

The Sudanese Australian Advocacy Network



Sudanese Community Information Session in collaboration with SSI

15th February 2024

Presented by: Mr. Osama Yousif

Introduction

The Sudanese Australian Advocacy Network informally came into existence on April 16, 2023, a day after the outbreak of war in Sudan. Its creation aimed to coordinate the efforts of the Sudanese diaspora in Australia, raising awareness and facilitating communication with the government.

Later, it was officially registered as a non-profit organisation, committed to promoting the professional development of the Sudanese diaspora in Australia.

The Network serves as a central resource, fostering connections and coordination. Its mission is to empower the community to engage actively in public affairs and to influence social policies affecting multicultural communities.

The Sudanese Australian Advocacy Network

- **Objective**

To empower the Sudanese-Australian diaspora communities through advocacy, education, and professional development, aiming for harmonious integration that honours both Sudanese heritage and Australian culture.

- **Mission**

To enhance the well-being and professional development of the Sudanese-Australian diaspora communities, facilitating their active participation in public affairs and influencing social policies towards a more inclusive multicultural society.

- **Vision**

To Foster an inclusive organisation where Sudanese heritage and Australian culture coexist harmoniously, promoting successful settlement, integration, and empowerment nationwide.

Strategic Objectives

1. Professional Development and Education

- Facilitate access to educational and professional development opportunities.
- Promote leadership skills and capacity building.

2. Community Engagement and Advocacy

- Empower community members to engage actively in public affairs.
- Influence policies affecting multicultural communities, with a focus on education, employment, and cross-cultural communication.

Strategic Objectives

3. Networking and Support

- Develop a robust networking and support platform.
- Collaborate with community organisations across Australia.

4. Public Awareness and Policy Influence

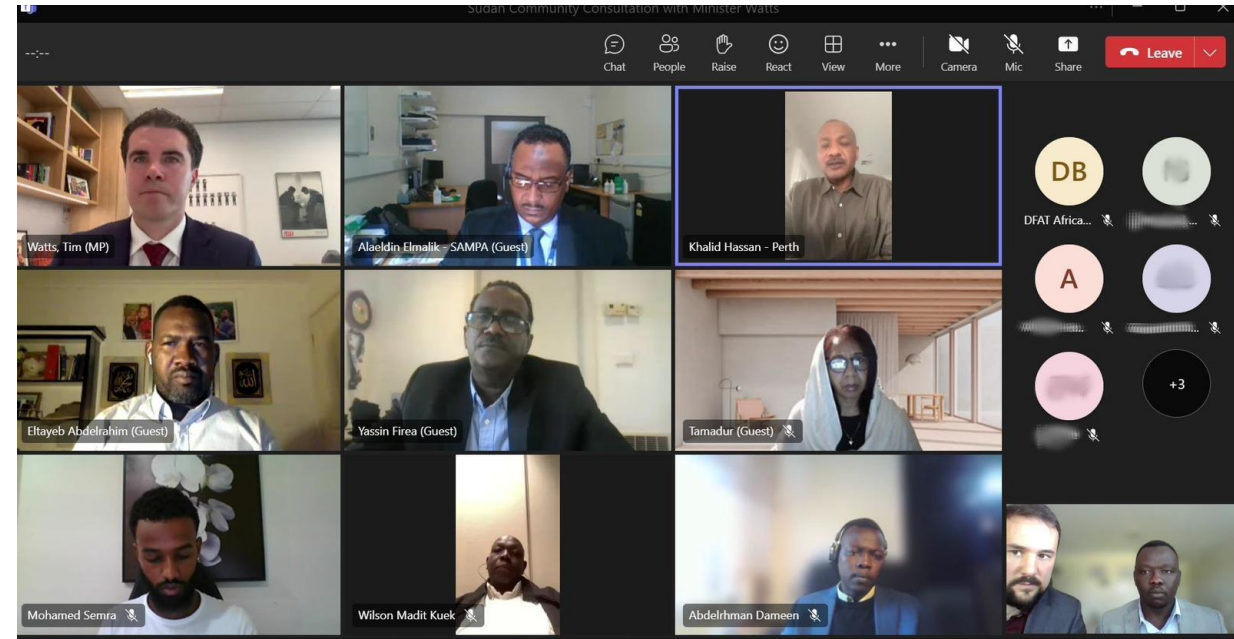
- Raise awareness of issues affecting the Sudanese diaspora communities in both Australia and Sudan.
- Advocate for community interests at various governmental levels.

