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New Book Based on Popular Darfur Exhibit Offers a Unique Insight into Worsening Crisis

Architect Leslie Thomas and the Save Darfur Coalition announce release of Darfur/Darfur: Life/War, a book highlighting intense photos from the crisis in Darfur

New York, N.Y., January 2008— This winter, architect Leslie Thomas and the Save Darfur Coalition announce the release of a powerful collection of images documenting the ongoing Darfur genocide in the new book *Darfur/Darfur: Life/War*.

Photographs from some of the world's most celebrated photojournalists depict hope within the atrocities that have claimed as many as 400,000 lives and displaced 2.5 million people. The book is published by Melcher Media and the contributor's royalties from the \$35 price will be donated to build a new school for girls in Darfur.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power's essay introduces the collection of photographs taken by former U.S. Marine Brian Steidle and photojournalists Lynsey Addario, Mark Brecke, H el ene Caux, Ron Haviv, Paolo Pellegrin, Ryan Spencer Reed, and Michal Ronnen Safdie.

“War is generally thought of in statistics about people most of us have never met, yet these beautiful and intense photographs of Darfur's people let us see a new story. They present the individual beauty and specific brutality that coexists in this region by juxtaposing haunting images of pain with others full of tenacity, pride and hope,” said Leslie Thomas, the book's editor.

The photographs unearth the consequences of genocide through images of child soldiers, suffering refugees and displaced persons, rebel forces, burnt bodies and destroyed villages; they provide an in-depth look at individual strife caused by the uprooting of entire communities. Photographs taken away from the attacks are included to contrast life today with the strong communities in which Darfuris lived before fear arrived at their front door.

The compilation is based on the Darfur/Darfur exhibit, an internationally touring multimedia exhibit that showcases 150 color and black-and-white photographs through projections on city walls. The Darfur/Darfur exhibit has been touring since fall 2006.

In 2006, Leslie Thomas, an architect and mother, decided to bring the individual faces of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur to the world. She reached out to photojournalists documenting the crisis in Darfur, Sudan and within several months created the Darfur/Darfur exhibit. Gaining a great deal of national and international attention, the exhibit has been featured on the exterior walls of museums such as the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the New York Historical Society, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Additional interior exhibits have been held at the Institute for Contemporary Art in Boston and the George Eastman House. In January 2007, with an exhibit in Capetown, South Africa, Darfur/Darfur became the first exhibit to depict this crisis on the African continent.

To get a sneak peek of early released photos and more information, please visit www.DarfurDarfur.org

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About Leslie Thomas – Leslie Thomas is an architect and curator. Ongoing projects include the DARFUR/DARFUR exhibit, which she began out of a desire to bring the individual faces of the humanitarian crisis in western Sudan to the world. Exhibiting at such venues as the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Eastman House in Rochester, the Royal Ontario Museum, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C, the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Institute for Contemporary Art in Boston, and FORMA in Milan the exhibit has brought its large scale projections to the streets of the world's major cultural centers. A founding principal with LARC Inc. and LARC Studio, a national architectural practiced based in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles, she is a graduate of Columbia University and the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. An Emmy award-winning art director, she is committed to the use of art and design for public good. Current projects include a focus on global water shortages.

About the Photographers– SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

About Melcher Media – Founded in 1994 by Charles Melcher and based in New York, Melcher Media is a content producer, packager, and publisher with more than 80 titles and 8 million books in print. With a reputation for extending the craft of bookmaking and pushing the genres of traditional publishing, Melcher Media combines innovative ideas with exceptional design. Publishers Weekly recently recognized Melcher Media as producing titles that are “always visually and physically distinctive.” Melcher Media has created successful books and publishing programs for a variety of companies, institutions, and media partners, such as HBO, MTV, Lexus, Harley-Davidson, Nike, VH-1, Comedy Central, Lucky, InStyle, Real Simple, National Enquirer, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian Institution. Additionally, Melcher Media has done photography books with such renowned photographers as Lauren Greenfield, Larry Clark, Danny Lyon, Sante D’Orazio and Joel Sternfeld.

About the Save Darfur Coalition – The Save Darfur Coalition raises public awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur and mobilizes a unified response to the atrocities that threaten the lives of people throughout the Darfur region. It is an alliance of more than 180 faith-based, advocacy and human rights organizations. The Coalition’s member organizations represent 130 million people of all ages, races, religions and political affiliations united together to help the people of Darfur. For more information on the Coalition, please visit www.SaveDarfur.org.