



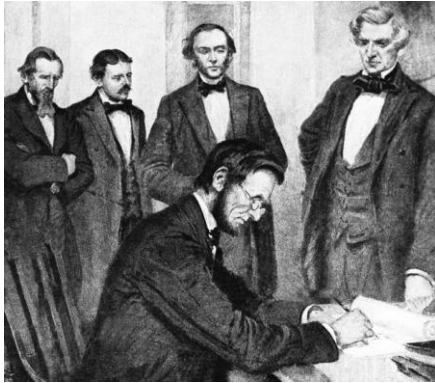
# COMBONI JPIC NETWORK

The News Service of the Comboni Missionaries  
North American Province

February 2013 – Vol. 3. No. 2.

## Selected Global News

Photos: *The Signing*: Assoc. Press; *Mt. Kilimanjaro*: UNEP/GRID-Arendal



### Black History 2013: At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality:

February is **Black History** month, a time to focus on issues of diversity and especially to reflect on the accomplishments of Black Americans. **Resources include:**

- ♦ The slideshow, *Forever Free*, marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation* (January 1, 1863). [Watch here](#). Remember Martin Luther King's historic *March on Washington*, [here](#).
- ♦ For information on the *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, (Howard University, Washington, D.C.), [click here](#).
- ♦ **Slavery Today**. (1) Confront modern slavery in America. Visit *VS. Confronts*, [here](#). (2) Obtain *Stop Enslavement's* anti-trafficking resources, also in Spanish, [here](#). (3) Learn about the *Freedom Center* (Cincinnati) with

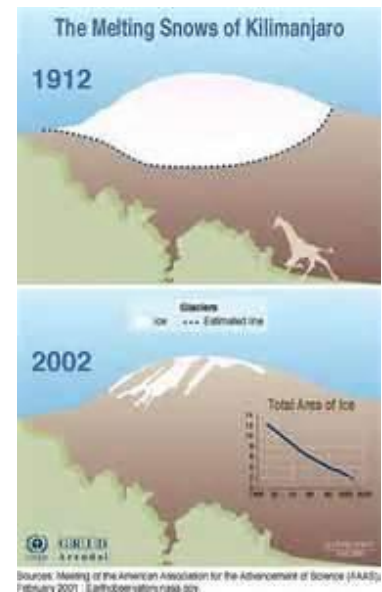
its *Invisible: Slavery Today* exhibit, [here](#), and the (4) *Museum of African-American History* (Detroit), [here](#). (5) Read about *Pax Christi USA's* anti-racism team and its efforts, [here](#).

- ♦ **Congressional Black Caucus**: See what Black Americans are fighting for in the U.S. Congress, [here](#).
- ♦ *African-American Voices for Africa* advocates for policies that eradicate hunger, poverty and disease. [Learn more](#).

**U.S. Debate Stirred Again on Climate Change:** After two decades of world summits, **President Obama** has officially reaffirmed his commitment to the climate and to the future of clean energy in America. In his recent *Inaugural Address*, he said that “the path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition; we must lead it.”

#### Here are ways to stay updated and get involved:

- **Support** a *Climate Summit* in the U.S. in 2013 by contacting your Congressional leader, (202) 224-3121. Join in the February 17<sup>th</sup> *Climate Rally*, at the National Mall, [here](#).
- For a list of the decisions from the *Climate Change Convention* in November 2012 (Doha, Qatar), [click here](#). For a “synthesis of topics” from the *U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20)* last June, [click here](#). **Find out about** the *Open Working Group*, [here](#).
- **Sign up for Outreach**, the e-magazine of the *International Renewable Energy Agency* that offers viable energy alternatives, [here](#).
- **Read** *The Climate Endgame* by Thomas Lovejoy (*NY Times*), [here](#).



**Update on Gun Violence Prevention:** On January 16, President Obama signed executive orders initiating 23 separate executive actions, after delivering remarks to unveil new **gun control** proposals. [Click here](#). Join faith communities on February 4 for a **call-in day**, [details here](#). Read *God is Love: A Statement on Gun Violence in the United States* by Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, Director of the *Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness/Washington, D.C.*, [here](#).

**DID YOU KNOW?** (1) The current debates concerning the **post-2015 international development and education agendas** are underway, regarding both *Education for All (EFA)* as well as the *Millennium Development Goals (MDG)*. [Learn more here](#). (2) Compared to the rest of the world, the **health statistics** for the U.S. may surprise you. Read the free pre-publication version, *U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health*, [here](#); [in Italian](#).

## Take Action

**Tell** the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress “it’s time,” using this simple online postcard, [here](#). Compassionate reform must include a roadmap to citizenship for America’s 11 million immigrants and resolution of border issues. **Sign** the petition, [here](#).

