

Darfur Awareness

The Newsletter of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.

"Promote Conflict Resolution Through Peaceful Means and Reconciliation."

Quick Facts:

UNITED NATIONS

- Resolution 1556: 07/30/04 to consider further actions if Sudan fails to disarm the Janjaweed.
- Resolution 1564: 09/18/04, urges governments to bring an end to the situation in Darfur.
- Resolution 1593: 03/31/05 Refers the situation in Darfur to the ICC.
- Resolution 1597: 07/11/04 Establishes team for future UN peace support operations

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New Jersey becomes first State to enact divestiture legislation.

New Jersey has become the first State in the Nation to enact legislation directing divestiture from foreign companies doing business with Sudan until the Sudanese government puts an end to its genocidal activities. Acting



Gov. Codey signs the divestiture Act. (DRP photo)

Governor Richard J. Codey signed Assembly bill 3482 during a news conference at Essex County College, where he was joined by U.S. Congressman Donald M. Payne. The co-

sponsors of the bill in the state legislature Assemblyman William D. Payne and Sen. Nia Gill, Assemblymen Craig Stanley and Neil M. Cohen along with Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr., also witnessed the signing.

Mr. Abdelbagy Abushanab, president of Darfur Rehabilitation Project, spoke at the ceremony and Joe Madison, the president of the Divest Sudan Campaign was also on hand.

There has been mounting concern in many circles that vast parts of Darfur have been emptied of its population. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes and their villages burnt, herds and other possessions looted. Rapes and killing of women and children is prevalent. New Jer-



The face of desolation (UN Photo)

sey has shown it can be proactive in matters relating to human rights.

This bill now means that the state's pension system can no longer be invested in companies with ties to Sudan, although it does not apply to companies providing humanitarian aid. Through this Act, New Jersey condemns in the strongest terms, all forms of genocide as is happening in

DRP FACT-FINDERS visit camps in Chad

A DRP team recently returned from a trip to eastern Chad, where they visited Darfurian refugees. Mr. Yahya Osman and Mr. Barcai M. Abdel-Karim, DRP Board Members, visited a total of seven camps and reported the following:

The African tribes of Darfur are still entering eastern Chad as refugees in large numbers. The camps in eastern Chad are becoming overcrowded due to newcomers, births and some locals joining the refugee population. The well-being of the refugees, in terms of food, shelter

and health has improved to some extent compared to the start of the crisis. Water remains a big problem in some camps to date. The DRP team



Mr. Barrcai and Mr. Osman with a guide (DRP photo)



Waiting for food rations (DRP photo)

witnessed refugees waiting three days without water in the camp of Am Nabak. (Cont'd on pg 2)



Kofi Annan listening to first hand accounts of events. (UN Photo)

DRP Board names Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Darfur Rehabilitation Project is happy to announce that Blanche Foster, is volunteering as Acting Executive Director.

Ms Foster who is an accomplished manager brings experience from the consumer products industry. She also brings proven skills in Human Resources, product development and budgets. In addition to her professional life, Ms. Foster is active in the community as an entrepreneur and volunteer. She was the Founder and Editor of

The Chariot, a music industry newsletter with worldwide distribution, and was the President of the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County, a homeless program serviced by volunteers. She is also a chorister in the New Jersey Symphony Community Chorus and has been on tour abroad with the Collegiate Chorale.

Ms Foster's positions as co-chair of her church's arts council, and past chair of the mission committee, participation in her

denominations regional governing body, and in numerous nonprofit initiatives make her an invaluable addition to DRP.

Past liaisons with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Community Food Bank, Protestant Community Corporation, and the magnet School-within-a-School that became University High in Newark NJ, among others, led to her receiving the United Nations Millennium Development Goal: "Women's Rights and Empowerment." award.

DRP FACT-FINDERS visit camps in Chad (Cont'd from page 1)

"All humanity is one undivided and indivisible family, and each one of us is responsible for the misdeeds of all the others. I cannot detach myself from the wickedest soul."

