**Defendant:** Ahmad Harun, minister of State

**Location:** Sudan, the Darfur region

**Dates Active:** 2003-2004

**Crimes Accused:** 20 counts of crimes against humanity, murder, persecution, forcible transportation of population, rape, inhuman acts, 22 counts of war crimes, attacks against the civilian population, pillaging

**Overview:** Ahmad Harun was the former minister of the interior for Sudan during the time of the genocide of the Darfur region. He is accused of organizing the notorious Janjaweed militias who carried out most heinous acts against the ethnically African majority that lived in the Darfur region.

Ahmad Harun was born to a poor farming family in Northern Sudan in 1964. At school, he joined the Islamic movement that was sweeping Sudan and was forming into an influential organization. He then received a law degree in Egypt and returned to work as a judge in Sudan. In 1989, Sudan underwent a coup where Omar al-Bashir was instated as president. Harun took this opportunity to increase power for himself, and particularly sought out positions in the military and police. During the war in Darfur, prosecutors allege that it was Harun who implemented the counterinsurgency-by-genocide strategy in Darfur that featured mass killings, rape, and violence at an unprecedented level.

To add insult to injury, once the Janjaweed forces largely withdrew from Darfur, Harun was promoted to “Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs” and oversaw the internally displaced persons camps that sprung up all across Sudan to accommodate those fleeing from war-torn areas. From this position, he harassed humanitarian workers and made it increasingly difficult for any IDPs to receive the help they needed.

Supporters of his say that was not responsible for any of the violence that occurred in Darfur, and that he cannot be held responsible for the actions of individuals, simply because he oversaw the Darfur Security Desk, a government agency that managed the ongoing conflict in the region.

An arrest warrant was issued in 2007 for his arrest, but the Sudan government has refused to hand him over, and Harun is currently serving as a governor in a state of Sudan.