



San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact _____

San Francisco Film Premiere to Mark Anniversary of Peace Agreement

-Activists Call for Urgent Action to Prevent Return to War in Sudan-

SAN FRANCISCO (5 January 2010) – On Saturday, January 9, 2010, The SF Bay Area Darfur Coalition will host the screening of “Rebuilding Hope”, a powerful record of the quest by three "Lost Boys" to find surviving family members and rediscover and contribute to their homeland. The film sheds a timely light on what the future holds for Sudan in its precarious struggle for peace.

Deng Jongkuch, a Lost Boy living in San Jose, and Mohamed Suleiman, a Darfuri and President of the SF Bay Area Darfur Coalition, will also speak at the event.

The screening will be held on the 5th anniversary of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the 20-year North-South war. The CPA calls for the democratic transformation of Sudan, elections in 2010, and a referendum in 2011 in which South Sudan may choose to separate. However, many contentious issues remain unresolved amid increasing violence in the South and continued attacks on Darfuri civilians. A return to widespread conflict could destabilize the region and place millions of additional civilians at risk.

The local event kicks off “Sudan 365: A Beat for Peace”, an international call to action on world leaders to take the following urgent steps to prevent a return to full-scale war and ensure protection of civilians:

- Provide intensive and coherent diplomatic support on unresolved issues such as wealth sharing, borders and security, and legislation for the referendum;
- Increase international monitoring and reporting on human rights violations throughout Sudan and support measures to protect civilians from ongoing violence; and
- Urge the U.N. Security Council to strengthen the civilian protection mandate of the Sudan peacekeeping force (UNMIS).

“We see a real risk of the CPA breaking down and a return to devastating conflict with disastrous consequences for the people of Sudan and for the region”, said Mohamed Suleiman, President of the SF Bay Area Darfur Coalition. “We urge President Obama to lead the world’s governments to provide intensive diplomatic support now.”

The event will take place on Saturday, January 9, 2010, 6:45PM, at Congregation Emanu-El, Two Lake Street (at Arguello), San Francisco, and is free and open to the public. Co-sponsors are Congregation Emanu-El, American Jewish World Service and Health Alliance for Sudan. Additional information about the film “Rebuilding Hope” is available at www.rebuildinghopesudan.org. For questions and more information about the screening, contact info@darfurf.org or 415-221-8400.

###

The **San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition** (www.darfursf.org) is an alliance of San Francisco Bay Area organizations, groups, and individuals working to stop the genocide in Darfur, help end war in and bring peace to Sudan, and promote anti-genocide strategies.