

We accomplished a lot together in 2013. We wanted to share the highlights with you so that you are informed about what the power of the Postcard Brigade, the Never Again Coalition and our partners are able to do when we band together for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, as well as the southern border regions of Sudan.

JANUARY

Congressman Earl Blumenauer, was one of twelve members of the House of Representatives who filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals in support of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Resource Extraction Rule. Diane Koosed and Lauren Fortgang of the Postcard Brigade personally thanked Congressman Blumenauer for his support of the Conflict Minerals Act at the OAJC luncheon he spoke at on January 30.

FEBRUARY

February 4 to 8 - Members of NAC helped Postcard Brigade member Ann Shannon with a One Million Bones project at the International School of Beaverton for Culture Week. Every student in the school made a bone.

NAC submitted written testimony (which was read out loud) to the Oregon Legislature in regards to Senate Bill 17 which "[d]irects the Oregon Investment Council and State Treasurer to try to ensure that moneys in Public Employees Retirement Fund are not invested in companies with interest in Sudan."

MARCH

March 8 - NAC participated in Good Deeds Day (sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland), hosting a bone-making event for 40 volunteers. We made 126 bones.

March 9 - NAC was a co-sponsor of the Team Congo Portland group run. The event raised over \$3500, enough to sponsor 8 women in Women for Women's program in the DR Congo.

March 18 - The Chadian government postponed the meeting with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. We sent postcards about this to the AU Ambassador and many NAC members participated in online actions.

Also March 18 - Wanted by the ICC for 7 years, Bosco Ntaganda turned himself in to the Hague, perhaps to save his own life which was threatened by members of his rebel group, M23. It is possible that pressure from activists led to Rwanda's unwillingness to continue its protection of Ntaganda.

APRIL

April 6 - NAC members participated in the 100 Day Fast for Darfur. This tag-team fast began on April 6, the anniversary of the first day of the Rwandan genocide and ended July 14. 2013 marked 10 years of targeted killing and violence against Darfuris in Sudan.

April 24 - Congressman Blumenauer co-sponsors HR 1692, the Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act of 2013

On April 25 the Oregon Coalition for Humanity held a joint **One Million Bones and Conflict** [Mineral] **Free City Initiative** event on the Park Blocks. Bones were laid among discarded electronics in an intriguing display. NAC members attended the event and some of the bones we helped make were on display.

MAY

May 6 – Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici co-sponsors HR 1692

May 10 - Bonamici co-sponsors HR 131, concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights.

May 31 – 3 members of NAC went to Salem to testify in favor of SB 17, regarding the divestment of Oregon state PERS funds from Sudan. We believe this bill will pass, and our presence showed that we're paying attention and we care. The bill was still in committee when the legislature adjourned in July.

JUNE

June 3 – NAC was a Capstone partner this semester for the class "Are We Too Violent?" Students' final project was an event in the Park Blocks on June 3rd for awareness, education and advocacy: Rising Against Violence -- Hope for Eastern Africa.

June 8 - One Million Bones installation on the National Mall in Washington D.C.

June 18 – Senator Russ Feingold appointed Special Envoy to the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region of Africa

June 19 – Nafie al Nafie, Sudan's Presidential assistant had planned a visit to the US which was suspended thanks to our postcard and the voices of many other activists. He helped orchestrate the Darfur genocide, and is infamous for his "ghost houses" of torture.

June 26 - S.Res.144, the companion piece to H.Res.131 passed in the Senate. Both Oregon Senators, Merkley and Wyden were among the 11 co-sponsors.

June 27 – Blumenauer cosponsors HR 131

JULY

July 21 – Our July 21 yard sale brought in close to \$800 for Little Ripples. This money will go for the education of 120 students at newly developed preschools in the Darfuri refugee camps of Goz Amer and Djabal.

July 23 - The Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) requirement to disclose the use of conflict minerals was upheld by a federal court in Washington.

July 28 – NAC co-sponsored the 3rd annual Pamper for a Purpose. This year's event took place in Directors Park in downtown Portland.

AUGUST

August 28 - Donald E. Booth was appointed U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan.

August 15 – In a twitter town hall, newly appointed UN Ambassador Samantha Powers mentioned Sudan first which is a sign that our voices are being heard and Sudan will hopefully be a priority for her.

SEPTEMBER

September 5 – James Swan was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo. He previously served as the number two official at the U.S. embassy in Kinshasa, and he is well acquainted with the situation in war-torn central Africa.

September 26 - Omar al-Bashir, indicted war criminal and president of Sudan, cancelled his plans to come to the US to address the UN General Assembly. NAC members joined other activists in pressuring our government to deny Bashir entry, or to arrest him while in the US.

NOVEMBER

November 5 - The M23 rebel group announced that it will disarm and “pursue by purely political means the search for solutions” to the root causes of the conflict. This announcement came as a victory for the 18-month effort to defeat the M23, led by the Congolese army and the U.N. Intervention Brigade, and supported by a vast network of Congolese and international civil society groups and activists.

November 16 - The Never Again Coalition participated in the Cause + Event Charity Walk as part of the Team Congo PDX. Our team was 47 members strong and raised funds for Women for Women International's Congo Program.

DECEMBER

December 5 – NAC hosted an evening with Darfur United and Little Ripples. It was an extremely informative event with approximately 50 people in attendance. We are working on more events with them in 2014.

NAC also made financial contributions to Eastern Congo Initiative, Enough Project, i-Act, One Million Bones, Jewish World Watch, Darfur Interfaith Network, Triangles for Truth, Women for Women International and the Ladis Kristof Foundation

Finally, this year we were deeply saddened by the passing of OAJC Executive Director Emily Gottfried, a long time supporter of the Postcard Brigade and NAC passed away suddenly on January 27 due to an illness.

In the words of OAJC Board member Steve Bilow, "The best way to honor the life of a woman who devoted that life to promoting human dignity is to rededicate ourselves to the work. So, in memory of Emily Georges Gottfried, I do just that: I commit to never-ending my quest to maximize liberty, equality, and the dignity of all humanity."