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## Sudan: Country has been at war since 1983

Continued from page 4

with the Sudanese government and said that the African Union, an organization of 53 African countries, had done little to aid the victims of Darfur.

Rwanda was the only African country that volunteered to send soldiers to Sudan, but the African Union was unable to pay for the soldiers to travel to Darfur, even though most African leaders have personal yachts, Jok said.

Jok believes peace remains possible in Sudan even without much international involvement.

The shift in international politics following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has made the Sudanese government uncertain, leaving the door open to negotiating peace, Jok said.

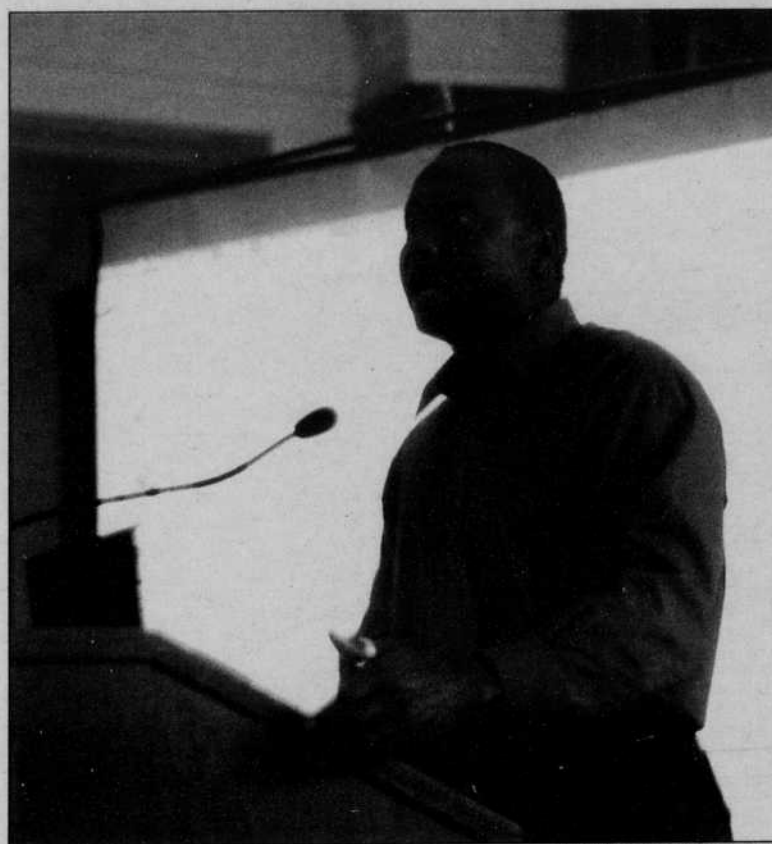
Jok said Sudan's fragmented identity, the product of colonialism and years of war, would make a unified state nearly impossible.

"Every ethnic group is a nation but not a nation-state," he said. "I don't see Sudan ever remaining a single country."

In order to resolve the situation, Jok said, greater international involvement will be necessary.

Stephen Wooten, the director of the African Studies Program at the University and professor of anthropology and international studies, appreciated that Jok challenged his audience to become more aware of and involved with African issues.

The African Studies Program has created the Baobab Lecture



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Jok Madut Jok, an associate professor of history at Loyola Marymount University, presented his lecture, "Slavery, civilian killings, rape and other violations as counterinsurgency tactics in Sudan's conflicts, 1983-2005."

series with funding from a U.S. Department of Education Title VI program grant, in order to bring students and faculty together to learn about Africa and become resources to the community on African-related issues.

The Baobab Lecture series gets its name from the Baobab tree, a tree found in many parts of Africa that often serves as a gathering place for villagers.


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