Key Activities: Networking and Collaboration

Meetings with Australian Government ministers, including the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Giles, and Assistant Foreign Minister, Mr. Watts.

Discussions focused on the evacuation of Austrian citizens from Sudan, the plight of Sudanese refugees and the displaced, humanitarian aid, and visa arrangements for family members affected by the conflict in Sudan.

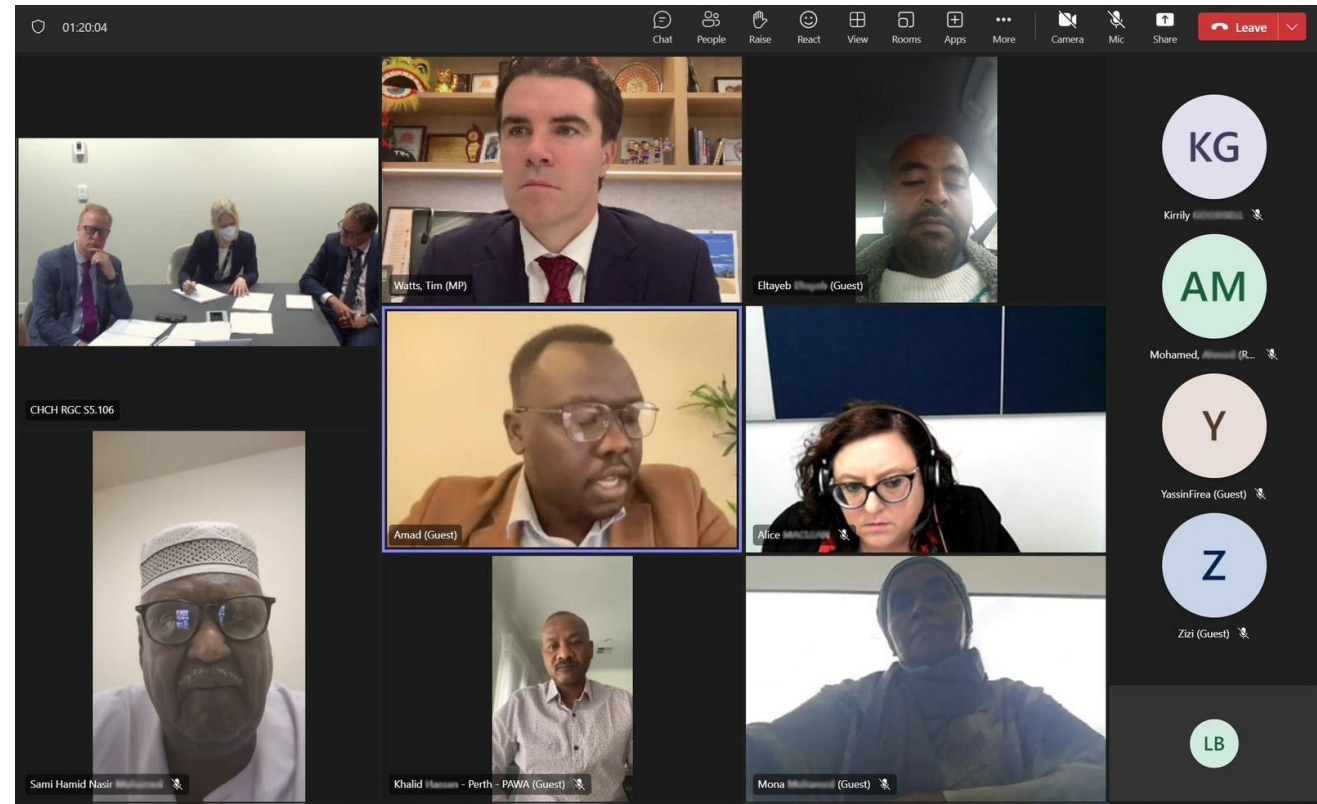
The government has responded positively, particularly regarding humanitarian assistance and progress with Visitor visa applications. An acknowledgment letter from the Assistant Foreign Minister has been received, outlining the government's actions.



