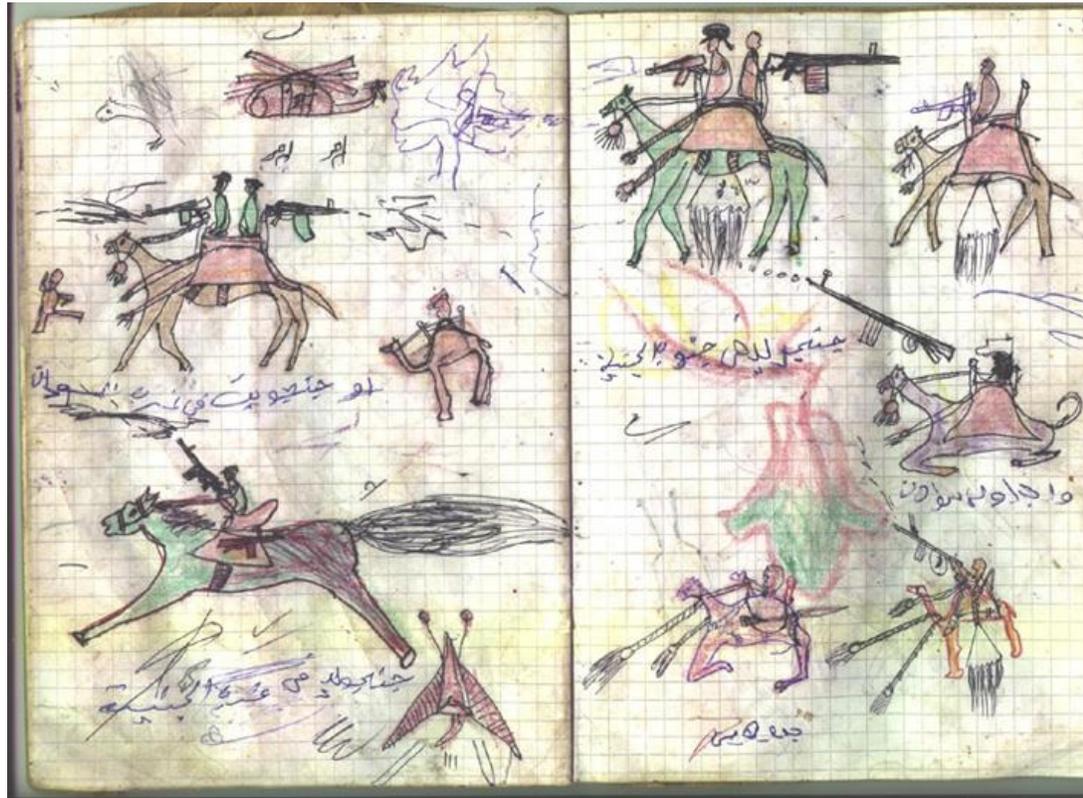


HALIMA BASHIR
WITH DAMIEN LEWIS

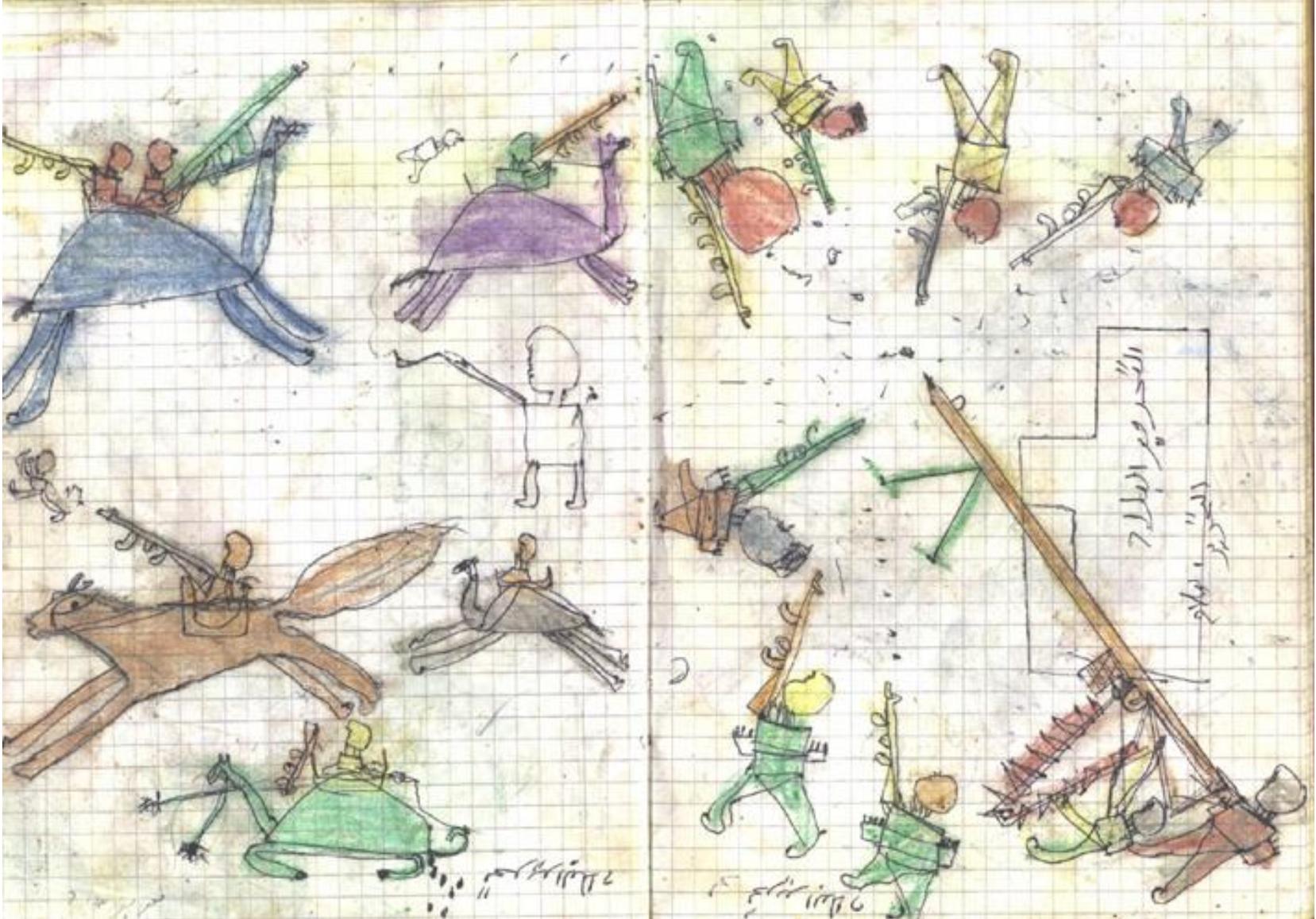
"Vivid, poignant and brutally candid . . . *Tears of the Desert* is that rarest of literary endeavors, not just a book you read but a book you experience."
—*The Washington Post Book World*



With her science fiction novel, Okorafor expands the genres in which genocide can be described.



