



**Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus**

**ENG March 2015**

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

## **Narrative**

### **The Kino Border Initiative: between Mexico and the United States**

**Mark Potter (CFN)**



For the past decade, the US has experienced a crisis about border security and immigration policy - with a particular question about what to do with the 11 million immigrants who live and work in the shadows of the U.S. economy without proper documentation or legal protection. In the California province, every Jesuit ministry is directly affected by the crisis in immigration policy. All our apostolic communities include people who lack proper documentation and so live in fear of being deported.

In 2009, the province announced its investment in the [Kino Border Initiative](#) (KBI) - a collaborative ministry at the border in partnership with the Mexico Province, the Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist, Jesuit Refugee Service USA, and the two Catholic dioceses separated by the US/Mexico in southern Arizona and northern Hermosillo, Mexico. Our collective hope was that the KBI might provide a concrete point of contact at the US/Mexico border that could serve as a place of binational, collaborative accompaniment, reflection, and analysis regarding the crisis in border policy and immigration reform.

[Read more...](#)

## **Flashnews**

**India - Jesuit released from abduction**



Fr. Alexis Prem Kumar was released on Sunday, 22 February and has since returned to his native India. Father Kumar, the country director of JRS for Afghanistan, was kidnapped on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 when he was on a visit to a school for Afghan refugee children from Iran and Pakistan, 34 km away from Herat. Fr. Stan Fernandes, JRS's regional director in South Asia, expresses his appreciation for the good efforts of all who strove hard to secure his release and gratitude in the regards of all who fervently prayed for father Alexis. [To learn more...](#) [To watch Fr Kumar's video...](#)

## Rome - Presentation of Repam, a Church network on the Panamazonia



On March 2nd the [Repam](#), Church Network on the Panamazonia, was presented at the Vatican on a press conference, with the participation of Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Peace and Justice. This network wants to establish a collaboration among dioceses and Church organizations in the whole region. Jesuits of the Pan Amazonian project are also promoting Repam. [Read more...](#)

## Africa - Meeting in Nairobi on Faith and Justice



African Jesuits organised a meeting in Kenya from 20-21 February 2015, entitled Renewing our commitment to "a faith that does justice". The attendants, representing a number of works of the Society, gathered from all over the continent to share their experiences and reflect on how social justice is a key constituent of our mission and apostolic endeavours in Africa today. At the end they elaborated a [press release](#) .

## USA - Jesuits offer spiritual retreats for the homeless



Jesuit Father Bill Creed and Ed Shurna, executive director of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, formed the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) in 1998 to provide Ignatian retreats to men and women who are homeless and in recovery from addiction.

ISP is now a national network with overnight retreat programs in 26 cities across the United States and Canada. [Read more...](#)

## Asia Pacific - A Lenten proposal from Cambodia



The Jesuits in Cambodia have proposed a fast from pollution this Lent. Why pollution? Their response is that "Pollution weakens our bodies and makes us vulnerable to many diseases such as diarrhoea, chest infections, cancers, respiratory and heart diseases. In addition, those who are more exposed are the poor, due to their already limited access to clean water, clean food and clean air. The poor suffer first."

[Read more...](#)

## India - Bagaicha: Fostering People's Leadership



Between 15 and 18 January 2015, a three-day training of trainers was held at Bagaicha, Namkum, Ranchi. It was an intensive workshop that aimed at fostering and promoting people's leadership. The trainer was Fr Stanislaus Jebamalai ,Secretary for Social Action in South Asia. At least 35 people from the tribal belt took part in the training. [Read more...](#)

## Croatia - Volunteer Centre opened in Zagreb



In the early autumn of 2014 a Volunteer Centre was opened in Zagreb as a part of the SKAC (Student Catholic Centre), directed by Fr. Ivan Manduric. Its formal establishment was encouraged by the extensive formation of volunteers for the Modrave youth summer camp. One of the main aims of the Student Catholic Center is to promote volunteering through the complete formation of young people enabling them to participate actively in society. Hundreds of young people rely on SKAC and visit the centre every day, to learn and to grow as individuals. The main areas of intervention are the streets of Zagreb where the needy persons and the homeless live. The centre also assists abandoned children, the elderly, and the infirm. [Read more...](#)

## India - Jesuits support the dalits' struggle for land



Forty dalit families (from the Musahar community) in the state of Bihar were allotted homestead land in 2004 by the state government but were never granted possession of it. The dalits, together with a few Jesuits in Patna province, organized themselves to demand possession of the land from the district administration. On 13th February, when they tried to occupy the land with the support of the police and administration, they faced much opposition from the upper castes who did not want the dalits to have their own land. The struggle of the people goes on partially without achieving the target. [Read more...](#)

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Publisher: Patxi Álvarez SJ - Editor: Concetta Negri

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