



darfur australia network

# Newsletter

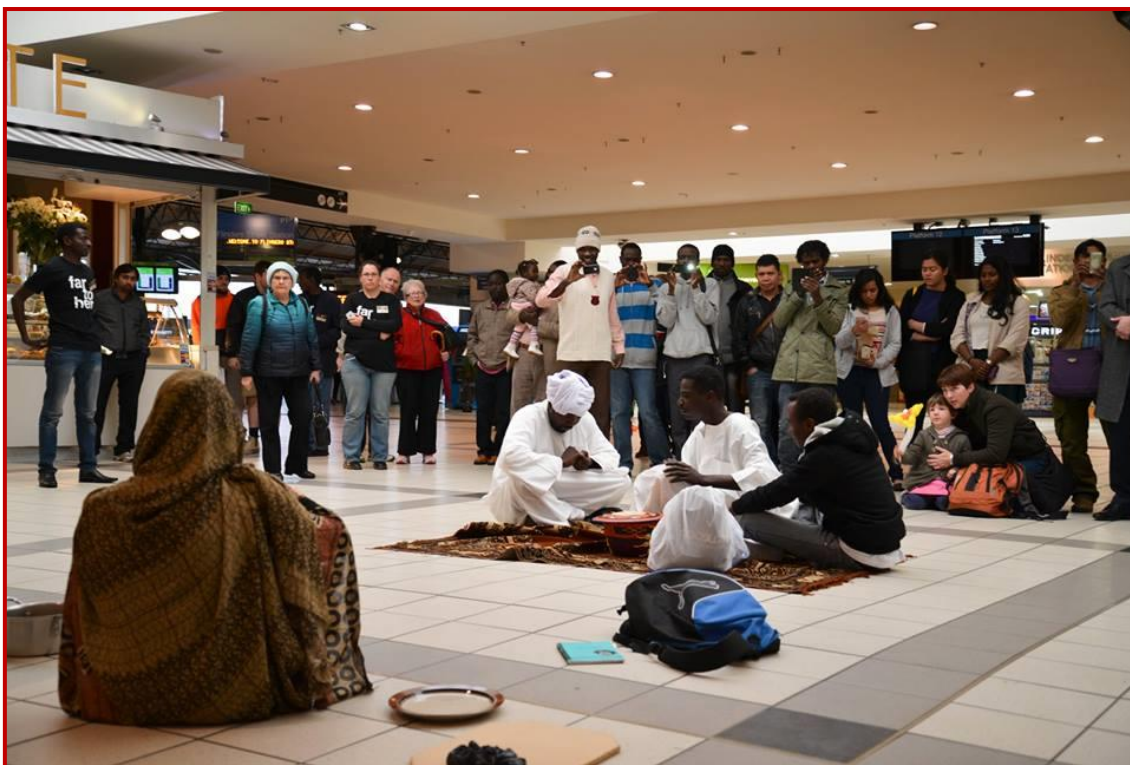


## Director's Roundup

Welcome to the July issue of DAN newsletter. It has been a very busy past three months and due to the dedication and commitment of DAN's team of volunteer we successfully hosted the "Promoting Peace for Darfur" Exhibit at Flinders Street Station on Friday 20th June to mark World Refugee Day. This high profile event saw the launch of DAN's petition which urges the Australian Government to use its position as Head of the UN Security Council in November 2014 to improve the security and protection of civilians in Darfur. In addition to from the visual exhibit, Darfur volunteers and community members staged a silent drama and performed a singing and drumming performance. 532 signatures were gained from the hundreds of commuters passing through Flinders Street Station. Through the event DAN reached out to more than 2000 people and increased their awareness of the on-going genocide in Darfur in an effort to stop this crisis from being a "silent war".

In support of our petition we are organising several exciting community events including two Soccer Tournaments for Peace' in Sunshine and Dandenong. Your support is critical and I ask that you go on line to Change.org [\[click here\]](#) and sign our petition.





