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'REBUILDING HOPE' CHICAGO PREMIERE

Documentary about local 'Lost Boy' will benefit non-profit initiatives in Sudan

Rebuilding Hope (www.RebuildingHopeSudan.org) holds its local premiere at the Portage Theater on 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave in Chicago, IL on Friday, November 20th at 8:00 PM. There will be a post-screening discussion with filmmaker Jen Marlowe and the young men featured in the documentary, including Chicago-area resident Garang Mayuol. All proceeds from the event will go toward health care and education projects in South Sudan that the 'Lost Boys' featured in the film have initiated.

About the film

Rebuilding Hope follows Garang Mayuol, Koor Garang, and Gabriel Bol Deng, who fled their villages in South Sudan due to civil war when they were small children. They grew up in refugee camps and resettled in the USA in 2001.

Accompanied by filmmaker Jen Marlowe, these young men, now in their twenties, embark on a journey back to Sudan to discover whether their homes and families have survived, what the current situation is in South Sudan, and how they can help their communities rebuild after devastating civil war.

Rebuilding Hope also sheds light on what the future holds for Sudan in its precarious struggle for peace and stability. All proceeds from the film go towards drilling water wells, building a school, and providing medical care in the South Sudanese villages where the young men are from; all these efforts are spearheaded by them.

"*Rebuilding Hope* is an amazing film. It is a deeply moving study in loss and suffering, in courage, in wisdom about the meaning of Life as Humans that seems as old as the continent of Africa. I was overwhelmed with gratitude to see such determination to be of service to the group. I cried many times, witnessing the truth that love is at the root of all things dedicated to health and wholeness. Though sadness sometimes threatens to overtake us, we are reminded, watching this film, of the essential requirements for living a happy life. "The Lost Boys of Africa" have found a way to show us something we in the West might never have known or even guessed. A remarkable teaching."

-- Alice Walker

"*Rebuilding Hope* is a riveting and moving portrait of three young men's journey back home to Sudan and the underlying challenges to peace in contemporary Sudan. Multiply the anguish in these three stories by hundreds of thousands and the viewer will begin to have a glimmer of understanding of the magnitude of Sudan's wars and their impact on the lives of millions of Sudanese. Through the prism of these three individuals, filmmaker Jen Marlowe provides an essential, human window into the fragility of Sudan's southern peace."

-- Leslie Lefkow, Senior Researcher, Human Rights Watch

About the event

Ticket price is \$10 general admission. The screening will take place at the Portage Theater at 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave in Chicago, IL on Friday, November 20th at 8:00 PM. The screening is sponsored by the Six Corners Shopping District.

The Chicago premiere is taking place as part of a *Rebuilding Hope* Traveling Premiere. Throughout the months of October and November, there will be special premiere screenings in each of the cities where the filmmaker and the three subjects of the film live: Seattle, Tucson, Syracuse and Chicago.

About the filmmaker and film subjects

Jen Marlowe (filmmaker) is a human rights activist, filmmaker, writer and the founder of Donkeysaddle Projects. As part of a three-person team, Jen traveled to Northern Darfur and Eastern Chad to make the award winning documentary film [Darfur Diaries: Message from Home](#) and wrote the accompanying book [Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival](#). Jen is currently writing a play and a book about Palestine and Israel to be published by Nation Books in June 2010. Jen serves on the board of directors of [Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre](#). Her writing can be found online at The Nation, Tomdispatch.com and CommonDreams.org. *Rebuilding Hope* is her second feature-length documentary film.

Garang Mayuol (featured in *Rebuilding Hope*) lives in Wheaton, IL. He received his Associates Degree in May 2007 and is continuing his studies in order to receive a degree in business management. On his trip home, Garang realized that a clean water system in his village is a critical step towards preventing cholera and other water-borne diseases. He launched the [Lang Water Project](#) and returned to his village in February 2009 to begin drilling wells.

Koor Garang (featured in *Rebuilding Hope*) lives in Tucson, AZ. He finished his course work to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and is continuing with his Associates Degree and hopes to become an RN. Koor raised thousands of dollars to bring medical supplies and treated mosquito nets on his initial homecoming trip; then returned again to South Sudan to provide training to nurses working in a newly built clinic in Akon. He is launching the NGO Ubuntu to provide health education and services to people in South Sudan.

Gabriel Bol Deng (featured in *Rebuilding Hope*) lives in Syracuse, NY. He graduated from Le Moyne College with a Bachelors in math education and philosophy in May 2007 and is now pursuing his master in education at the same college. Gabriel Bol received the 2006 Distinguished Student Teacher of the Year and the 2007 Le Moyne College Social Justice Awards. Gabriel Bol founded the NGO [Hope for Ariang](#) in order to help his village build, maintain and support a school.

Interviews with filmmaker and film subjects available upon request.

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