



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

ENG February 2017

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

Narrative

The Expanding Horizons of Justice

Anthony Dias, SJ (BOM)



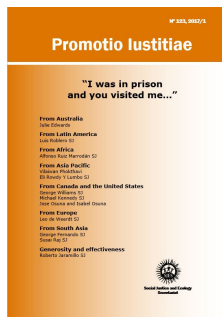
I hail from Mumbai and joined the Society of Jesus after working in India and then in Oman. My understanding of Justice was confined to the interaction between the "text" and my rather limited "context"; and vice versa. This understanding grew when I was exposed to the living conditions of the poor and those *made poor* (the impoverished) that denied them basic human dignity. I was inspired by those who spoke up against injustice, "who spoke truth to power" and were willing to pay the price, even as I began

to reflect seriously on the causes and consequences of injustice. The disciples of Jesus, as the biblical text says, had to be clever as serpents yet innocent as doves.

The consequences of speaking up were starkly manifest in the brutal assassination of the six Jesuits, their house worker and her daughter. The murdered Jesuits were highly educated University professors at the UCA (University of Central America in San Salvador), who according to Noam Chomsky "uncovered lies and spoke the truth." They were intellectuals, who knew what was going on and wanted their students and the world around to know the Truth. The fact that several Jesuits responded to the call by their General to occupy the posts left vacant by the martyred Jesuits tells another story, not unconnected with the triumph of the Cross. The inspirational text - A Dream for an American University - written by Jon Sobrino, SJ, who escaped death because he was out on a teaching assignment talks about the context of El Salvador. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Rome - "I was in prison and you visited me..." Promotio Iustitiae 123



This edition of *Promotio Iustitiae* wishes to pay homage to Jesuits and lay colleagues that serve in prisons and to paint a picture of the quiet work that they have carried out persistently over many years. The articles that you will find are moving. They encompass the two strands of this prison ministry to include a dedicated and committed ministry, and a contemplative perspective. In their texts, the authors offer a glimpse into the spirituality present in, and necessary for this ministry. They see beyond appearances. They transcend reality and discover in it a mystery of higher love, which lives in the darkest and most hidden corners. [Download PDF...](#)

Canada and USA - Concerns about the increase of detention and deportation



On January 25, President Donald Trump issued two Executive Orders that will impact immigrants both in communities across the U.S. and those who approach the southern border seeking refuge from violence. The Jesuits of Canada and the United States have expressed their profound concern about the US Administration's actions to dramatically increase detention and deportation, to further divide the United States from its neighbors, and to disregard the judgment of local authorities when it comes to protecting their communities. [Read more...](#) You can [access here a second statement](#) from the Jesuit Conference.

Latin America - Regarding the discriminatory and exclusion policies in the US



In a recent statement, the Association of Universities Entrusted to the Society of Jesus in Latin America (AUSJAL) rejects the measures and policies that discriminate or exclude persons, and is particularly worried by the situation of the immigrant population in the United States of America, among them the undocumented students. [Read here the](#)

[statement...](#)

Rome - Fr General on World Day of Refugees and Migrants



On January 14, vigil of the World Day of Refugees and Migrants, Fr Arturo Sosa SJ addressed refugees, volunteers and staff from the Centro Astalli, Jesuit Refugee Service in Italy. He urged all who support refugees and migrants to put pressure on governments, especially in Europe, to create channels that will give safe and legal access to children and adolescents forced to abandon their homes, their countries and often even their families, in order that they can make a future elsewhere. [Read more...](#) Read here the [address from Fr General...](#)

Asia - Collaboration for understanding among Muslims and Christians



Jesuits from Conferences of South Asia and Asia Pacific have agreed to collaborate on a research project to promote better understanding and dialogue among Muslims and Christians in Asia. The 10 Jesuits from both Conferences came to this decision during the meeting of the Jesuits among Muslims in Asia (JAMIA) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from December 26 to 30, 2016. [Read more...](#)

Honduras - Socio-environmental impact of mining



The Reflection, Investigation and Communication Team (ERIC)-Honduras, in coordination with the College for Public Health and Social Justice of Saint Louis University, have conducted a research about of the socio-environmental impact of mining. It is a joint initiative of the Canada and US Conference and Jesuit social institutions in Honduras. After examining the way in which the extractivist model is affecting the region, they present three summarized case studies, and share a brief analysis of the situation of human security in the communities studied. [Access here a summary of the research in English.](#)

India - Tarumitra eco-fest in Attappadi, Kerala



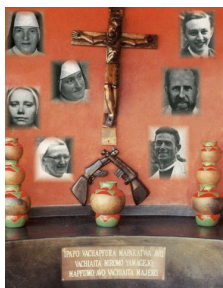
Tarumitra is a movement initiated by a group of children and Patna Jesuit Society under the leadership of Fr. Robert Athickal, SJ in 1988 as a Forum for Environment. Tarumitra has been networking with students across India creating awareness and action on issues such as water, organic farming, vehicular pollution or promotion of renewable energy. On 18-19 January 2017 Tarumitra has organized an Eco-Fest in Attappady, Kerala. Hundreds of students, environmentalists and social activists from across the country participated in the fest. [Learn more...](#)

Spain - Protecting people on the borders, "So that they do not die of cold"



Jesuits institutions in Spain have joined a petition signed by 430 Spanish organizations working for human rights, migration and refuge, in support of the appeal "Do not die of cold". The appeal requests a European urgent response to protect people on the borders this winter. More than 100 institutions of the Ignatian family have been part of this initiative, some of them social institutions, educational and pastoral centers, lay communities, youth centers, parishes and several university centers. [For more information...](#)

Global - Remembering the Musami martyrs, 40 years on



On February 6, Jesuits were marking the 40th anniversary of the Musami Martyrs, a group of three Jesuits and four Dominican Sisters who were murdered at St Paul's Mission in Zimbabwe (which was then Rhodesia), about 60 miles northeast of Harare (formerly Salisbury) on the 6th February 1977. "They were all given the choice of moving to the safer towns, but they decided to stay on in solidarity with the local black population with whom they identified." Over the last 40 years, the Mission developed considerably, with schools, a hospital and sports' facilities. [Read more...](#)

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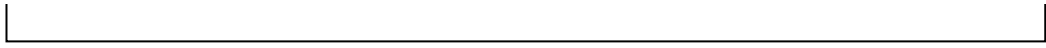
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