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Jüdisches Museum Berlin

Zwei Jahrtausende Deutsch-Jüdische Geschichte



22 February 2007

Press Invitation

**: To the Opening of the »Darfur: Crimes Against Humanity« Campaign Week
Under the Patronage of Kofi Annan and with a Speech by
Joschka Fischer**

The Jewish Museum Berlin in cooperation with Human Rights Watch opens the »Darfur: Crimes Against Humanity« campaign week under the patronage of Kofi Annan and with a speech by Joschka Fischer on Thursday 15 March. The museum and the human rights organization aim to shine the public spotlight onto one of today's most brutal conflicts.

More than 200,000 civilians have been victims of violence in Darfur since February 2003. Executions, murders, rapes and the burning of villages are all part of the agenda. Over two million people are living in refugee camps on the border to Chad and at least four million - more than half of Darfur's population - are completely reliant on international aid.

The Jewish Museum Berlin in cooperation with Human Rights Watch draws attention to the murders and violation of human rights by way of two exhibitions, an international conference, an educational program and further events in the week from 15 to 22 March. We cordially invite you to attend the opening of the campaign week and the press conference.

Press Conference

We cordially invite you to the preview of the exhibition »Smallest Witnesses. The Crisis in Darfur Through Children's Eyes« and the press conference.

When: **Thursday, 15 March 2007 at 11 am***

Preview from 10.30 am

Where: Jewish Museum Berlin

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Eric F. Ross Gallery, ground level of Libeskind Building
Lindenstraße 9-14, 10969 Berlin

Attended by:

Prof. Dr. W. Michael Blumenthal, director, Jewish Museum Berlin
Carroll Bogert, associate director, Human Rights Watch
Salih Mahmoud Osman, lawyer in Sudan (invited)
Michal Ronnen Safdie, photographer for the project Darfur/Darfur

*Please plan sufficient time for security checks at the entrance to the Jewish Museum Berlin

Opening

We invite you to attend the opening of the two exhibitions and the event
»Darfur: Crimes Against Humanity«

When: Thursday, 15 March 2007 at 7 pm*

Where: in front of the Jewish Museum Berlin

Program

7 pm Welcome:

Prof. Dr. W. Michael Blumenthal, director, Jewish Museum Berlin
Carroll Bogert, associate director, Human Rights Watch

Speeches:

Salih Mahmoud Osman, lawyer in Sudan
Michal Ronnen Safdie, photographer for the Darfur/Darfur project
Joschka Fischer, former Federal Minister

8 pm Projection and Exhibition Opening

»Before the Eyes of the World«: Projection of Photographs of Darfur
»Smallest Witnesses. The Crisis in Darfur Through Children's Eyes«:
Drawings by Children and Photographs of Darfur

Followed by a reception in the Museum foyer



»Before the Eyes of the World«

Projection of Photographs of Darfur

The architect Leslie Thomas succeeded in securing the support of eight well-known photographers - Lynsey Addario, Mark Brecke, Hélène Caux, Ron Haviv, Paolo Pellegrin, Ryan Spencer Reed, Michal Ronnen Safdie, and Brian Steidle - for a project documenting the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. This resulted in a remarkable and moving series of photographs recording the violation of human rights and the suffering of Darfur's population. The photographers and curators of the Darfur/Darfur organization laid great emphasis on preserving the dignity and individuality of their photographic subjects.

More than 170 of these photographs, taken primarily in 2004/05, will be projected onto three 30m² screens on the Museum façade each night of the campaign week from 7 pm. The digital photographic exhibition was shown at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. in November 2006 and will be on show in Europe for the first time at the Jewish Museum. The exhibition will be shown in a further 23 towns in the course of 2007, among them Boston, Toronto, and Cape Town.

When: 15 to 22 March 2007, 7 to 10 pm

Where: façade of the Jewish Museum Berlin

»Smallest Witnesses. The Crisis in Darfur Through Children's Eyes«

Drawings by Children and Photographs of Darfur

The drawings by children and young people from the refugee camps collected by Human Rights Watch aid workers are clear and disturbing proof of the brutal experiences to which they have been subjected. The 13-year-old Abd al-Rahman describes his picture: »I am herding the sheep in Wadi. Suddenly I see the Janjaweed militia coming - they are approaching fast on horses and camels and have Kalashnikovs. They are shooting and shouting »Kill the slaves, kill the blacks.« They killed many men. They chased the children and took some of them away. We never saw them again. Then the planes came and bombarded our village.«



Photographs by the Magnum photographer Paolo Pellegrin, winner of several awards, will also be on show and will form the basis of an educational program for school groups organized in cooperation with Hands Across the Campus/American Jewish Committee.

When: 15 March to 9 April 2007

Where: Eric F. Ross Gallery, ground level of Libeskind Building

Further Events During the Campaign Week

The campaign week continues with an international conference focusing on the background to the conflict in Darfur and the responsibility of the international community on 16 March. On 17 March, aid and human rights organizations will report at the museum on their activities in Darfur. The symposium on 18 March looks at the blind spot in the European consciousness where wars on the African continent are concerned. Daniel Barenboim with musicians from the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra will hold a concert for Darfur on 20 March. The film »The Devil Came on Horseback« - launched at this year's Sundance Festival and presented at the Berlinale - will be shown on 21 March and followed by a discussion. The Jewish Museum Berlin will be open every day from 10 am to 10 pm during the campaign week. Press releases with detailed information on the events will be sent out in due course.

The Save Darfur Coalition, Gesellschaft der Freunde und Förderer der Stiftung Jüdisches Museum Berlin e.V (Jewish Museum Berlin Donor's Circle), Caritas international, the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), the Central Council of Jews in Germany and further partners are supporting the campaign week »Darfur: Crimes Against Humanity.«

Further information can be found at www.jmberlin.de/darfur

Press photos, which can be sent to you on request, can be found at www.jmberlin.de/darfur > Press > Photo Downloads > Darfur: Photographic projection and exhibition



For further questions please contact us:

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Press and Public Relations

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Please RSVP via fax or e-mail by **Wednesday, 14 March 2007**.

Reply Fax to the Jewish Museum Berlin

Fax: 030 - 25993-400

E-Mail to m.plocki@jmberlin.de

- Yes, I will attend the press conference to »Darfur: Crimes Against Humanity« campaign week on 15 March 2007 at 11 am at the Jewish Museum Berlin
- Yes, I will attend the opening to the »Darfur: Crimes Against Humanity« campaign week on 15 March 2007 at 7 pm at the Jewish Museum Berlin
- ... accompanied by a photographer
- ... accompanied by camera-team

Name: _____

Medium: _____

Address: _____

Telephone / Fax: _____

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E-Mail: _____

Date, Signature: _____