

We accomplished a lot together in 2012. 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:

For **Culture Week** at the **International School of Beaverton**, NAC directed an **interactive refugee camp experience** based on camps in Chad for Darfur refugees. Approximately 800 students went through several stations, starting with camp registration where they put their thumbprints on identification cards, were put in "families" and given a ration card. At other stations they learned about food rations and saw the kinds of foods and amounts for one person in a day, learned about water in the camps, discussed cooking with solar cookers vs wood, had the opportunity of sitting in a tent to experience the size and crowding for the family, and viewed and discussed photos from camp life. Students were given information and action materials to take home. We encouraged students to take an action and contact NAC to share their experience.

Also during Culture Week at International School of Beaverton, NAC spread the word about **One Million Bones** (onemillionbones.org) by leading two groups of students through the bone-making procedure. Students saw two short, informative and moving videos from OMB, and shared their own ideas of why bones are a fitting representation of genocide. Students' bone creations will eventually be sent to Washington, DC where they'll be part of the installation on the Mall in June 2013.

February:

First meeting of **Coffee for Congo**. Each month, Ann Shannon of A Thousand Sisters and Run for Congo Women held a Coffee for Congo event. At these meetings we wrote letters to elected officials in support of the innocent civilians in the Congo. Starting in March the meetings were held at Little Bird Bistro.

We signed onto a petition to "Stop Sudan Government-Led Bombings and Starvation" that was hand delivered to members of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC). Over 1,000 signatures were collected for this petition.

March:

We joined Amnesty International's action by sending a **postcard** for the release of Professor Mohamed Zain Al-abideen who was imprisoned in Sudan after publishing an article criticizing Sudan's president. **Professor Al-abideen was released in March!**

On March 16, many members of the Postcard Brigade went hungry. On that day-- as part of **United to End Genocide's Day of Action for Sudan** -- we joined with thousands of others on a nationwide hunger strike in solidarity with the people of the Nuba Mountains in Sudan who are on the brink of mass starvation at the hands of their own leader, Omar al Bashir. This was coupled with a **protest in Washington DC** in front of the Sudanese embassy. Many prominent activists and politicians were there including John Prendergast, George Clooney, Martin Luther King Jr. III, Representative Jim McGovern and Ben Jealous of the NAACP. They were arrested and later released. Their arrests have gained the attention of the press and the White House and in turn helped gain attention to the crisis in the border region between Sudan and South Sudan.

This month the Kony 2012 video by Invisible Children went viral. This greatly raised the awareness of issues in the DRC bills were introduced regarding Kony in the House and Senate.

April:

NAC created a Passover Brochure making connections to the holiday and the atrocities in Sudan and DRC. This was distributed to local Portland synagogues.

May:

As part of an ongoing effort to bring Sudanese President Omar Bashir to justice, the House Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment cutting off non-humanitarian aid to any nation that allows the indicted war criminal into their country. The amendment to the fiscal year 2013 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill was offered by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), a longtime critic of Bashir and his genocidal government.

On May 10, Senator **Ron Wyden** co-sponsored Senate Resolution 402 (Kony Bill). This was one of our **Postcard Brigade** asks!

3 Postcard Brigade members were **honored** with awards for their volunteer services. **Diane Koosed** was given an award for on Kavod Shabbat - a special Shabbat each year when people at Kol Shalom are honored for their volunteer work. **Dale Oller** and **Lauren Fortgang** were both honored at the Song of Miriam awards. Dale for her work with Jewish Family and Child Services and Lauren for her work with the Never Again Coalition.

June:

Postcard Brigade member Dale Oller graciously opened her house up for an **evening with Samara Andrade**, a young woman who works for the **UN in Sudan and South Sudan**. Her work is in the arena of Reintegration of Child Soldiers. She helped explain the current complex situation in Sudan and South Sudan.

July:

NAC co-sponsored **Pamper for Purpose** on July 1st in Lake Oswego's Millenium Park. This is the brain child of Denise Wetherell, a Postcard Brigade member. At Pamper, people were able to Pamper themselves (haircuts, massages, and more), enjoy live music, a raffle, silent auction, art activities, food and beverages. The special guest speaker is **Fred Kramer, executive director of Jewish World Watch**. All funds raised went to JWW and their projects for Darfur refugees and their work in DRC.

