



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

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...to exchange social justice and ecology news, stimulate contacts, share spirituality and promote networking...

Narrative

A Journey with the Poor and Marginalized

Adrianus Suyadi, SJ (IDO)



Working for and with the poor and marginalized brings abundant graces but not without challenges and moments of hopelessness and desolation. However, with prayer and dedication, we learn from each other and support one another and find the support of the loving God who leads us on our journey.

The consolation of working with the poor and forgotten refugees is in the sharing of their joy when at last they gain acceptance somewhere.

Working with JRS for 9 years has taught me many lessons. I have learned how they deal with difficult situations in their lives. Having a very limited access to dignify, they still cling to hope for a better life in the future. Living in a transit country like Indonesia that has not signed the Geneva Convention on Refugee Protection, they cannot enjoy access to work, education, social services and other public services provided by the government. They cannot freely move within the country and are always monitored by the security personnel. I can imagine how stressful their lives are without freedom and a clear future. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that most of them leave their family members (wives and children) in their home country. Assisting refugees and asylum seekers has taught me to be resilient and trust God and put my hopes even in a seemingly hopeless situation. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Global - SJES 50 Year Jubilee Logo

Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) commemorates its Fiftieth year in 2019 as announced by Fr. General. We are grateful to Elías López, SJ for helping to design the logo with the assistance of Comillas University, Madrid. **Logo Explanation:** The Cross in the middle of the red circle reflects the faith that is at the heart of our journey of Justice (J) and Reconciliation (R) over the last 50 years. The uneven line below J & R symbolises our journey. The red around the Cross reflects the sacrifice and suffering resulting from our choice, while J & R in green shows the importance of promoting life, renewal and energy.



Guyana - Jesuit School says We Need to Learn from Indigenous to Care for Creation



Within the Central Rupununi region (Guyana), where we live, we have been listening to the hopes, dreams and struggles of

the people in the sixteen villages we serve. These communities are predominantly indigenous and the villages are composed of people from two of the nine indigenous nations of Guyana: the Macushi and the Wapichan. The Synod on Amazonia offers an opportunity for a rich dialogue with indigenous peoples. This is something that [Pope Francis](#) has been asking from the Church. He urges us to listen to them and their wisdom on how to "live well" in harmony with nature, with God and with others. [Read more...](#)

USA - Nine Myths about Immigrants and the American Immigration System



It is not an easy time to be an immigrant in the United States. Leaders at the highest level of government vilify immigrants and those who hope to seek better lives for their families here. Myths and inaccurate political talking points abound. Against this backdrop, the [Jesuit Conference's Office of Justice and Ecology](#), and the wider Catholic Church continue to be among the most consistent supporters of immigrants' rights,

inspired by our belief that when we welcome a stranger, we welcome Christ himself (Matthew 25:31-46). A response rooted in fact and Catholic social justice teaching accompany each of these nine myths. [Read more...](#)

Nepal - Jesuit Social Institute Quenches the Thirst of Indigenous Villages



Thumka Danda is a village located at Roshi Rural Municipality in Kavrepalanchowk District. The villagers have to walk for two or more hours daily to fetch water carrying it on a bamboo-basket in plastic bottles. Nepal JSI helped the village to build a water tank to store,

and supplied water to the households by laying pipelines. The 17 water taps erected at various areas of the village brought much cheer to the villagers particularly to children. On 7th January 2019, NJSI inaugurated and handed over the water supply project to the villagers. [Read more...](#)

Amazon Synod - New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology



Pope Francis has chosen 2019 to hold a Synod on the Amazon. The subject is without precedent. It is not about creation, water, or even rivers. It is about the Amazon. It is certainly not an internal Church matter, but it is a matter of universal concern. The Synod has been launched and this will be the year. [Read more...](#)

Amazon - Jesuits of the Amazonian Preference (BRA) defend indigenous and lay leadership

In the pan-amazonian area, presence of Jesuits has always been highlighted. In fact, last week, in an interview published by Religion Digital, the **Cardinal Pedro Barreto**, also a Jesuit, defined the Amazon as "the most forgotten area of the planet". In the case of Brazilian Amazon, Jesuits are currently present in different regions, in what the Society of



Jesus calls Amazon preference. The members of this preference group, together with lay collaborators, met in Manaus from December 4-7, 2018. Their reflection was about how they express their commitment to the Amazon, and developed an Apostolic Plane for the Preference. Among the issues addressed, as is happening in many meetings during these months, has been the one on the Synod on Amazon. [Read more...](#)

India - Udayani Makes an Adivasi Woman a Social Activist



Udayani's systematic involvement for nearly two decades is yielding desired results as it moves into formation of Women's local movements and registering them as independent NGOs. One such activist is Basanti Soren who has started *Nari Mukhti Chetana Sangathan* (Women's Liberative Consciousness Movement). The movement is leaping out from Udayani (awakening) Social Action Forum of Calcutta Jesuits. [Read more](#) to know her success story.

Guatemala - The CA Province Expresses Concern over Rule of Law and Democracy



We express our concern about the latest events. As a religious institution, we are at the service of Guatemalan society collaborating in the construction of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ entrusted to us with and of which he makes us participants. This Kingdom is one of peace with justice, and concern for the last and the most vulnerable. Jesus advises us in

the Gospel not to follow the example of the "kings of the pagans who have subjected them and impose their authority by calling themselves benefactors. Do not be like them among you. On the contrary, let the greatest among you become as the little ones, and the leader as one who serves" (Luke 22, 25-26) and Pope Francis tells us that the search for power at any cost leads to abuse and injustice. [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Engaging with Taiwan Aborigines and the Chinese Jesuit Mission



Thirty-seven Scholastics from 15 nationalities (six Vietnamese, five Burmese, four Filipinos, four Indonesians, three Koreans, three Australians, two Thais, two Timorese, two Chinese, an Italian, a Singaporean, a Malaysian, an Indian, a Polish, and a Japanese) participated in the workshop that centred on

"Indigenous Ministry and the Mission of the Jesuits in China". Italian Scholastic [Cesare Gabriele Sposetti SJ](#), shared: "As a 'westerner', I never before had the opportunity to meet indigenous cultures. This kind of encounter helped me to have a wider picture of the cultural and human variety of this part of the world". [Read more...](#)

Kenya - Migration Flows from Ethiopia to Europe: A Conundrum for the EU?



In the months of June and July 2018, Jesuit Hakimani Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya together with *Entreculturas*, Spain worked on a short research to assess the impact of the European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) on migrants and refugees enroute to Europe through Ethiopia. The choice of Ethiopia was

significant given the fact that the country has committed to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework; it has also received a sizeable funding to readmit and reintegrate the returnees and to manage refugees & migrants. The agreements between GoE and the EU raise questions on the rights of migrants and their conditions. [Read the findings](#). [Read more...](#)

Honduras - Amid threats threatens migrant caravan in Honduras



Hundreds of Hondurans joined the migrant caravan that left San Pedro Sula on 16 January hoping to reach United States. *Radio Progreso* accompanies the route of the third caravan leaving from Honduras. In their testimonies, the people clearly state that they leave the country because of the situation of violence, insecurity and lack of employment. The already tired young men and women, accompanied by their sons and daughters, reveal the discontent that exists with the current government led by the President Juan

Orlando Hernández, questioned by irregular elections held in November 2017. [Read more...](#)

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Borgo S. Spirito 4 - 00193 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39-06-6986-8393, Email: sjes@sjcuria.org

Editor: Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ

<http://www.sjweb.info/sjs>