**COMBONI JPIC NETWORK**

**The News Service of the Comboni Missionaries**

**North American Province**



JPICN

**February 2012 – Vol. 2. No. 2**

**Selected Global News**

**Churches and civil society seek “bulletproof” Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).** In July 2012, a United Nations conference will be held in New York where the final text of the treaty will at long last be negotiated. Civil society movements advocating for a strong treaty include two faith-based campaigns:



**(1) *The Control Arms Interfaith Campaign for an Arms Trade Treaty*** raises awareness among religious leaders, communities and other faith-based groups. Members of the *Control Arms Coalition* have published an *Interfaith Declaration* **(**[**learn more**](http://controlarms.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Action-Alert.pdf)**)**; to sign on, email [**info@controlarms.org**](mailto:info@controlarms.org)**.**

**(2) *The Ecumenical Campaign for a Strong and Robust ATT of the World Council of Churches*** supports the central role that religious communities from 27 countries are playing. [**Read more**](http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/news-and-events/news/dov-news-english/article/1323/churches-to-play-crucial.html)**.**

**3rd Asia inter-religious Conference reaffirms Article 9 (Japanese Peace Constitution).**

220 representatives from Japan, Okinawa, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland, Italy, Canada and the U.S. gathered in October to hear mainly from the Okinawan people. They categorically rejected foreign military basing arrangements, whether in Okinawa or like the one currently planned in Jeju Island, Korea. [**Read the final statement.**](http://217.136.251.239:8888/storage/2011-0519-en-ap-SD.pdf)

**U.S. prison injustices exposed in Human Rights Watch report.** In its new report based on six years of research, *Human Rights Watch* documented the high levels of sexual violence, solitary confinement and depression in U.S. prisons. Approximately 2,570 youth offenders serving life without parole are experiencing fundamental human rights violations today. **Download** *Against All Odds: Prison Conditions for Youth Offenders Serving Life without Parole Sentences in the United States,* available in different languages by putting title in “search,” and in EN, [**here**](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/us0112ForUpload_0.pdf).

**A CLOSER LOOK:** The **Center of Concern (COC),** a Washington-based group founded in 1971, continues to amplify the voice of the poor and marginalized at social and economic policy tables.

**Current projects include:** ♦ ***Education for Justice,*** [**www.educationforjustice.org**](http://www.educationforjustice.org)**,** a “resource finder” for high quality, ready-to-use educational materials applying the values and principles of the *Catholic Social Tradition* to the economic, social and ecological issues. Also in Spanish; ♦ The ***Global Women’s Project*** offering monthly briefing papers on selected issues of the care economy; ♦ ***Global Finance and Trade:*** ***Rethinking Bretton Woods*** (RBW) working to reform national and international financial institutions and policies so that they better serve human rights and community well-being; ♦ ***Ecology and Development Project***  partnering with the CIDSE network in more than 150 nations to create sustainable livelihoods while reversing the forces contributing to climate change.[**Click here**](https://www.coc.org/ed).

**Take Actions**

♦ Close Guantonomo Bay Prison Now. Ten years after the first 20 “terrorist suspects” arrived, 171 of 779 remain at the U.S.’s longest standing detention facility, with eight now dead. Prisoners on this “island outside the law” have been detained without due process and interrogated without restraint. Download the “*Close Gitmo Activist Toolkit”* at [this site](http://www.aclu.org/national-security/aclu-statement-ten-years-guantanamo). Learn more and take action at [L.A. Solidarity](http://www.lasolidarity.org/); [Human Rights Watch](http://www.hrw.org/features/guantanamo-facts-figures) (for facts and figures); and [Witness against Torture](http://www.witnesstorture.org/).

