

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NEVER AGAIN COALITION 2014

We accomplished a lot together in 2014. We want to share the highlights with you so that you are informed about what 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 and Darfur, as well as the southern border regions of Sudan.

JANUARY

Intel announced that its entire 2014 line of microprocessors will be conflict-mineral free! Intel is the first company to make such a commitment. "The minerals are important, but not as important as the lives of the people who work to get them," Intel's CEO Brian Krzanich said, as he invited "the entire industry to join us in this journey."

NAC's co-chair Lauren Fortgang, also the pastry chef at Little Bird Bistro, combined her passions in 2014 by organizing a benefit for Eastern Congo Initiative -- the 1st annual Chocolate for Congo. On January 25th, nine local pastry chefs participated by making chocolate creations with fair trade chocolate that was donated by Theo Chocolate. 120 people attended, raising \$3600 for the people of Eastern Congo. (The 2nd annual Chocolate for Congo is planned for the month of February in 2015.)

MARCH

NAC co-sponsored the Run for Congo PDX, a benefit for Women for Women International. Organized by Amanda Ulrich, there were 152 registrants; over \$5000 was raised -- more than twice that of the run the year before!

NAC participated in Good Deeds Day for a second year. We had approximately thirty participants who decorated large handprints to send to Little Ripples preschools, and wrote letters to soccer players of Darfur United Soccer Academy. NAC sent the letters and artwork, along with a donation, to i-ACT, the grassroots organization that directs these projects.

APRIL

The conflict minerals rule, known as Dodd-Frank Section 1502, had another step towards success when the US Court of Appeals ruled that publicly traded companies must check their supply chains for conflict minerals and report back to the Securities and Exchange Commission. We wrote many postcards about this issue, adding our voices to those of other activists.

MAY

NAC and our supporters raised \$1850 for one Darfur United player to go to ConIFA Cup in Sweden. Mahamat "Iggy" Enigy, known as the spirit behind the team, says, "We really need the world to know who we are. For me Darfur United is not just a soccer team, but it's our soul, it's freedom, it's peace, it's united, it's leadership, self-confidence, friendship, culture, love.... It's the real Darfur voice, and a credit to the people of Darfur. We are heroes looking for dreams, for a chance to represent every Darfuri that has been a victim of genocide, and we are the most amazing team, group and family ever." NAC agrees whole-heartedly with you, Iggy!

JUNE and JULY

Meriam Ibrahim was freed from prison in Khartoum where, along with her two young children, she had spent several months. NAC and the Postcard Brigade fought extensively for Meriam's freedom by co-sponsoring rallies and writing multiple postcards to our government. Meriam, a Sudanese Christian, had been charged with adultery and apostasy for her marriage to a non-Muslim and her refusal to renounce Christianity and return to Islam, the faith of her absentee father. NAC continued fighting for Meriam after her release from prison. While en route to the US where her husband has citizenship, they were stopped at the airport in Khartoum and accused of using false papers to make the trip. In July they were again freed and traveled to Italy. From there they made it to the U.S. and are now settled in New Hampshire.

AUGUST

Jewish World Watch became our new fiscal sponsor. NAC has had a close relationship with JWW from our beginning. We were excited to strengthen our connection with them, grateful for the added exposure to our work, and pleased to once again be able to offer tax exemptions for Postcard Brigade subscriptions.

In July we wrote postcards to US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power and Ban Ki Moon about the deteriorating situation in Katanga, the richest province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In August, the UN's top commander in the DRC announced that his mission was "ready to deploy" in Katanga!

SEPTEMBER

Portland's Cause and Event run/walk took in \$400, with 25 team members participating to benefit Women for Women International's Congo program. NAC members participated.

OCTOBER

I-ACT's virtual bike tour, Tour de Goz Amer, was held in October to raise money for Little Ripples pre-schools. Our team collectively rode 199 miles and raised over \$700. We send huge gratitude to our cyclists and to their family, friends, and NAC members who supported them!

While the political situation has not improved in South Sudan, there are some positive glimmers. The asks that we have had in our postcards have been heard: Ambassador Booth, among others in the administration, has been outraged at both sides in the situation in South Sudan. The U.S. has also ramped up its humanitarian commitments to the nearly 2 million people displaced by violence in South Sudan, announcing an additional \$83 million in humanitarian aid for a total of \$636 million this year, helping to stave off the possible famine.

Our ongoing project continues to be the Postcard Brigade. In addition to the work we do, we are so happy and proud of our partners in the field, Jewish World Watch and i-Act. We couldn't do any of it without your support. As NY Times columnist Nicholas Kristof recently said, "The best way to honor past victims of genocide is to fight it everywhere that it exists today." With your help we can do that and make the world a more peaceful place. Thank you!