



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

**ENG July 2017**

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

## **Greetings**

### ***Adieu dear Patxi !***

*To bid farewell is never easy... but that is our way of fulfilling the Jesuit mission of 'being sent'.*

*We move ahead with a hope that you will continue to accompany and inspire us and we will meet again, may be in different capacities, united in the same mission of God.*

*Your dynamic presence and memories through SJES will always enrich us.*

*We wish to say from the depth of our hearts 'Thank You Patxi'!*

*As you move into new ventures, may God bless you and accompany you.*

## **Narrative**

### **Walking with the prisoners ... Walking with the Lord. Two sample stories**

**Susai Raj SJ (PAT)**

[Names of persons have been changed to respect their privacy; all other details are from court and prison records]

#### **Sample story 1 - Shantha Ram**

Shantha Ram is accused of rape and murder of Kanchan Kumari, a 8 year old girl, his neighbor in the *jhopari-patti* (cluster of huts) along the railway track near the Bihar State Secretariat, Patna. The incident took place on 16.12.2007. Ram went absconding, but was arrested on 07.08.2011 and is in Patna central jail since then.

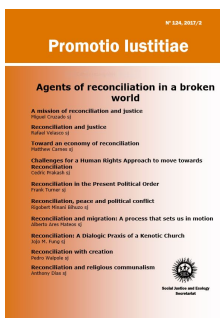
Like many others, initially Ram said that he was falsely implicated in the case; but, when I showed him the copy of case records, including Seizure List of items recovered from his *jhopari* (hut) such as his voter ID, the undergarment of the deceased girl and the forensic test reports, he became silent. With eyes filled with tears he said, "I don't want to live any longer; I want to die." I put my hand gently on his shoulder. This was around the time when the Delhi High court had confirmed the verdict of the trial court, awarding capital punishment



(of hanging till death) to all the five accused in the infamous Nirbhaya case (of barbaric sexual attack on a physiotherapy intern in a moving bus on 16 December 2012 night and her death on 29 December 2012 in a Singapore Hospital - an event which shook the conscience of India); and, a court in Motihari (East Champaran District in North Bihar) and another court in Uttar Pradesh had similarly awarded capital punishment for rape and murder of a small girl in each case. Ram had read about these judgments in the newspapers. [Read more...](#)

## Flashnews

### Rome - Promotio Iustitiae 124: Agents of Reconciliation in a broken world



The latest edition of *Promotio Iustitiae* visits some of the fault lines in our world, and sheds light on what it means to work there from a perspective of reconciliation: fundamentalism, political conflict, migrants and refugees, indigenous cultures, and those dispossessed by this economic system. Each author, a specialist in his or her field, has tried to demonstrate how this work for reconciliation adds value. The result is a panoramic picture of the work of reconciliation, which can help us to better comprehend the scope of the last two Congregations' summons. [Download pdf.](#)

### Asia Pacific - Reconciliation and Justice in Natural Resource Management



The annual Social Apostolate gathering of Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP) held in Yangon, Myanmar from 4-7, July 2017 reflected on the theme of 'Reconciliation and Justice in Natural Resource Management'. Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, inaugurating the Conference said, "Today we face environmental and ecological holocaust. It is a scary moment." He called the Jesuits "to think big, never give up. The world needs you." Based on inputs from resource persons and field interaction with environmental rights activists and three organizations the participants analysed, reflected, prayed and committed themselves to act authentically both personally and collectively. [Read more...](#)

### USA - New Campaign to create Culture of Hospitality for Migrants



The pope's call for solidarity with migrants has been a hallmark of his papacy, and on July 7, the Jesuits of the U.S. and Canada are heeding that call by launching a new campaign that aims to create a culture of hospitality for migrants. Working in partnership with the [Ignatian Solidarity Network \(ISN\)](#), the [Campaign for Hospitality](#) will reach out to U.S. and Canadian Jesuit universities, schools, parishes, social ministries, retreat centres, Jesuit communities and other ministries. It will attempt to engage those in the Jesuit family who may not normally participate in social justice initiatives, such as alumni of Jesuit schools, parents of students and parishioners. [Read more...](#)

### South Asia - Jesuit Provincials commit themselves to respond to fundamentalism



S.Asia Delegates' GC 36

The Provincials and Regional Superiors of South Asia reflected on the situation and have mandated to themselves and to the assistancy, commitment to effectively respond to the forces of fundamentalism through all their ministries. The statement says, "Any Jesuit Response is founded on our mission to promote justice and reconciliation in our broken world of which dialogue with the poor and with people of other cultures and religions is an essential part. Our mission as Jesuits in South Asia is to build counter-cultural human communities of solidarity that will be instruments of peace and reconciliation to respond to the danger of this region turning into a region of hate and violence. To remain silent spectators in the midst of this onslaught on the Constitutional values of equality and fraternity, secularism and pluralism is to betray our mission. Our response must be in collaboration with men and women of good will and through networking with civil society and other organizations that share our values". [Download Statement.](#)

