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Contact -Susan Morgan
617-797-0451
susanemorgan@gmail.com

**DARFUR ACTIVISTS FROM COAST TO COAST CALL ON MCCAIN AND OBAMA
TO SPEAK OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE ICC'S PROSECUTION OF BASHIR**
*Reports of escalating government-sponsored violence necessitates a bipartisan
show of support for victims of Darfur genocide*

SAN FRANCISCO AND BOSTON – September 12, 2008 – Today Darfur activists representing red states and blue states from San Francisco to Denver to Boston issued an open letter to presidential candidates, John McCain and Barack Obama, asking them to speak out against any delay in the International Criminal Court's prosecution against Omar al Bashir on charges of genocide.

This request follows a day when the candidates appeared jointly to honor victims of 9/11 and to discuss their views on public service. Activists are asking the candidates via an open letter and e-petitions to also speak out jointly on behalf of the victims of genocide.

"In the spirit of bipartisanship, we call upon you to jointly speak out in favor of a US veto, as needed, to stop efforts by the UN Security Council to suspend the International Criminal Court's case against Bashir," the activists stated in their letter. "We urge you to work together with the Bush administration to vigorously support the ICC's prosecution. Even in the midst of a hard-fought presidential campaign, we ask you to unite and speak out for the victims of genocide."

On September 10th, the government of Sudan launched attacks on civilians at the ZamZam Camp for internally displaced persons in Darfur. This new violence follows other recent attacks including the one at the Kalma camp on August 25. Additionally, the UN's World Food Program announced that it may be forced to stop food deliveries, leaving millions without assistance.

"This alarming news," states the letter, "coincides with reports of efforts within the international community to persuade the U.N. Security Council to bargain away accountability and justice for more empty promises from Sudan and let Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir off the hook for his crimes."

Bashir has launched an aggressive propaganda campaign to escape justice, including blackmailing the global community by threatening to expel UNAMID peacekeepers if the ICC issues a warrant for his arrest. The government of Sudan has broken all of its prior promises regarding Darfur. According to the activists, the UN should listen to the Darfuri people's cry for peace with justice instead of Bashir's demand for immunity for the crime of genocide.

In addition to issuing the open letter, activists have launched an e-petition that will allow voters to write the candidates directly about this issue, and have started a Facebook group to rally students and new activists to this cause. To sign the petition, [click here](#), or visit www.stopgenocidenow.org/actions/2008/09/10/746.

FULL TEXT OF SEPTEMBER 12 LETTER

Senator John McCain
Senator Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 12, 2008

Dear Senators McCain and Obama,

On September 10th, the government of Sudan launched attacks on civilians at the ZamZam Camp for internally displaced persons in Darfur. This new violence follows other recent attacks including the one at the Kalma camp on August 25. In the wake of this escalating violence and insecurity, the UN's World Food Program announced that it may be forced to stop food deliveries, leaving millions without assistance.

This alarming news coincides with reports of efforts within the international community to get the U.N. Security Council to bargain away accountability and justice for more empty promises from Sudan and let Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir off the hook for his crimes.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, we call upon you to jointly speak out in favor of a US veto, as needed, to stop efforts by the UN Security Council to suspend the International Criminal Court's case against Bashir. We urge you to work together with the Bush administration to vigorously support the ICC's prosecution. Even in the midst of a hard-fought presidential campaign, we ask you to unite and speak out for the victims of genocide.

Bashir has launched an aggressive propaganda campaign to escape justice including blackmailing the global community by threatening to expel UNAMID peacekeepers if the ICC issues a warrant for his arrest. The government of Sudan has broken all of its prior promises regarding Darfur. The UN should listen to the Darfuri people's cry for peace with justice instead of Bashir's demand for immunity for the crime of genocide.

Please use your influence as presidential nominees to speak out in support of the ICC prosecution so that Omar al-Bashir does not escape justice and accountability. After five years of empty promises from the world community, the people of Darfur deserve peace with justice.

Thank you for your leadership on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Armenian Assembly of America
Mr. Bryan Ardouny, Executive Director
Washington, DC

Armenian National Committee of America
Aram Hamparian, Executive Director

Washington, DC

Americans Against the Darfur Genocide

Nikki Serapio, Director
Palo Alto, California

American Friends Service Committee - Pacific Mountain Region

Stephen McNeil, Assistant Regional Director
San Francisco, California

Be Their Messenger

Leah Gibbons, Founder
Gilbert, Arizona

Buddhist Peace Fellowship

Zenju Earthlyn Manuel, Executive Director
Berkeley, California

Chicago Coalition to Save Darfur

Niki Antonakos, Steering Committee
Chicago, Illinois

Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action

Roz Duman, Founder/Coordinator
Denver, Colorado

Darfur Action Group of South Carolina

Richard Sribnick, Chairman
South Carolina

Darfur Alert Coalition of Philadelphia

Jim Remsen, Interim Executive Director
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Darfur Action Coalition of Wisconsin

Sachin Chheda, Coordinator
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Darfur Metro

Eileen Weiss, Director
New York, New York

Defend Darfur Dallas

Laura McCarthy, Director
Dallas, Texas

Eric Reeves

Sudan expert
Northampton, Massachusetts

Essex County Coalition for Darfur

Gloria Crist, Founding Member
Montclair, New Jersey

GENed

Lindsey Wilkes, Director
Hartsville, South Carolina

Genocide Intervention Network

Sam Bell, Advocacy Director
Washington, DC

Investors Against Genocide

Eric Cohen, Chairperson
Boston, Massachusetts

Jewish World Watch

Tzivia Schwartz-Getzug, Executive Director
Los Angeles, CA

Kentuckian Interfaith Taskforce On Darfur

Bob Brousseau, Chair
Louisville, Kentucky

Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism

Diane Koosed, Coordinator of Darfur Action Group
Portland, Oregon

Louisvillians Helping to Save Darfur

Dave Robinson, Chair
Louisville, Kentucky

Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur

Susan Morgan, Director of Communications
Boston, Massachusetts

Physicians for Human Rights

Frank Donaghue, Chief Executive Officer
Cambridge, Massachusetts

New York City Coalition for Darfur

Sharon Silber, Director
New York, New York

North Jersey Coalition for Darfur

Tanya L. Simon, Founder
Randolph, New Jersey

San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition

Martina Knee, Executive Committee
San Francisco, California

Save Darfur Washington State

Deborah Jones, President
Seattle, Washington

Stanford University STAND

Seth Silverman, Coordinator
Palo Alto, California

Stop Genocide Now

Cory Preston
Director of Communications
Redondo Beach, California

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Rev. William G. Sinkford, President
Boston, Massachusetts

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Charlie Clements, President and CEO
Cambridge, Massachusetts

University of California, Davis STAND

Eva Lerner, Advocacy Coordinator
Davis, California

Use Your Voice to Save Darfur RI

Sandra Hammel, Director
Providence, Rhode Island