

Farrow plans Boston trip to champion JCRC-backed bill

The actress will speak March 29 to encourage divestment from Sudan

By Kristin Erikson

A hearing next week at the Massachusetts State House will receive a boost from Hollywood, as actress Mia Farrow comes to town to speak about the dire situation in Sudan.

Farrow, 62, a U.N. goodwill ambassador, will be addressing a crowd of activists, student groups, legislators and Jewish organizations at the Gardner Auditorium on March 29 about her trip earlier this month to the Central African Republic and Chad.

Speakers at the hearing will be testifying in support of S1474, a bill introduced into the Legislature in January by Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester), which is calling for the targeted divestment from companies whose business ultimately funds the murder of thousands of people in Darfur. Since 2003, at least 400,000 Sudanese have been killed and more than two million civilians have been displaced by government-sponsored Arab militias.

"The fact that I have been a witness [to the atrocities in] Darfur has had a huge impact on my life," Farrow told the *Advocate*. "Darfur violence has now reached into the Central African Republic, and Eastern Chad is an inferno. The situation of humanitarian access is

shrinking daily and there is a terrible escalation in violence. And yet the government behaves with complete impunity."

Last October, officials from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston unanimously voted to back the bill calling for the divestment from Sudan. The legislation would direct the state's pension fund to sell shares in entities that purchase oil and other commodities from the Sudanese government or supply its military with arms.

The Pension Reserves Investment Management Board of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reports that out of \$42 billion in investments, more than \$100 million is endowed in Sudan.

"This is a targeted divestment where we would request divesting from the worst of the worst companies," said Irit Tamir, director of government affairs at the JCRC.

Ken Sweder, former JCRC president and former founding co-chair of the Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur, is one of many who will be testifying at the State House in support of the bill. He said he plans on giving a glimpse of the situation from a Jewish perspective, explaining that "what happened to the Jews in Germany is something we can help to prevent in Darfur."



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNICEF

Mia Farrow toured Central African Republic and Chad this month.

So as to not financially harm Sudan's inhabitants, the divestment legislation ensures that Massachusetts would only pull out investments from companies that meet all three criteria: providing revenues to the Sudanese government; offering little substantive benefit to those outside of the Sudanese government; and having demonstrated complicity in the Darfur genocide, according to

Daniel Millenson, author of the bill and national advocacy director of the Sudan Divestment Task Force, the group bringing Farrow to the State House.

Rep. Jay Kaufman (D-Lexington), who is also sponsoring the legislation, said that the Joint Committee on Public Service is expected to issue a report on the Sudan divestment bill approximately two weeks after the hearing.

Jewish labor committed to workers

Continued from Page 1

kosher facilities. "I also think that the hotels in Boston are very profitable and the basic minimum they could do is to make sure their workers have basic rights."

Rabbi Joe Eiduson, head of the Rashi School, said he received a phone call from the JLC last week regarding the strike and immediately wanted to help. He turned in his pledge to the JLC on March 16.

The school is expecting to hold its annual dinner for more than 500 people on May 17 at the Westin Copley Place, where cocktails and a kosher dinner will be served. Though he wouldn't give an exact amount, Eiduson noted that the educational institution will lose "thousands of dollars" –

the cost of the event – if workers strike, since members of the Rashi community won't cross the picket line. Yet, he added, it's a risk that's worthwhile.

"As a Jewish day school affiliated with the Reform movement and since the founding of Reform Judaism, a commitment to America's workers has always been affirmed," Eiduson said. "We are hopeful that the workers and management are going to come to a resolution and, hopefully, there won't be a strike."

Mik Moore, director of communications and public policy at Jewish Funds for Justice, said it was a no-brainer to back the hotel workers, and his group is now in the process of looking for an alternate location for its April 17

event at the Westin Copley Place. The affair, which will honor Nancy K. Kaufman of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and Dr. Deborah Frank of Boston Medical Center, is expected to draw more than 400 people. Moore added that the organization could lose as much as \$25,000 if it cancels its event, but it is currently working with the hotel to try and lower that amount.

