



To develop and train leaders so the people of New Sudan can experience the virtues of prosperity, civil rights, and social equality

HTTP://WWW.SUDANLIONS.ORG
1300 WASHINGTON ST.
DENVER, CO
80203

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

From our Executive Director

I would first like to take this opportunity to say thank you to LIONS board members, staff, faculty, and volunteers for your unending support. I must also thank the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies for taking the chance to partner with us, and to Humanity United which provided us with the funding.



Amerlid with former US Rep. to Sudan Roger Winter, LIONS photo

As this newsletter highlights, 2009 was a busy and exciting year for LIONS. It hosted its first leadership course in December 2009 comprised of eight participants who came from all geographical areas of Sudan: South, North, East and West. Immediately, after the course ended, I received many congratulatory letters from friends, and LIONS supporters for the success of the pilot course. But, the thanks go to all of us, including you.

Shortly afterward, LIONS participated in leadership training in coordination with the SPLA Toronto Chapter, arranged by one of our course graduates.

Much is in store for LIONS in 2010: it will conduct several leadership training courses in Sudan as well as here in the United States. To do so, we continue to need your support as we build a vision of New Sudan and democracy.

Best regards,
Mangar G. Amerlid
Founder & Executive Director

Leadership Institute graduates first class



LIONS 2009 Leadership Institute graduates participant in democracy training, LIONS photo

LIONS successfully completed its first Leadership Institute, graduating eight Sudanese students living in Sudan and the Diaspora. Graduates underwent an intensive 3-week training course, Nov.30-Dec. 18, 2009, at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies. The course was taught by faculty and guest lecturers from around the United States and Europe. Students focused on leadership, democracy, and economic development training, with one week focused on each course. In addition to classroom learning, students engaged in experiential learning outside of the classroom and attended evening events focused on pertinent issues to LIONS and the issues of Sudan. Highlights include guest speaker Roger Winter, former US Special Representative to Sudan and Dr. Akec Khoc, Sudan ambassador to the US.

LIONS prepares for Juba leadership class

Following its first successful Leadership Institute, LIONS is preparing for a 10-day intensive course on leadership to be held in Juba, Sudan, at the University of Juba. The course will be held later this Spring.

This course will be open to 30 participants, many of who will come from the SPLM Youth League.

For more information on this upcoming course and how to apply, visit our website at www.sudanlions.org or e-mail info@sudanlions.org.

LIONS partners with DU group

LIONS has partnered with the University of Denver's Students For Africa (SFA). SFA is comprised of roughly 15 graduate students committed to African issues and development. Its advisor, Dr. Peter Van Arsdale, is also the DU advisor to LIONS and has been instrumental in strengthening this relationship. Van Arsdale and SFA members helped LIONS hold its 2009 Leadership Institute, volunteering considerable time and efforts.

LIONS will continue to work closely with SFA and will participate in its April 2010 Symposium "Refugees in Post-Conflict Situations." Stay tuned for more information!

LIONS representative attends GoSS Mission working group

LIONS Board Member Anita Sanborn participated on behalf of LIONS in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) working group at American University in Washington, DC, on January 30, 2010. Approximately 40 people heard presentations from GoSS Mission staff on current priorities. Smaller working groups then utilized this information as a framework to brainstorm possible strategies and actions and each have follow-up actions.

In the area of Advocacy, efforts are needed now to urge every US Senator to back the Feingold, Brownback, Wicker Sudan Resolution that would support full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and other efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan.

The Trade and Investment group considered three focus areas: agriculture; roads, transportation, mobility; and security. Many ideas were generated on how to establish a broader interest group of American investors, businesses, and trade groups.

Leaders in the Diaspora and Sudanese organizations, like LIONS, will be crucial to the implementation and success of these efforts.

LIONS will send further representatives to Washington, DC to participate in additional Sudanese action meetings.

Keep up with LIONS!

LIONS is proud to launch its new website this February at www.sudanlions.org where you can keep up with LIONS events, blog, and happenings.



Graduates with US Rep. to Sudan Roger Winter, LIONS photo

Make sure to join our Facebook Group!
Find us under Leadership Institute of New Sudan!

Former President Carter urges action

By Jimmy Carter

Originally published February 2, 2010, *The New York Times*

One of the most urgent responsibilities the international community faces is in Sudan, which is facing a renewal of nationwide violence. Many accomplishments hang in the balance. The Bush administration helped to orchestrate a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) there in 2005. One of its key provisions is that a referendum will be held in January 2011 in the southern region, so that citizens can decide whether to secede or remain part of a unified nation.



Source: cartercenter.org

Since 2005, combat has largely been restrained, northern troops have pulled out of the south, a national unity government in Khartoum and a regional southern government in Juba has been formed, and oil wealth has been shared. There has been progress on some disputed border areas, and legislation was passed to prepare for April elections -- a critical feature of CPA implementation and part of the longer-term democratic transformation process. If this electoral effort is successful, many of the ethnic groups and political

factions will be involved for the first time in a transparent process, which will be important practice for the southern referendum scheduled for next January.

The Carter Center has been deeply involved in this huge nation for more than 20 years, attempting to negotiate peace between the Islamic government in Khartoum and non-Muslim revolutionaries in the south. During the past year, we have observed a peaceful and surprisingly successful nationwide voter registration that reached 16 million Sudanese, or nearly 80 percent of estimated eligible voters, and the active campaign period is scheduled to begin Feb. 13. We are also training 3,000 local election observers.

But all this progress is in danger of being abandoned. The National Election Commission makes tardy decisions and has inadequate funding and government support, and there is insufficient public education about its actions. There are serious unresolved disputes about exact lines of the border, permanent division of oil wealth and infrastructure, and whether the 2008 census process adequately counted potential voters in the south, Darfur and other areas. The Khartoum government has passed an unacceptably repressive National Security Forces Act, and there has been a recent increase in violent clashes in the south.

We still have great concern about Darfur, where the problem is now general lawlessness instead of the former organized insurgency and brutal responses by government forces and irregular Arab militias. Problems there have been exacerbated by the government's expulsion of aid organizations that are needed to minister to the needs of some 2.7 million displaced people. An atmosphere of impunity also has led to increased attacks on international aid workers and peacekeepers in the past year.

The international community must do more to help ensure successful elections. Our center will be able to deploy 60 observers for the April election. But additional monitors from Africa and the European Union are urgently needed. Indications are that they would be welcomed by the political factions, hopefully without restrictions.

The involvement of the international community will also be vital to help implement the referendum results -- either independence for the south or healing of the internal national divisions that have racked Sudan for a quarter century. (Win or lose, the international legal status of President Omar al-Bashir as an indicted war criminal will not be changed.)

It is almost impossible to imagine the tragedy for Sudan from the resumption of war, which would undoubtedly impact the nine contiguous nations. Perhaps more serious would be the risk of religious antagonisms in a much broader region, with Muslims supporting the northern region against allies of the south. It is crucial that the United Nations and individual countries intercede to ensure the full implementation of the 2005 CPA with aggressive and sustained support for the faltering progress toward peace and democracy.

Former president Jimmy Carter is founder of the nonprofit Carter Center.