

A PUBLICATION OF THE



YEARS OF
39
ADVOCACY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Africa Faith and Justice Network, inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, seeks to educate and advocate for just relations with Africa and to work in partnership with African peoples as they engage in the struggle for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Moved to action by their personal experiences in Africa, three Catholic missionary congregations namely the Missionaries of Africa, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritains), and the Society of African Missions, founded the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) in 1983 to transform United States policy towards Africa and her people. Since that time, membership has grown and remains committed in faith to advocate in Washington, DC for U.S. relations with Africa that foster justice and peace, and to educate the public across the United States on the truth about Africa.

Heightening Awareness of Agro-Colonialism and Promoting Responsible Investment in Ghana

A Project of AFJN for Systemic Change, Prevention & Advocacy for the Poor and Powerless

Funded by the Missionaries of Africa, the Hilton Foundation and Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities

Ghana, which has been one of West Africa's most politically stable countries since its independence from British rule, is facing another form of colonization, agro-colonization. "Ghana has seen a significant surge in large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) in recent years, and has in fact become one of Africa's LSLA hotspots," according to Land Matrix, a public database on land deals. Land Matrix also asserts that as of November 2020, of the 30,960,837.35 Ha acquired by foreign multinationals across Africa, 404,000 Ha are in Ghana, representing 8.6% of Ghana's 4.7 million Ha of arable land.

Since 2014, Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) has been educating Ghanaians about the dangers of agro-colonialism, a new form of colonization by foreign multinationals and agents of non-African countries who are taking over Africa's agriculture sector. For Ghana, this simply means a sinister takeover of Ghana's food production system in order to ensure that Ghanaians remain food dependent.

AFJN proposes the adoption of agroecology. The Songhai Center in Benin with its integrated system of Zero Emission Research Initiative (ZERI) has proven the merit of agroecology and it informs AFJN's preference for this agricultural model in Ghana and Africa in general. This model incorporates responsible and sustainable investment strategies that include the promotion of small farm holders.

Field Activities

08/30/2022 Accra: Networking for greater impact with the executive leadership of the national platform of Ghana's traditional chiefs called "Chosen King's and Queens Virtue Ghana"



Contact: 3025 4th St, NE, Washington, DC 20017, Tel: 202-817-3670, email: director@afjn.org

8/31/2022 Town Hall in Nyatikpo: This community leased land in 2018. The community has repossessed the property because the investors abandoned the project. Realizing the relevance of heightened awareness, those who were present requested that a follow-up meeting be held to ensure specifically that the elders themselves hear the information we offered. We estimate that this community is at risk of land grab and needs to be properly informed.



8/31/2022 Hown Hall in Aborkope: Presentation to raise awareness of land grabbing. This is a community at risk .