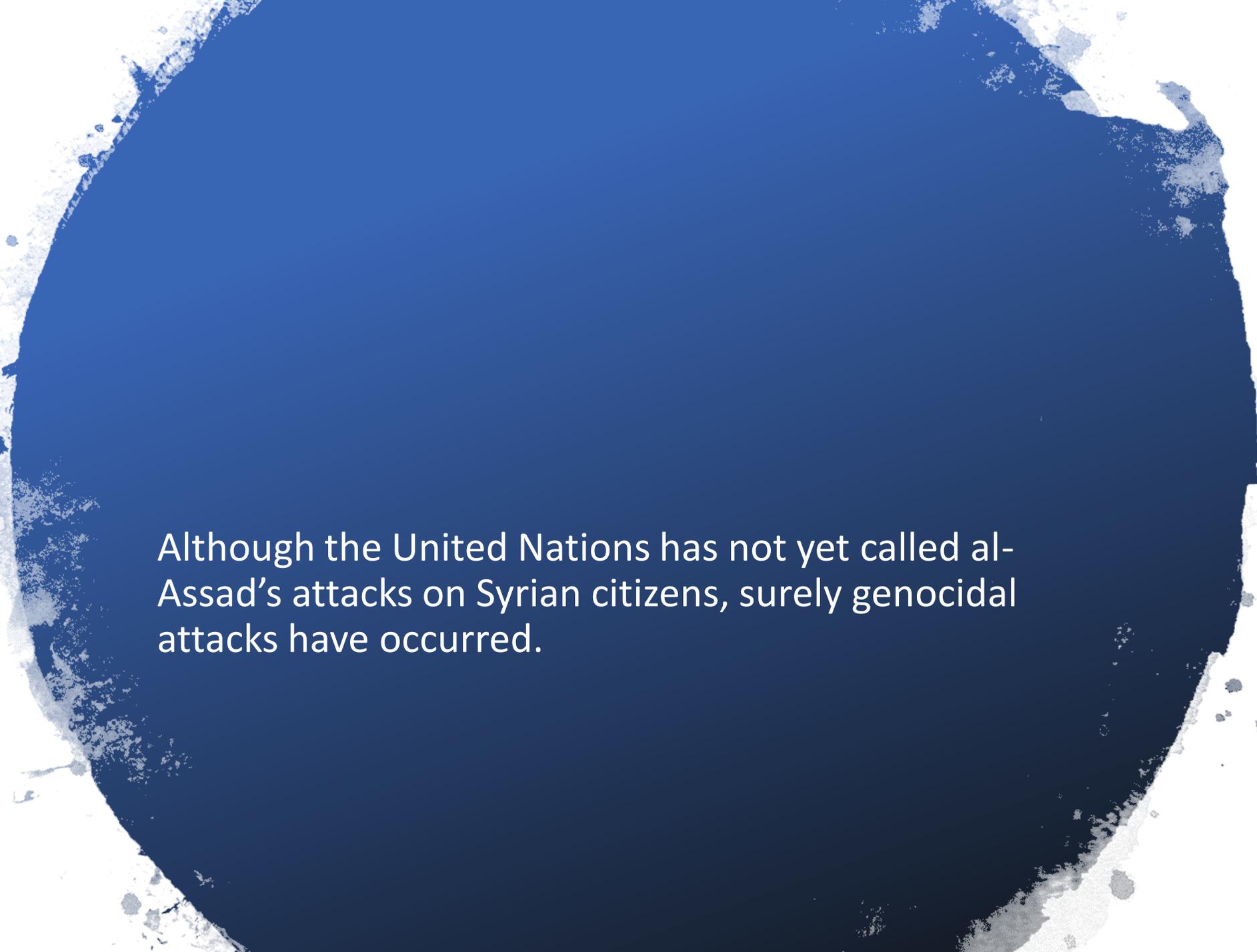
Dr. Jerry Ehrlich smuggled these children's drawings out of Darfur.



Music

Julia Bloom's (2004) *Darfur Moon*:

