

## DWAG Accomplishments August 2016-December 2017

Despite all the daunting challenges, we here at DWAG have worked tirelessly over the last few years to maintain attention to the situation in Darfur and urge our leaders to bring about change. We wanted to share with you some of our outstanding accomplishments during the year.

DWAG has been particularly creative in maximizing our limited resources and man power; accomplishing more with less to maintain the spotlight on Darfur.

Organized: Five Protests/Rallies:

- Protest at the United Nations.
- Hosted protest outside of the Sudanese Embassy in response to al-Bashir's continued impunity
- Hosted a rally in response to the Jebel Marra Bombing
- Hosted a 24-hour hunger strike and rally
- Participated in a protest urging the international law firm Squire, Patton, and Boggs to drop the Sudanese Government as a client.

Held; Five Conferences

- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Women and Genocide in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Case of Darfur
- Set up meetings between women leaders in our network and the United Nations Security Council members and the state parties to the Rome Statute
- Hosted a strategic planning meeting for women's leaders and activists.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Women and Genocide in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Case of Darfur

Implemented: Three Social Media Campaigns

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>: to raise awareness about Bashir's continued impunity
- June 28<sup>th</sup>: to urge others to show their support for Prosecutor Bensouda
- July 12<sup>th</sup>: to raise awareness about Bashir's impunity

Built; Nine More Partnerships

- Two law firms
- Two women's based organization
- Two student's organizations
- Three academic institutions /universities.

Conducted: Eight Speaking Engagements

- Conference on Peace Building & Women and Genocide in Erbil, Kurdistan
- George Mason University, at the center for genocide prevention.
- Panel at the UN during The International Criminal Court's Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda briefing on Darfur
- Georgetown's Center for Women in International Security
- World Refugee Day
- Participated in a forum hosted by STAND (a student-led movement to end mass atrocities)
- Participated at an event held on violence against women hosted by the Independent Diplomat
- Panel at the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly for State Parties to the Rome Statute at the UN

Coordinated and Organized, Four International Advocacies Initiatives

- Global week of action to end genocide in Darfur
- Three letters to the UNSC

- Two letters to the Trump Administration
- Ten letters in collaboration with Bashir Watch denouncing his travels and condemning his impunity.

#### Launched: Four Campaigns

- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign
- Hosted Global Week of Action (a genocide prevention campaign)
- Campaign on July 12-17<sup>th</sup> linking Bashir's indictment and the need for international justice
- Wrote private letters to both the Vice President and President urging them to keep sanctions on Sudan in place
- Launched a petition to urge the US administration to keep sanctions against Sudan in place and created a template for individuals to send to their personal congressman/congresswoman.

#### Secured: Eight Media Coverage Opportunities

- Voice of America Interview, Straight Talk Africa
- Had a "Letter to the Editor" featured in The Guardian
- Letter to the Editor featured in The Guardian
- Three Radio Dabanga interviews
- An interview with Radio Afia

#### Partnerships

- Furthered our role in the Bashir Watch Coalition
- Expanded our outreach to more women's groups across the North East, to include Richmond, Philadelphia, and New Jersey, and the Midwest region
- Our Women Empowering Women network has also grown and has spread to include Kansas, Minnesota, New Hampshire and Maine
- Had six Women Empowering Women network meetings
- Had ten partner meetings
- Hosted 24 diaspora conference calls
- Participated in an international conference

#### On the ground partnerships

- Maintained partnerships with three community based organization operating in Darfur that are facilitating our Women Empowering Women project and education those who reside in IDP Camps
- Consolidated our education for genocide prevention project
- Expanded our Women's Empowerment program

#### Miscellaneous/collaborations and partnership events

- Grown our social media following by over 1000
- Participated in an International Women's Day Event organized by Georgetown University's Women in International Security
- Hosted a fundraiser at Potbelly Sandwich Shop
- Participated in World Refugee Day
- Found four more artists to support our "Artists Empowering Women in Darfur" campaign
- Recruited and work with over 16 more interns and volunteers.

- DWAG has attracted a diverse group of talented interns and volunteers from diverse background at both the local and international level bringing an invaluable contribution to our effort
- Had six meetings with legislators, including many on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to brief them on the situation in Darfur
- Had 17 meetings with UNSC members, other UN agencies and with 17<sup>th</sup> representatives of the state parties to the Rome Statute the ICC
- Facilitated protection for three human rights defenders which helped save their lives
- Our team traveled to the UN headquarters three times for the ICC briefing on Darfur

In September of 2016, we traveled to the United Nations to participate in [a protest outside](#) in response to escalation of violence in Darfur and to pressure the UN assembly to work towards bringing peace to Darfur, the Blue Nile region, and the Nuba Mountains. We demanded justice for all those who have been killed by arresting al-Bashir and transferred to The Hague.

In October 2016, we hosted our annual symposium on “[Women and Genocide in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Case of Darfur](#)”. Our symposium last year was a grand success. It brought diverse speakers from around the world and with distinct expertise. Our symposiums drew a crowd of over 250 people. To read more about our symposium, please click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

At the end of 2016, we joined the online campaign “[16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign](#)”. Throughout these 16 days, we posted stories from survivors, recounting their experience in Darfur. Our focus was to recognize their resilience and leadership, something that is enshrined in DWAG’s core mission. It has also given our supporters the opportunity to see the truth, and realize that the situation in Darfur has not improved, despite what the Sudanese government claims.

