

On 10 April 2010, the eve of Sudan's elections, communities around the world will hold events to ensure that elections do not become a flashpoint for violence and rights violations. The events form part of the Sudan 365 global campaign -- highlighting the need for urgent international attention for Sudan in this critical year. In the past week, several opposition party candidates have withdrawn over serious concerns for the potential for free and fair elections, and ongoing widespread restrictions on fundamental human rights such as the freedom of expression and association.

Renewed international attention must be focused on this important juncture in Sudan's history to ensure that the international community's engagement with Sudan is not "business as usual". This is a critical moment for Sudan. The stakes have been exemplified through the tenuous environment for political opposition members and their supporters, recent attacks on the Jebel Marra region of Darfur, and ongoing insecurity in South Sudan. International support for free and fair elections and engagement with the respective stakeholders for the 2011 referendum for Southern self-determination is imperative.

**Event details for New York City are:**

*Organizers:* New York City Coalition to Save Darfur, STAND, UBUNTU: Students for a World without Genocide, the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, and the International Refugee Rights Initiative

*Location:* Union Square, South End

*Date:* 10 April 2010

*Time:* 12:00-2:00 PM

**About Sudan 365:**

Sudan 365 is a global campaign organized by the Darfur Consortium, Amnesty International, the Arab Coalition for Darfur, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Enough Project, FIDH, Human Rights Watch, Italians for Darfur, Refugees International, IKV Pax Christi, Sudan Forum Norway, and the Save Darfur Coalition. The first global drumbeat for peace was held on 9 January 2010, exactly 365 days before the 2011 referendum, in locations around the world to demand that their governments take action to prevent a new wave of violence between the North and South.

Become a fan of the Sudan365: A Beat for Peace Facebook page via the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?v=info&ref=ts&gid=243877421544>.

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