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SAVE
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Jewish World Watch
Summary Report of Accomplishments
October 18, 2006

Back in the Fall of 2004, Jewish World Watch was just an idea proposed by Rabbi Harold Schulweis who issued a call to conscience for the LA synagogue-based Jewish community to wake up to the genocide of the people in Darfur and to the suffering of people around the globe who are victims of acts of inhumanity perpetrated by ruthless leaders and their militias. Since then, Jewish World Watch has made great strides towards fulfilling its threefold mission, to wit: (1) to **educate** the community about genocide; (2) to **activate** the community to help build national will to propel our national leaders to take active roles to stop the killing and acts of brutality; and (3) to raise funds to bring **relief** to the refugees.

Membership: As of October 17, 2006 there are 44 synagogue members of JWW, with a combined membership reach of more than 200,000 people. The membership is a diverse blend consisting of large, medium-sized and small congregations who are affiliated with the Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Orthodox denominations; there are also 2 members who describe themselves as “Independent”.

Community-Wide Programs: JWW has sponsored more than a dozen community-wide programs, in addition to the hundreds of member-specific programs which have been produced through the impetus and with the assistance and support of JWW. Amongst JWW’s regional programs are the following:

- ✓ Jerry Fowler of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. (November, 2004, Skirball Center; 750 people attended);
- ✓ John Prendergast of International Crisis Group (May 2005, Stephen S. Wise Temple; 700 people attended),
- ✓ Congressman Howard Berman and Rabbi Lee Bycel (January 2005; 500 people attended);
- ✓ Ruth Messenger, American Jewish World Service (March 2005, Sinai Temple 300 people attended);
- ✓ Celebrity Seder for Darfur (April 2006, 400 people attended held at UCLA Hillel);
- ✓ One Shabbat Morning for Darfur (February 2006 Adat Ari El, 600 people attended);
- ✓ Conejo Valley Community Program for Darfur (April 2006, Temple Etz Chaim, Temple Adat Elohim, Temple Beth Haverim, 250 people attended);

- ✓ Jewish Doctor's Symphony Concert for Darfur (November 2005, Temple Judea, 300 people attended).
- ✓ Sponsored two public rallies for Darfur, one jointly ventured with other Darfur action groups in July, 2005 and one organized jointly with Teens Against Genocide held in April 2006.
- ✓ Approximately 100 JWW supporters went to the April 30, 2006 Rally in Washington D.C., and approximately 100 JWW supporters attended the April 30, 2006 Rally in San Francisco. Every JWW member synagogue has sponsored at least one, and in many cases up to five, member-oriented smaller synagogue-based events at which a speaker from the JWW speaker's bureau presented a program to the temple members and guests.
- ✓ Sponsored a major panel discussion of nationally known experts addressing the issue of the systematic and widespread rape of the women of Darfur (May 31, 2006, Valley Beth Shalom, 200 people attended, including representatives of scores of organizations who joined the Anti-Rape Coalition formed by JWW).
- ✓ Established a collaboration with the Los Angeles Chapter American Jewish Committee to support the refugee women in Darfur.
- ✓ Held the First Annual State of Humanity Forum attended by 350 people at which the President of the International Crisis Group the Hon. Gareth Evans gave a global analysis of the condition of humanity.

Public Awareness/Advocacy Highlights:

- Submitted more than 25,000 Million Voice Postcards and more than 5,000 petition signatures directed to President Bush to Save Darfur Coalition and American Jewish World Service in May 2006;
- Actively Supported UC Student Divestment Task Force in their successful effort for UC Regents to divest from specified non-US companies doing business in Sudan—campaign aimed at raising awareness and educating;
- Played a key role as supporters of AB2941 which was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger and which forced CALPERS and CALSTRS to divest from certain companies doing business in Sudan which are helping to underwrite the genocide.
- Developed and pursuing implementation of a strategy to affirm the value of LA's divestment from specified non-US companies doing business in Sudan—campaign aimed at raising awareness and educating;
- Met with City officials to raise awareness of value of City Council engagement relative to the genocide—campaign aimed at raising awareness and educating;

