

THE NEW JERSEY COALITION RESPONDS TO THE CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mission: To alleviate the persecution and end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan through education, advocacy and assistance

Coalition Members:

American Jewish Committee, Metro NJ
Anti-Defamation League, NJ Region
Center for Cultures and Communication,
Bloomfield College
Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.
Drew University Center for
Holocaust/Genocide Study
Essex County Coalition for Darfur
Essex County Latino CBO's
Collaboration
FOCUS Hispanic Center for
Community Development, Inc.
Help Darfur Now
Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and
the Modern Experience, Rutgers
University, Newark Campus
International Public Policy Institute
Jewish Federation of Central NJ
Jewish Vocational Service of
MetroWest NJ
NAACP – Newark Branch
NJ Amistad Commission
NJ Commission on Holocaust Education
NJ Council of Churches
Newark – North Jersey Committee of
Black Clergy
North Jersey Coalition for Darfur
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark
Commission for Interreligious Affairs
Summit Darfur Genocide Rescue
Committee
United Jewish Community
of MetroWest , Community Relations
Committee

January 13, 2010

TO: Memorandum to NJ Educators
FROM: NJ Coalition Responds to the Crisis in Darfur
SUBJECT Darfur Update 2010: A Call to Darfur Advocates

Over the past four years New Jersey Teachers have been in the vanguard in helping to end the genocide in Darfur by introducing their students to the responsibilities of citizenship through their use of *the Genocide In Darfur, Sudan Instructional Guide* and their support of the *End Violence Against Women: Purchase Solar Cookers Project*. To date New Jersey students have raised over \$106,000 for the effort.

We write to you today to urge your continued engagement on the issue of Darfur. A need for your help continues.

As the Darfur genocide enters into its seventh year, more than 400,000 people have been killed, 3 million people are displaced and approximately 4.5 million people continue to be in need of aid due to the conflict. A generation of children are growing up in refugee camps, and without education and social stability, they are vulnerable to futures of violence and homelessness. There is little access to security outside the camps; jobs, food, clean water, and support for victims of gender-based violence is unavailable or inadequate. Attacks on aid workers continue. Since the expulsion of 13 humanitarian organizations working in Darfur several months ago, it has been difficult to get accurate information on what is happening on the ground.

In 2010 Darfur advocates nationally will be focusing on two initiatives that we hope will bring about peace and reconciliation to the people of Darfur/ Sudan: review of the Obama Administration Darfur policy and the April 2010 elections in Sudan.

Implementation of Obama Darfur Policy

The first quarterly review of the Sudan strategy will be ongoing between January and February. Congress needs to hold the administration accountable for implementing “benchmarks” for progress. Advocates are concerned that the US is dealing with an indicted (International Criminal Court, 3/09) war criminal (President Al-Bashir), who is claiming that the violence is over and people are being repatriated, while still continuing conditions that are intolerable for the people.

2010 Elections in Sudan

In April 2010, the Sudanese government is scheduled for elections. The international community is gearing up to assist the government with registering people and ensuring a fair and free election. This is taking place while the Darfur community is displaced and living as refugees and violence escalates destabilizing the South. We need to make sure that the environment is conducive to holding free and fair elections and the timeline is still relevant for this to happen.



Refugees Status & Humanitarian Assistance

Congress must make safe return and sustainable reconciliation a priority for engagement and diplomacy with the Sudanese government. More than three million people need to return to villages that need to be rebuilt and equipped for the return of their families.

WHAT YOU and your STUDENTS CAN DO:

- Write a letter to your Congressman, US Special Envoy General Scott Gration, and the Obama Administration urging a prompt and public report of the governments current Darfur Policy.
- Write a letter to your Congressional representatives and the Obama Administration ensuring that there are fair and free elections in Sudan at the right time.
- Raise awareness about what is happening in Darfur and encourage students to raise funds for solar cookers that support refugees in the Oure Cassoni Refugee Camps. Look for new initiatives as they are developed.
- Sign-up to be part of the NJ Teachers Network for Darfur. Got o www.njdarfur.org.

Access resources at NJ Coalition Responds to the Crisis in Darfur (www.njdarfur.org)