

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Sudan:

Thousands to demonstrate worldwide in fifth Global Day for Darfur

On Sunday, 13 April, tens of thousands of activists worldwide will demonstrate on behalf of the children of Darfur on the occasion of the fifth global Day for Darfur.

“A generation of Darfuris is growing up in fear and insecurity,” said Amnesty International. “This month, children in Darfur reaching their fifth birthdays will have never known peace.”

Demonstrations, exhibitions, public conferences and other events will take place in countries ranging from United Kingdom, Canada, United States, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden Hungary, Spain to Mali, Tunisia, Senegal, Mexico and Australia.

Activists will call on all parties to the conflict to stop attacking civilians. They will also call on UN and African Union (AU) member states to ensure that the UNAMID peacekeeping force is fully and completely deployed without further delay, and that it is promptly provided with adequate ground and air transport equipment. In addition, UNAMID must actively protect all civilians and especially children.

Of the four million people affected by the conflict in Darfur, 1.8 million are under the age of 18. Since April 2006, the conflict has created 120,000 newly displaced children.

In February 2008, Sudanese forces and government-backed militias attacked villages in West Darfur. Children were separated from their parents as they fled to the bush; two weeks after the attacks UNICEF said that 800 were still missing.

“So many children have reached school age knowing only a lifetime of war and fear -- five years in which the international community has failed to respond adequately to the scale of the crisis engulfing the region and protect children,” said Amnesty International. “The international community must act now to give the children of Darfur hope and a future.”

Details:

[sections -- please insert details of your event]

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