



JULY 2, 2009

Today we join the DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE, Mia Farrow and those who have gone before us as an expression of solidarity with our Sudanese brothers, sisters and children in Darfur.

While we are known to the world as “Survivors,” that concept pales in comparison to the survivors in Darfur who have been systematically hunted, terrorized and driven from their homes and villages orchestrated by the Sudanese government through rebel army attacks and aerial bombings.

For the next 3 days, we come together as a group to begin a water-only fast and to let the people of Darfur to know they are not forgotten. We see their suffering and we will share in it, if even in a small way, taking up the baton from Mia Farrow, Sir Richard Branson and many others around the world.

Since 2003, more than 300,000 have died and 2.7 million are internally displaced, many of whom are living in refugee camps and are dependent on humanitarian aid for clean water, food, medical care and protection for their daily survival. Despite attempts at peace agreements, the violence continues and more recently, critical humanitarian aid has been banned.

We call upon our leaders to intervene— to honor the voices of the people of Darfur crying out to us for help. We call on our leaders to develop a strategic vision for ending the cycle of war and famine in Darfur, rather than continuing a failed policy of simply managing the genocidal consequences.

THE DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE | On April 27, 2009, The DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE was launched by a group of activists and Actress-Activist Mia Farrow to focus the eyes of the world on the continuing devastation in Darfur. After 15 days, Farrow handed off the baton to a fasting chain of people in over 30 countries around the world, including Sir Richard Branson, Recording Artist Jon Foreman, U.S. Representative Donald Payne, U.S. Representative, Recording Artist Peter Gabriel, and U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. The fast will continue until humanitarian aid and a credible peace plan-- with a clear strategy for implementation-- have been restored. For more information, go to www.fastdarfur.org.

FAST STATEMENT | We 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.