



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

Building Just Relations in Cambodia

Gabriel Lamug-Nañawa SJ (PHI)



As we nearly complete three years of our existence as the Ecology Program of Jesuit Service-Cambodia, we look back and ask ourselves, "What can we be happy about since we began working together for the environment in Cambodia?"

We started early in 2013, with two fresh graduates from *Banteay Prieb*, our vocational school for persons with a disability. *Sokhom* and *Chanthon* were young men who had just finished the agriculture course: *Sokhom* (then 28) a fisherman who contracted poliomyelitis as a child, and *Chanthon* (then 23) also a fisherman who had lost his left leg to a motorbike accident. Together we built a tree nursery and both *Sokhom* and *Chanthon* quickly learned how to grow native Cambodian hardwood seedlings. It was a humble beginning, but we were eager, light-hearted, and willing to try different things.

A huge part of the environmental context in Cambodia is about deforestation. In fact, in a study done this year by the World Resources Institute, Cambodia ranked first in the world for the highest rate of forest loss between 2001 and 2014, mainly due to economic land concessions. Deforestation is really a dangerous topic in Cambodia, wherein powerful and well-connected local tycoons strip the land, and for which journalists and activists, such as *Chut Vuthy*, have been killed. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Latin America - Declaration on International Migrants Day



On International Migrants Day, the institutions that promote the Campaign for Hospitality ask that migration management policies in force in the Latin America and the Caribbean, meet the human rights and the principles of international protection. [Read more...](#)

Germany - Constructive dialogue on refugee policy



Bavaria's Prime Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU) spoke on Friday, 4 December, with five Catholic Superiors on refugee policy. German Jesuit Provincial Fr. Stefan Kiechle SJ appreciated afterwards the "differentiated and constructive conversation". The Superiors of different religious orders in Bavaria had put forward two core concerns: to deal humanely with all refugees coming to Germany and to take care of a respectful language in the public debate. Words such as "massive abuse of asylum" were inappropriate. Prime Minister Seehofer and his staff would have listened to them interested. An open letter of 45 Superiors of Bavaria, to Seehofer, preceded the conversation. In the letter published on November 11, the signatories criticized a political rhetoric, which brings refugees into the twilight, instead of regarding them as fellow human beings, who need "solidarity". In addition, the Superiors protest against transit zones, detention centres and the restriction of individual examination in the asylum procedure.

Australia - Urging to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12



A group of prominent legal, human rights and social services organisations has urged Australia's Attorneys-Generals to increase the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. The open letter, facilitated by Jesuit Social Services and signed by organisations including Australian Council of Social Service, Amnesty International, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Oxfam Australia, has been released alongside a discussion paper *Too much too young: Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12*. [Read more...](#)

Timor Leste - Providing healthcare services in Ulmera



The clinic may only be six months old and located in a classroom in Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola (CSIL) in Kasait, but it has already begun community outreach services to nine villages in the broader Ulmera area. The focus has been on raising awareness of hygiene, safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition and communicable diseases, and organising dental, eye and general medical checks. [Read more...](#)

Global - Dialogue with Muslim communities



December 17th. The centre [Cristianisme i Justicia](#) along with Justicia y Paz in Barcelona has called for a dialogue with representatives of Muslim communities to share the realities and challenges of the Muslim people in our society. Soraya El Fahri - linked to cultural associations in Maresme -, Mohamed Halhoul, spokesman for the Islamic Cultural Council of Catalonia, and Fr Jaume Flaquer, Jesuit and expert on Islam, took part in the meeting.

Global - Gender and climate justice in the Paris Agreement

The recently concluded COP21 climate talks resulted in the Paris Agreement, where more than 190 nations acknowledged the risks to climate change that the fossil fuel industry will have to end, and a 1.5 degrees C threshold in global warming. However, there is an



inadequacy in the text in addressing the concerns of the most vulnerable, including women. Paula Sendín, from JESC in Brussels, writes in Ecojesuit about this question. [Read more...](#)

Global - The Spirit of adaptation and vulnerability reduction in reconciling with creation



Jacques Haers, SJ and Elías López, SJ have published an article through which they put into evidence that, while most of the world is ill-prepared to respond to the risks of a changing climate, there are opportunities to respond. Risk from a changing climate emerges from vulnerability (lack of preparedness) and exposure (people or assets in harm's way) overlapping with hazards (triggering climate events or trends), and each of these three components can be a target for smart action to decrease risk. [Read more...](#)

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