

Locals bring symbolic Olympic torch to Central Oregon raising awareness of Darfur

by Sarah J. Stark

BEND — Local students and community members will raise awareness of the situation in Darfur on November 11, 2007 by holding the Central Oregon leg of the symbolic Olympic Dream for Darfur Torch Relay. The Olympic Dream for Darfur torch relay will be visiting more than 20 cities across the United States and several cities around the world. Activists, joined by genocide survivors, athletes, students and local leaders, aim to pressure China to use its unique position to lead the world in bringing an end to the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The pressure is directed toward China as Sudan's chief diplomatic sponsor, major weapons provider, and largest foreign investor and trade partner, as well as host of the 2008 Summer Olympics. On November 8 — 11, 2007 cities around Oregon including Portland, Bend and Eugene will symbolically carry the torch for Darfur. Central Oregon Dream for Darfur is an all-ages event focusing on what is possible: making a positive change in the world. The event will feature Camp Darfur—an interactive refugee simulation camp, speakers, a symbolic torch relay, local music, and a family-friendly art station for creating messages of hope and peace for Darfur. The artwork and messages depicting our "Dream for Darfur" will be hand-delivered to children in refugee camps on the border of Darfur and Chad where they will be displayed in their school. WHO: Central Oregon Dream for Darfur Camp Darfur: an interactive refugee simulation camp from Stop Genocide Now Music from Aliou Diouf, Ubuntu, and others Including local students, non-profits, athletes, leaders, activists, and genocide survivors WHEN: Sunday November 11, 2007 1:00 pm to 5:00pm WHERE: Troy Field Corner of Bond St. and Louisiana Ave. in Downtown Bend, OR

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