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# Lost Boys film video for Darfur awareness

Lost Boy James Kot is not from Darfur, but he hopes to be a voice for the people there.

Kot was one of five Lost Boys of Sudan who helped record a music video to raise awareness and provide hope for those affected by genocide in Darfur. At least 400,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million civilians have been forced to flee their homes since it began in 2003.

"I'm from South Sudan, but the same situation that's going on in Darfur is what happened to us 20 years ago," Kot said.

The Lost Boys have become well-known since they started arriving in the Valley almost a decade ago.

They have shared stories about escaping their homeland of Sudan during a brutal civil war, and now, they are voicing their concerns in a song called *Never Again*.



Tom Tingle/The Arizona Republic

The Lost Boys joined others leading the project in the unveiling of the song Wednesday at the audio/video recording kiosk MyStudio at Scottsdale Fashion Square.

Scottsdale photographer Elliot Lincis who wrote *Never Again's* music and lyrics, said he was inspired after attending a Scottsdale program about two years ago when he saw disturbing images and heard terrifying stories.

"It just sort of stuck with me; it rattled my cage," he said.

Lincis was working on television jingles with a partner when he heard a few simple notes people would remember.

"The phrase 'never again' kept coming into my mind," he said. "And then the rest I felt dropped out of the sky. I felt that it was almost a divine intervention. . . . It really needs to be heard, and I'm the one who needs to get it out there."

Lincis recalled photographing Lost Boys at social events as they came to the Valley. He now understood them better - what they went through, the struggles they faced and the journey they had. He hoped they would help him turn his song into a message.

"I know a lot of groups and organizations have been very supportive to the cause and that a lot of people outside are spreading the word, and that's exactly what we are doing," said David Athoi, another Lost Boy. "These are people who deserve to live. They really need attention."

The Lost Boys, with the help of Phoenix singer and songwriter Todd Herzog, who sang the lyrics, and acclaimed video director Lionel Martin, have recorded two versions of *Never Again*.

The first already received 11,000 views and several favorable comments as the featured video at [mystudio.net](http://mystudio.net).

Local disc jockey Mr. Peabody, provides the narration in the first video; in the second "remix" video, spoken-word artist Divine narrates.

Everyone involved hoped to raise awareness and encourage people to view the videos online.

"I think everyone can be involved in doing some social good, no matter how small it may seem," said Martin, who has developed over 100 videos for multiplatinum artists and has been labeled as "The Godfather of Music Videos" by Sean "Diddy" Combs. "It's pretty powerful."

A group gathered at Scottsdale Fashion Square to record a video about the tragedy in Darfur. They included (from left) Angelo Chan, James Kot, and David Athoi.