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Projections of Sudan photographs at Holocaust Museum

A 24-year-old woman takes water to her home near Juba, Southern Sudan. (Photo courtesy of Lucian Perkins)

By Jacqueline Trescott

A series of portraits of survivors of the turmoil in South Sudan will be projected on the exerior walls of the U.S.Holocaust Memorial Museum starting Monday.

The photographs are one element of "Our Walls Bear Witness: Sudan at the Crossroads," a program sponsored by the museum to bring attention to that beleagured country. Sudan has been torn apart of civil war, countless people were victims of genocide, and its people take small measures everyday to live and build a better future.

The building-size images by Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Lucian Perkins show school children, women doing their chores, preparing a meal under a tree, and ordinary people. To decide its future and separation from North Sudan, the country has scheduled a referendum on independence in January 2011.

Usratuna Basic Education School, a Catholic primary school in Juba, Southern sudan. (Photo courtesy of Lucian Perkins)

The display is also part of FotoWeek DC's Night Gallery and will be mounted each night from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. The projection dates are Nov. 8 to Nov. 10. The museum exhibited large photos of Sudan on the building in 2006. In 2008 it projected pictures of Holocaust survivors to mark the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

The museum will also host a public program on a recent 12-day trip to South Sudan on Nov. 8 with Andrew Natsios, former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and Michael Abramowitz, former Washington Post reporter and editor, now the director of the museum's genocide prevention program.The panel will also include Simon Deng, a former Sudanese slave, Darfurian refugee Omar Ismail and Holocaust survivor Margit Meissner.

By Jacqueline Trescott | November 1, 2010; 8:58 AM ET
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