

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR SUDAN

1. WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE

Every time Valentino and Dave talk to experts on U.S. policy on Sudan, they ask what citizens can do to help. These experts always insist that one of the best things is to write a letter—an actual, personalized letter—insisting that this representative or senator do something about the genocide in Darfur, and about the gross misconduct of the Sudanese government in Khartoum. Remember that in 2005, the U.S. brought to bear great influence in brokering the peace between the north (Khartoum) and the south (the Sudan People's Liberation Army). When the U.S. wants to influence the Sudanese government, they surely have the power to do so. You can find out what your representatives have or haven't done on Darfur by checking their individual records at www.darfurscores.org. After writing a letter, call 1-800-GENOCIDE. This free hotline will connect you to your governor, your senator, or directly to the White House switchboard. For some ideas of what to say to your elected officials, read on.

2. TELL THE U.S. THAT TRADING INFORMATION FOR DARFURIS IS UNACCEPTABLE

Many experts believe one of the primary reasons Washington is failing to do much about Darfur is due to Khartoum's help in their War on Terror. To back up: In the 1990s, Osama bin Laden spent six years in Khartoum, being hosted by Sudanese government as he built his network of terror. In the late 1990s, after the bombings of American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, the U.S. pressured Sudan to expel bin Laden. They did so. (Again, the U.S. can have great influence when they want to.) After 9/11, the Khartoum government became a partner in the War on Terror by providing information on suspected terrorists who had worked with bin Laden. Now, because the Sudanese have proven themselves useful, many experts believe that the Bush administration is loath to push Khartoum too hard on the genocide in Darfur, lest they cease to be helpful in the War on Terror. These same experts believe strongly that the U.S. need not be so timid. The U.S. must pressure Khartoum without fear of losing a partner in intelligence. And even if they do lose this partner, trading the lives of Darfuris is not worth whatever bits of information we're able to glean from Khartoum's intelligence.

3. SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT SUDAN

A number of organizations are working for peace in Sudan. This is by no means a complete list, but these organizations have assisted Valentino and Dave during their trips to Sudan, so we'll start with them:

Save the Children has been instrumental in aiding Sudanese who suffered during the civil war, and in bringing slaves and abductees back to their villages of origin.
www.savethechildren.org

Concern brings food and supplies to war-ravaged areas. Their work in Sudan focuses on nutrition, water sanitation, and shelter for people affected by the war.
www.concern.net

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) maintained the refugee camps at Pinyudo and Kakuma, where Valentino spent many years. The agency helps refugees return to southern Sudan, and makes the reintegration process a safe and sustainable one.
www.unhcr.org

International Crisis Group is a worldwide think tank that monitors, analyzes, and suggests solutions to conflicts and humanitarian crises around the world. Home of John Prendergast, one of the foremost American experts on Sudan, we believe that ICG's work on Sudan is crucial.
www.crisisgroup.org

4. SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS LOBBYING FOR AN END TO GENOCIDE IN SUDAN

Just a few of these organizations:

ENOUGH Project seeks to unite the efforts of grassroots activists, policy makers, and advocates by giving up-to-date information from Darfur and other crisis zones, and offering practical pressure points to end the violence.
www.enoughproject.org

Save Darfur Coalition includes more than 170 organizations working toward more international involvement in combating the killing in Darfur, raising awareness in the media, and directing pressure toward policy makers.
www.savedarfur.org

Genocide Intervention Network supports African Union peacekeepers currently on the ground in Sudan by channeling private donations into the resources they need and catalyzing government support for peacekeepers. GI-Net also hosts the 1-800-GENOCIDE hotline.
www.genocideintervention.net

5. SUPPORT THE VALENTINO ACHAK DENG FOUNDATION

Valentino created a new foundation to direct income from *What Is the What* and to raise support for the following projects:

- **The Educational Center of Marial Bai:** Valentino returned to Marial Bai in early 2008 to begin construction on a large complex consisting of a secondary school, a teachers' training college, a public library, sports facilities, and a community center. Special emphasis will be placed on women's education (where school for girls and women is discouraged), vocational training (in a region where most adults only go to primary school), and youth activities (where youths can learn leadership and conflict-resolution skills while also enjoying sports, crafts, and other constructive activities).