During December 2016 and June 2017, DWAG arranged a trip for our team and other members of the Sudanese diaspora, most of whom were women, to attend the ICC periodic briefing at the UN headquarters and meet with the ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. We were also given the opportunity for Niemat to speak in a panel along with the prosecutor. We also participated in a private meeting with the prosecutor to discuss accountability for the situation in Darfur and al-Bashir's impunity.

Throughout January, we helped set up 18 meeting between women in our network and the United Nations Security Council. We also met with around 17 members of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute. In response to United States attempt to lift sanctions, we have created a video message in response to President Obama’s decision to temporarily lift sanctions against Sudan. That was viewed by over 20,000 viewers. You can find the video [here](#). We also continued to work tirelessly to bring awareness to the situation on the ground, drawing attention to the Nertiti Massacre which occurred at the beginning of January. You can read our statement about it [here](#).

In February, we hosted a protest outside of the White House to protest the escalating attacks in Elgenena, West Darfur State. Our protest drew a large crowd and many supporters to our cause. For more photos from this rally, please click [here](#).

We then participated in a protest outside of the Sudanese Embassy in March. This protest was held on the 3rd and aimed to expose the crimes and express our utmost concern at al-Bashir’s continued impunity. We later issued a [statement](#) expressing our concern as well as launched a social media campaign condemning al-Bashir's reminded the international community that Bashir must be held accountable, which many individuals and organizations

showed their support by adding their signatures. Later that month, we met with some of the legislators on the Senate Foreign relations committee and with the Speaker of the House, to bring the situation in Darfur to their attention and convince them to make it into more of a priority.

April was Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month. We worked through the month to raise awareness of the situation in Darfur. We hosted a 24-hour hunger strike and a rally outside of the White House to remind the US government that genocide is still going on, and demand action and that they stand in solidarity with the people of Darfur. Our partners from all around the world joined us through social media and showed their support for our call to global action. For more information about this event, please click [here](#). Our President and Founder, Niemat Ahmadi, was also invited to speak at a conference on women and genocide in Erbil, Kurdistan. Later that month we also wrote private letters to the President and Vice President in order to convince them that lifting sanctions would only result in more suffering for millions of Darfuris.

In May, we began to start a series highlighting the stories of our team members. Particularly we focused on what drew them to our organization and what ending genocide means to them personally. You can read some of these stories by clicking [here](#) or [here](#). DWAG's President was featured in an article in The Guardian and later wrote a letter to the editor which was also featured in The Guardian at the beginning of May. Niemat wrote this letter in response to an article posted on The Guardian's website stating that violence in Darfur is minimal. You can read the original article [here](#) and Niemat's letter [here](#).

On June 8th, members of our team and the diaspora community traveled up to the New York City, to support the briefing on Darfur where the ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda briefed the United Nations about the situation in Darfur. We launched a social media campaign urging others to show their support for Prosecutor Bensouda as well as releasing a [statement](#).

Later that month, we launched a [petition](#) urging the US administration to keep sanctions in place on Sudan. This petition is still up and running as President Trump announced towards the end of June that he would delay his official decision regarding sanctions. In addition to this petition, we also launched a [template letter](#) that individuals can send to their individual congressman/women. Our team also attended a protest outside of the DC office of Squire, Patton and Boggs, an international law firm hired by the Sudanese government to lobby the US government into lifting sanctions.

In July, we hosted a Strategic Planning Meeting for various women's organizations. This meeting aimed to facilitate a discussion on how to develop a long-term plan for women's empowerment in Sudan and the US. We also launched a social media campaign and wrote a [statement](#) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, as it was the anniversary the ICC's second arrest warrant for President al-Bashir.

In October 2017, we hosted our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Women and Genocide in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Case of Darfur, which attracted a large and diverse audience. Photos and videos, as well as a full report, will be posted soon.

In November, our President Niemat was invited to speak on a panel at Middlesex County College in New Jersey as well as another in New York, which was hosted by the Independent Diplomat. The first event focused bringing light to the ongoing genocide in Darfur, as well as solutions to it. Our second event focused on Resilience and Resistance in the Face of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

Most recently was our event on December 13 at the UN headquarters in New York. DWAG hosted a panel on accountability for the crimes committed in Darfur, hosted during the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statue. Our team traveled up to the UN and hosted an

event co-sponsored by The Permanent Missions to the UN from Switzerland, The Netherlands, and Costa Rica.

Our entire year has been extremely engaging and eventful and we stood vigilant and spoke the truth in response to developments on the ground and demanded alleviation of the suffering of the people of Darfur. Our ultimate goal is to permanently end genocide, pursue justice and bring lasting peace, however these are a few steps toward millions of many more that we are grateful for to bring our end goal into realization.

We were amazed that we could accomplish these events with very limited resources, relying mostly on our creativity and hard work. Our resources may be limited, but our determination has no bounds. DWAG is unlike other organizations due to our expertise, passion and experience we remain strong, inspired and constantly motivated. Our founder is a survivor of Darfur and aims to empower women and seeks to bring sustainable peace to Darfur. DWAG draws from various news sources and eyewitness testimonies to expose the atrocities being committed by the Sudanese government, and hold them accountable for what they deny. DWAG is committed to the truth. Despite whatever false narrative the Sudanese government is perpetrating, and the international community is buying into; we do not give up.

We would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your continued support; we would not have been able to accomplish any of this without your continuous support, whether it be through donating to our organization, speaking up or by sharing our work on social media.

We implore you to keep helping us continue to fight for Darfur; to keep fighting for justice and accountability and all the principles which have become so embodied in all our values. With your help and your support, we can fight to ensure that there is justice for millions and put an end to such an atrocity. Your donation will help us continue to speak up for them and fight for the protection of their rights. Please click [here](#) to donate.