

DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE

Standing in Solidarity with our Sudanese Brothers and Sisters and Children

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FORMER SENATE MAJORITY LEADER DR. BILL FRIST TAKES BATON

“Situation is an affront to our humanity: We will not give up until peace comes to Darfur”

Nashville, TN — Today, Senator Bill Frist, M.D. joined the DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE in solidarity with the 1.1 million refugees who are fighting for their lives after Sudanese President Bashir banned 13 humanitarian aid organizations in March 2009. He will fast by drinking only water on August 14, August 19 and August 21. Kicked off by Mia Farrow on April 27, 2009, the DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE represents a continuous chain of fasters in over 30 countries around the world to protest the suffering in Darfur.

Senator Frist follows a line of other high profile fasters including Actress-Activist Mia Farrow, Virgin CEO Sir Richard Branson, Recording Artist Peter Gabriel, Recording Artist Jon Foreman, Olympic Swimming Champion Josh Davis, U.S. Representative Donald Payne and U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, U.S. Representative Donna Edwards, U.S. Representative Gwen Moore and others. His blog posts will be available at www.fastdarfur.org.

Said Senator Frist “I fast to send a message to fellow leaders, fasters and activists that we must definitively address the cause of the ongoing violence and persecution in Darfur. It is an affront to our compassion, our decency and our very humanity that the government of Sudan has put racism, political and financial interests ahead of its people. I want the refugees in Darfur to know they are not forgotten and that we will not give up until we see peace come to our Sudanese brothers, sisters and children.”

Senator Frist is a longtime advocate for global health policy, economic development in low-income countries, health care disparities, medical mission work in Sudan, ending the genocide in Darfur, the health of the mountain gorilla, and HIV/AIDS. He both introduced and broke a deadlocked congress to negotiate and finalize the Sudan Peace Act to be signed into law October 21, 2002. As Senate Majority Leader, he brought the bill to the floor that called the atrocities of Darfur “genocide,” against the wishes of the administration.

In addition, Senator Frist leads annual medical mission trips to Africa and is chair of Save the Children’s “Survive to Five Campaign” as well as the Nashville-based Hope Through Healing Hands (www.hopethroughhealinghands.org), which places global health leaders in underserved areas around the world. He also sits on the board of the Kaiser Family Foundation, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Africare, and the U.S. Holocaust Museum’s Committee on Conscience.

DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE | We are leaders, activists and citizens around the world who fast in solidarity with the people of Darfur because they do not have a choice. We fast as a personal expression of outrage at a world that has allowed the suffering of millions of innocent people. We fast because as we simply watched, Darfur’s defenseless people were forced into wretched camps where today they are facing starvation and disease. We fast because those in positions of authority who know what is right and just, could and should do more to alleviate their suffering and bring peace, protection, and justice to the people of Sudan. We fast for Darfur’s courageous people —because we yearn for a world where human rights are respected and a life of dignity is the legacy for every man, woman and child.

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