Key Activities: Networking and Collaboration

Meetings with senior officials from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs to address the challenges faced by evacuees, the support required, and to provide updates on issues concerning the Sudanese diaspora in Australia.

Engagement with members of parliament and political staffers (Federal & State) where positive relationships were established with several federal parliamentarians who have raised our concerns during Senate estimates hearings.



Key Activities: Advocacy and Awareness

A media engagement strategy in Australia has been initiated. Despite the coverage not meeting our expectations, the overall result has been positive, and we are building upon these constructive interactions with the media.



VOA

AFRICA

MSF: Malnutrition in Sudan Displaced Camp at Emergency Level

February 05, 2024 12:32 PM
By VOA News

FILE - Fayrouz, 10, a Sudanese girl who fled the conflict in Geneina in Sudan's Darfur region, gives a bath to her brother Awad, 6, outside their makeshift shelter in Adre, Chad, Aug. 5, 2023.

f X R M

Key Activities: Advocacy and Awareness



**THE SUDANESE REVOLUTION
SUPPORTING COMMITTEE IN SYDNEY**
INVITES YOU TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN.

WE APPEAL TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
TO CALL FOR BOTH FIGHTING PARTIES IN SUDAN
AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE TO ALLOW A SAFE
PASSAGEWAY TO SUPPLY HUMANITARIAN AID
AND A SAFE PASSAGE FOR CIVILIANS.



**STOP
WAR
IN SUDAN**

DATE: **6TH OF MAY 2023**
TIME: 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM
PLACE: OPPOSITE PARLIAMENT HOUSE
6 MACQUARIE STREET - SYDNEY
NEXT TO MARTIN PLACE TRAIN STATION



Key Activities: Advocacy and Awareness

سودانيون ضد الحرب / استراليا
و الشبكة السودانية الاسترالية للدعم والمساندة SAAN

يدعوكم لحضور الأمسية
التكوينية الضخمة عبر منصة zoom

21 أكتوبر

د. مجدي اسحق - مداخلة
الشاعر ازهري محمد علي - قراءات شعرية
الشاعر بابكر الوسيلة - قراءات شعرية
الفنان طارق ابو عبيدة - أغنيات أكتوبرية
الكوميدي محمد تروس - عرض درامي
الناشط السياسي هشام عباس - مداخلة
الشاعر معد شيخون - قراءات شعرية

21 أكتوبر 2023 في تمام الساعة
الثامنة مساءً بتوقيت الساحل الشرقي لآستراليا
الثانية عشر ظهرا بتوقيت السودان



مجموعة سودانيين ضد الحرب / أستراليا

تدعوكم لحضور ندوة بعنوان:
الحرب بين واقع الحال وتوقعيات المآل
يقدمها: الصحفي وائل محبوب

الزمان: السبت ٨ يوليو ٢٠٢٣ الساعة مساء بتوقيت
سيدني / ملبورن استراليا / ١١ صباحا بتوقيت السودان / ١٢
ظهراً بتوقيت القاهرة

Key Activities: Partnerships and Collaborations

SAAN have united 25 different Sudanese community organisations in Australia and co-authored a joint letter with the Refugee Council of Australia to the Minister for Immigration.



9 May 2023

Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
The Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific
The Hon Tim Watts MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs

Re: Response to humanitarian crisis in Sudan

Dear Ministers,

The Refugee Council of Australia appreciates the Australian Government's announcement on Saturday of \$8 million in initial humanitarian assistance in response to the crisis in Sudan and the efforts of Australian officials to assist Australian citizens and their family members to leave Sudan. These commitments indicate clearly that the Australian Government recognises the serious impacts on people in Sudan since long-running tension and instability erupted into warfare on 15 April 2023.

In its update on the situation in Sudan released late last week, UNHCR reports that the new conflict has already displaced 330,000 people within Sudan and forced around 128,000 people across the borders of Egypt, Chad, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Eritrea. This exacerbates the existing serious displacement of 3.7 million people within Sudan and 800,000 Sudanese in neighbouring countries. When the conflict began, Sudan was hosting 1.1 million refugees from South Sudan, Eritrea, Syria, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Chad and Yemen. Some refugees have already returned to their countries of origin and UNHCR expects this movement to increase in coming months despite the very adverse conditions and protection risks facing returnees.

