

DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE

Standing in Solidarity with our Sudanese Brothers and Sisters and Children

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CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS JOINS DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE *Announces a Day of Fasting in Solidarity with Darfur*

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) announced a day of fasting in solidarity with the people of Darfur as part of the DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE. The CBC joins activists and participants fasting in over 30 countries around the world who are pressing for intervention for the 1.1 million people who are without critical food, water and medical care as a result of the ban on humanitarian organizations.

The CBC fast was initiated by U.S. Representative Donald Payne, who joined the DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE fasting chain last week, taking over on Monday from Sir Richard Branson.

Payne said, “After fasting last week, I invited Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Barbara Lee and Members of the CBC to join me in the Darfur Fast for Life. With all of the issues that this country and the world are facing, Darfur is not always at the forefront of everyone’s minds. However, I, along with my colleagues, remain committed to working towards an end to the suffering of the people of Darfur. CBC Members’ participation in the Darfur Fast for Life is a small gesture, saying to our Darfuri brothers and sisters ‘You are not alone. You are not forgotten. We stand with you.’”

For many years, Congressman Payne has been outspoken about the Sudanese government’s brutal campaign against the Darfuri people. From introducing and successfully passing the resolution declaring genocide in Darfur, to his visits to Darfuri refugee camps, Payne has been on the forefront of this issue and has called for the U.S. and the international community to take stronger actions to bring a lasting peace to the Darfur region.

Payne also asserted, “Over 400,000 people have died through the systematic murder and starvation of the people in the Darfur region. Despite outrage and countless calls for al-Bashir to end the suffering of the Darfuri people, the regime in Khartoum has continued its operation of terror and, last month, even went so far as to expel aid organizations. This is unacceptable. I call on the world to take a tougher stand against Khartoum’s unrelenting atrocities.”

Video and blog posts from fasters are available at www.fastdarfur.org.

DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE | On April 27, 2009 as a group of activists and Mia Farrow began a world-wide fasting chain to express outrage for the world’s inaction after 13 aid organizations were expelled by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Bashir’s expulsion left more than 1.1 million innocent civilians without basic access to food, water, and medicine, and placed them in grave danger of disease, starvation, and death.

We are leaders, activists and citizens around the world who fast in solidarity with the people of Darfur because they do not have a choice. We fast as a personal expression of outrage at a world that has allowed the suffering of millions of innocent people. We fast because as we simply watched, Darfur’s defenseless people were forced into wretched camps where today they are facing starvation and disease. We fast because those in positions of authority who know what is right and just, could and should do more to alleviate their suffering and bring peace, protection, and justice to the people of Sudan.

We fast for Darfur’s courageous people —because we yearn for a world where human rights are respected and a life of dignity is the legacy for every man, woman and child.

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