- Organized 2 LA-based public demonstrations to raise awareness of the genocide and to show support for the victims of the genocide;
- Provided local support for the awareness initiatives and educational and awareness campaigns of other national organizations, such as American Jewish World Service, Religious Action Committee for Reform Judaism, Save Darfur Now, Genocide Intervention Network;
- Organized campaigns to send thousands of emails to various different relevant targets seeking to raise awareness about the genocide (i.e. when the Las Vegas World Affairs Council invited the Ambassador of Sudan to speak, JWW sent over 100 emails to the Council questioning the appropriateness of the invitation);
- Submitted more than 20 letters to the editor to the LA Times and to other newspapers relating to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, to raise awareness and educate;
- Organized **Caravan for Peace** consisting of survivors of all of the genocides of the 20th century who visited each of the foreign consulates with offices in Los Angeles urging them to advocate at the United Nations for an end to the genocide in Darfur

Projects Funded in Darfur and Chad

- ✓ **15 room medical clinic in Deleij, Darfur** – funds provided by JWW to International Medical Corps. The Deleij clinic serves 15,000 people, mostly women and children and has been operational since Fall, 2005.
- ✓ **10 room medical Abu Zahr clinic near Geneina, Darfur** – funds provided by JWW to International Medical Corps. The Abu Zahr clinic will serve 10,000 people, mostly women and children; it is anticipated that the clinic will open in August, 2006. .
- ✓ **Many water wells and water systems**—funds provided by JWW to both International Medical Corps and International Rescue Committee to provide life-sustaining water to the refugees in a variety of camps in West and South Darfur.
- ✓ **Supporting Peacemakers in Darfur**—in an effort to bring splintered political and militia groups into the peace process and to improve security on the ground in Darfur, JWW provided funds to the International Crisis Group help fund mediators.
- ✓ **Solar Cookers** – in an effort to reduce the incidence of rape of the women in the refugee camps, who are often assaulted when gathering firewood for their cooking needs, JWW initiated a program to convert the Iridimi refugee camp in Chad to solar cooking. JWW is partnering with Solar Cookers International and KoZon to

provide the materials for the production of the solar cookers; the women in the refugee camp will be paid to assemble the stoves and to provide the required two-day instruction course for each family in the camp. This ground-breaking initiative is aimed at reducing the number of trips the refugee women make outside of their camps inasmuch as 90% of the rapes of the women in Darfur occur while the women are foraging for firewood outside of the camps. The additional economic development aspect of this project is particularly attractive. JWW aims to raise the funds necessary to convert the entire Iridimi refugee camp to solar cooking, with the hope that the Iridimi conversion will serve as a model to the UN and to major humanitarian relief organizations of what can be done to reduce the genocidal rape of the women of Darfur.

- ✓ **Educational Toy Lift** – as a special youth-to-youth effort, five major Los Angeles area Jewish summer camps partnered with Jewish World Watch to collect certain specific basic education objects, such as paper, pencils, building blocks, and crayons, all of which will be airlifted to Darfur with personalized messages from the children providing the toys. More than 10,000 of these items will be sent to the medical clinics constructed by JWW medical clinics to be distributed by the International Medical Corps staff to the children in the Deleij and Geneina camps.
- ✓ **Grief Counselor** – through ISRAaid and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, JWW has underwritten a year's salary of an Israeli social worker to assist the survivors of the Darfur genocide in coping with their losses. Israel was tapped by the UN High Commission on Refugees to provide this type of expertise in Chad.

Other Important JWW Accomplishments:

- Prepared five distinct curricula to teach Darfur and genocide in schools, targeted for 4th grade through 12th grade.
- Organized awareness and fund raising campaigns in 20 schools, including several Catholic schools and many public schools.
- Awarded the 2005-6 New and Innovative Programming grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles.
- Awarded two successive year grants from Mount Sinai Memorial Parks for 2005 and 2006.
- Awarded two successive year outreach grants from the Valley Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles for 2005-6 and 2006-7.

→ Received the New and Innovative Programming award from the Jewish Communal Professionals of Southern California for 2006.

→ JWW's solar cooker anti-rape project was featured on KCET's Life & Times on June 8, 2006.

→ On July 4, 2006 the Los Angeles Times profiled the work of Jewish World Watch in a major article. In addition, articles about the work of Jewish World Watch have been featured in the Ventura County Star, the Pasadena Star, the Jewish Journal, the Daily News, and articles from these publications have been reprinted extensively throughout the country.

Updated October 18, 2006 by Janice Kamenir-Reznik, President, Jewish World Watch