

Guisma, an 8-year-old Darfuri girl, is living in a refugee camp in Chad. Her story is at once solely her own and shared by hundreds of thousands fleeing the genocidal Khartoum regime in numerous regions of Sudan. "Letters to Guisma" is a nation-wide community art project featuring a silhouette of Guisma's face printed on a postcard, to be filled in with the thoughts, prayers and well-wishes for Guisma, her family and community. The postcards will be sent to Guisma care of President Obama. By sharing

Guisma's story, we call attention to the ongoing crises in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei, and Eastern Sudan, spurring activism and ensuring Sudan is put on the front burner.

### Package Contents:

- This is Darfur: Guisma's Story DVD
- Event Guide
- Letters to Guisma Postcards
- National Days of Action for Sudan Instructions

# Online Resources (<u>www.actforsudan/NationalDays</u>):

- Story Photos that tell the story of Guisma and her family
- Guisma's Silhouette (small, medium, large)
- Relevant Articles and Resources about the current situation in Sudan
- Template Program
- Template Letter to Editor/Letter
- Sudan Petition
- Menu of Options for Events
- Event Calendar and Map: search for events or register your own!

# Think about your event goals:

- To Learn: By learning Guisma's story, we can better understand the ongoing conflicts throughout Sudan
- To Teach: Guisma's story is a way for people to teach others about the atrocities in Sudan
- To Act: Guisma's story of determination is a call for us to act and help refugees like Guisma and, more urgently, those in the midst of conflict

# Getting Ready:

- 1. Determine what kind of event you want to organize for the April Days of Action.
- 2. Put together a small group of people who can help you organize the event.
- 3. Pick a date and a location. If you will need permits or to reserve a location, do this first and as soon as you can.
- 4. Determine how you will incorporate Letters to Guisma, below are some suggested ways for small and large events.
- 5. Post about your gathering online at <u>www.actforsudan.org/NationalDays</u>



- 6. Interact with other event hosts at <u>www.facebook.com/ActForSudan</u>
- 7. Build a program. Sample programs are available as an online resource.
- 8. Create an outreach plan, outreach materials, and local media alert.
- 9. Outreach, outreach, outreach! If you need support with this, please contact Katie-Jay at ktj@iactivism.org

### How to Incorporate Letters to Guisma into Small, Personal Events

- Host a house party, watch the DVD, and facilitate a discussion.
- Incorporate a prayer for Guisma and Sudan during religious services, and invite people to stay later to watch the DVD and take action.
- Show Guisma's story during a class period, facilitate a discussion, and have students fill out the postcards.
- Create a lunch event at your school: order pizza (get it donated!), screen the DVD, and have people write letters or sign postcards.
- Letters to local and national elected officials. Letters can have Guisma's silhouette incorporated.

### How to Incorporate Letters to Guisma into Large Events

- Outdoor events can have Guisma's story playing inside a refugee-like tent or other structure.
- Print a larger banner of Guisma's silhouette on architecture paper or sketch it onto a sheet and have event participants fill it in with color or their names.
- Projection of Guisma's silhouette on a wall or building.
- Print the Story Photos of Guisma and her family. Hand one photo to each participant at the rally. Open the program with someone telling her whole story and connecting it to current events in Sudan.

# Follow-Up

- 1. When you can, gather the names and emails of people who joined your event to build or strengthen your local community around Sudan.
- 2. Join the Activists Webinar and Conference Call on Monday April 30, 2012 for an update on Guisma and her family, and next steps for the movement. Anyone can join!
- 3. Post photos of your event at <u>www.facebook.com/ActForSudan</u>
- 4. Sign up for more campaigns and actions at <u>www.actforsudan.org</u>

#### Act for Sudan

Act for Sudan is an alliance of American citizen activists and Sudanese U.S. residents who advocate for an end to genocide and mass atrocities in Sudan. We represent over 60 bi-partisan organizations. Act for Sudan is dedicated to advocacy that is directly informed by the situation on the ground and by Sudanese people who urgently seek protection, justice, and peace. For more information please visit <u>www.actforsudan.org</u>.