<https://cabinoflove.bandcamp.com/track/darfur-moon>



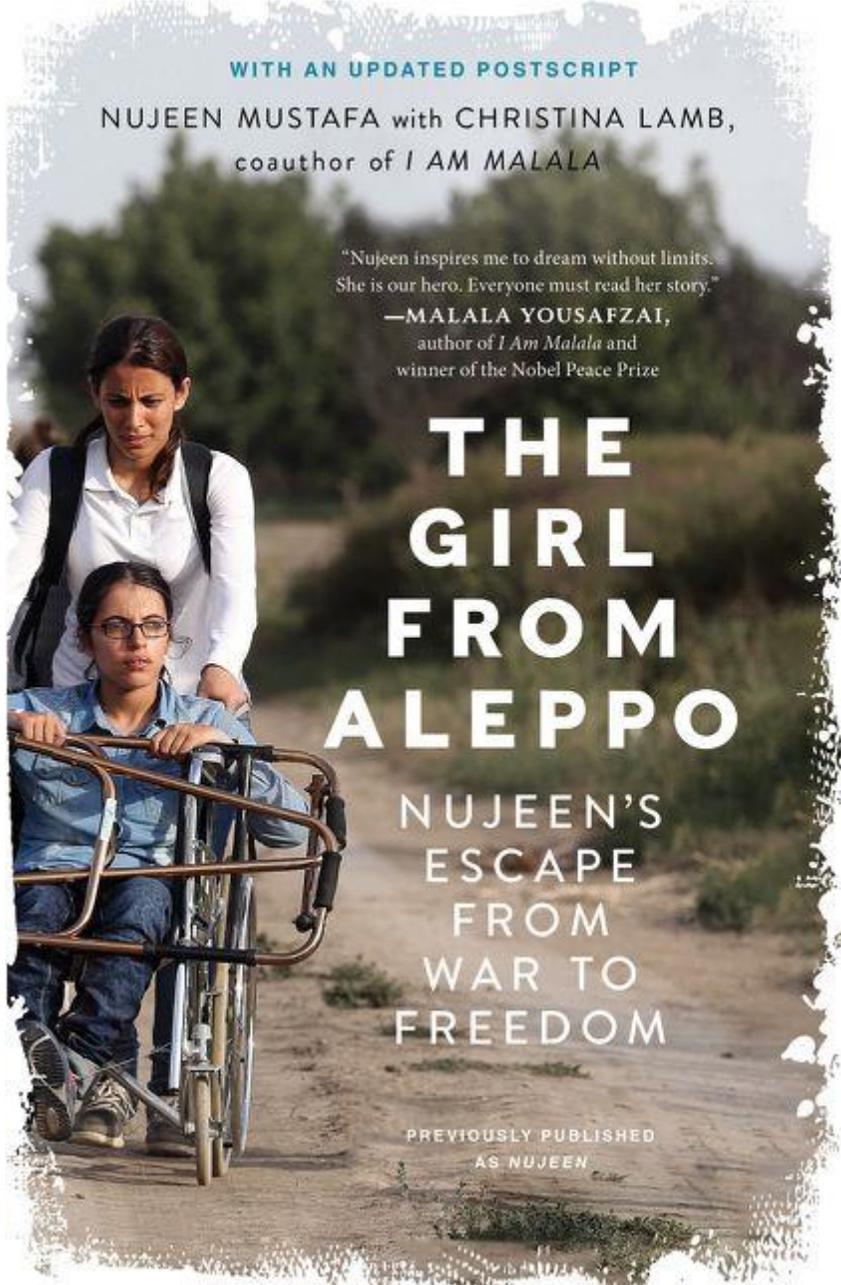
Although the United Nations has not yet called al-Assad's attacks on Syrian citizens, surely genocidal attacks have occurred.

WITH AN UPDATED POSTSCRIPT

NUJEEN MUSTAFA with CHRISTINA LAMB,
coauthor of *I AM MALALA*

"Nujeen inspires me to dream without limits.
She is our hero. Everyone must read her story."

