

DARFUR FAST FOR LIFE

Standing in Solidarity with our Sudanese Brothers and Sisters and Children

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ACTRESS - ACTIVIST MIA FARROW STOPS FAST DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS— SIR RICHARD BRANSON TO TAKE OVER

Washington, D.C.— Activist - actress Mia Farrow announced today that she will stop fasting due to health concerns. Farrow was advised by her physician that further participation would pose serious health threats, including possible seizures. Farrow began her water-only fast in on April 27, 1009 as a personal expression of outrage for the world's inaction to the genocide.

Said Farrow, "I have been instructed by my doctor to stop my fast immediately, due to serious health concerns—including possible seizures at any time. I am fortunate. The women, children, and men I am fasting for do not have that option."

Farrow continued, "When beginning this fast, 12 days ago, I said that when I could go no longer, I prayed another would take my place, and another, and another, until the expelled humanitarian agencies are readmitted and there is finally justice and peace for the people of Darfur. Hundreds people around the world have joined me in fasting, and I am humbled by the outpour of support for the cause and mission of this fast."

Virgin Chairman and CEO Sir Richard Branson had been asked by Mia to take over the fast starting next week, but he has also now asked Mia to stop and he is going to start his three day fast today to continue to ask world leaders to take immediate action and demand that international aid is restored. Upon hearing of Farrow's health situation, immediately said, "Stop. I have started fasting."

Mia Farrow has long been committed to the people of Darfur. Over the last 12 days Farrow has been fasting on only liquids in order to raise awareness for the horrible crisis unfolding in Darfur with the removal of 13 international aid agencies. Mia's health has taken a downturn over the last couple days and her doctor has asked her to stop immediately.

Said Branson, "I'm honored to be taking over the fast for the next three days from Mia Farrow in her courageous stance to support the people of Darfur. Over a year and a half ago, I traveled to Darfur and was horrified by the stories that people of all ages shared with us. Young children had watched their entire family get killed and then had to survive on their own in unimaginable conditions. I was humbled and inspired by the courage of the Darfuri people and the commitment of the aid organizations that were working on the frontlines. Now, with 13 aid organizations expelled from the country, over 1million people are at grave risk and millions of others are in dire need of basic aid. We cannot stand and watch as they suffer. We all need to stand up and demand that international aid is restored and that the people of Darfur are protected and given the chance to live in peace."

Richard Branson and others will continue to provide video and blog posts throughout the Darfur Fast for Life at www.fastdarfur.org.

The 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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