

SUDAN365: A BEAT FOR PEACE



*** NORTHERN IRELAND event info updated regularly (keep refreshing this pdf download)**

LATEST:

Belfast venue – Oh Yeah Music Centre, Cathedral Quarter Belfast. 4pm – 5pm contact info@beyondskin.net

Derry Venue – Café Del Mondo, ShipQuay Street. 3pm-4pm contact eddie@seeds.ie

NORTHERN IRELAND PRESS RELEASE

Global Day of Action for Sudan

DIARY NOTE: Saturday 9 JANUARY 2010 - Belfast and L/Derry

Snow Patrol's Jonny Quinn leads Northern Ireland drum beat for peace in Sudan

On 9 January 2010, people in Belfast and Derry will join thousands of campaigners around the world gathering to call on world leaders to prevent a return to severe conflict in Sudan. The campaigners will beat out a drum beat for peace in an effort being backed by Snow Patrol drummer, Bangor man Jonny Quinn.

The Snow Patrol drummer features in a film which will be shown at the events, featuring drummers from five continents all following a 'beat for peace' in Sudan.

The effort comes one year before a referendum that will decide the future of Sudan, and falls on the five year anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended a 22-year civil war between North and South Sudan.

2009 has seen a serious spike in violence in the South, with 2,500 people killed and 350,000 displaced. In the western region of Darfur – seven years after the conflict erupted – millions continue to suffer daily in camps.

Events are planned in capitals from Washington to London, Nairobi to Cairo.

They are being organised by a coalition of organisations including Amnesty International and Northern Ireland groups Beyond Skin and SEEDS.

The global campaign is being supported by Jonny Quinn of Snow Patrol, Stewart Copeland of The Police, the renowned Egyptian drummer Yehia Khalil, Nick Mason of Pink Floyd, and other famous drummers who will be featured in a film released to coincide with the launch of the campaign. The film features drummers from five continents all following a 'beat for peace' led by drummers in North and South Sudan. Activists will drum along to the beat at events on 9 January to launch a year of campaigning on Sudan.

In Northern Ireland campaigners and musicians, using bodhrans, African djembe drums and rock drum kits, will join in the global drum beat for peace in Sudan. The Belfast event is at the Oh Yeah Centre, Gordon Street at 4pm, while the L'Derry event is at 3pm in Cafe Mondo on Shipquay Street.

An Amnesty spokesperson is available for interviews.

For more information about the day please contact: info@beyondskin.net (NI) or pia.dawson@crisisaction.org (Global)

SUDAN365: A BEAT FOR PEACE

GLOBAL PRESS RELEASE

A global day of action on Sudan will take place on 9 January 2010, marking the fifth year anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan and one year out from the referendum that will determine whether the Southern region of Sudan will separate from the North.

With many highly contentious issues still to be resolved, with growing violence in the South and unresolved conflict in Darfur, there is a real risk of a return to widespread conflict that could destabilise the entire region and place civilians in grave danger.

Groups will gather across the world to call on leaders to take urgent diplomatic action to prevent conflict returning to Sudan.

The overarching aims of the organisations involved are:

- Prevention of return to large-scale war, mass violence against civilians in Sudan and a humanitarian crisis;
- Promotion of sustainable peace in Sudan (and ownership of that peace by people of Sudan).
-

Concept

Sudan365 is a loose umbrella for campaigning on Sudan over the next critical 365 days. A campaign website – www.sudan365.org – will be live from 8 January and will be built up over the course of the year.

SUDAN365: A Beat for Peace

Global leaders need to coordinate and urgently intensify their efforts to prevent conflict in Sudan. For the first event in 2010, people around the world are coming together to support a global beat for peace to go 'live' on 9 January 2010.

A drumbeat, starting in Sudan, will be taken up by celebrity drummers and drumming groups across Mali, Senegal, Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, Paris, London, Barcelona, Russia, New York, San Francisco, Brazil, Mexico, Abu Dhabi, Cairo, India, Tokyo.

Famous drummers – including Stewart Copeland from the Police, Nick Mason of Pink Floyd, Famoudou Konate, Phil Selway of Radiohead, Mustapha Tettey Addy, Yehia Khalil, Mohammed Munir and others – have been filmed for a **2-3 minute film that will be released to global media.**

The video will be **provided as download** to be screened as part of events on 9 January. It will also be featured on the YouTube homepage and on the campaign website – www.sudan365.org – which will be ready for the launch.

Campaign messaging

Urgent action must be taken now by the international community to help Sudan find a peaceful way through a challenging period in which civilians will bear the brunt of increasing conflict. Over the next twelve months, there is a real opportunity to help the people of Sudan chart a peaceful and

SUDAN365: A BEAT FOR PEACE

more prosperous future in which basic human rights are guaranteed. However, without adequate preparation, the upcoming national elections, referendum and the aftermath could re-ignite conflict.

Today, with only one year left until a referendum that will shape the future of Africa's largest country – as the southern region votes on whether to separate from the North – all-out conflict threatens to return to Sudan. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) put an end to Africa's longest-running civil war in which over 2 million people lost their lives. It is now in jeopardy.

In South Sudan, 2009 has seen a serious spike in violence in which more than 2,500 people have been killed and 350,000 displaced. Meanwhile in Darfur, following a conflict in which hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed, millions continue to suffer daily in camps.

Failure to prevent the North-South peace deal from breaking down and to find a lasting resolution to the conflict in Darfur could set Sudan back to its darkest days of conflict and will come at a massive cost to human life, human rights and regional stability and security. Without peace between North and South there can be no hope for sustainable peace in Darfur.

WWW.SUDAN365.ORG