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Darfur/Darfur

Images of Darfur Projected on the Central Park West Walls Of the New-York Historical Society

New York – Beginning on Thursday, October 18, wall-sized photographic images of the genocide in Darfur will be projected on the exterior west wall of the New-York Historical Society (N-YHS) from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. The photographic exhibition

“Darfur/Darfur” is being shown through Wednesday, October 24 on the NYHS’s Central Park West wall between 76th and 77th Streets. Presented in cooperation with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C., the digitally projected exhibit features work by internationally acclaimed photojournalists. It documents the genocide of an estimated 300,000 individuals in the Sudan through photographs of the realities of war, refugee camps and displaced families. These photographs have not been projected on any other exterior walls in New York City.

To kick off the exhibit on Thursday, October 18, at 6:30, several prominent speakers will present a program on the crisis in the Sudan in the N-YHS auditorium. “Darfur/Darfur” includes: Anne Curry, news anchor of the *Today Show* and *Dateline NBC*, who has reported on the violence in the Sudan; John Prendergast, co-author of *Not on our Watch* with Don Cheadle, co-founder of the ENOUGH Campaign and a senior advisor to the International Crisis Group; and Omer Ismail, a refugee from Darfur and co-founder of Darfur Peace and Development, a U.S.-based advocacy organization. They will speak about the history of the conflict and what can be done. The program is free, but seating is limited. Obtain tickets at SmartTix, available in September. To order online, visit www.smarttix.com, or call 212-868-4444.

“It is part of our mission to serve as a national forum for the debate and examination of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history,” says Louise Mirrer, President of the N-YHS. “Our recent exhibitions and related programming have brought our audience to consider difficult and troubling issues in New York and American History as well as the legacy of those issues in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.”

The photographs projected in “Darfur/ Darfur,” were taken in Darfur and neighboring Chad. They range from blunt reportage to sensitive black and white portraits to almost formal compositions. Former U.S. Marine Brian Steidle photographed what he saw around him: children hit by bullets and piles of bones and bodies. Helene Caux, a Geneva-based photojournalist, has documented the population of a refugee camp in Chad, where 80 percent of the refugees are women and children. She has photographed the women in their brightly-colored clothing, and the moon at dusk, capturing moments of fleeting beauty in the refugee camp. Mark Brecke, a documentary filmmaker from Berkeley, has taken black and white photographs of women, children and soldiers. And Paulo Pellegin/Magnum, a *Newsweek* photographer born in Rome, has contributed stark, dramatic black and white photographs of refugees living in cities of tents. Other photojournalists in the exhibit are Lynsey Addario, Ron Haviv/VII, Ryan Spencer Reed, and Michael Ronnen Safdie.

“These haunting and beautiful photographs, depicting the wonderful faces of a vibrant people and the tragic devastation of their lives and culture, were the only way I could imagine helping people to understand the need for immediate action,” says Leslie Thomas, the Chicago architect and film art director who curated “Darfur/Darfur.”

The exhibit was edited by Matthew Jacob. Co-Curators are Daniela Hrzic, Alexandra Kerr, Kevin Martin and Jane Sachs. It has been shown around the world, including on the walls of the USHMM in November of 2006. This exhibit is presented with the support of the Save Darfur Coalition, Humanity United, and Global Grassroots.

The photographs can be viewed on the N-YHS website at www.nyhistory.org.

ABOUT THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The New-York Historical Society is dedicated to exploring the connections between the events of the past and our lives today. Founded in 1804, its programs examine the richly layered history of New York City and State and the nation, fulfilling its dual role as a public educational center and scholarly institution. It holds one of the country's greatest collections of American art and historical artifacts, and one of the most comprehensive independent research libraries in the country.

The New-York Historical Society, located at 170 Central Park West between 76th and 77th Streets, is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for educators and seniors, \$6 for students, and free for children under 12. For general information, the public can call (212) 873-3400.

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