

# Opinion

## While all eyes were on Gaza, Sudan flew under the radar

By **JOANNA FARRELL**  
Associate Opinion Editor

For the last two years, all eyes have been on Gaza, and rightfully so. However, in a time where news is at our fingertips, it still feels as though we have tunnel vision when it comes to global issues. TikTok seemingly controls the narrative when it comes to widespread awareness, and up until recently, ongoing genocides in Africa have slipped through the cracks of mainstream coverage.

One of the largest issues going on in Africa right now is a mass genocide in Sudan. Upwards of 150,000 people have been murdered on top of other atrocities that are being committed against women and children throughout the Darfur region of the country. Amongst the most attention-drawing sieges is the city of el-Fasher.

People are cowering in fear of the organized armed militia that is making their way through Sudan and terrorizing the small villages that occupy the land.

Like many, you may be asking yourself when this started and how this is happening. Africa has been victim to centuries of colonization and apartheid, which led to weak government structures across the continent. Sudan is one example.

In April 2023, Sudan was plunged into a civil war between its army and the leading militia, known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This

has caused nearly 12 million to flee their homes in fear of the group in what the United Nations is calling the world's largest humanitarian crisis, according to data from the British Broadcasting Corporation. But why did this civil war start?

Prior to the war, Sudan was under the rule of the widely disliked Omar al-Bashir. Because of this, the Sudan military and the aforementioned RSF joined a well-built alliance to stage a coup in 2019. The people craved democracy; however, after the former leader was ousted, Lieutenant-General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the leader of Sudan's military, was not willing to give up control and took the stage as the country's leader.

This caused a division between the Sudanese military and the RSF. The RSF wanted power too, but was undermined by Burhan, causing the alliance to dissolve in April 2023. The RSF is approximately half the size of the Sudan Armed Forces at 100,000 members.

This skewed the power in Sudan and the RSF now holds control of the Darfur region of Southwest Sudan and the Sudan Armed Forces hold control of northern and eastern Sudan. However, small militias are popping up around the country that support the RSF.

The Associated Press cites that one of the reasons the RSF is targeting the Darfur region of Sudan is because this area is extremely saturated with gold, making it a source of wealth for the country.

There has been discourse surrounding a theory that the RSF is partnered with the United Arab Emirates and is exploiting Sudan of their gold resources to send to the UAE in exchange for weapons.

The Emirati government denies that it has any involvement with the RSF, however, the UN has evidence that weapons manufactured in Europe

are being utilized by the militia in Sudan.

Members of the United Nations have stated that they will not let this go and will be urging the European Commission to hold a meeting to discuss the possibility of renegotiating trade with the UAE so long as they keep finding evidence that these European weapons are making their way through the United Arab Emirates to the RSF.

In response to the claims, the Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the European Union (EU) has stated that the Emirati government has denied these claims several times, which puts the UN and EU in a unique position of whether or not to renegotiate its trade deals with the UAE. The UN justification is there are other ways for the RSF to locate these weapons, although substantial evidence of trade between the RSF and UAE remains.

While there are still many unknowns about the genocide occurring in Sudan, one fact remains: people are being killed by the thousands, and nothing is being done.

Survival should not depend on luck. Being born in a country with a stable government, regardless of a certain gender, race or religion are basic human rights and we must not turn a blind eye to Sudan.

All. Eyes. On. Sudan.



## Living with the NY Giants feels like a never-ending punishment

By **ANTHONY ANGELILLO**  
Copy Editor

Life as a New York Giants fan feels like a bad joke that never stops; only the punchline keeps getting worse. Each week brings fresh embarrassment as the record sinks toward the bottom of the National Football Conference East.

I have not seen a Giants Super Bowl win since I was five. All I hear from people is "at least the Giants won two Super Bowls against Brady."

Even though that may be true, recent championships don't matter. I was still in preschool, learning my ABCs and completely unaware that New York even existed.

The public shame I hear when people list the Giants' failures makes me question why I am even a Giants fan, which then reminds me that I had no choice, since I was born into it.

The seasons that actually stay clear in memory look very different. One playoff trip in 2016, then a long stretch of double-digit-loss seasons turned the franchise into a weekly source of stress.

Each fall promised a reset, only to finish with another top draft pick.

The past two years pushed that frustration to a new level. A three-win collapse in 2024 set up this season, in which a 2-10 record, a six-game losing streak, and the firing of head coach Brian Daboll in November made the Giants feel like the most hopeless team in the division.

Then you point out all the leads New York blew and all the close games it lost. You flip the results, and the Giants may actually be a contender. But nope, they are now being crowned the best 2-10 team ever, which is just a slap in the face at this point. Interim coach Mike Kafka is trying to patch together a season that already ended before Thanksgiving.

Nothing sums up the chaos better than the Daniel Jones saga. The front office gave Jones a four-year, \$160 million contract in 2023, sold fans on stability at quarterback, then moved on less than two seasons later after ugly losses, injuries, plus benchings. The relationship ended so fast, the biggest feeling left behind was simply confusion.

Letting former Giants running back Saquon Barkley walk created an even deeper bruise. A homegrown star, a rare bright spot in so many bleak years, left for the Philadelphia Eagles on a

three-year deal worth more than 37 million dollars, then turned into an Offensive Player of the Year caliber force in green.

Watching a former face of the franchise run through defenses for a hated rival while the Giants' offense struggles to reach 20 points feels like a twist straight out of a nightmare.

This season, the team tried to reset the story with rookie quarterback Jaxson Dart, 25th overall pick in the first round of the 2025 NFL draft. A first-round pick who runs plus throws with fearless confidence should signal hope. Instead, a stint in concussion protocol, plus talk about scaling back his rushing, turns every scramble into a moment that the future

of fear will fall apart before it begins. The team now sits at 2-11, eliminated from playoff contention with weeks left on the schedule.

Ownership carries a huge share of the blame. The Mara family treats the franchise like a family

heirloom, and the product on the field looks stuck in a different decade. Division rivals lean into creative trades, bold analytics and aggressive roster moves, while this team clings to outdated ideas about toughness, tradition and loyalty.

Front-office decisions keep adding layers of frustration. The coaching staff sold a vision of smart football, then made conservative fourth-down calls, timid play designs near the goal line and strange quarterback decisions that never aligned with what fans saw on the field.

Every press conference promises that the plan will work. Every Sunday night tells a different story.

Being a Giants fan since childhood who survived coaching changes, painful draft picks and endless rebuilds, feels less like casual support and more like a permanent part of my life.

Walking away would feel wrong, even with this season making that choice more tempting. However, I will continue to wear my blue Dexter Lawrence jersey in the closet and pray our defense does not continue to blow games, which hopefully will happen less with the firing of Defensive Coordinator Shane Bowen.

The Giants may not deserve support right now, but, as I always fall back on them, the future is bright for the Big Blue Wrecking Crew, and my bond to this team will remain.

