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Boston Mobilizes for Victims of Darfur

All Proceeds of April 22nd Event to Benefit

CARE and Doctors Without Borders

Boston, MA (February 22, 2007) Academics, professionals, human rights activists, politicians, artists, musicians and ordinary citizens will join together at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on April 22, 2007, to raise money for organizations providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by the crisis in Darfur: CARE and Doctors Without Borders. The goal of this event will be to enlighten attendees as well as entertain them. The evening will include leading speakers on the crisis in Darfur, photography, film, music, dance, art, poetry, food and drink, and a silent auction. Individuals and organizations as diverse as Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. John Kerry, Gov. Deval Patrick, Rep. Barney Frank, Rep. Mike Capuano, Jane Pauley, Samantha Power, Gloria White-Hammond, Liz Walker, Nicolas de Torrenté, Panther Alier, The Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur, the Berklee College of Music, some of Boston's leading law firms, environmental consulting firms, banks and other businesses are joining efforts to focus the spotlight on the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today: Darfur.

The April event will take place at the Royal Sonesta-Boston, on April 22nd. Starting at 7:00 pm, tickets are available for a minimum suggested donation of \$100.00. attendees can also participate in the pre-event reception which starts at 6:30 pm for a minimum suggested donation of \$250.00. For more information, to buy tickets, to become an event sponsor or to volunteer please go to: www.bostonnightfordarfur.com.

The crisis in the western region of Sudan erupted in early 2003. Since that time, the fighting has killed hundreds of thousands of people and more die every day. The conflict has displaced more than 2 million people, most escaping to larger towns where they must live in overcrowded and often dangerous camps for "internally displaced people." Other refugees have escaped to similar camps across the border in Chad, an area that is becoming part of the conflict. Attacks on civilians have been brutal, with massive killing, rape, torture, and displacement. In the past year, aid workers have increasingly become the targets of criminally and politically motivated attacks.

Increased insecurity, combined with decreased international aid, is adding to the misery of the population. In addition, disease and violence remain a daily fact of life for the millions who have been displaced since the beginning of the conflict in 2003. Today, most are entirely reliant on the dwindling external humanitarian aid.

A stark summary of the human toll:

- Between 250,000 and 400,000 men, women and children killed since 2003;
- More than 2 million displaced people in Darfur;
- More than 200,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad;
- 3.5 million conflict-affected people in need of humanitarian assistance-half the population of Massachusetts.

The event will include:

- **Speakers** – Experts on the political and humanitarian issues will bring the guests up to speed on the latest developments in Darfur; government officials will explain the political issues; and survivors will convey their personal stories.
- **Photography / Video** – A large screen will display images of the crisis in the region, which will reinforce the messages of the speakers.
- **Silent and Online Auction** – Items will be available for purchase through a silent auction. This will include paintings, sculpture, as well as electronics and other items of interest.
- **Music / Dance** – Performers from the Berklee College of Music and traditional African musicians will perform. It is expected that other performers will be announced as the event draws closer.
- **Food / Drink** – Gourmet appetizers and a variety of beverages will be available.

Commitments from the sponsors supporting the event to date more than cover the anticipated costs of the event. Therefore 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales and the silent/on-line auction will go directly to CARE and Doctors Without Borders.

CARE delivers life-saving assistance to more than 400,000 people in Darfur each month by providing food, water and sanitation services; distributing essential items such as blankets, soap, sleeping mats and buckets to agencies working throughout the region; creating opportunities for people to generate income; and leading efforts to promote community peace-building in the Kass and Mukjar areas and prevent gender-based violence in the camps. In Chad, CARE provides services to more than 71,000 refugees.

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an independent international medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters in more than 70 countries. MSF has been running projects in Darfur since early 2004 and today has over 2,000 staff working in 17 locations in Darfur providing emergency medical care, food aid, and water and sanitation support to people displaced by the conflict. In Chad, MSF is providing medical care and other services for over 80,000 refugees from Darfur in several locations.

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