

http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/stories/wcnc-ad-5_22_06-darfur.10f8ef34.html



Local News –

(Internet News and Evening News Television Broadcast)

Charlotte filmmaker documents Sudan slavery

Full Story and Interview

At 6:40 PM on the Television News Broadcast 

Monday, May 22, 2006

By JANELLA MARTINEZ / 6NEWS

E-mail Janelle: JMartinez@WCNC.com



6NEWS

These slaves in the Darfur region of Sudan wait to be freed.

A Myers Park woman turned a trip to Africa into a documentary about modern day slavery in Darfur.

6NEWS' partner, The Charlotte Observer, first reported her travels in Monday's paper. Now people can see for themselves the human pain and suffering she witnessed.

The Charlotte native lived a life of luxury as a successful investment banker. She drove nice cars and stayed in five star hotels. But she gave it all up to go to Africa.

She said there's a sad story behind the faces in her video and she's doing her part to tell it.

“They were very frightened, they would not make eye contact,” said **filmmaker Cindy Castano**.

It's a world away from her condo in Myers Park... the western region of Sudan.

“They are caught up in a war, and the war is the government of Sudan against their own people,” Castano said.

Castano said she followed her heart to Darfur to document the modern day slavery of children.

[Video on Demand](#)



[VIDEO: The slaves of Darfur](#) **Video**

[NEW video at this hour](#) **Video**

“Some were taken when (they were) so young they don't know their own parents, they don't even know what their own names are,” Castano said.

In Castano’s video she shot footage of more than a dozen slaves who were sitting under a tree and waiting to be freed by a group of relief workers.

“The boys are sent out to tend cattle all day and all night, so you may have a 6-year-old boy with no shoes and no protection,” Castano said. “Sudan is the only country in the world that sponsors slavery. They would probably deny that, but in fact it's true.”

Castano said one person can make a difference. Her part is shedding light on the atrocities in Sudan.

“These people are worth helping,” Castano said. “They are depending on the United States to help them. We're their only hope.”