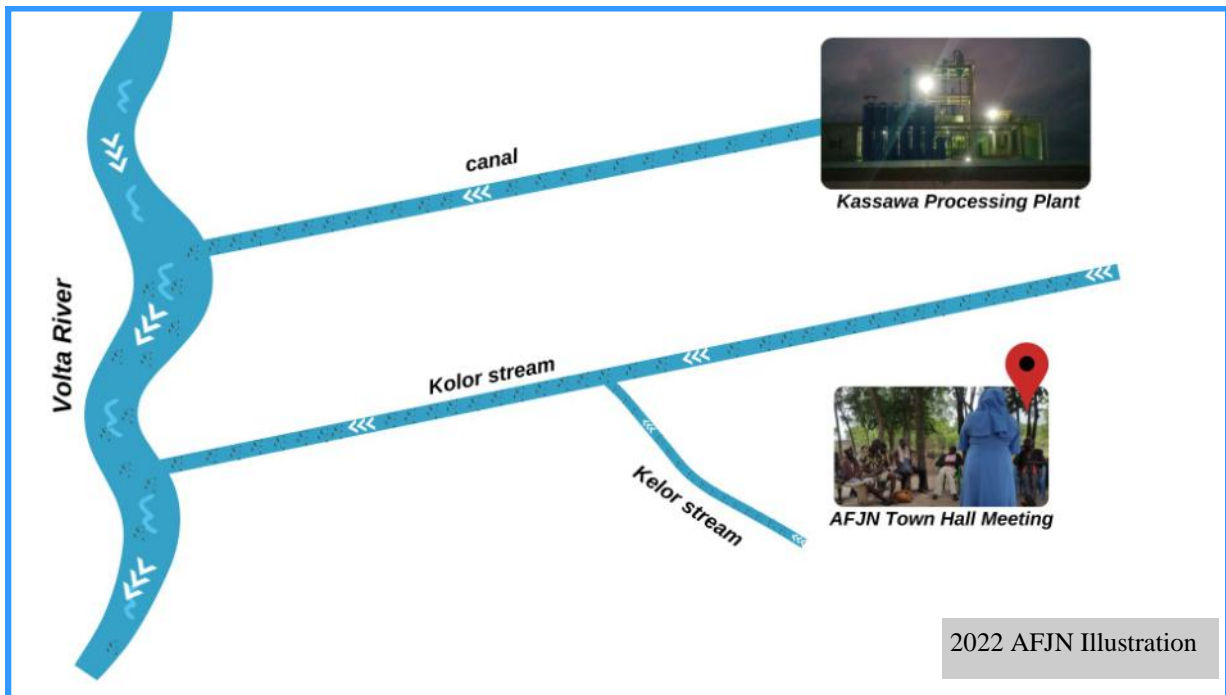


09/1/2022 Gbagbavuinu: Since the Chinese company Huawei Agriculture Development Center set up a fish farm and abandoned it, people have been dealing with flooding that destroys farmland and threatens their homes as well. They are helpless. On 23 July 2019, the community addressed a letter to the project manager, a Ghanaian, deploring the loss of their livelihoods and demanding compensation and immediate removal of the retention water wall with the hope that the land will go back to how it used to be. Besides the farmland's being under water, the community complained that they have lost their sources of firewood, of traditional medicine, of fish, of construction material specific for roofing, and much more. The community also deplored that though HADC had promised them jobs, when HADC started the project it employed people from other towns.



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9/1/2022 Town Hall Meeting Kelorkpo: Briefed the community about land grabbing and we learned about the pollution of their two water streams, Kelor and Kolor. KOP Farms is alleged to be the polluter of the water streams. The two streams important to their livelihoods are allegedly contaminated by runoff water from a corn farm belonging to a company called Kop Farms. No relationship exists between Kop Farms and the people of Kelorkpo other than Kop's having polluted their water streams. Kop had leased no land from others.



However, the people in Kelorkpo are demanding a permanent solution. In fact, they argue that while the water of the two streams has been contaminated by Kop Farms, even the Volta water is not safe for drinking. They allege that a nearby cassava processing plant is dumping pollutants into the river. We witnessed the plant's canal containing liquid from cassava processing, but we have not independently verified whether this is toxic. We photographed the plant only at night and our local partners were terrified doing so.

09/02/2022 District Chief Executive: Courtesy meeting with Hon. Madame Juliana Kpedekpo. Briefed her on the issue of land leasing and girls' education. She offered partnership when possible.



09/02/2022 Adaklu Waya Traditional Leaders: Closed-door briefing to chiefs followed by a full presentation carried live on radio for the benefit of the public.





Adaklu Town Hall Meeting



Road To Adalku



Radio Adamu FM: Live show for public education about land grabbing and responsible investment. This radio station's listening area includes big cities (Adaklu Waya, Ho, Mafi Mase, Ziope, Kpedze, Kpetoe, Akatsi, Abuati, Tadzewu) and small cities (Klave, Tanyigbey, Sorkorgbarga).



Project Funded by These Organizations



THE RASKOB FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES

The mission of the Raskob Foundation is to support domestic and international projects from institutions and organizations identified with the Catholic Church.

To Support our Mission contact:

Mr. Steven Nabieu Rogers, PhD

Executive Director

Email; director@afjn.org

Mr. Ntama Bahati

Policy Analyst

Email: bahati@afjn.org

Website: www.afjn.org

The project was Implemented by:

Mr. Ntama Bahati, Policy Analyst

Africa Faith and Justice Network

Email: bahati@afjn.org

Sr. Naomi Addai, HHCJ

Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

Sr. Catherine Gah, SIJ

Society of Infant Jesus

Sr. Ignatia Buaben, HHCJ

Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

Mama Alorvi II

Queen Mother/Dorfor

Ms. Gifty Gakpey