

FOIA MARKER

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Africa Alive

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JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITYO - Africa
Alive**Center for Communication Programs**

School of Hygiene and Public Health
111 Market Place - Suite 310
Baltimore, Maryland 21202 USA
Telephone (410) 659-6300 / Fax (410) 659-6266
Telex 240430 JHUPCS UR

ATTN: Ms. Sandy Thurman
FAX: (202) 456-2438
FROM: Alice Payne Merritt
FAX: (410) 659-6266
RE: *Africa Alive!*/Femi Kuti Benefit Concert

August 11, 2000

We would like to invite you to an upcoming *Africa Alive!* benefit concert featuring world-renowned Nigerian Afrobeat artist and AIDS activist, Femi Kuti at the 9:30 club in Washington, D.C. on the 15th of August.

Africa Alive! is an innovative multinational initiative aimed at reaching and empowering youth with HIV/AIDS prevention programs using popular entertainment. The initiative is designed to scale up the response towards AIDS and to improve the reproductive health of African youth by forming synergistic partnerships throughout Africa. The *Africa Alive!* initiative includes eight countries in Africa. Femi Kuti has generously agreed to donate all funds generated through this concert to *Africa Alive!* to support HIV/AIDS prevention activities in Africa. Please see the attached press release or log on to www.africaalive.org for more in-depth information on *Africa Alive!* and the benefit event.

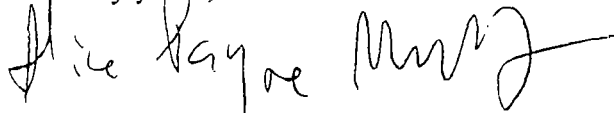
We would be very pleased if you could join us in the special "Friends of *Africa Alive!*" section which will be set up on the balcony directly in front of the stage. For admittance to the "Friends of *Africa Alive!*" Section, please RSVP to mgrissom@jhucpp.org or call 410-659-6157 by Monday the 14th of August at 5:00 p.m. with the names and number of guests that will be joining us. (Please bring this invitation and a picture ID.) There will also be an opportunity to meet Femi Kuti before or after his performance. A complimentary ticket for you will be available at the concert. Additional tickets for the performance can be purchased through the numbers noted below.

***Africa Alive!* Benefit concert featuring Femi Kuti and the Positive Force:**

Date & Time: August 15, 2000 Doors open at 7:30PM
Place: Nightclub 9:30- 815 V Street NW (9th & V Streets) Washington, DC 20001
Ticket info: Box-office Line: 202-265-0930 Ticketmaster: 202-432-7328

Should you have any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Alice Payne Merritt
Deputy Project Director

PRESS RELEASE

Femi Kuti to perform benefit show for *Africa Alive!* in Washington, DC on 8/15

As media attention to the 13th annual World AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa ebbs, many dedicated individuals are keeping up the fight against AIDS in Africa. World-renowned Nigerian Afrobeat artist Femi Kuti and his band, The Positive Force, are scheduled to perform at the 9:30 Club in Washington DC on August 15th to benefit *Africa Alive!*. This innovative program reaches out to youth through entertainment in eight of the African countries hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic, including Nigeria. A recent UNICEF report, which includes an essay written by Kuti, a vocal advocate for AIDS awareness and education, finds that nearly a third of all people with HIV/AIDS are between the ages of 15 and 24, yet African youth are not receiving widespread education regarding prevention. Education through entertainment has proven an effective strategy in the promotion of positive behavior change, and Femi Kuti and other entertainers are actively participating in these efforts.

MCA Records recording artist Femi Kuti is the son of Afrobeat pioneer and Nigerian political revolutionary Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, whose untimely death from AIDS in 1997 left his country in mourning. Femi Kuti resides and performs regularly in Lagos, and has toured extensively in Europe and the United States. Femi's latest CD, *Shoki Shoki*, was released by MCA Records in January to tremendous critical acclaim. Last year, Femi received top honors at the Kora All Africa Music Awards, including Best Male Artist in Africa and Best Song for his single "Beng Beng Beng." At the 2000 World Music Awards, Femi received the Best-Selling African Artist award and performed "Beng Beng Beng" to a global television audience. For updates and complete tour information, visit Femi's website: www.femikutimusic.com.

Femi Kuti and *Africa Alive!*'s common goal is to raise funds through ticket sales at the benefit and to publicize the July 31 launch of the *Africa Alive!* online CD, DVD, book and video store. Technology donated by Ubrandit.com (AMEX:UBI) will allow 10% of the retail price of each item sold to be donated to *Africa Alive!*, thus shoppers can make a worthwhile contribution to preventing the spread of HIV while enjoying the convenience of online shopping. For the month of August, Femi Kuti's new CD, *Shoki Shoki*, will be featured on the *Africa Alive!* site at a 50% discount. The online store can be found at the *Africa Alive!* website www.africaalive.org. Direct donations may also be made through the site via credit card and check.

Africa Alive! is run by and for Africans with support from The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs in Baltimore, Maryland, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Department for International Development (United Kingdom).

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Contact: *Africa Alive!*
Jennifer Delaney
(410) 659-6130
jdelaney@africaalive.org