

# 400,000 Voices for 400,000 Lives

## A campaign to get Fidelity out of Sudan

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#### **FIDELITY OUT OF SUDAN CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH SAVE DARFUR COALITION Advertising by national coalition significantly increases pressure on Fidelity Investments**

Boston, MA, May 6, 2007 – This week the pressure on Fidelity to divest its holdings of companies helping to fund the genocide in Darfur will get significantly more intense. The Fidelity Out of Sudan campaign, a Boston-based group of citizens urging American investment firms to divest from Sudan, has been joined in its three-month campaign by the Washington DC-based Save Darfur Coalition. With the launch of national advertising and advocacy initiatives by the national organization, the pressure on Fidelity Investments will quickly ratchet to a whole new level.

On Monday, the Save Darfur Coalition, in partnership with Fidelity Out of Sudan and the Sudan Divestment Taskforce, will announce a major media push in Boston including an advertising blitz in the Park Street T Station. Monday's announcement launches the on-the-ground component of the campaign, with awareness teams, mobile billboards and advertisements on Boston cable and network television stations.

After the press conference, Fidelity Out of Sudan leaders will deliver nearly 6000 signed petitions to Fidelity headquarters. "These thousands of petitions objecting to Fidelity is just the beginning," states Eric Cohen, Chair of Fidelity Out Of Sudan. "Now, with the launch of the Save Darfur Coalition ad campaign, we hope that the thousands will become tens and hundreds of thousands. If enough of Fidelity's customers and potential customers object, then Fidelity will see the business necessity of taking action in the face of genocide, even if they do not accept the moral imperative."

Since the deadly conflict began in Darfur, nearly four years ago, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, even more brutalized, and millions displaced and at risk. Although no one can give a clear accounting of the number of deaths, the best estimates are that at least 400,000 people have been killed.

Fidelity, through its mutual funds, has been a major investor in two of the largest companies in the oil industry in Sudan, PetroChina (PTR) and China Petroleum (SNP, aka Sinopec). Fidelity's holdings in PetroChina have now increased to approximately \$1.3 billion as of its February SEC filing.

"Once they learn these facts, most Americans will not want their savings to be invested in these companies that help support genocide in Darfur," states Cohen. In addition to objecting to Fidelity, the campaign urges all investors to review their 401Ks and personal portfolios with their investment advisors, and divest from any Sudanese oil-related investments. "If thousands of Americans divest, it will have a positive impact on the people of Darfur by pressuring China and the Government of Sudan."

There is a growing movement of colleges, universities, cities, and states taking action to divest themselves of investments in certain companies doing business in Sudan. About 30 schools have already divested, beginning with Harvard announcing divestment from PetroChina in April 2005, and announcing divestment from Sinopec in March 2006. Similarly, ten states have already approved legislation to divest, such as California in September 2006.

While colleges, universities, states, and cities have been taking action to divest from Sudan, Fidelity has been

increasing its holdings in oil industry companies operating in Sudan. “Fidelity is noteworthy to us,” explains Cohen, “not only because its corporate headquarters is in Boston, but also because it is one of the largest public investors in PetroChina.”

Leaders of the Fidelity divestment campaign began work to try to get Fidelity to divest from Sudan during the fall of 2006. Five separate formal efforts were made to engage with Fidelity by contacting executive management, trustees, directors, and fund managers. “We hoped to give Fidelity every chance to understand that there was a problem that was important for them to deal with,” said Cohen. “All we received back was a form letter thanking us for our interest, saying that everything they do is legal, and emphasizing that their only concern is their fiduciary responsibility.”

To sign a petition encouraging Fidelity to divest from Sudan and for more detailed information about the Fidelity divestment campaign and background on Sudan divestment in general, please visit [www.FidelityOutOfSudan.com](http://www.FidelityOutOfSudan.com). For more information about the Save Darfur Coalition and its divestment campaign including its print and TV ads, please visit [www.divestfordarfur.org](http://www.divestfordarfur.org)

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