**COMBONI JPIC NETWORK**

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***At the U.N., all eyes are focused on the long-awaited negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty. In Sudan, there’s great concern for the people of the Nuba Mountains that reminds us of M.L. King’s quote:*** *“We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.”*

**Selected Global News**

***The same applies to the people of Eastern Congo as relations between DRC and Rwanda quickly deteriorate.***

**One Shot at a Bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty (ATT): Will it Hit its Target?** Since the early 1990s, an active civil society has promoted the negotiation of a comprehensive, legally-binding treaty “to establish standards and restrictions on the international trade in conventional arms.” The month-long ***United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT),*** chaired by Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritán, begins at the U.N. (New York) onJuly 2 and will review the much-labored *Chairman’s Draft Paper* based on the four preceding Preparatory Committee meetings. Many of the positions endorsed by the [**Control Arms Coalition**](http://www.controlarms.org/home) have been upheld. **The Treaty must:** **(1)** Stop the transfer of arms or ammunition where there is a substantial risk that they’ll be used in violation of international human rights; **(2)** Include all conventional arms including their parts and ammunition, all transfers and all transactions; and **(3)** Be transparent, effective and have a monitoring mechanism. **Visit** [**www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ATTPrepCom**](http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ATTPrepCom)**.**

 **Virtual Connections and More: ♦** Watch U.N. web TV [**here**](http://webtv.un.org/); ♦ Follow the *Reaching Critical Will* blog [**here**](http://attmonitor.posterous.com/);

♦ [**Join Facebook**](http://www.facebook.com/controlarms); ♦ **New to the ATT?** [**Click here**](http://speakout.controlarms.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ControlArms-leaflet-1.pdf); **♦** Get *Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network’s* insights on why we need a robust ATT [**here**](http://www.aefjn.org/index.php/366/articles/requirements-for-a-strong-and-robust-att.329.html) and in the June newsletter, [**here**](http://www.aefjn.org/index.php/forum-for-action.html); and for ♦ Pax Christi’s*Swallowing the Bullet: An Ethical Approach to an Arms Trade Treaty,*with prayers and a letter to adapt, [**click here**](http://www.paxchristi.net/international/foci/ATT/main.php).

**The Ruthless Ambitions of the Khartoum Regime.** Nearly a million **Nuba people** of **Southern Kordofan, Sudan,** whose homes are part of Sudan, but border South Sudan, are once again isolated—trapped in the middle of two wars. One has unfolded horrifically in the last year; the other is all about oil. The Nuba and the *Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-Northern Sector (SPLM-N)* are forever “branded” for rejecting Khartoum’s centralizing and Islamizing policies. They’ve fled to the caves on the mountain slopes to survive indiscriminate airstrikes of their villages, schools, churches and markets. This month, 400 exhausted and dehydrated refugees, mainly women and children, reached the camp of Yida in the South. Humanitarian assistance has been blocked despite the tripartite proposal by the U.N., the African Union and League of Arab States. ***An internationally led relief operation, accepted by both sides, is the only possibility to meet the needs of the estimated 420,000 Nuba people who are now internally and externally displaced****.* **Learn more and take action:**

♦ **Pressure** the U.N. Security Councilto protect civilians in Sudan and take[**urgent action**](http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/un-security-council-urgent-action-needed-end-sudan-s-humanitarian-disaster-2012-06-06);

♦ **Donate** to the *Comboni Missionaries*[**here**](http://www.combonimissionaries.org/)**,** or to the[**Nuba Emergency Campaign**](http://www.emergenzanuba.it/) (IT & EN);

 ♦ **Watch videos** about the emergency [**here**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHXKW-OoqS0), and, in Italian, [**here**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxXMMOl74s8&feature=relmfu)**,** and an **interview** with Comboni **Fr. Kizito Sesana** on Italian TV [**here**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOXgENMJ8F4&feature=relmfu)**. Also,** for a video on the situation of the refugees in Yida refugee camp, [**click here**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iaRbQVWH7o)**. Get** additional information from [**Fr. Kizito’s blogsite**](http://kizito.blogsite.org/2012/04/monti-nuba-nuba-mountains/).

