

## **Although my name is Tally Ritter and I have a recognizable last name, I am just a regular kid....**

I have the same responsibility as all of you....

I am just like my Darfuri counterparts who don't enjoy the same privileges we here enjoy....

So....What I can do to demonstrate I care and want to make a difference in their lives...

### **Advocacy is all about action.**

It's about speaking out, in person or as a group, to all who will listen

There are many ways to make our opinions known.

The important thing is to be like NIKE – Just Do It

Like everything in life there is a process

Choose the method that is most comfortable and works for you.

### **Begin by doing your homework**

**Look Listen and Learn – become well informed about the issue!**

- **Develop** a thorough understanding of what genocide is – past and present
- **Research** and get to **know what's happening** in Darfur through the use of official reports, news articles, the internet, attend presentations, rallies, films, exhibitions, and discussions
- **Ascertain** who the players are ...  
the victim, the perpetrator, the bystander, the upstander

**Find out who is in the know** – locally and internationally

- **determine** how they can be of help in your endeavor
- **when** it is enough and when to give up
- **what** are the alternatives

**Be in Contact with local and national organizations** helping Darfur

There are many - Humanitarian Aid organizations, NGO's , Religious Institutions Educational Institutions, Museums and Art Galleries working towards setting things right for the oppressed and victimized people of Sudan and other areas in the world.

Also be aware of what **individuals and celebrities are doing to raise awareness of genocide and world issues ...keep an eye on** Stage & film celebrities, Athletes, Musicians, radio and television personalities, politico's, people in medical and legal fields

Connect with - **ANYONE** who will listen and support action

It's as simple as 1-2-3-

### **The written word is very powerful.**

Letters, faxes, and emails are all valuable ways of communicating with legislators — but emails are a more effective way to get the message across when time is of the essence Congressional staffers read, log, and report on input they receive, especially from constituents.

In this manner we know our voice is being heard.

## **The spoken word is just as powerful.**

Everyone has a cell phone – use it effectively

For immediate action call 1-800- GENOCIDE

1-800-GENOCIDE is an anti-genocide hotline. It allows you to be connected directly to your state representative or senator as well as to the White House. You can then speak with one of the aforementioned individuals and send them your guided message about the genocide in Darfur. The hotline gives you some up-to-date information about the situation in Darfur so you can inform your officials regarding how they can help

One time the students of “Change the world. It just takes cents”™ called this number when we heard that Alghali Shigefat, our dear friend Suad Mansour’s brother and the head of the Journalists’ Association in Darfur, was arrested. He was unjustly taken away on May 14, 2008 as part of a lawyer and journalist sweep carried out by the Sudanese government in Khartoum after a rebel uprising in Omdurman. The students were not going to sit by as he; along with many others were suffering. Each day, every student made a phone call to their representatives or our President, dialing 1-800-GENOCIDE, informing the officials they spoke to about the arrest of Shigefat as well as asking them to take action to free him. The calls took no more than five minutes. The students spoke to each official: representatives, senators and the White House and generally said the same thing to each official: “Hello, my name is so-and-so and I am from Denver, Colorado. I would like to inform you about the arrest of Alghali Shigefat who was arrested on May fourteenth of this year in Khartoum. Please do whatever is in your control to free Alghali Shigefat and the others involved in the arrest. Thank you.”

It was a simple process that took a relatively short amount of time, but in the end, it resulted in Alghali Shigefat’s being freed. Shigefat was released in July, 2008 and interviewed regarding his experiences in an American governmental office in Khartoum shortly thereafter. The American government knew of the US public’s concern for Alghali, largely because of the numerous 1-800-GENOCIDE calls made on his behalf.

Making the call is very simple ....watch this ...

( pull out cell phone and demonstrate – ask audience to do with you)

(Sara, we have to insert something here for her to say.....bullets below is too much ...this is where we can put something about the arrests...)

- ◆ *Have a clear, focused purpose for your action.*
- ◆ *Be specific about what you want to achieve. What do you want your senator, representative, or other public official to do?*
- ◆ *Use the facts.*
- ◆ *Always identify yourself*
- ◆ *Be polite and let them know how upset you are about the issue*
- ◆ *Address one issue at a time.*
- ◆ *Be concise and accurate*

*Over 18 – Communicate as a constituent. Show the legislator or official specifically how his or her constituency is affected by or concerned about the issue.*

**DIVESTMENT from Sudan is a way our country can put economic pressure on the Sudanese government.**

Khartoum relies on foreign revenue – from OIL.

The revenue from oil allows for the purchase of weapons used to perpetrate the genocide in Darfur

*I can proudly say that my father, Governor Bill Ritter signed the Colorado Divestment Bill into law in May ,2007.*

**Creatively Fundraise and Donate Funds** that are vital to support the destitute victims presently living in abject poverty in Refugee Camps.

Please remember **all** donations **must** be made through **legitimate** humanitarian aid organizations.

Our dollars can help them provide the much needed Shelter, Food, Education, Medical treatment and Security.

If we do not support bringing and end to violence, genocide, terrorism – the situation will only get worse. Every action has a result. If we fail to act, then we never know what that result could be. In the words of anthropologist Margaret Mead, " Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

We have the power.... even though we're all just ordinary people

Join me on my quest to Stand up for those who today have no voice.

Thank you