"There is a burden to this, but it's clearly a burden we are willing to pay," Moore said.

One of the big issues on the table for hotel workers, Loux said, is the "battle of the beds." The strain of lifting thicker mattresses, plush linens and multiple pillows are causing employ-

ees to "live on pain medication," she said.

What do you think of Jewish groups backing the strike?
E-mail: hindam@thejewishadvocate.com

Yet L. Robert Batterman, outside labor counsel for

Starwood, said that many of the concerns of the union have been resolved weeks ago. He believes the union is keeping these issues alive for "public relations" purposes.

Added Batterman: "We have every expectation that this matter will be resolved peacefully and there is no reason that it shouldn't be."

Hurwitz closes after 49 years

By Raphael Kohan

A chapter in local Jewish history closed this Sunday when the doors shut for the final time on the Hurwitz Kosher Meat Market. The Framingham butchery – a community pillar since 1958 – was opened by the current proprietor David Hurwitz's father, a former cantor at Temple Beth Sholom.

"This is all so bittersweet," said Hurwitz, who took over the store in 1978 on his father's urgings. "My dad and I tried to do the right thing and to be there for the Jewish community, but the dollars aren't working. I had to stop the bleeding."

As supermarkets have started carrying a more comprehensive selection of kosher foods in recent years, Hurwitz has seen a dramatic decline in his own business. And now this kosher market – the only one in Framingham – is falling by the wayside like so many mom and pop shops before it.

"Rabbis, years ago, wouldn't allow supermarkets to carry kosher products, but that's slowly changed," said Hurwitz. "The cost of doing business has gone up and sales have gone down. I can't rely on Passover and Rosh Hashanah to support the business for the whole year."

Rabbi Laurence Bazer, the rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom, said it was a sad revelation for his community to learn of Hurwitz's closing.

"The Jewish community is increasing in the general Metro-West, but the challenge is that many of them don't keep kosher," said Bazer. According to CJP's 2005 community study, Greater Framingham has 19,000 Jews, an increase of 2,000 people from 1995. "It's a sad statement. The loss of a kosher butcher, a staple of the Jewish community, will be felt here," added Bazer.

And now after 30 years in the family business, Hurwitz plans on going into the banking mortgage business.

"It's time to start using my brains instead of my brawn, so to speak," said Hurwitz. "There's a lot of sadness among the customers; it's those relationships that you develop that are hard to let go of. But it's time to move on."

See Editorial P12

THE JEWISH ADVOCATE®

© Copyright 2006 by Jewish Advocate Pub. Corp. All rights reserved. Published weekly on Friday by The Jewish Advocate, Inc. Publisher: Grand Rabbi Y. A. Korff, Zvhil-Mezbuz Rebbe, The Zvhil-Mezbuz Beis Medrash. Congregation Bnai Jacob of Boston and Newton Centre. ISSN 1077-2995. (USPS-275-020). The Jewish Advocate assumes no responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, nor for the kashruth of any foods or facilities advertised.



Advertising: 617-367-9100 EXT 143
advertising@TheJewishAdvocate.com
classifieds@TheJewishAdvocate.com

Editorial: 617-367-9100 EXT 132
editorial@TheJewishAdvocate.com

communitynews@TheJewishAdvocate.com

Circulation: 617-367-9100 EXT 120
circulation@TheJewishAdvocate.com

The Jewish Advocate

15 School Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Advertising Fax: 617-367-2983 Editorial Fax: 617-367-9310
Tel: 617-367-9100

CONTENTS

ARTS40-43
CELEBRATIONS44-45
CLASSIFIEDS47-49
COMMUNITY28-32
COOKING36
EDITORIAL12
ISRAEL10
JEWISH ADVOCATE 2..33

OBITUARIES46
OPINIONS.....13
PARENTING.....37
SCENE38
SINGLES39
TORAH16
TRAVEL35