 ♦ **Download** the report, *We Can Run Away from Bombs but Not from Hunger,* [**here**](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR65/001/2012/en/107d41a7-50c9-4eb9-9fe7-59afb3ec63ff/afr650012012en.pdf). **Read** Eric Reeves’ article, *Nuba Mountains’ Genocide: One Year Later*, [**here**](http://www.sudantribune.com/Nuba-Mountains-Genocide-One-year%2C42996)**,** and Nicholas Kristof’s *New York Times* article, *If Only Our Leaders had Mariam’s Guts,* [**here**](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/07/opinion/kristof-if-only-our-leaders-had-mariams-guts.html?_r=1&ref=nicholasdkristof).

**Rwanda/Congo Relations deteriorate.** Rwandan President Paul Kagame has called on neighboring Congo to take responsibility for a surge in [**rebel fighting**](http://www.mmtrackd.co.uk/10/link.php?M=2180650&N=4760&L=16637&F=H) rather than blame Kigali (Rwanda) for stoking the violence, marking a sharp escalation in rhetoric between the former foes. **Read** the article,*When Lying is used as a Weapon of War,*[**here**](http://www.jpic-jp.org/en.php)**,** and get up-to-date perspectives (multilingual) from the *Peace for Congo Network*,[**here**](http://www.paceperilcongo.it/en), and [**an aid worker's diary**](http://www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/aid-worker-diaries/congolese-flee-homes-in-eastern-drc-to-find-sanctuary-in-rwanda). [**Watch “I AM CONGO.”**](http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/apps/iamcongo/) **Read** about how the U.S. is re-evaluating its policy towards Kigali [**here**](http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/new-enough-report-rwanda-supports-rebellion-congo-us-evaluate-policies) as well as the controversial U.N. Security Report, [**here**](http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/un-to-release-divisive-report-on-rwanda-support-for-congo-rebels/).

♦ **Nominate** **Victoire Ingabire** for the *Sakharov Prize* of the European Parliament. She led the Rwandese opposition and the people in defying Paul Kagame’s absolute power. **To sign,** [**click here**](http://www.umoya.info/ingabire).

**Take Actions**

♦ **Stop Violence in Mexico:** **Sign the petition** to President Obama[**here**](http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-illegal-gun-smuggling-that-fuels-violence-in-mexico), or [**here**](http://www.alianzacivica.org.mx/altoalasarmas/indexEn.php)**,** to curb gun smuggling between the U.S. and Mexico. There have been 60,000 deaths in six years attributed to brutal violence. The *Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (MPJD)* and the *Latin America Working Group* have organized a peace caravan to travel the U.S. this summer. It will allow victims’ families to share their stories and includes a powerful photo exhibit,

*A Farewell to Arms: Contraband on the Border*. The message is ***“reduce the demand for drugs, stop the flow of arms and money south, and take the military off Mexico’s streets.”*** [**Read more**](http://www.thenation.com/article/168235/movement-peace-and-justice-mexico), and [**learn about Javier Sicilia**](http://www.nacla.org/blog/2012/1/31/inventive-nonviolence-mexico-conversation-javier-sicilia).

**U.N. News & Others Events**

**U.N. Observance Days for July** are

listed [**here**](http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/days.shtml#july)**.**

***The Permanent Missions to the United Nations*** *“****Bluebook” Directory*** provides contact information for the Missions and Staff of all member countries [**here**](http://www.un.int/protocol/bluebook/bb302.pdf).

♦ **Highlights from Rio+ 20: (1)** The final Rio 20+ document, **“The Future We Want,”** is particularly weak on commitments, corporate accountability, food security and women’s rights but, in the end, stronger on human rights. Official languages **[here](http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/thefuturewewant.html)**; **(2)** Read the *Women’s Major Group’s* release, “**Rio+20: Women Disappointed** **and Outraged” [here](http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2012/06/finalstatement-womenRIO.php)**; **(3)** Get conclusions of the *Northern Alliance for Sustainability* and follow-up on food security **[here](http://www.anped.org/)**.

