

To: Editors/Reporters
From: Diana Buckhantz 323-934-0443 cell 1213-591-1681
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JEWISH WORLD WATCH JOINS CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS TO FAST FOR DARFUR

Los Angeles: To show solidarity with the people of Darfur in Sudan and demonstrate the urgency of action in Darfur to President Obama, Tzivia Schwartz-Getzug, Executive Director, and Janice Kamenir-Reznik, President, Jewish World Watch joined Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) in participating in the Darfur Fast for Life. Actress Mia Farrow initiated the Fast for Life on April 27 with a hunger strike that lasted for 12 days.

Ms. Farrow had intended to fast for 21 days but was forced to end her hunger strike for health reasons earlier than intended following the advice of doctors. Elected officials and celebrities have agreed to take turns to extend the fast and raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

Schwartz-Getzug explained their participation, *“The Sudanese government’s continuing violence in Darfur and its refusal to reinstate humanitarian aid to millions now at risk before the rainy season begins is a blatant attempt to blackmail the international community into deferring the indictment of President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court. The international community must not allow perpetrators of genocide to use threats against civilian lives to impede the progress of justice. We hope that this Fast will bring more attention to the atrocities in the Sudan and encourage the public to demand that the International Criminal Court not be held hostage and see that justice will be done.”*

Kamenir-Reznik continued, *“The Obama administration now faces a crucial moment. After promising his “unstinting resolve” to end the genocide in Darfur during his campaign, President Obama must now act quickly and decisively to protect innocent civilians in Darfur. We urge the Obama administration to prepare immediately an emergency response plan to address continued violence, the reinstatement of humanitarian aid and the implementation of a real peace process”*

Congresswoman Waters concurred, *“The Darfur Fast for Life is an opportunity to take a stand against genocide and demand action from the world community to protect innocent civilians, to guarantee respect for human rights, and to create a lasting peace in Sudan. Mia Farrow has demonstrated true dedication to this cause by making a personal sacrifice, and I will be honored to join her and do my part.”*

Jewish World Watch is a coalition of almost 65 synagogues that has been at the forefront working to educate the community in California about the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan, engage in advocacy efforts with leaders to try to stop the genocide, and provide humanitarian relief to alleviate the suffering of the survivors. In response to the 400,000 civilians that have been murdered and the nearly 2.5 million people who have been displaced in the Sudan, Jewish World Watch chose Darfur as its first advocacy campaign. Since its inception, these synagogues have actively mobilized to stop the genocide in Darfur and have allocated more than \$2,000,000 in direct assistance to the people in Darfur.