

DNC Speech at Ditto Art Gallery August 25, 2008

Good evening, and welcome to the opening of Exhibit Darfur in the Mile High City, graciously presented by Ditto Art Gallery.

Our names are Dani Fried, representing Cherry Creek High School, and Yael Kornfeld, representing Herzl RMHA at the Denver Campus for Jewish Education. We are students from "Change the world. It just takes cents"™.

"Change the world. It just takes cents" is the only interdisciplinary, interactive, educational initiative driven by middle and high school students from 20 schools in the in Denver metro area.

As 1st and 2nd generation members of this initiative, we have had the opportunity with our classmates to develop a better understanding of the meaning of the Hebrew Term – Tikkun Olam – a phrase meaning "repairing the world", which has come to signify social action and the pursuit of social justice.

Over the past 3 years, we have extensively studied the background to the Darfur genocide. This has resulted in our formulating, together with our peers, a campaign to "do

something". To date, we have raised \$26,000 help rebuild the D-Kaire school in Korma, Darfur.

Our current fundraising efforts benefit Darfuri refugees seeking a safe haven in Israel as well as those who have settled in Colorado.

BUT our work is not yet done.

We continue to write letters to local, national and international political leaders, activists, celebrities and the media.

We speak out – loudly and clearly - at every opportunity.

We meet and hear the pleas of Sudanese refugees to stop the genocide, and keep the fire burning nationwide by collaborating with initiatives such as “Tents of Hope”, Amnesty International, Genocide Intervention Network, Darfur Alert, Save Darfur, and the CCGAA ...just to name a few..

We organize student forums, at which Adam Sterling from Genocide Intervention Network was prominently featured, so that our fellow students can join us in making the " necessary noise".

Our latest initiative is the formation of a Denver metro student activities council which boasts membership from as far as Colorado Springs and Fort Collins, to organize future student awareness educational and fundraising projects.

One of the memorable achievements of the first generation group of “Change the World It just takes cents”™ was learning about the political process surrounding the call for divestment.

The highlight of that experience was standing alongside Governor Ritter as he signed the Colorado Divestment Bill into law.

We represented the Darfuri youth as runners in The Dream for Darfur rally and in the Olympic Torch Relay, Denver's and Colorado Springs' Torch Rallies denouncing China's involvement in Sudan.

This year we have been invited to Whitwell, Tennessee to re-dedicate the Children's Holocaust memorial and are also invited to present a workshop on student activism at the upcoming Tents of Hope Ingathering of the Tents on the Washington DC Mall in November, 2008.

In the immediate aftermath of the Beijing Olympics, whose theme was “One world. One Dream”, we dream for world peace and unity.

Our voice, together with yours, clearly says,

“we refuse to be silent and refuse to endorse China's continued economic support of Sudan.”

The Olympic five ring logo represents five continents participating in the Olympic; each interconnected ring symbolizing the friendship gained from these international competitions. The African continent's circle lies open , and alone.

“One world One Dream”

The Olympic Dream Torch for Darfur is a symbol created to draw the world's attention to China's silence and as a rallying cry to **end this 21st Century genocide**

“One world One Dream”

For us, the Olympic Torch symbolizes a link between people and places, as well as a message of universal peace, unity and friendship.

For us... The torch represents the light which happy and secure children bring to the world.

At a recent Denver community event, John Dau a Lost Boy of Sudan said,

“ despite the hardship and atrocities we suffered, **we never gave up.**”

So, ... **we** will not give up.

As Americans, we have the freedom to pursue courses of action of our own choosing.

We are young.

We care and choose to work towards creating a future for our counterparts in Sudan filled with hope, security and equal opportunities.

We choose to continue to raise community awareness about the Darfur crisis.

We choose to make a difference in some way.

We choose to stand up and be the voice of the children of Darfur, who are entitled to the security of parents and a home, three meals a day and an education.

We choose to send a strong message to China and the world.

We choose to say, together with you, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Darfur is a genocide we, together, can stop.

Thank you in anticipation of your support of **Applying Pressure for Peace.**