**Mahatma Gandhi
1869—1948**

UN World Food Programme (WFP) does an excellent job in providing food to the refugees but the refugees expressed that there is still a shortage in food provisions; the amount of food is usually not enough and lacks variety.

Refugees depend on firewood in order to cook their food. Women primarily gather firewood; in the process, women are subjected to gang rape and other sexual assaults. On the other hand, cutting of firewood is environmentally damaging and the Chadian laws and regulations prevent it. This problem has not yet been resolved.

Shelter: The number of tents does not meet the needs of all refugees. The UNHCR distributed 40,000 tents for 200,000 refugees and they have an average of five to six people in one tent. Most of the tents are old, containing holes and badly torn.

In addition to the raggedy tents, refugees in most camps also live in makeshift covers

made of plastic and grass; these shelters do not protect the people from rainwater leaks during the rainy season or from heat in the summer.

Health: The principle reported cases are of malaria, diarrhea and meningitis. The small clinics in the camps run by the International Medical Corps and Mediciens Sans Frontiers need reinforcement of staff, equipment and medicine.

Education: UNICEF is the main provider of primary education from grades 1 to 8. Most of the children in the camps never attended school in Darfur. There are teacher shortages as well as books and other school materials,

Secondary education is not available and the refugees are concerned about the future of their children.

Sanitation: This is below standard in all of the camps that were visited by the DRP team. Besides, refugees are not inclined to use collective latrines.

Safety: Insecurity is the biggest concern for Darfuri refugees in eastern Chad.



Shoulder to shoulder reclaiming dignity for shattered lives (DRP photo)

All of the refugees who spoke with the DRP team expressed their fear that the Sudanese government is infiltrating the camps with their agents posing as refugees. Rebel groups are said to be present in camps for recruitment purposes.



Hardly Sheltered. (UN Photo)



Pillaged village in Darfur (UN photo)

DRP brings the plight of Darfur from New Jersey to Capitol Hill.



DRP Board Members met US Rep. Donald M. Payne at his office in Newark (DRP Photo)

The DRP Board of Directors and volunteers visited Capitol Hill to highlight the issue of the atrocities taking place in Darfur. They were received by US Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Con-

gressman Donald M. Payne of the 10th Congressional District (NJ). In line with the objectives of DRP, its mission centered on bringing awareness of the atrocities to Capitol Hill, as well as to press for legislation that would directly impact the Darfur problem.

The Darfur Tragedy has been described as the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan proclaimed the catastrophe "a hell on earth". Indeed, more than a year ago, the Bush Administration identified this tragedy as Genocide of the African tribes of Darfur.

So far DRP's activities are bearing fruit, as evidenced in New Jersey's recently en-

acted Sudan divestiture legislation. These efforts have also been supported through bills sponsored by Sen. Corzine and Congressman Payne in both the House and the Senate.



DRP Board Members with US Rep. Donald M. Payne (D- 10th District) and US Sen. Jon Corzine (D- NJ) on their visit to capitol Hill. (DRP Photo)

DRP welcomes new Board Member.

We proudly welcome Ms Ghada Abdelmoumin to the DRP's Board of Directors. A member of the Association of Computer Machinery and an experienced engineer, Ms Abdelmoumin has created computer programs and designed power plants and stations.

Previously, she worked for the Civil Aviation Authority and the Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company in Khartoum, Sudan, where she was responsible for the installation and maintenance of air conditioning

units, an electrical power generation system and steam boilers; maintenance of heavy diesel machineries and automobiles.

Ms Abdelmoumin was responsible for data gathering and the design phase of a solar power plant project, design phase measurements and calculations. She also developed a small-scale experimental prototype.

Ms Abdelmoumin brings

with her, teaching experience both in public schools and universities.

Ms Abdelmoumin received her education in Computer Science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ. (Virginia Tech), Western Illinois University, and the University of Alexandria (Egypt). Currently, she is an instructional assistant at an elementary school and studying for her master's degree in computer science.