## Global - Education opens the world: A joint effort of JRS and Entreculturas for refugees



To mark this year's World Refugee Day, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Entreculturas are launching "Education opens the world", a campaign advocating for educational access for refugees and displaced people around the world, a fundamental right they are too often deprived of because of their displacement. This is an exciting initiative from the point of view of collaboration as two Jesuit works join together to launch an international awareness-raising, advocacy and fundraising campaign. [Read more...](#)

## Latin America - COMPARTE network: Collaboration for Sustainable Economies



From May 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, delegations from nine Latin American countries and from different parts of Spain joined together in the Basque Country for the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the network, COMPARTE, under the slogan "Encounter, exchange and collaboration for the building of alternative economies." The COMPARTE network, which is promoted by the Latin American Conference of Provincials (CPAL) is a community of learning and action for alternative development made up of 16 Latin American organizations and Fundación Alboan, as well as 5 Jesuit universities in Latin America and Spain. [Read more...](#)

## South Africa - Township youth discuss taking care of our 'Common Home'



The young adults of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nyanga, Cape Town, in collaboration with the Jesuit Social Apostolate, hosted on the 17th of June, a workshop on the theme "Young People, it's time to take care of our common Home." Following the Cape Storms that had ravaged some parts of Cape Town and the fires that ruined beautiful parts of the Western Cape, the young people of Nyanga, Gugulethu and Emfuleni came together to discuss issues pertaining to 'our common home.' Coming from the three poor communities of Cape Town, these young people coincidentally met on World Day to Combat Desertification to celebrate the second anniversary of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*. [To know more...](#)

## Global - Statement of participants of the interfaith rainforest initiative



We, people of many faiths and spiritualities, gathered in Oslo to hear the cry of Earth's rainforests, their flora and fauna, and the people who live in them. We are Indigenous, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist, joined by scientists who share with us, and open for us, a deeper appreciation of the miracle of the forests. We are from 21

countries - from Amazonia, the forests of Indonesia, the Congo Basin, Meso-America and South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, and from the US, Canada, Europe, and China. While from many places, we recognize that we are one human family, that we share one Earth. They resolved and committed themselves to form an international, multi-faith rainforest alliance, devoted to the care of these forests and the people who protect and live in them. [Read the statement.](#)

## Spain - The 7th Annual Report of the SJM (Jesuit Migrant Service) presented



This annual report has become in recent years a basic reference for the improvement of the living conditions in the internment centres for foreigners (Centro de Internamiento de Extranjeros - CIE). The Society of Jesus in Spain is especially committed to the project. The report is entitled "25.66" in reference to the average number of people expelled from Spain per day. During 2016, 7,597 people were admitted to CIE and 29.02% were expelled. These numbers exceed those of the two previous years, but the percentage of expulsion decreases drastically. Three out of 4 inmates came directly from the boats arrived to the Spanish coast. Fifty-one minors were identified in CIE, a number three times greater than last year. In a total of 770 asylum applications, only 20% were admitted. In addition, the number of women increased to 513. The average of stay in CIE was 24.47 days. [Access the report.](#)

## USA - Kino Border Initiative Report shows pattern of 'Failed Oversight' in Customs and Border Protection Complaints Process



A new report from the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) and the Jesuits of Canada and the U.S. reveals the inadequacy of the Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) complaint and oversight system in investigating abuse allegations by migrants. KBI, an immigrant aid organization in Nogales - Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora - Mexico, co-sponsored by the Jesuits and five other U.S. and Mexican church groups, files complaints on behalf of individuals in their aid center who report having been mistreated during their migration journey. [Read more...](#)

## Global - The 2020 GEM Report will be on Inclusion and Education



In the second week of June, the GEM (Global Education Monitoring) Report's Advisory Board met in Paris to discuss the success of the 2016 GEM Report, hear about the plans for the 2017/8 and 2019 GEM Reports, and decide on the future theme of the 2020 GEM Report. A consensus was reached on the theme: Inclusion and Education. Although the desire to leave no one behind permeates the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), the board calls for new strategies and policies to ensure access to the 263 million children, adolescents and youth and to 758 million adults lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills. [Read more...](#)

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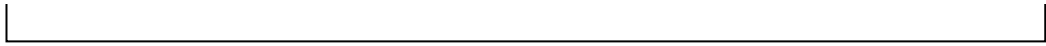
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