Members of the Sudanese diaspora in Australia have been sharing with us their detailed knowledge and analysis of the situation in Sudan, expressing the deep distress of Sudanese Australians and the compelling need for continued action by the governments of Australia and other nations. This distress is being shared by other communities in Australia with relatives living as refugees from other countries, particularly those from South Sudan and Eritrea. In our discussions with Sudanese diaspora representatives, we have heard about the impacts of the conflict being felt across Sudan – of the indiscriminate killing of hundreds of people, the serious injuries sustained by many thousands, the breakdown of functioning government and the private sector (including banking and health systems) and escalating prices. Medical organisations are reporting that, within Sudan, over 80% of hospitals are no longer functioning and more than 10 million people need urgent health assistance. People with acute health needs can no longer access medical care, including people who have recently contracted malaria, hepatitis E and dengue fever. A widely-held concern is that the recent open warfare between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces will not be brief, given the years of long-running tension and instability which preceded it. We note that, in its emergency response planning, UNHCR is anticipating significant increases in displacement in coming months.

Australia's Sudanese diaspora organisations are expressing the need for urgent and increased action from the Australian Government and the international community to put more pressure on the parties to the conflict to bring a swift end to fighting, to allow humanitarian aid to reach people in affected areas, and to create a safe corridor for those wishing to travel out of Khartoum and other affected areas (including Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Northern State). In addition, a concerted and coordinated humanitarian response must be mobilised to assist refugees who are fleeing to neighbouring countries, including facilitating safe access to cross borders and to ensure basic needs are met.

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Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia
Phone: +61 (02) 9211-9333 • admin@refugeecouncil.org.au
Web: www.refugeecouncil.org.au • Twitter: @OfRefugeeCouncil
Incorporated in ACT • ABN 87 956 673 083

The Refugee Council of Australia
is the national umbrella body
for refugees, people seeking asylum
and the organisations and individuals
who support them • Founded 1981

The Refugee Council of Australia supports this advocacy of the Sudanese community in Australia and **calls on the Australian Government to:**

1. Use all diplomatic channels available to support the international community's efforts to bring about peace as quickly as possible.
2. Build on Saturday's announcement of an initial financial commitment of humanitarian assistance by making further contributions to the international humanitarian response effort, both within Sudan and in countries where refugees are seeking safety, to ensure basic needs are met.
3. Provide an immediate guarantee that anyone from Sudan who is currently in Australia can remain, in line with the [UNHCR position on returns to Sudan](#) issued last week, with a clear process established for Sudanese nationals on temporary, bridging and visitor visas to extend their stay.
4. Allow Sudanese nationals who have previously had asylum claims rejected to reapply in light of the changed circumstances in Sudan, again in line with UNHCR's updated advice on returns. Country information used to assess protection claims should be updated to reflect the current situation.
5. Establish priority processing of visas for Sudanese nationals to enable timely exits to safety. This includes pending Family, Skilled, Refugee and Humanitarian visas as well as visitor visas. Processing of temporary visas should allow a clear pathway to a permanent visa, and consideration must be given to ensure visa-holders have access to rights on arrival (education for children, access to Medicare, and waiver of waiting periods for social security) as there is no indication that Sudan's crisis will be resolved quickly.
6. Prioritise processing of on-hand Refugee and Humanitarian visas for refugees currently residing in Sudan and those of Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries.
7. Include Sudanese nationals as a priority group in the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to enable fast processing of those with most urgent needs. This includes working with UNHCR to issue emergency visas for people fleeing the recent fighting and at greatest risk.
8. Abolish the eligibility criteria for the Community Support Program to ensure that Sudanese nationals and refugees of other nationalities currently in Sudan have full access, in line with the Government's commitment to a non-discriminatory Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

We urgently and strongly encourage the Government to continue and expand its constructive engagement with members of Australia's Sudanese community and would welcome every opportunity to discuss the points raised in this letter further with Government representatives.

