

## NEWS RELEASE

### Sudan in Crisis

Thursday 18th June 2009: Sudan Day of Action

**Date: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Time: 11-12.30pm**

**Venue: London Eye and Parliament Square**

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**Baroness Cox** and the **Sudan Action Group** are organising a day of action and a march for Sudan to raise awareness for the desperate plight for the people of Sudan. Millions of lives have been torn apart by war, famine and political unrest and without international diplomatic intervention the country could deteriorate further into anarchy and genocide creating an extremely grave humanitarian crisis. By carrying buckets of water, the march will also focus on the great need for water in Sudan which is essential for peace and stability as well as for life health and education. We are marching from the London Eye to Parliament Square where we will be addressed by members of the All Party Group on Sudan and representatives of the foreign office.

The Sudan Action group is marching in support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development's excellent humanitarian efforts within Sudan. We are urging the British government to keep Sudan a priority to secure peace, to deliver urgent humanitarian aid and prevent further genocide in the war ravaged country. We are also marching to make sure that the British people do not forget the people of Sudan and walking with buckets of water symbolises life, hope and renewal. The march is not political as we seek to unite all supporters for the sake of peace and stability in Sudan.

**Baroness Cox**, organiser and campaigner behind the march said *"I am passionate about Sudan and the people of this country and I have visited this country many times and seen the horrors caused by war and genocide. The British people need to know what is happening in Sudan and the government needs to act before we witness a humanitarian crisis of apocalyptic proportions. This march will give the Sudanese people hope knowing that the British people have not forgotten them."*

**John Barrett** Liberal Democrat MP and active member of the All Party Group on Sudan said about the March, *"The fragile peace in Southern Sudan must not allow policy makers to ignore or forget the humanitarian challenges facing ordinary Sudanese families. Over half of the population have no access to clean drinking water while only a fraction has access to clean sanitation facilities. I commend DFIDs work in the region but in a development landscape of competing priorities marches and demonstration are essential for ensuring the Government's attention does not waver."*

Sudan Action Group consists of British parliamentarians, NGO's and members of the Sudanese Diaspora. The group was established to raise awareness of the desperate humanitarian crisis that exists in Sudan and to encourage the British and Western governments to act to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe to ensure peace, security and prosperity for Sudan's future.

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