♦ **July 7, 2012: International Day of Cooperatives.** This year’s theme encourages the growth and establishment of cooperatives all over the world, and recognizes their actions in helping to achieve the *Millennium Development Goals*. [**Click for U.N. site**](http://www.un.org/en/events/cooperativesday/), and[**to learn more**](http://www.copac.coop/idc). **For Spanish*,*** [**click here**](http://www.un.org/es/events/cooperativesday)***,*** and for **French*,*****[here](http://www.un.org/fr/events/cooperativesday)**.

♦ **July 11, 2012: World Population Day** marks the significance of population trends and relatedissues and is a day to think about how, where and why the world population is growing. [**Click here**](http://www.un.org/en/events/populationday). For Spanish, **[click here](http://www.un.org/es/events/populationday),** and for French,[**click here**](http://www.un.org/fr/events/populationday)**. A plethora of resources includes: (1)** *The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA****)*** (multi-language) [**here**](http://www.unfpa.org/public/wpd); **(2)** *International Conference on Population and Development (2014),* [**click here**](http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/sitemap/icpd/International-Conference-on-Population-and-Development/ICPD-Summary), and [**here**](http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article3770); **(3)** *Greening the Blue* activities, [**here**](http://www.greeningtheblue.org/event/world-population-day-11-july-2012)**;** and **(4)** Learn about and join the global movement,*7 Billion Actions*,[**here**](http://7billionactions.org/)**.**

**Resources**

♦ **Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) Factsheets** on *Land Grabbing, Economic Partnership Agreements, Access to Quality Medicines, Natural Resources, Small Arms and Light Weapons* and *Climate Change* are now available. **See** [**www.aefjn.org/index.php/factsheets.html**](http://www.aefjn.org/index.php/factsheets.html). Also in French.

♦ **PASSOS Education and Training Center** provides anti-violence and HIV prevention training, guidance and research for drug addicts and marginalized individuals in 12 communities of San Salvador, El Salvador. The group will be honored for its innovative work in September by the *Washington Office on Latin America*. [**Click here**](http://www.destinyschildren.org/en/need-help/after-school-programs/el-salvador-passos/). ES too.

♦ **Voices of our World** are weekly public affairs radio programs sponsored by Maryknoll. They feature shows on social justice, peace projects, environmental concerns and other critical issues. [**Listen to podcasts here**](http://www.voicesofourworld.org/).

**JPIC Combonline**

**♦ Congratulations** to **Sr. Azezet Kidane,** a Comboni Missionary Sister based in Israel, who was honored as one of the “Heroes Acting to End Modern Day Slavery” by the U.S. State Department (*Trafficking in Persons* Report). **[For more.](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2012/192362.htm)**

**♦ Magazine Editors** change in Asia and South Africa**. Fr. José Rebelo** leaves the post of editor of *World Mission* (Manila, Philippines, **[click here](http://www.worldmission.ph/)**) for that of *Worldwide* (Silverton, South Africa, **[click here](http://www.comboni.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83&Itemid=99))**, while **Fr. David Domingues** assumes the editorship of *World Mission*.

**♦ Frs. Manuel Baeza** and **John Converset** (NAP) were members of the VIVAT delegation at Rio’s *U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development* (40,000 attended), and also attended The *People’s Summit* and *Comboni Forum* in June.

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**♦ To receive this newsletter, email combonipn@combonimissionaries.org**; *for all back issues,* [***click here***](https://www.combonimissioncenter.info/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=53&Itemid=190).

**♦ Web site:** [**www.combonimissionaries.org**](http://www.combonimissionaries.org); **related articles at** [**www.jpic-jp.org/en.php**](http://www.jpic-jp.org/en.php).

**Comboni Press Network (CPN) newsletter provides access to information on global issues from Church and Mission-related sources. Our focus is on Justice and Peace issues, and on how the U.S. policies affect the Third World countries. Please share your suggestions and ideas with us—we’re only an e-mail or fax away!**