August:

Portland's Run for Congo Women was held on August 4 at Willamette Park, along the Willamette River. This is a 5K run/walk. NAC, along with Amnesty International participated with a team. Money raised from the Run goes to Women for Women International's work in the DRC.

On August 22, the **SEC** ruled on the adoption of **conflict mineral** regulations. The vote was 3-2 in favor of adopting the regulations. Sadly, the originally proposed regulations are severely weakened, catering to corporate interests over the people of Congo. For example, there is now a

two-year phase-in of the regulations. Raise Hope for Congo also released the 2012 Conflict Minerals Company Rankings.

Also on August 22 and 23, NAC partnered with the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center to bring the film the ***Last Survivor*** to Portland. The documentary follows the survivors of four different genocides and mass atrocities—the Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur, and Congo—as they work to make sense of their experiences, rebuild their lives, and get involved as activists in the issues the film addresses. A Q&A and panel discussion followed. A **workshop** was held at PSU geared towards educators and those engaged in advocacy to strengthen the anti-Genocide movement in Oregon.

The **Postcard Brigade** sent postcards to the Sudanese government in July regarding the arrest of **Rudman Dawod**. Rudwan has been the facilitator for reconciliation and humanitarian projects with Sudan Sunrise. Rudwan resides in **Oregon** with his wife and baby. He was **arrested** for participating in a peaceful demonstration on July 3rd to protest the Sudanese government's recent austerity policies, and ongoing violence in the Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, and Darfur. He was beaten until unconscious, tortured, charged with terrorism, and retained in prison for 44 days. With **your** help as well as that of the advocacy community, the US government, and the media, Rudwan was **eventually acquitted and released!**

August 31, **Sudan** withdrew its bid for a seat on **the UN Human Rights Council** after extreme pressure from NAC as well as other human rights organizations.

September:

On September 21, **NAC, along with 123 organizations** urged the UNSC to swiftly impose consequences on the government of Sudan and to consider alternative means for aid delivery if the government continues to block access.

Voice for Sudan held a **Vigil for Sudan** on September 30 in Washington D.C. NAC donated some money to help with the vigil. Voices for Sudan is a group working to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and South Sudan.

Because of the Robbie Ball Memorial Fund at Congregation Neveh Shalom, NAC was able to make a **sizable contribution** to **End the Nuba Genocide campaign**. This is organized by Tennessee based Operation Broken Silence and is bringing desperately needed aid to the Nuba mountains region of Sudan.

NAC sponsored a **Congolese sister** through Women for Women International for the second time. The plan is to do this each year.

October:

NAC tabled at two events in October. The first was the movie ***Defiant Requiem*** about the Terezin concentration camp near Prague. The second was a **town hall discussion** on the future of Holocaust education in Oregon what was put on by OHRC at PSU.

NAC partner OAJC honored Senator **Jeff Merkley** with the **OAJC Human Relations Award**. Some of our members were in attendance and made connections with Senator Merkley's aides. We hope this will lead to stronger communication between the Never Again

Coalition and Senator Merkley's office. Some of our members received letters from him indicating that he will look into U.S. foreign aid that is going to Sudan. This was in response to a postcard message we sent him.

November:

NAC outreach allowed us to make a connection with **Havurah Shalom**. Going forward, Havurah Shalom will publish the information we submit into their monthly newsletters and their weekly email updates.

NAC signed a **joint letter** calling on the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** to take all actions within its power to address the grave human rights situation in Sudan.

December:

NAC hosted a **screening** of the documentary ***Across The Frontlines: Ending The Nuba Genocide***. The event was co-sponsored by Oregon Holocaust Resource Center. The film was produced by a Tennessee-based organization, Operation Broken Silence, whose important work we have supported.

NAC members sent **letters** to six **UN Security Council** representatives to urge them to address and stop acts of sexual based violence.

NAC signed onto an **open letter to President Obama** requesting a **shift in the U.S. Sudan policy** and covering specific issues that they believe should be urgently addressed. The letter cites "grave concerns that the current U.S. policy is ineffective at stopping mass atrocities in Sudan." The letter was signed by 76 U.S.-based organizations, 12 genocide scholars and other notable human rights advocates.

On Dec. 31, the **UN Security Council's** Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Sanctions Committee voted to **impose targeted sanctions** on two armed groups operating in the DRC: the March 23 Movement (the M23) and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (the FDLR).

NAC also made financial contributions to Jewish World Watch, Stop Genocide Now, Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, Operation Broken Silence and Voices for Sudan.