



12 Days of Darfur Action

Activity Pack

For more copies of this pack please contact darfurationsc@aol.com

1830 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

803.269.1619 www.dagsc.org

Darfur Factsheet

What is going on in Darfur, Sudan?

Since 2003 the government of Sudan and armed Arab militias known as the *Janjaweed* have conducted a scorched-earth campaign against the African civilian population of Darfur, terrorizing men, women and children and forcibly displacing the Darfurians from their land. More than 400,000 people have been killed with nearly 3 million displaced from their homes and forced to live in squalid and unsafe refugee camps, with thousands more dying each month of deprivation and disease.

What are we doing to stop the Genocide?

In its response to the genocide, the US government has condemned the violence, which includes torture and mass rape against children as young as 7. The UN has described the situation as "the world's worst humanitarian crisis". But there is still no viable peacekeeping force on the ground to protect the Darfurian people. This summer, the UN passed a resolution that would send much needed peacekeepers from the UN to support the 7,000 African Union troops (a ratio of 1:1000) that have struggled to help the Darfurian people for the past 3 years.

What is the current situation in Darfur?

The President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, announced in November that he would not allow UN peacekeepers into the country. As a result, the peacekeepers will not be deployed by the deadline of December 31st as promised to the Darfurian people who are desperately waiting for our help. The operating environment for humanitarian agencies to reach those in need is currently at its lowest point in 3 years, and attacks against civilian continue.

The next US President will play a crucial role in ensuring that the suffering of the Darfurian people is brought to an end, and to stop the mistakes of Rwanda from being repeated in Darfur.

What can you do to help?

The Darfurian people need the help of everyone who can write a letter, make a phone call, or even tell a friend about the horrific genocide taking place in the Darfur region. A number of actions taken by many people can influence representatives, world leaders, and important companies to use their critical influence to bring about the much needed peace and protection in Darfur.

Inspired by the tremendous response of South Carolinians to the Darfur genocide at the Rally for Darfur in Columbia last October, the Darfur Action Group of South Carolina founded the 12 days of action program to raise further awareness of the crisis and to call upon the US government -- as well as religious and community leaders, companies and Presidential candidates -- to do all that they can to make 2008 the year that we end the genocide in Darfur.

Each action can help us utilize the power and strength of our communities to bring about real change for the more than 3 million Darfurians who have endured torture, mass killing, and forced displacement to overcrowded and unsafe refugee camps. There are many ways that we can make the 12 days of Christmas a time for remembrance and positive change for Darfur; actions as simple as signing a petition, writing to the White House or calling elected officials could positively impact the situation in Darfur and, quite possibly, save lives.

The Darfur Action Group of South Carolina is also asking the Presidential candidates who seek our votes to respond to the call of South Carolinians' to stop the genocide in Darfur. We are asking all candidates to pledge their support for UN Resolution 1769, which provides essential peacekeeping forces to Darfur. They need to show us that they care as much as we do about ending the suffering of millions of people who are persecuted because of the color of their skin.

The Darfur Action Group has the support of religious groups, universities, elected officials, and civic organizations in our state. If you or your organization would like to become more involved with the work of the Darfur Action Group, you can contact us at darfuractions@aol.com or at 803-269-1619.

The 12 Days of Darfur Action

The 12 Days of Action is a program for families, religious organizations and community groups, running between December 26th and January 6th, to take action and save lives in Darfur. By taking one action each day we can help bring peace and protection to the Darfur region of Sudan and stop the ongoing genocide against the African population.

Day One: Meet the People of Darfur

Go to

<http://www.stopgenocidenow.org/iact/iact3>

In July of this year, a team of young people visited refugee camps on the Chad/Darfur border and joined with Darfurian families in their daily lives on the camps, as well as meeting with representatives from the UN High Commission for Refugees, and humanitarian organizations.

Their 10 day mission was recorded and you can watch each video from the I-ACT website.

Action from: Stop Genocide Now (<http://www.stopgenocidenow.org>)

Day Two: Ask the Candidates

Go to

<http://www.askthecandidates.org/2008-elections>

Learn about the Presidential candidates' positions on Darfur and find out what the candidates have been saying in response to questions asked about Darfur at campaign events.

You can also help us by joining the Darfur Action Group at events in South Carolina and asking questions directly to the candidates. Contact Jo at darfuractionsc@aol.com to add your name to the campaign events mailing list, and if you're going to an event don't forget to wear your 'I VOTE FOR DARFUR' T-shirt.

Day Three: Make Your Darfur Friday Pledge

Go to
darfuractions@aol.com

Darfur Fridays began as a local campaign run by a small community organization in San Francisco last year: each member pledged to wear their group's T-shirt each Friday, to raise awareness about their group's work to end the suffering in Darfur. By the end of the year, they had become one of the largest Darfur groups in the country and went on to win a 'Darfur Heroes' award this summer.

Join our work to raise awareness of Darfur and our campaign to raise the issue with the Presidential candidates by wearing an 'I VOTE FOR DARFUR' T-shirt. If you can't wear it on a Friday, you could wear it over the weekend instead, or you could wear it every day after work! Email the address above for your shirt.

Day Four: Tell South Carolina about Darfur

Go to
<http://www.sciway.net/news/>

Now that you've become familiar with the situation in Darfur, you can spread the word in your community and across the state by contacting the media. You could call or email a radio show, submit an article to your school paper, or write a letter to the editor of state and local newspapers.

This webpage gives contact information for South Carolina Newspapers, Radio, Television and 'Blogs' – but you don't have to stop there!

