



April 15, 2010

Dear Friends of Refuge Egypt,

I am writing to you on behalf of Tukul Crafts. Tukul Crafts is one of Refuge Egypt's long term self-reliance projects providing the opportunity for refugees to learn or use existing skills in designing or tailoring to earn an income. Artisans produce a range of products with screen printed traditional African designs. Tukul Crafts are sold at local shops, bazaars and to overseas customers through the Tukul website: [www.tukulcrafts.org](http://www.tukulcrafts.org).

In the last few years, we have seen significant increases in the prices of the raw materials needed for production in Tukul Crafts. We have also recognised the need to refresh the product range, replace old workshop equipment and improve our marketing at bazaars and on the web. These activities cannot be achieved through the income generated by product sales. In order to continue this important self-reliance project, we therefore need your help. Specific items include:

Item	Cost (EGP)	Cost (USD)	Cost (GBP)
Creation of new Tukul website	8,000 LE	\$1,462	£949
1 banner stand for bazaars	550 LE	\$100	£65
2 product display stands	1,000 LE	\$180	£117
30 silk screen frames	600 LE	\$110	£71
1 steam iron	1,500 LE	\$275	£178
chemicals, squeezers, dryers	560 LE	\$103	£67
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,210 LE</b>	<b>\$2,230</b>	<b>£1,447</b>

Any contribution you can make towards these expenses would be greatly appreciated. We thank you for considering our request.


Yours in His name,

Jonathan Lee  
Director, Refuge-Egypt

Refuge-Egypt is an organization that seeks to serve refugees who have fled their original country of domain due to war or disaster, and who have well founded fears of return due to persecution or loss of rights, by providing humanitarian assistance, spiritual guidance and encouragement to help build self sufficiency and self respect in preparation for repatriation, resettlement or local integration into Egyptian society.

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"Tukul" is a word, which means "the small hut" in which villagers live in Sudan; this is the focal point of their home life, and the place from which traditionally, they generated their crafts. Hence, "Tukul Crafts" is a small craft and silkscreen workshop, which developed as part of Refuge Egypt in 1988.

It began as a group of displaced Sudanese refugees struggling to make some means of living through handicrafts. At first they were doing beadwork, and printing t-shirts with simple stencils. After a little while, basket weaving was added which flourished as many people developed beautiful basketry skills.

In 1993, a photographic method of silkscreen printing was introduced, and many artists worked together to develop several uniquely African designs. A number of new products were henceforth added, including bags and clothing items. The designs formed the basis of a growing collection, which stamp Tukul products as unique. As the range of products has grown, more people have been employed. Currently there are seven full-time Tukul artisans and several more community members associated.

Tukul has helped many people during the years by giving them an outlet for their products and advising them about color and design for marketing. We hope that the assistance Tukul Crafts gives will continue and increase to train more community members in skills for self sufficiency.