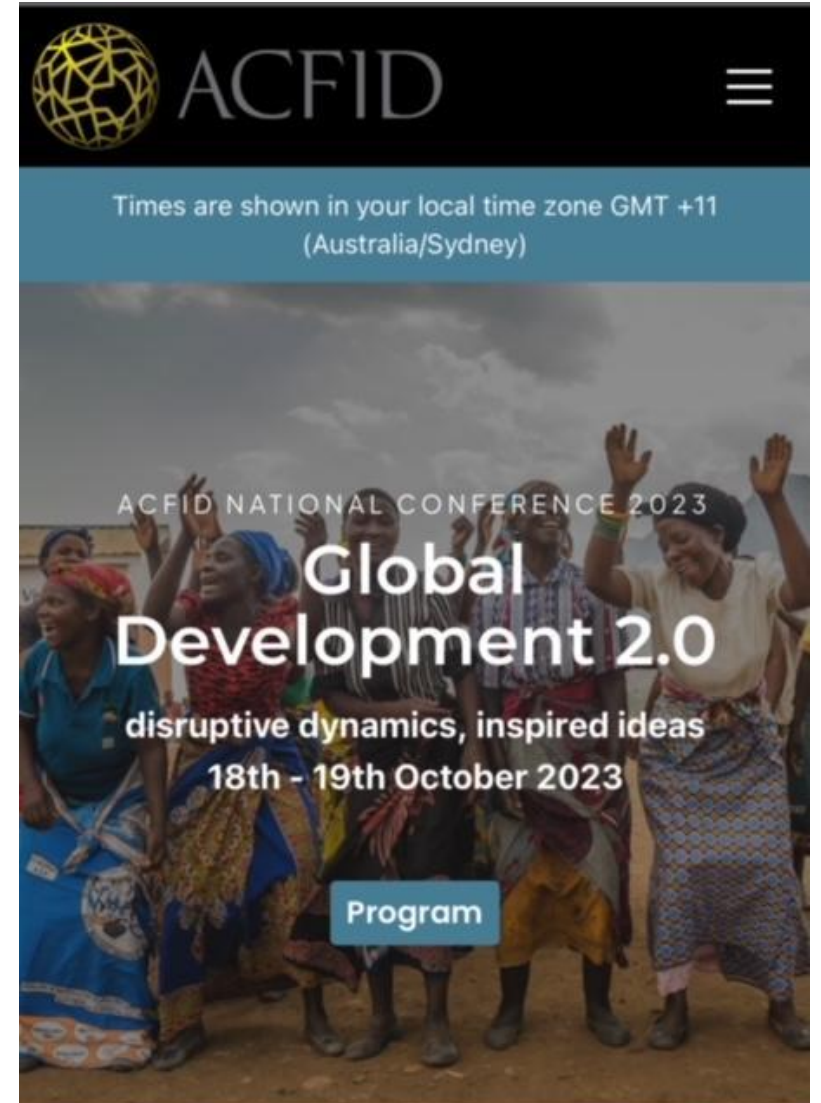
Yours faithfully,

Paul Power
Chief Executive Officer
Refugee Council of Australia

Key Activities: Partnerships and Collaborations

SAAN have collaborated with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and held a joint meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs to request a \$25 million humanitarian assistance package for Sudan. ACFID has led a consolidated appeal for Sudan.

- .