—MALALA YOUSAFZAI,
author of *I Am Malala* and
winner of the Nobel Peace Prize



THE GIRL FROM ALEPPO

NUJEEN'S
ESCAPE
FROM
WAR TO
FREEDOM

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED
AS *NUJEEN*

حصى الطُرُقَات

STEPPING STONES

A Refugee Family's Journey

رحلة عائلة لاجئة



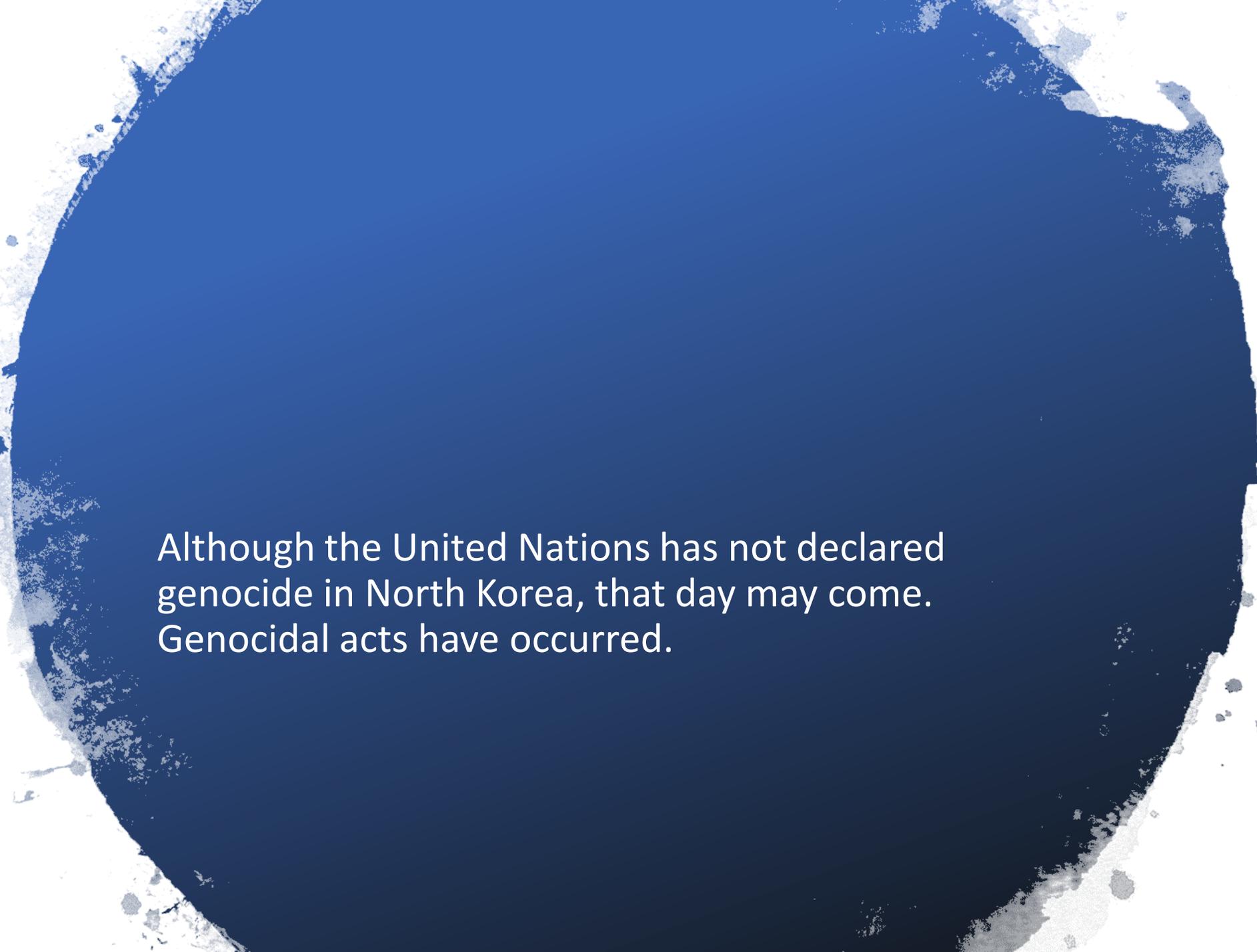
MARGRIET RUURS ♦ ARTWORK BY NIZAR ALI BADR

تأليف: مارغريت رورز

رسوم: نزار علي بدر

al-Assad deliberately attacks Syrian hospitals.





Although the United Nations has not declared
genocide in North Korea, that day may come.
Genocidal acts have occurred.

