



MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

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2017 Darfur United Men's Soccer Training Camp Östersund, Sweden

Who - The Darfur United Men's Team (DU) is an all-refugee soccer team, originally formed from twelve refugee camps in eastern Chad. These camps currently host over 360,000 displaced people from Darfur. There will be new players trying out for the team at this year's training camp.

What - The Darfur United Men's Team participates in an annual soccer training camp and also competes in international friendlies. The 2017 Östersund Training Camp will include three friendly matches against Östersund United, a team of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and Eritrea; Ope IF B team; and ÖFK Academy U19 boys.

When -

July 9th - 19th

2017 Training Camp

July 12th

Game 1: Darfur United vs. Östersund United

July 15th

Game 2: Darfur United vs. Ope IF B team

July 18th

Game 3: Darfur United vs. ÖFK Academy U19 boys

Where - Östersund, Sweden. In 2014, the Darfur United Men's Soccer Team played in its first CONIFA World Football Cup in Östersund, a tournament organized for football teams made up of nationless peoples. Team members were eventually able to claim asylum in Sweden and have permanently moved to various cities across the nation. Östersund is a small, urban town six hours north of Stockholm, and home to a population of 49,806. The DU team trains and competes at the local Östersund Arena.

Why - Training camps and games maintain mental and physical health for the DU players, and this year's camp will be used to prepare for the friendly match against Matabeleland FC in Zimbabwe this December, as well as to help the team qualify for CONIFA 2018. Goals include establishment of short-and-long-term training goals for each player, increase in mindfulness practice, and further formalization of team organization. Through sustained efforts and activism, the DU players provide awareness of the global refugee crisis and generate hope for their family and friends still living in the refugee camps in eastern Chad.

How - iACT team members are coordinating this year's soccer training camp and games. The iACT team includes two professional coaches and a professional medical/athletic trainer, as well as a local community Coordinator based in Östersund.