For more pictures, [[click here](#)]  
Facebook: Darfur Australia Network  
Twitter: @DarfurOzNetwork

## Dan Update

### Advocacy Training -

In partnership with Oxfam & Diaspora Action Australia, DAN held an Advocacy workshop to equip the Darfur Community with the knowledge & tools to implement advocacy strategies in the future. The 25 participants learned about various campaigning tools including face-to-face lobbying and mobilising social media. The workshop delivered a six point advocacy focus for the coming year which formed the basis of the DAN petition to the Australian Government.

### Public Speaking -

DAN in collaboration with Syneka Marketing organised a full day 'Public Speaking' workshop. It enabled the 27 participants to interact confidently with the public and deliver the information about the crisis in Darfur in a succinct manner. The effectiveness of this workshop shone out on the World Refugee Day event at Flinders Station as the Darfur volunteers confidently approached to commuters and obtained 532 signatures on the day.

## Darfur News Update

Since January 2014, new waves of insecurity and violence across Darfur have created the need for additional humanitarian assistance and in the displacement of an additional 321, 929 people. As of 25th May 2014, 203,197 people continue to remain displaced (1) and only 179,662 have access to aid (2 & 3).

In Northern Darfur, where aid workers were restricted, finally had some access to parts of the area. The UN reports that, "aid workers in Sudan found dire conditions after entering a town in war-torn Darfur that had been off-limits to most of them for three years". Moreover, according to the OCHA, "the town has had no functioning health services since International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) activities were suspended".

The OCHA has further reported that, “over 50 per cent of the population in Guldo had no access to sanitation facilities, and no garbage collection services are in place. Hygiene promotion activities stopped with the suspension of ICRC operations”. As a consequence, thousands of people in Jebel Marra have been severely affected, who are now displaced by the conflict (3).

There have also been ongoing and increased tribal conflicts, where recent clashes between some Arab nomadic communities in western Sudan have left more than 100 people dead. The tribal conflict, which the UN terms as the biggest civilian threat, has compelled thousands of civilians to flee (4). Some reconciliation agreements between these warring tribes have happened (5). However the UN estimates that on an average; one hundred people die every day whilst five thousand die every month, as a direct consequence of these conflicts (6). With the holy month of Ramadan almost coming to an end, citizens of Darfur are facing extremely difficult conditions with the rise of food pricing. It has been reported that; “A bottle of cooking oil now costs SDG20 (\$3.50), a pound of sugar SDG4 (\$0.70). The price of a kilo of rice has risen to SDG15 (\$2.60)”. Furthermore, at the breaking of the fast, people are reported to only drink water and have thin porridge (7), making everyday survival difficult.

The UN has pledged to investigate the allegations by Human Rights Watch that peacekeepers in Darfur have failed to accurately highlight the crimes committed by government forces. This has also been echoed by the International Criminal Court, who on their report to the UN Security Council dating at June 17, 2014 has asked for a “thorough, independent and public inquiry” into these allegations (8).

1. <http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-2014-population-displacement-darfur-darfur-humanitarian-update-26-may-2014>
2. <http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-2014-population-displacement-darfur-darfur-humanitarian-update-26-may-2014>
3. <http://middle-east-online.com/english/?id=67044>
4. <http://www.africareview.com/News/Scores-of-civilians-killed-in-Darfur-conflict/-/979180/2359110/-/8rin5l/-/index.html>
5. [http://allafrica.com/stories/201407120046.html?aa\\_source=slideout](http://allafrica.com/stories/201407120046.html?aa_source=slideout)
6. <http://www.unitedhumanrights.org/genocide/genocide-in-sudan.htm>
7. <http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/citizens-bear-brunt-power-struggle-north-darfur-camp-coordinator>
8. <http://martinplaut.wordpress.com/2014/07/02/un-to-investigate-allegations-of-darfur-cover-up>

## Upcoming Events

**'Soccer Tournament for Peace'**

**Sunshine: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Dandenong: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014**

**Mini exhibitions featuring Darfur to be staged around  
Melbourne City: TBA**

## Sign the Petition



**Click here to sign  
our Petition  
promoting  
Peace in Darfur**



**darfur australia network**

