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## Episcopal to Host Panel For Darfur Genocide Awareness

April 21, 2008, Jacksonville, Florida—The Episcopal High School History Department, in conjunction with the Middle School, will host a panel of speakers for several discussions within the community about the unraveling situation in Sudan. The panel includes Dr. Tina Jaeckle, an assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences at Flagler College, who conducted her dissertation work on the Darfur genocide; Sharon Svihel, director of Bridges to Sudan, a local relief and advocacy effort serving Sudanese refugees in Jacksonville; and Chol Ajang, a former 'Lost Boy,' who currently lives in Jacksonville. This event gives members of the community an opportunity to engage the educated perspectives of Jaeckle and Svihel on the situation in Sudan, to hear first-hand the stories of Ajang, and to gather together around a cause with deep historical relevance. Members of the media are invited to attend.

The conversation will specifically focus on the continuing genocide in Darfur, Sudan. According to Africa Action, a national organization for political, economic and social justice in Africa, the Sudanese government has been waging a campaign of destruction against targeted African communities since 2003. More than 450,000 people have lost their lives, and millions have been displaced, their livelihoods and villages destroyed by government forces and their proxy militias.

History teacher Kevin Day coordinated the event as an extension of his seventh-grade world geography class. "This event takes on relevance for my students and the community because it's a current-events issue which deserves attention. The situation in Darfur will be in history books five years from now; I want my students, and others, to grasp the significance of what is happening right now and what the United States is doing about it," explained Day.

In addition to the work Day is doing, Episcopal's Peace on Earth Club is simultaneously learning about the conflict in Darfur, and working to raise awareness among Upper School students. Peace on Earth Club members are educating their peers about the continuing genocide and what can be done to help.

The Darfur discussions will take place on Episcopal's campus at 9:45-10:30 a.m., 10:35-11:20 a.m. and 12:10-12:50 p.m. on Friday, April 25. Space is limited, so an RSVP is requested. Guests are asked to check in with the School's front reception office. To RSVP or for more information about the event, please contact the Episcopal Communications Office. For more information about Africa Action, please visit their website at [www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org).

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