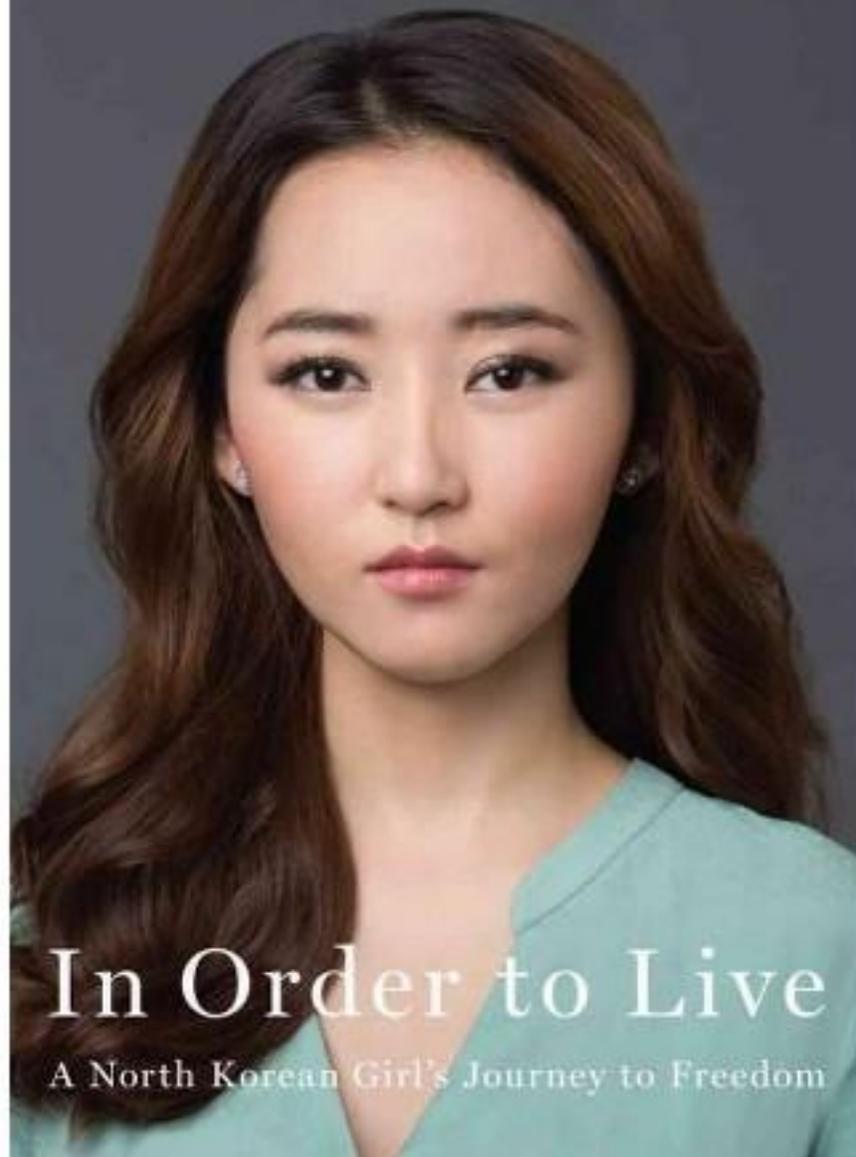


ESCAPE FROM CAMP 14

One Man's Remarkable Odyssey
from North Korea to Freedom in the West

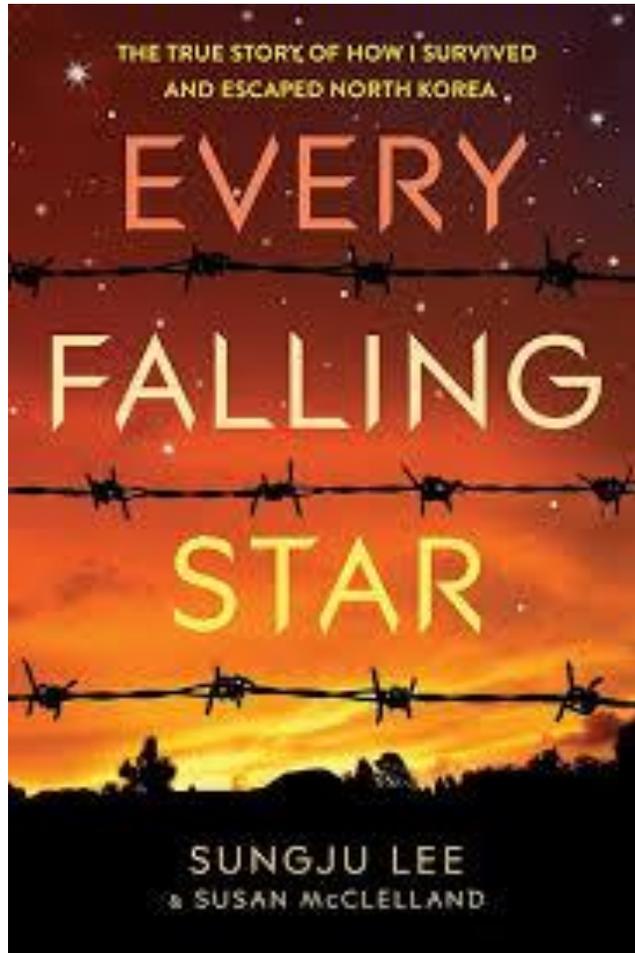
BLAINE HARDEN
READ BY THE AUTHOR • UNABRIDGED

YEONMI PARK



In Order to Live

A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom



