



March Newsletter



Voices Revisited

In 2007 the 16th Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice was presented to Eric Reeves for his work raising awareness of the genocide and atrocities in Sudan. It has been eleven years since we presented Reeves with the Salem Award. During those eleven years, his voice has not been silent.

First, a quick history. Sudan is the largest country in Africa. Darfur is a region in western Sudan, roughly the size of Spain, with a population of about 7 million. The Darfur genocide refers to the mass slaughter and rape of men, women and children in western Sudan that began in 2003. It has been described as the first genocide of the 21st century. Unrest and violence still persist today.



Eric Reeves

In 2003, Eric Reeves traveled to Sudan to gain a firsthand understanding of the country, the people and the unfolding tragedy. In 2007, the year he received the Salem Award, he published a book, *A Long Day's Dying*, about his experiences in Sudan. In 2014, Reeves was featured in a documentary, *On Our Watch...Genocide in Darfur*, which recounted the history of the conflict and the continuing horrific conditions in Darfur. You can watch it [here](#).

In February of 2016 in an Op Ed piece that appeared in the New York

Times, Reeves wrote:



"[Darfur](#) may have dropped out of international headlines, but that does not mean the region enjoys peace. Far from it. A renewed escalation of violence by the Sudanese government against non-Arab ethnic groups threatens to compound a humanitarian disaster that, according to United Nations estimates, over the past 13 years

displaced [more than 2.7 million](#) people in Darfur and an additional [380,000 refugees](#) to eastern Chad."

We caught up with Eric Reeves this February, still raising his voice and hoping someone will be listening. Writing on his website, [Sudan, Research, Analysis and Advocacy](#), Reeves reports, "The final genocide has begun and it is occasioning no international outcry or robust objection." The refugee camps are being dismantled and more than a million displaced people have been given a month to resettle or return to their original areas, the same areas where the Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed, had systematically burned villages, looted economic resources and murdered, raped and tortured civilians.

Eric Reeves, we are grateful for the work you are doing and we will continue to raise our voices for the displaced people of Darfur.

Events

February 28 - Dedication of the Charlotte Forten Legacy Room at Salem State University

10 AM: Reception, Sophia Gordon Center

11AM Dedication, Meier Hall 316

The Charlotte Forten Legacy Room celebrates the life and legacy of Charlotte Louise Bridges Forten. Forten was an abolitionist, educator, writer, poet, translator and women's rights activist. Her story starts in Philadelphia, where she was brought up in a radical abolitionist family. She traveled to Salem for equal education--Salem Public Schools are thought to be the first in the nation to be integrated--but throughout her life faced inequality due to her race and gender. Forten used her pen to express her outrage and advocate for solutions.

March 8 - Teaching the Salem Witch Trials

Salem Witch Museum

6 PM

Discover methods and resources for bringing the lessons of the Salem witch trials into the classroom. Feel free to bring and share your own ideas and resources.

Admission is a suggested \$5 donation to Voices Against Justice. (Thank you, Salem Witch Museum!)

March 25 - Salem Award Ceremony

Sophia Gordon Center, Salem State University

4 PM, reception to follow

Voices Against Injustice presents the 2018 Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice to The GroundTruth Project, a Boston-based non-profit media organization. Founded by award-winning journalist Charles Sennott, The GroundTruth Project is dedicated to supporting a new generation of journalists and to adding increased knowledge and understanding of critical global issues through enterprise journalism with a focus on social justice. [Learn more.](#)

March 22-29 - Salem Film Fest
Multiple times and locations

Voices Against Injustice will once again sponsor a film with a social justice theme at the Salem Film Fest. Watch for our announcement. You can buy tickets and get details on the films and schedule at [Salem Film Fest 2018](#).

News

Salem State History Professor Plays Central Role in Groundbreaking Report on the Teaching of American Slavery in Schools

Salem State University Associate Professor of history, Bethany Jay, Ph.D., played a central role in a Southern Poverty Law Center Report, "[Teaching Hard History](#)," released on February 1 and detailing the insufficiencies in the teaching of the history of American slavery. Through her work and the work of Teaching Tolerance, a project of the SPLC, the nation's educators will be provided with the tools needed to teach the topic correctly. (Did you know SPLC founder Morris Dees received the Salem Award in 1992?)

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