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“A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY”

Doctors Without Borders Announces 2008 California Tour This Fall

New York, NY – The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) will tour California this fall with **A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY**, an 8,000 square-foot interactive outdoor exhibit. This exhibit asks visitors to imagine they are among the estimated 42 million people worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge from war or conflict in places such as Sudan, Colombia, and Iraq.

A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY is free and open to the public and will run from 9 am to 5:30 pm daily in each city. Beginning in September, the exhibit will travel to four cities across western Canada and will reach California in October to tour the following four cities:

San Francisco: October 15 –19
Little Marina Green Park

Los Angeles: October 22 – 27
Crystal Springs Picnic Area at Griffith Park

Santa Monica: October 31 – November 2
Parking lot 1 North, Santa Monica Pier

San Diego: November 6 – 9
Presidents Way Lawn, Balboa Park

Experienced MSF aid workers (doctors, nurses, and logisticians) guide visitors through structures used by MSF in its work around the world, including a cholera treatment center, a health clinic, emergency refugee housing, and nutrition and vaccination tents. Visitors learn how refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) confront the challenges that threaten their survival, including those of building shelter, finding food and clean water, and enduring disease. Teachers use the exhibit as an educational tool and can schedule weekday tours for their students, while the public is welcome to come at any time.

“In the last year, longstanding armed conflicts in places such as Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan have worsened, with violence driving increasing numbers from their homes and livelihoods,” said Nicolas de Torrenté, executive director of Doctors Without Borders-USA. “Yet their prospects for finding safety and sustenance are bleak as governments often fail to ensure their protection and humanitarian aid workers face serious challenges, including an increase in targeted attacks, in providing them with assistance.”

Since 2006, the number of people uprooted by conflict has increased by three million, according to figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. More than half of MSF's programs in nearly 60 countries exist to provide assistance—including medical care, sanitation, shelter, and nutrition—to people suffering because of armed conflict or internal instability.

“When people are forcibly displaced it is not just the violence that causes harm. Having no access to food, clean water, latrines, adequate shelter or medical care is what makes people vulnerable to epidemic outbreaks and malnutrition. And they face the added burden of trauma, fear and uncertainty about their future,” said de Torrenté. “We hope that this exhibit will be one way to raise awareness about their plight and the need for concrete action to alleviate it.”

The exhibit's 2006 and 2007 tours visited Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Nashville, New York, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis with last year's tour alone attracting 18,500 visitors. A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY has traveled to 13 countries since it was first shown in France in 1995.

For more information on the exhibit and for related events in each city, please call 1-800-490-0773 or visit: www.doctorswithoutborders.org/refugeecamp

For a complete press kit, including images, please visit: www.doctorswithoutborders.org/RefugeeCampPressKit

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Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters, and exclusion from health care in more than 60 countries and was awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.

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