We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society.

When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.— Martin Dr. Luther King Jr.

DRP's Advocacy and Alliances

DRP engages in extensive dialogues with representatives of the Sudanese government, SPLM, Presbyterian Church /So. Sudan, with the Chadian authorities, Darfurian resistance groups (for the purpose of facilitating peace negotiations), United States officials of both political parties, members of the United Nations, incl. the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the U. N. Dept. of Political Affairs, American Mission to the UN, NGOs, international aid agencies and refugee camp leaders.

All have been supportive of DRP and its goals. DRP persistently raises

awareness and encourages commitments through participation in numer-



Annan's Peace Initiatives (UN Photo)

ous events and demonstrations in various locales; some of which were presentations at Capitol Hill events

involving members of the U. S. House of Representatives and Senate.

The Harvard Law School, Columbia University, the U. of Maryland, George Mason U., Georgetown U., Howard U., Bloomfield College (sponsored by United Nations Assoc.-Montclair/ Essex County Chapter), The Metropolitan Jewish Center, West Orange, Women of Islam at both the Schomberg Center for Research and New Brunswick, Swarthmore College, Seton Hall U. , SUNY, Rutgers, West Orange High School, Ramapo College, JCC of Palisades, symposium at the Newark Museum and Essex County College.



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www.darfurrehab.org

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ABOUT DRP

DRP was founded by a group of Darfurians living in the United States who are deeply concerned over the human rights tragedy now occurring in their homeland in western Sudan. DRP is diligently working to fulfill its short-term goals while laying the groundwork for permanent solutions. DRP helps to achieve through peaceful means conflict resolution and reconciliation among all peoples of the region including the government of Sudan.

OUR MISSION

*Inform the American public about the extensive violations of human rights that

have been and continue to occur in the Darfur region of western Sudan;

*Unify the voice of Darfurians everywhere in order to bring increased international attention to the ongoing crimes against humanity in the region;

*Advocate justice for the victims;

*Promote conflict resolution through peaceful means and reconciliation;

*Foster the advancement of all people of the region through education, advocacy, direct services and research (in collaboration with other organizations that are internationally recognized);

*Further democratization and respect for human rights.

OUR VISION

A secure Darfur with a revitalized economy, an abundance of basic human services and a rising level of education.

Rare smiles, against all odds (UN photo)



DO YOU NEED A FEATURED SPEAKER ON DARFUR?

Please contact DRP at
 Phone: 973-274-9424
 E-mail: drp@darfurrehab.org

Support the DRP



Expectations without Hope-Darfur's women. (UN photo)

Darfur Rehabilitation Project has an on-going mission to educate, to advocate and bring awareness of the plight of the refugees to the attention of the American people and ultimately the world at large.

DRP activities are run and financed by the volunteers who are passionate about the need for peace in the region, whether it is small projects like office stationery or larger projects such as taking a fact-finding mission to the refugee camps in Chad.

The volunteers must consistently shuttle to Trenton and Washington DC to follow up on the promises of action by the

legislators. They are also involved in discussion roundtables and giving speeches to varied audiences around the country.

Since these activities require funding, DRP requests that you consider making a donation to support our cause.



Annan addresses refugees (UN Photo)

Help DRP to end these atrocities. Together we can bring Hope amidst the desolation; Peace, where violence abounds; Life, where death has taken

root, and Rebuilding where tragedy has robbed a people of their innocence.

Make your checks or money orders payable to Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc. or DRP.

Make a secure credit card donation on our website at www.darfurrehab.org.

DARFUR REHABILITATION PROJECT, INC.

is a not for profit organization incorporated in the State of New Jersey that has applied with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Our CPA advises that 1) Upon approval of 501(c)(3), donations could have tax deductibility retroactive to July 7, 2004, the date of DRP's formation. 2) You may confirm this with your tax consultant.