

Muslim world unites for 'Live 8' on Darfur

BY JOEL TAYLOR

A MUSLIM version of Live 8 took place last night to draw attention to the crisis in war-torn Darfur.

More than 10,000 people gathered at London's Wembley Arena for the charity concert, which featured some of the Islamic world's greatest stars.

Among them was British singer Sami Yusuf, whose last album sold 4million copies, and Texan country and western singer Kareem Salama.

Gordon Brown lent his support in a live video message broadcast to the gig, saying: 'I want to thank all of you who have been active on this issue, from the artists and musicians who are performing here today, to religious leaders from all communities who have been leading prayers and campaigns for the people of Darfur.'

'The fact that so many of you are here tonight shows how deeply people from communities all over Britain care about the people of Darfur.'

Event organisers Islamic Relief said they hoped to raise £2million to help people displaced in Western Sudan.

Spokesman Jehangir Malik said the event was inspired by the Live 8 gigs in 2005 which highlighted poverty.

He added: 'This is a thorny issue for us and it is clear we have to do more.'



Charity gig: Sami Yusuf was among the big names at the Darfur concert held at Wembley last night