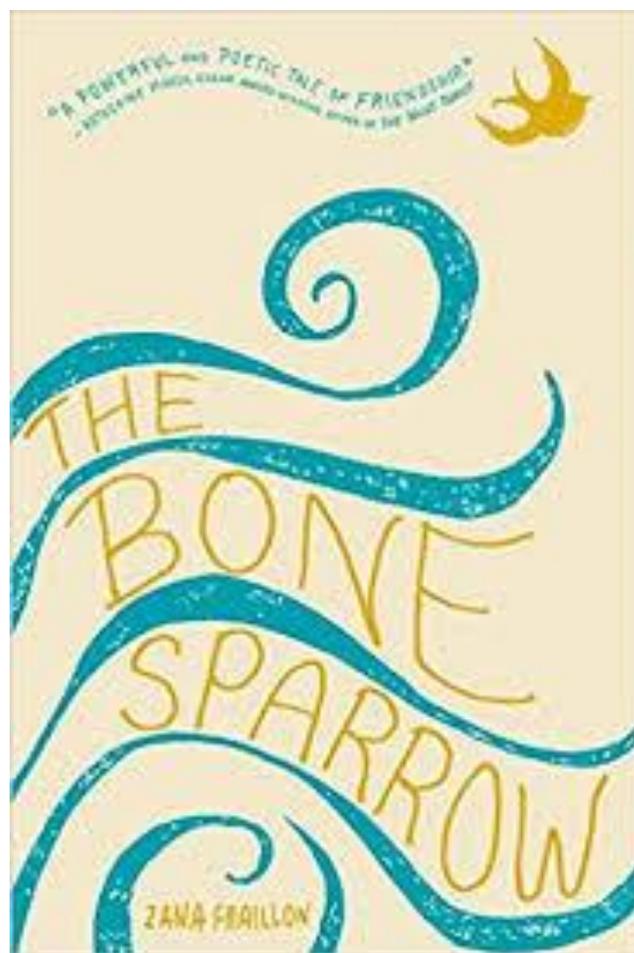
The first book written for young adults on atrocity in North Korea.



The Rohingya of Myanmar

Rohingya Refugees: Why I Fled. (Open with hyperlink).







Genocide Watch issues emergencies for countries around the world, including Yemen:

<https://www.genocidewatch.com/countries-at-risk>