

***Celebrating
Africa Faith & Justice Network's Successes of the Last Few Years***

So, what has AFJN accomplished lately?

Well, among other things....

Today we have 39 organizational members and well over 700 individual members both here in the US as well as in Africa. Membership has broadened beyond religious community members to African Diaspora groups, laity on parish and diocesan levels and recently university student chapters.

What are we up to? Here are some Examples

AFRICOM:

- Due to Congressional advocacy and public outreach, we helped cut the proposed AFRICOM budget by a third in 2008
- Joined with other groups to raise concerns in Congress about the militarization of Africa. AFJN is a leading voice in the Africa Human Security movement.
- Recruited dozens of new activists around the issue of AFRICOM.
- Contributed to the completion of an 8-minute film on AFRICOM.
- AFJN Staff presented our position at a Congressional briefing on AFRICOM.
- Researched and promoted the Restorative Justice Project, which will culminate in the publication of a book in 2012.

Democratic Republic of Congo:

- Was the first to speak directly to the U.S. government about the role of Rwanda in the conflict in the DRC. The publication of a policy paper received widespread recognition and was used to advocate on the Hill in 2008
- Submitted updated policy recommendations in 2009 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Administration and Congress to assist in bringing peace and stability to that country.
- Coordinated in March of 2011 a Capital Hill Briefing on the UN Mapping Report of 2010 which points to those responsible for the killings of over 6 million people from 1993 to 2003. Hopefully a formal hearing in the House will follow soon.
- Assisted in the formation of the Congo Global Action Coalition which serves as a point agency for all concerned about Congo, especially giving space for Congolese voices.

Uganda and the Great Lakes Region:

- Succeeded in bringing your voices and concerns to achieve significant changes in the military language in the LRA/Northern Uganda legislation.
- Rocco visited there in 2007 and met many Young Christian Student Movement representatives
- Bahati and Beth visited in 2008 as part of the Restorative Justice Book Project, meeting many who use indigenous ways and means of restoring the community after a conflict.

Sub-Saharan Africa Water Issues

- Succeeded in advocating for the Water for the Poor Act that was up for reauthorization in 2008. The new law now includes \$125 Million of \$300 Million allocated for 20 Sub-Saharan African Countries. This is a first and means \$2 - \$3 million dollars now available for each country.

Conference and Events:

- Organized the *Celebrating Africa: Analysis to Action Conference* in Washington, D.C. in which over 150 members and friends participated from around the country.
- Continue to help to organize the *Ecumenical Advocacy Days Africa Track* and the *Congo Global Action Conference*.
- Spoke on numerous panels and gave many presentations on AFRICOM, Congo, the Africa Synod and Restorative Justice, both in D.C. and nationally.

AFJN outreach to universities in 2010 included:

- University of Notre Dame Conference on Africa.
- Catholic University Law School - Peace-Keeping in Africa Seminar.
- Howard University - Symposium on AFRICOM
- American University - addressed groups on Congo and AFRICOM
- Annual October Congo Weeks with Friends of Congo have occurred with AFJN's help in over 150 college campuses worldwide.
- We continue university outreach with the goal of establishing AFJN chapters on Catholic campuses in the U.S.
- In 2011 staff assisted at the Law School of Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA on a program on genocide in various parts of our world

Collaboration with other Advocacy groups:

- The Advocacy Network for Africa (ADNA), has been resurrected and many partners are showing renewed interest. ADNA has been working on the Foreign Assistance Reform Act when it comes

up in Congress and continues to follow Human Security issues in Africa. They also have prepared briefing books on Africa for the Obama Administration and the new 112 Congress.

- For 25 years, AFJN has chaired the Catholic Task Force for Africa, a coalition of Catholic advocates for Africa in D.C. The CTFA meets monthly.
- Congo Global Action continues its work. AFJN was the fiscal sponsor and remains a member of the governing board.
- AFJN welcomed several visiting African Bishops and assisted them with their advocacy efforts in Washington.
- Collaborated with local agencies to hold Regional Africa Summits in Chicago, Cincinnati and Baltimore.
- AFJN has taken a leadership and coordinating role in the Africa Great Lakes Advocacy Coalition, focusing on making the UN Mapping Report known and acted on.

Media and outreach

- Increased online membership by over 1,000 with a 4,000 e-blast listing.
- Published AFJN articles in Pambazuka News, on AllAfrica.com, Foreign Policy in Focus, Missionaries of Africa Journal, Pax Christi USA newsletter, and the Journal for Peace and Justice Studies.
- AFJN staff was quoted in the New York Times, the Inter Press News Service, and the Huffington Post.
- AFJN staff was interviewed on Voice of America, Al Jazira and WPFW in D.C. KAPF Radio also reports on AFJN's work.
- Developed strong relationships with key State Department Desk Officers and staffers in Congress.
- Published quarterly our newsletter, *Around Africa*. Initiated a digital copy of the newsletter that members receive electronically, and a monthly E-Bulletin.
- Recognized for the Restorative Justice Project by media sources in Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- Offers internships to university students throughout the year. More than thirty students have been part of AFJN's office staff over these five years.

AFRICAN SYNOD

- Provided coverage and analysis in Rome of the Second Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for Africa (the Second African Synod) in October 2009. AFJN continues to take a lead role in publicizing the Synod propositions on peace, justice and reconciliation for African people. (For more information see www.yesafricamatters.com)

Dyer Lecture Series

- Instituted the annual Dyer Lecture Series in honor of Fr. Bill Dyer, a former Board Member and Director who served many years in Africa.
- *Justice, Reconciliation and Peacebuilding: Seen through African Eyes* by Fr. Clement Aapengnuo of Ghana, November 2009.
- *EQUAL or COMPLEMENTARY? Gender Relations Seen through African Eyes* by Sister Eucharia Madueke, SND of Nigeria. November 2010.

This year's Dyer Lecture will be at Busboys & Poets,
5th and K Street
on November 4, 2011.

We need you

You need us...

Africa needs us

We need Africa...

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