- **College educations of Sudanese students in America:** As can be seen in Valentino's life, even with support networks, it's very difficult for Sudanese immigrants in America to attain college educations. Valentino intends to give as many college scholarships as his foundation can sustain.

To make a donation to the Valentino Achak Deng Foundation, please use the form below. You can also donate online by visiting www.valentinoachakdeng.org.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about other ways you can support Valentino's foundation, please send us an email at info@valentinoachakdeng.org.

6. SUPPORT SUDANESE COMMUNITIES IN YOUR REGION

There are Sudanese all over the United States, and it doesn't take long to find a community near you. Rest assured that communities of Sudanese exiles and refugees can use your help—financially, logistically, and with the many other adjustments to life in the United States.

7. SUPPORT DIVESTMENT EFFORTS

The Sudan Divestment Task Force is coordinating dozens of "targeted divestment" campaigns around the world. Their approach maximizes impact on the Sudanese government while protecting civilians and the organizations that provide for them. U.S.-based pension funds have more than \$90 billion invested in Sudan-related holdings, so the potential impact is significant. Many states have adopted the targeted divestment model; legislation is pending in others. You can help by examining your own investments using the Task Force's screening tool, joining a campaign, or starting a new one if none exists where live.

www.sudandivestment.org

8. SUPPORT THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN

According to the peace agreement between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, in 2011 the south can vote to secede from the north and become an autonomous country. This is the course favored by

most southern Sudanese, but in order for it to happen the international community must pressure Khartoum. If the current course continues, whereby the world stands idly by as Darfur is annihilated, there will be little chance that the Sudanese government will allow southern Sudan to secede. Already the south is preparing for another civil war. But it doesn't have to be this way. If the world supports southern Sudan during this critical time, their nascent government will strengthen and Khartoum will find it difficult to violate their agreement.

9. PRESS FOR PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE REGIME

The same government prosecuting the genocide in Sudan is the one that was primarily responsible for two million deaths in southern Sudan. How long are we going to allow this to occur without imposing some kind of cost? In your letters to members of Congress, you should demand that they support targeted sanctions on senior Sudanese officials and their businesses, and demand that the U.S. declassifies and shares its intelligence with the International Criminal Court to accelerate indictments against those officials and janjaweed militias.

10. JOIN AN ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

Here are just a few:

For students: With over 600 college and high-school chapters, STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) is one of the largest grassroots efforts against the genocide in Darfur. www.standnow.org

For communities: Local groups play a critical role in pushing for action in Sudan. Save Darfur helps you find community organizations in your area or start your own group. www.savedarfur.org/page/group

For congregations: If you belong to a church, synagogue, mosque, or temple, get your community involved in Sudan advocacy. Tell your representatives that this issue is important to your congregation as voters and as people of faith. The Save Darfur Congregational Network offers Faith Action Packs with specific resources for faith-based organizations. www.savedarfur.org/pages/organize_your_congregation

THE VALENTINO ACHAK DENG FOUNDATION

All proceeds from *What Is the What* go to aiding the Sudanese in America and Sudan by providing better educational opportunities. In Sudan, Valentino is building an educational center in his village of Marial Bai. In America, he will help Sudanese students attend college by providing scholarships. As the Foundation grows and its projects develop, it will largely depend on fundraising to achieve and sustain its goals. With support from contributors, the Foundation can become a permanent partner in creating educational opportunities for the people of southern Sudan.

To make a donation online, please visit www.valentinoachakdeng.org. Or, send a check along with this form:

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

Mail to: The Valentino Achak Deng Foundation, 849 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110