♦ **Congress is finally talking about real immigration reform, the civil rights issue of the new generation!**

## U.N. News & Other Events

**U.N. Observance Days for February** are listed [here](#).

- ♦ **February 5-15, 2013: U.N. Commission on Social Development: *Promoting empowerment*** of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all. [Click here](#).
- ♦ **February 6, 2013: The International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation** raises awareness of the ongoing problem of female genital mutilation. The *World Health Organization (WHO)* focuses on advocacy, research and guidance for health professionals/systems. [Read more](#). Fact sheets [in EN](#); [ES](#); [FR](#). [Article on surgery](#).
- ♦ **February 20, 2013: The World Day of Social Justice** serves as encouragement to the international community to eradicate poverty, promote employment and gender equity, and create social well-being and justice for all. [In English](#); [In French](#); [In Spanish](#). Read *Social Justice in an Open World: The Role of the United Nations*, [here](#).
- ♦ **March 1-3, 2013: 30th Anniversary Conference of Africa Faith & Justice Network: *Justice for Africa, Justice for the World***, at Notre Dame University in South Bend, IN, features Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana. [Register here](#).
- ♦ **March 11-17, 2013: Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Global Week of Action: *Missing Pieces*** precedes the new U.N.-ATT negotiations happening **March 18-28**. Stay abreast and get the toolkit, [here](#).
- ♦ **March 23-28, 2013: World Social Forum Tunisia (Africa) 2013** takes place in Tunis on the Mediterranean Sea. Fr. John Paul Pezzi will represent the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province. [Learn more; also in FR & ES](#).

## Resources

- ♦ **Bread for the World Resources:** (1) *Understanding Bread's 2013 Offering of Letters Campaign*: [click here](#); (2) *Development Works* shares case studies on effective international development assistance. [Read here](#).
- ♦ **Immigration Enforcement in the United States: The Rise of a Formidable Machine**, a report by the *Migration Policy Institute*, explores modern day immigration and critiques its six distinct pillars: (1) border enforcement; (2) visa controls and travel screening; (3) information and interoperability of data systems; (4) workplace enforcement; (5) the intersection of the criminal justice system and immigration enforcement; and (6) detention and removal of non-citizens. [Download here](#). Read *Borderline Wrong*, [here](#), and *Border Security and Migration: A Report from South Texas*, [here](#).
- ♦ The **Protection Project's 100 Best Practices in Combating Trafficking in Persons: The Role of Civil Society** offers examples of successful initiatives in five main categories of civil society, including: (1) non-governmental organizations (NGOs), (2) corporations, (3) academia, (4) media, and (5) faith-based organizations. [Download pdf here](#).
- ♦ **The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting** focuses on under-reported international topics and creating platforms that reach broad and diverse audiences. **Watch** seasoned photojournalist Louie Palu's video, *La Frontera: Life Along the U.S.–Mexico Border*, that shows the larger reality of the situation facing the people, [here](#).
- ♦ **Urban Survivors: A Journey through the World's Slums** offers stunning "photofilms" of Tegucigalpa (Honduras); Guatemala City; Dhaka (Bangladesh); Johannesburg (South Africa); Port au Prince (Haiti); Karachi (Pakistan); and Nairobi (Kenya), produced by *Medecins Sans Frontieres*, [here](#). (In multiple languages).

## JPIC Comboni

- ♦ **In the News.** On January 2, according to *Fides Agency News*, **Franco Laudani, mccj** was arrested and beaten in Watsa territory, Wamba diocese in the Oriental Province (DR-Congo) by soldiers of the Congolese army (FARDC). The reason? he was protecting the pygmies who were unjustly arrested, and then later, with other civil authorities, was accused of "buying and selling elephant and okapi meat." Fr. Franco's passport was taken away. The incident is another example of the regional instability where the presence of M23 and other rebel groups makes life difficult. [Click here](#).
- ♦ **Congratulations:** (1) **Malawi-Zambia Province:** 2013 marks 40 years of Comboni Missionaries' presence. [Click](#). (2) **Bishop Juan José Aguirre, mccj**, the Spanish Bishop of Bangassou (Central African Republic, 32 years), received the *Best Humanitarian Work 2012 Prize* from the *Tertulia XV Cultural Association of Manzanares* (Ciudad Real). The prize money will help complete a school, and help manage the AIDS and leprosy crises. (3) **Fr. Saverio Paolillo, mccj**, an Italian Comboni Missionary (South Brazil), was profiled in the book, *The Ten Faces of Human Rights in Brazil*, as one of ten human rights activists to receive death threats.
- ♦ **Peacebuilding: The Engagement of the Comboni Missionaries in South Sudan**, an article by **Raimundo Rocha, mccj**, JPIC Antenna–Comboni Mission in Leer, South Sudan, is available in Spanish and English, [here](#).

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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!**