



FLYING KITES

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD CELEBRATION
Jimmie Gait and US-Based NGO Lead
Unprecedented Commemoration of Children's Rights

On **Saturday, June 12, 2010**, Flying Kites, a US-based NGO, along with Kenyan gospel sensation Jimmie Gait, will host the third annual celebration of the International Day of the African Child in Njabini, Kinangop District, Kenya. An estimated 5000 children, teachers, and community leaders will parade through Njabini's center to the site of Flying Kites' Feinstein Junior Scholars Academy, a new primary school funded by a grant from the Feinstein Foundation, to commemorate The International Day of the African Child (I.D.O.A.C.).

While Flying Kites has marked I.D.O.A.C. in past years, Kenyan gospel superstar Jimmy Gait agreed to headline the benefit concert after meeting Flying Kites staff, thrilled by the boldness of the Flying Kites mission and the hope it offers these children and the community. "I believe in the mission of Flying Kites and in the destinies of these children," says Gait "I know they will become great people in their lives, and I want to inspire them as a role model." **The procession will begin at 9 a.m.** in the town center and proceed to the main stage area where Jimmie will perform. The program also features opening acts Mcoasto Lucid Stanley, Father Mbuyu, and the Children's Garden National Champion Girls Choir. Special guest M.C. Wairimu Wamaruki from Coro-FM will introduce a number of community leaders, including 2012 presidential candidate and Member of Parliament Martha Karua, former Minister of the Environment and Member of Parliament Jane Kihara, the Njabini Councillor, the Njabini Chief, and the Njabini District Commissioner, to speak on issues of health, education, and human rights. Winners of the Flying Kites I.D.O.A.C. Poetry Contest—which attracted overwhelming participation from area schools—will be announced, the victorious poets will be featured in a poetry anthology, receive a prize basket and certificate, and present their poems at the event. All in attendance will be dressed in the colors of the Kenyan flag making for both a tremendous spectacle and community statement.

The International Day of the African Child remembers the June 16th, 1976 tragedy that occurred in Soweto, South Africa when nearly ten thousand African school children marched through the streets in protest of inferior education. This peaceful march, which demanded accessible learning in a native language and equal distribution of resources between blacks and whites, reached critical mass at a police blockade where protestors were fired upon, unprovoked. In the ensuing chaos, thousands were injured and more than 500 were killed. To honor the courage of those who participated in that fateful day, June 16th has been designated I.D.O.A.C. and intends to draw

attention to improving the education of African children and informing the global public about children's basic rights.

In an effort to underscore the importance of quality education for all children, as well as the enduring legacy of the Soweto riots of 1976, this year's The International Day of the African Child is a celebration that should not be missed.

Flying Kites seeks to raise the standards of care available to the world's poorest children. They are a non-profit organization that strives to give these children the tools they will need – education, imagination and resolution - to succeed in and contribute to a complex and changing world. They prepare them to affect their societies through an emphasis on compassion, advocacy, and leadership.

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For more information or to confirm attendance, please contact Brian Jones at Flying Kites via telephone at 0725291245 or e-mail bjones@flyingkitesglobal.org.