Key Activities: Partnerships and Collaborations



mycause

Help refugees to protest in Canberra

WELCOME REFUGEES
PERMANENT VISAS FOR ALL

rac-vic.org racvic rac_victoria racvictoria

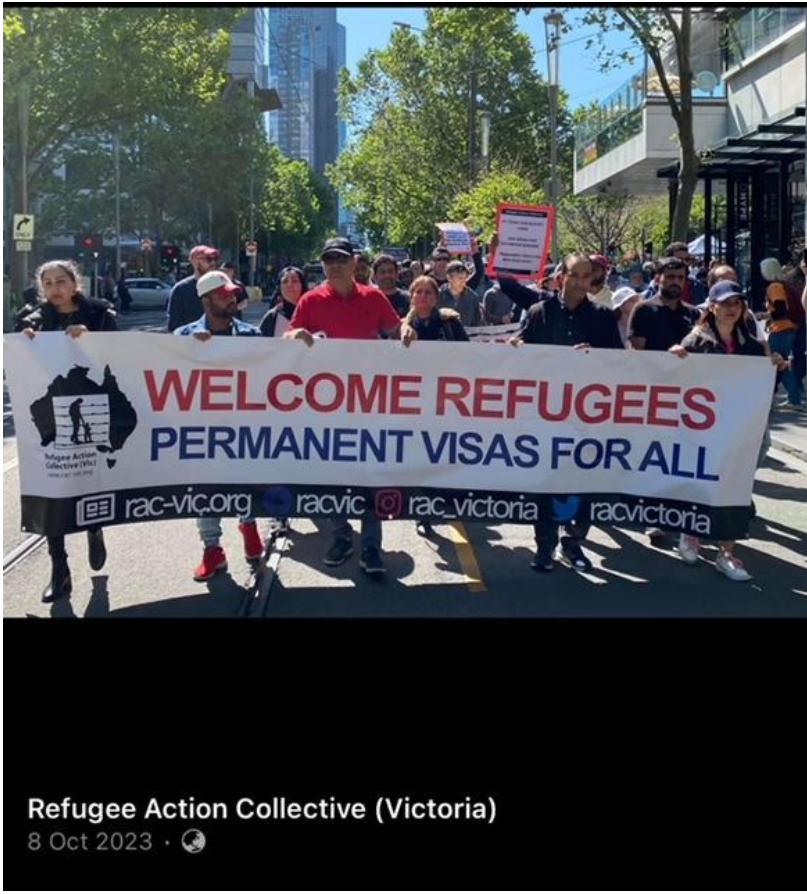
\$4,118 RAISED

TARGET \$7,000

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS CAUSE

50 100 150 250 500

SHARE THIS PAGE



Key Activities: Research and Reporting

- SAAN is currently partnering with the Australian National University's Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies to develop a policy brief on the Sudanese conflict and its implications for the diaspora in Australia



Funding and Resources

1.4 MILLION
SUDANESE PEOPLE DISPLACED

**DONATE TO HELP BRING RESOURCES TO
PEOPLE ESCAPING THE WAR**



ACCOUNT NAME - SAMPA
BSB - 063349
ACCOUNT No. - 10274043
REFERENCE - Humanitarian

BUS

BORDER CHECKPOINT INTO EGYPT

ORGANISED BY SUDANESE AGAINST WAR CAMPAIGN BY
THE SUDANESE AUSTRALIAN ADVOCACY NETWORK

DONATE FOR SUDAN

To support humanitarian and medical aid for Sudanese people affected by War, please donate to the Sudanese Australasian Medical Professionals Association

Organised by Sudanese Against War Campaign Australia

Account name: Sudanese Australasian Medical Professionals Association
BSB: 063349, Account number: 10274043
Code : Humanitarian

gofundme

NEWS What's Really Going On in Sudan: THE CRISIS IN SUDAN EXPLAINED ABC NEWS

Sudan Emergency to Help Sudanese Families Survive

\$3,245 raised of \$500,000 target • 35 donations

Share

Donate now

Team fundraiser



Anwar Ahmed and 2 others are organising this fundraiser.

Doctors Humanitarian Aid Charity Organization in

Planned intervention

Empowerment Initiatives

- Organise workshops and seminars on leadership, education, and professional development.
- Amplify the Sudanese-Australian diaspora communities' voice in public discourse.

Networking and Collaboration

- Create and maintain a professional and community member networking platform.
- Partner with educational institutions, government bodies, and NGOs.

Planned intervention

- **Advocacy and Awareness**

- . Organise campaigns addressing community needs and concerns.
- . Engage in policy advocacy for positive change.

- **Research and Reporting**

- . Research and publish findings on issues of concern to the Sudanese diaspora in Australia to influence policy and public opinion.

Planned intervention

- **Partnerships and Collaborations**

- . Collaborate with Australian government bodies, international organisations, and advocacy groups for maximum impact.

- **Funding and Resources**

- . Identify and secure funding sources for advocacy, humanitarian aid, and community support activities.

STOP
THE WAR



IN
SUDAN



SUDAN
NO MORE WAR
NO MORE KILLINGS