Day Five: Prayers for Darfur

Go to
darfuractions@aol.com

We want to unite all South Carolinians in a Weekend of Prayer for Darfur between January 11th-13th, and you can help by bringing the news to your congregation and asking about holding a service, sermon, or meeting for Darfur in your church and inviting congregants to advocate for the people of Darfur.

You can email the address above for materials such as sample prayers and scriptures, or to display a 'Call to Your Conscience' banner at your church to raise awareness of your actions.

Day Six: Learn About Sudan Divestment

Go to
<http://www.sudandivestment.org/divestment.asp>

The US Senate recently passed the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act, and state Senator Joel Laurie will be introducing targeted Sudan Divestment Legislation in South Carolina this coming session – but what exactly does divestment mean and what will this accomplish?

This webpage gives answers to Frequently Asked Questions about divestment and the link between financial holdings and genocide in Darfur – as well as an easy to use tutorial on targeted divestment.

Action from: Sudan Divestment Task Force (<http://www.sudandivestment.org>)

Day Seven: Email Your Senator

Go to

http://www.actionstudio.org/public/page_view_all.cfm?option=begin&pageid=8030

The Government of Sudan is denying the UN full and uninhibited use of airports in Darfur, which is impeding the rapid deployment of troops and equipment; refusing permission to the UN to upgrade runways, ensuring that large cargo planes carrying critical heavy equipment are unable to land; and delaying approval of visa requests by UN personnel.

If Khartoum is allowed to continue this path of obstruction, more Darfurian men, women, and children will die. We must place heavy economic and military pressure on the Government of Sudan's dictators: urge Senators DeMint and Graham to call on President Bush to help impose multilateral sanctions against Khartoum's leaders now.

Action from: Americans Against the Darfur Genocide (<http://www.ourpledge.org>)

Day Eight: From America with Love

Go to

<http://www.stopgenocidenow.org/campdarfur/faw/>

Send a message to the people of Darfur by contributing to the video letters from the American people that are being compiled by the Stop Genocide Now organization. The video letters are a collection of emails, images, audio messages and video, which will be screened in the refugee camps during the group's next visit in January.

The goal of the project is to send our support and solidarity to the people of Darfur: to show that the American people support their right to life and dignity and will continue to pressure our governments to make the political decisions needed to end the violence.

Action from: Stop Genocide Now (<http://www.stopgenocidenow.org>)

Day Nine: Draw the Line at Genocide

Go to

<https://investorsagainstgenocide.net/IAGSendAMessageActive.htm?firm=ALL>

You can help stop financial companies from investing in the genocidal regime of President al-Bashir by calling on companies currently invested in PetroChina, the worst of the major oil companies funding genocide in Darfur.

You don't have to be an investor to object: financial companies want your business now or in the future, so your voice will matter. You can also help by contacting companies personally to ask if they are directly or indirectly invested in Sudan, and by urging them to ensure that these revenues are not being used to fund the violence against the Darfurian population.

Action from: Investors Against Genocide

(<http://investorsagainstgenocide.googlepages.com/>)

Day Ten: Tell Congress to Support Peace in Darfur

Go to

http://act.oxfamamerica.org/campaign/darfur_funding?qp_source=08fy%5fac%5fmyspace

The UN has been challenged with providing protection to civilians in Darfur as it deploys one of its most complex and logistically difficult peacekeeping missions ever. Please join us today in asking Congress to help the UN succeed.

Please contact your members of Congress and tell them to support peace in Darfur. It is imperative that they provide \$724 million in emergency funding for the African Union-UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur as requested by President Bush.

Action from: Oxfam America (<http://www.OxfamAmerica.org>)

Day Eleven: Screen Your Mutual Fund

Go to

<http://www.sudandivestment.org/screener.asp>

Using this investment screening tool, you can find a detailed report of your mutual fund's record on Sudan investments. You don't need to enter any of your personal details: just the name of the mutual fund company, or you can select it from a list.

If your mutual fund is invested in Sudan you can access guidance on your options from the Sudan Divestment Task Force who have helped thousands of Americans -- including some Presidential candidates -- to divest their personal holdings.

Action from: Sudan Divestment Task Force

(<http://www.sudandivestment.org/screener.asp>)

Day Twelve: Call President Bush

Go to

1-800-GENOCIDE (436-6243)

Urge President Bush to lead the UN Security Council in imposing targeted sanctions against senior Sudanese officials responsible for obstructing the deployment of peacekeeping forces to Darfur.

American leadership was critical in authorizing the African Union/United Nations peacekeeping mission for Darfur -- but now we have to make sure that the mission is deployed as soon as possible and that the government of Sudan doesn't succeed in further obstructing the mission.

Action from: Genocide Intervention Network (<http://www.genocideintervention.net>)

What's Next?

Tell someone about taking action! Now that you've completed the 12 days, you know how easy it is to take action and how important it is that we all do what we can for the people of Darfur.

Tell your friends, family, teachers, neighbors and other groups who might be interested to take part in the 12 Days of Action, and let them know how they can get their own Action-pack: by emailing darfuractions@aol.com or calling 803-269-1619.

You could also let people know through community bulletins or newsletters, and if you use social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace you could tell your contacts, join our 'South Carolina Votes for Darfur' Facebook group, or create a group of your own!

And finally...

You can take action every day by collecting signatures for the petition on the back of this Action-pack! Just send mail it back to us at the address below, or type in the details and email us if you can spare the time.

