



Africa Action Student Network (AASN)

THE AASN Barua

Issue I, November 2006



Welcome to the first issue of the AASN *Barua!* The word “barua” in Swahili means a testimonial or special letter. The AASN would like to share this testimonial of all the exciting things taking place on college campuses nationwide and to invite you to join us! This is a quarterly newsletter that reports on the numerous actions taking place across the country that highlight Africa’s debt burden, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and the Darfur genocide. The AASN focuses on African issues, but it is made up of a diverse network of student-led organizations that each focus on

several global and local social, political, and economic issues. **If you would like to add your organization to the AASN or organize an action or event on debt, HIV/AIDS, or Darfur on your campus, please email mobilize@africaaction.org. Join the AASN listserv on www.yahogroups.com and the AASN facebook page on www.facebook.com.** For more information on Africa Action’s three campaigns, visit www.africaaction.org.

Africa Action Highlights!

Darfur

Africa Action recently launched a new 90-day strategy to continue to escalate pressure on the U.S. administration to use its power to stop the ongoing genocide. **You can join the movement** by participating in numerous actions. One way you can join nationwide activism is by **creating a canvas of red handprints** similar to the one we created on September 9th at our rally at the White House. If you send us the canvas by December 4, 2006 we can include it in our delivery to Andrew Natsios, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan. Other activities include asking top U.S. officials the most pressing questions by **Bird Dogging**, or organizing a **“Sprint for Darfur: Boots on the Ground Now!”** To find more ways you can get active, [click here](#) to read our latest strategy, **“A Time to Act: Moving Beyond Words to Action to Protect Darfur Now.”** In addition, Africa Action released a statement this month, **“Africa Action Stands with African Voices Calling for International Intervention in Darfur”**; [click here](#) to read it.

Debt

This summer, Africa Action launched the “Spotlight on Debt” series each featuring case studies of African countries with massive illegitimate debt burdens and the presenting argument for cancellation. [Click here](#) to read the first spotlight on the Ivory Coast. After Norway cancelled \$80 million dollars of debt owed to its government, Africa Action called on the World Bank to cancel Liberia’s debt while President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf visited our nation’s capital this month. To read the full press release, [click here](#). Visit our activist toolkit [here](#) to find ways that you can join our Campaign to Cancel Africa’s Debt.

Debt Fact: While more than 80 million Nigerians live on less than \$1 per day, in 2005 Nigeria agreed to pay over \$12 billion to the Paris Club of creditors in exchange for partial debt cancellation.

HIV/AIDS

This summer, Africa Action hosted an **HIV/AIDS Summer Film Festival**, cosponsored by the Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC). Guest panelists included Academy for Educational Development filmmaker Natalie Halpern, Asheber Gebru from the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Healy Thompson from the Center for Health & Gender Equity, and more. [Click here](#) to see the flyer for the event. **Visit our activist toolkit if you would like to host an HIV/AIDS film festival or become active on the Campaign to End HIV/AIDS in Africa on your campus.** [Click here](#) to find out how to organize an event and to take a look at our HIV/AIDS film guide. Visit www.africaaction.org to find out how you can join us in our Washington, DC activities on **World AIDS Day December 1, 2006**. Also, in light of the second United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) held this year, Africa Action released [UNGASS Meets Again, How is the World Tackling the HIV/AIDS Pandemic?](#)

JOIN THE AASN FACEBOOK PAGE! Weigh in on this month's Discussion Topic:

Is Hip-Hop an import of African American culture to the continent? Or a return to African roots?

Featured AASN Activism

SEPTEMBER

Africa Action Rally at the White House & TX Capitol

Two Years, Too Many!

Activists of all ages from around the country gathered on September 9th at the White House and TX Capitol in Austin to mark two years since the United States declared the ongoing violence in Darfur to be genocide. Under international law, this recognition warrants action. The aim of the rally was to demand the deployment of UN peacekeepers to Darfur.

Speakers at the Washington Dc event included Fatima Haroun from the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, John Prendergast from the International Crisis Group, Cris Kirk from the NAACP, and more. The crowd included a significant number of student activists, who expressed their disappointment in the U.S. government's lack of action in the face of international human rights violations. For pictures and more on the event, [click here](#).

Students groups in attendance included Amnesty International from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, the International Students Organization from Morgan State University, the Graduate African Studies Association from Howard University, the American Medical Students Association, STAND, & Bluffton University.

OCTOBER

National Call-in Day for Darfur

10/24/06 12:00pm (Eastern Time)

The Amnesty International Chapter at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington joined Africa Action, Darfur Rehabilitation Project, American Jewish World Service, and the Genocide Intervention Network in the National Call-in Day for Darfur. To

AASN Steering Committee 2006-2007

Contact a Steering Committee Member in your Area to Get Involved!

Midwest

[Michael Stulman](#), Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH
[Assiatou Diallo](#), Oberlin College Oberlin, OH

Great Lakes

[Rumbidzai Sithole](#), The College of St. Scholastia, MN

Southeast

[Anyango Reggy](#), Howard University, Washington, DC
[Esker Copeland](#), Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA

Northeast

[Lonzen Rugira](#), Howard University, Washington, DC
[Lauren Edwards](#), Howard University, Washington, DC



see the flyer for this event, click on the following link:
http://www.africaaction.org/campaign_new/docs/callinflyer2.pdf

NOVEMBER

Darfur Panel Discussion

11/01/06 2:30pm (Eastern Time)

The International Students Organization and the Africa Faith and Justice Network at Trinity University held a discussion on the Darfur Crisis. Panelists included Africa Action, John Prendergast with The International Crisis Group and more.

Contact: khrysl13@hotmail.com

Darfur Film & Panel Discussion

11/6/06 6:30pm (Eastern Time)

Africa Action held an *Evening for Darfur: Panel Discussion and Film Showing* at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA. The African Diaspora & the World Department, African Students Association, Morehouse College SGA, STAND, and Religious Heritage of the African World were cosponsors of the event. For more information visit the following link: <http://www.africaaction.org/docs/SpelmanCollege2.pdf>.

Contact: mobilize@africaaction.org

11/30/06 Africa Action HIV/AIDS Fundraiser

Support Africa Action on the eve of World AIDS Day! Visit www.africaaction.org for more details.

DECEMBER

12/01/06 World AIDS Day!

World AIDS Day Rally, White House (Lafayette Park) 2:45pm

Join Africa Action, Global Justice, the Student Global AIDS Campaign and others to let your voice be heard! Advocate for full funding for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, & Malaria and more. For more information visit www.fightglobalaids.org/action/dc2006.

Contact: mobilize@africaaction.org

CAAFE, Howard University

Time/Location: TBD

"A Night of Solidarity"

Contact: lonzenr@yahoo.com

If you would like your student organization to be part of the AASN, contact us at mobilize@africaaction.org. If you would like to cosponsor an event in your area, you can contact our regional steering committee member directly.

Please visit our calendar at www.africaaction.org to find out all the events going on around the country. Also, if you would like to join AASN and have your events posted on our web calendar, contact us at mobilize@africaaction.org

Announcements!

AASN would like to send special thanks for all the hard work of our phenomenal brand new Steering Committee for the 2006-2007 academic year. **Keep up the GREAT WORK!**

It is our belief that with the collective voice we can make a difference, join AASN Today!

For more information please visit www.africaaction.org or call (202) 546-7961