

Asher Kaye-Herzl/RMHA

Good evening Mr. Prendergast and welcome to the Mile High City.

My name is Asher Kaye, a grade 8 student at Herzl RMHA at the Denver Campus for Jewish Education.

"Change the world. It just takes cents" is an interdisciplinary interactive educational initiative driven by the grade 8 students' at our school. As a 2nd generation member of this initiative I have had the opportunity with my classmates to better understand 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.

We have studied the background to the Darfur genocide, and continue the work of the students who, last year, launched this initiative and raised \$26,000 to help rebuild the D-Kaire school in Korma, Darfur.

Their work, like yours, is not yet done... so we 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”.

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. A highlight of that learning experience was standing alongside Governor Ritter as he signed the Colorado Divestment Bill into law. We, in turn, will be representing the Darfuri youth as runners in The Dream for Darfur; US Olympic Torch Relay, Denver's upcoming Torch Rally denouncing China's involvement in Sudan.

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 stand up for the children of Darfur.

Like us, they are entitled to the security of parents and a home, three meals a day and an education.

We choose to be their voice and clearly state, together with you and other activists, Enough is Enough!

With this in mind I wish to pose the following question:

Having heard the recent news from Darfur, that the rebel forces fatally attacked some humanitarian aid workers and peacekeepers, as recently as October 2, 2007, what do you see as a solution to this new turn of violence in Darfur?