



DARFUR SUPPORT COALITION of Fairfield County, CT

October 16, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Cygan 203-251-8426, mary.cygan@uconn.edu

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PRESS RELEASE **International War Crimes Lawyers To Speak on Darfur Crisis** **at University of Connecticut Stamford Campus**

Wednesday, October 24, at 7 PM Wanda M. Akin and Raymond M. Brown will speak at the University of Connecticut Stamford. Their talk, **Women Acting for Peace and Justice in Darfur**, will be followed by conversation with Sudanese refugees from the Darfur Rehabilitation Project in Newark, NJ.

Wanda Akin and Raymond Brown, trial lawyers and 2 of only 26 American attorneys admitted to practice before the ICC, have filed twenty-one applications on behalf of victims of the Darfur Crisis to participate in the criminal proceedings before the ICC. They continue to seek out individuals who have information regarding crimes that occurred in Darfur.

Akin and Brown have expressed concern that ICC jurisprudence concerning legal assistance for victims representation is beginning to limit the role of victims in the Court's proceedings. They have encouraged NGOs to address the Assembly of States Parties regarding this issue.

Akin and Brown served as counsel in the international war crimes trials at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2004 and also consulted with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. They teach international law at Seton Hall University and practice litigation in the US. Wanda Akin appears frequently on Court TV, MSNBC and at conferences on international law. Raymond Brown is host of the Emmy-Award winning New Jersey (TV) Network program, "Due Process" exploring topics such as the Death Penalty, Domestic Violence, adoption, and race and class in the justice system. He also anchored Court TV coverage of the war crimes trial in the Former Yugoslavia.

Both Akin and Brown regularly speak at public programs around the nation on human rights law, African American policy goals, leadership, and youth mobilization with other public intellectuals such as Cornel West, Tavis Smiley and Darlene Clark Hines.

The DRP, a non-profit group formed by Darfur exiles and their supporters raises awareness about Darfur with presentations to community groups throughout the tristate area and state and federal officials. It sponsored a fact-finding trip to refugee camps in Chad in summer 2005, and hosted a national meeting of Darfur refugees in the US in Newark in fall 2005.

This event is one of a series in Days for Darfur, October 12-24 organized by the Darfur Support Coalition of Fairfield County and co-sponsored by a dozen local organizations to increase awareness about the atrocities in Darfur and mobilize Fairfield County residents to take action. For more information contact darfursupport@igc.org, call 203.329.1919, or go to: <http://www.stamford.uconn.edu/darfursupport.html>.

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at University of Connecticut Stamford Campus - Wednesday Oct. 24, 2007 7PM

The UConn-Stamford Campus is located at the corner of Washington and Broad Streets in Stamford. Free visitor parking is available on the second floor of the campus garage. For a map and directions see: <http://www.stamford.uconn.edu/maps.htm>

RESOURCES –

Access: Victims Rights Working Group Bulletin, Autumn 2007 --interview with Wanda Akin & Raymond Brown (page 7 and front page) <http://www.vrwg.org/Publications/04/ENG09.pdf>

Darfur Rehabilitation Project call for testimony: <http://www.darfurrehab.org/announcements.html>

International Criminal Court Counsel list <http://www.icc-cpi.int/victimsissues/victimscounsel.html>

Wanda Akin and Raymond Brown homepage: <http://www.brownaikin.com/>



Wanda Akin



Raymond Brown