♦ On Land Grabs in Ethiopia and Guatemala. (1) Ethiopia is forcibly relocating 70,000 people from Gambella to make land available for investment in agriculture. This lays the groundwork for future famine in Ethiopia as people move to areas where they can’t readily feed themselves. [Read and sign the petition here.](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/7/stop-forced-relocations-ethiopia/) (2) In 2011, Maya Q’eqchi families in Guatemala’s Polochic Valley were pushed off their ancestral lands. Despite intervention from the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, the government did little to protect these communities. [Sign the petition.](http://www.lawg.org/action-center/82-being-better-neighbors-towards-latin-america/960-violent-displacement-in-guatemala)

**U.N. & Others Events**

## ♦ 2012 is the *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All*, [www.sustainableenergyforall.org](http://www.sustainableenergyforall.org/).

♦ **February** is ***Black History Month,*** a tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. [**Learn more.**](http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/)

♦ **February 1-10, 2012: Commission on Social Development (50th Session): *Poverty Eradication,*** at the U.N. in NYC.[**More info.**](http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx)

♦ **February 20, 2012: World Day of Social Justice.** [**Read more**](http://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday)**.**

♦ **February 27-March 9, 2012: Commission on the Status of Women: *Empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication***. [**Learn more**](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/56sess.htm)**.**

**Resources**

♦ **The Magnificence of Planet Earth** (Videos):**(1) *Beautiful Earth:*** Step out of your cities that limit the view of our natural world and view precious Mother Earth. [**Watch here**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRIt600regI&feature=email)**.** **(2)** Watch ***Home*** at [**this web site**](http://www.home-2009.com/)**.** Captivating images by Yann Arthus-Bartrand. In French, English and Spanish.

♦ **COLORLINES – What’s Next in 2012?** Stay current on the racial justice issues such as politics, immigration reform, the economy and jobs at this online news site from the Applied Research Center (ARC). Offering award-winning reporting, analysis, and solutions.[**Subscribe free of charge here**](http://colorlines.com/2012-whats-ahead/).

♦ **Drug Policy in the Andes: Seeking Humane and Effective Alternatives**(report, December 2011) proposes innovative policy changes to address drug trafficking in Latin America and the United States. Written by Coletta Youngers and Socorro Ramirez, of the Andean-U.S. Dialogue Forum, it draws on interviews from Bolivians, Colombians, Ecuadorians and Peruvians. [**Download the report here**](http://www.wola.org/news/new_report_published_on_%20drug_policy_alternatives_in_latin_america_and_the_united_states)**.**

♦ **A Lethal Legacy:** **Small Arms Flows and Communities in Urban and Rural Kenya** (photo essay)by photographer Gwenn Dubourthoumieu shines a light on the estimated 100 million small arms and light weapons now in circulation in Africa. They’re fueling ongoing conflicts over resources in impoverished areas such as Nairobi’s slums and along the border between Kenya, So. Sudan and Uganda. [**Watch here**](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/?photo-essay-kenya)**.**

**Note:** The ***Small Arms Survey*** organization, [**www.smallarmssurvey.org**](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org), serves as the principal international source of impartial and public information on all aspects of small arms and armed violence.

♦ **Migration and Global Environmental Change**(report, December 2011):Published by *The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UK Government Office for Science* and *Foresight team*, this landmark report studies likely migration patterns in view of environmental change. It explores both challenges and opportunities over the next 50 years, viewing migration as “part of the solution, not the problem.” [**Read the report and get the CD here**](http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/published-projects/global-migration/reports-publications)**.**

**♦ Promote African Food Security**(action kit, September 2011), compiled by the interns of the *Africa Faith & Justice Network,* helps people better understand food security and learn to advocate effectively. **Download a copy** at [**www.afjn.org**](http://www.afjn.org)**.**

**JPIC Combonline**

**♦ Southworld Web Magazine,** a Comboni Missionary initiative from the London Province, provides global news and analysis, church-related news and items highlighting different cultures. [**Just click here.**](http://www.southworld.net/newtest)

**Note:** To receive this monthly newsletter, email [**combonipn@combonimissionaries.org**](mailto:combonipn@combonimissionaries.org)**.** **Visit** [**www.combonimissionaries.org/index.php/publications/comboni-press**](http://www.combonimissionaries.org/index.php/publications/comboni-press) for the current newsletter and back issues, in four languages. Related articles appear at [**www.jpic-jp.org/en.php**](http://www.jpic-jp.org/en.php).

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