



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

September 2018

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

Narrative

My social engagement at the Research Centre for Social Action (CEPAS) in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Alain NZADI, SJ (AOC)



My name is Alain NZADI, a Congolese Jesuit, ordained as a priest on 14th July 2013. In September 2014 I started at the Research Centre for Social Action (CEPAS), a Jesuit centre founded in January 1965 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo).

I first started with CEPAS to work on their *Congo-Afrique* journal, the centre's organ of communication which publishes articles on topics such as; the economy, politics, and social and cultural life. As such, my work with CEPAS had always been limited to the journal, and I had little to no direct involvement in "social engagement" besides editing articles sent for publication.

However, in September 2015, when the Father Provincial of the Jesuits of Central Africa appointed me Director of CEPAS, the level of my social engagement took an unexpected turn, one I would never have imagined when I first arrived at the centre. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

India - We stand in solidarity with Stan Swamy and other HR activists



On the morning of August 28, 2018, several human rights activists from various parts of the country [were arrested](#) and the homes of few others, including an 82 year old Jesuit, Fr. Stan Swamy were raided. Stan, who has fought for the rights of displaced tribals for decades, has fallen foul of the BJP-led central and state governments in India. In July, cases were filed against

him and around 20 others, alleging that they incited tension through social media posts and public statements on the [Pathalgadhi](#) tribal "self-rule" issue. The raids, were carried out as part of a probe into the violence at [Bhima Koregaon](#) - triggered by an event called *Elgar Parishad* held in Pune on December 31, 2017. [Read more...](#)

Asia Pacific - Cultivating the Jesuit identity of the social apostolate



"What is the difference between our social centres and NGOs? What is Jesuit about our centres?" These are questions we often ask ourselves and rarely take seriously. The JCAP social apostolate workshop, "Cultivating the Jesuit Identity of Social Ministries", sought to answer these questions, and address organisational weaknesses often found in Jesuit social centres. Most of the 32 Jesuits and lay collaborators

who gathered at Seven Fountains, Chiang Mai from August 13 to 17 were new directors and staff of Jesuit social centres in the region. The workshop consisted of four parts. [Read more...](#)

Global - Ecojesuits to focus on 'Action for Water: Care and Defend'



The 2018 annual meeting of Ecojesuit was held in the capital Bogota, and in Leticia, a small town deep in the Amazon Jungle between August 1 and 8. The brief was to develop a five-year strategy for the period 2019-23. The focus of Ecojesuit during this period will be 'water: with a desire to care and defend. In Bogota the objective was to establish links with academia and NGOs working in that part of the world. We met at the Pontifical Javeriana University (a Jesuit university) for a

one-day workshop. In Leticia, a three-day strategy workshop took place. The three working days were followed by field trips, including a 75km boat trip down the Amazon, during which we were fortunate to see the river's famous pink dolphins. We were hosted by an Indigenous family on the last day, experiencing how they now live in an urban setting and farm on the edge of the jungle. [Read more...](#)

Africa & Germany - Jesuits seek EU "Not to fight migrants, but migration root causes"



On 31 July 2018, German and African Jesuits addressed the letter "Flows of migrants, flows of money" to the Austrian EU Presidency, accompanied with a [Backup-Factsheet](#) supporting the argument. In the letter the Jesuits emphasized that migrants and, most importantly, refugees are neither criminals nor a threat to Europe's security, but people in need who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

Migratory movements have complex causes, and if one wants seriously to deal with the root causes of migratory movements one has to consider other transborder flows, for example the flows of money. They argue that it is more important to address the root causes rather than the symptoms if one wants to resolve the ongoing migration crisis or put an end to death in the Mediterranean or criminal trafficking. [Read more...](#)

Colombia - Establishing a Water Institute in Javeriana University



Part of the 2016-2021 plan of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia is the establishment of the Instituto del Agua de la Universidad Javeriana (Javeriana Water Institute) that will specialize on the study of water from a wider and multi-sectoral vision to include transportation, supply and uses, recreation, sanitation, conservation and impact on biodiversity,

hazards, and engages with broader civil society. The existence of a "scientific ecosystem of water studies" in the university aims to forward a view of water as: 1) a renewable natural resource with the hydrological cycle integrated with the other biogeochemical cycles; 2) a physical fluid that requires a foundation from the natural sciences and mathematics to understand its occurrence on earth and in ecosystems; and 3) a life resource that sustains a society in harmony with the environment. [Read more...](#)

Africa-Madagascar - Social Apostolate launches 5 year Strategic Plan



The JASCNET and Social Apostolate Coordinators' annual meeting was held at Kasisi Retreat in Lusaka, Zambia from Aug. 3-6, 2018. The Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM) President, Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator SJ opened the session. He talked about the need for collaboration and networking as part of the process of re-energizing, revitalizing and re-branding the network. The President later launched the JASCNET Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023

and emphasized the need for the network to go beyond the words of the strategic plan and implement every part. He also called on all centres to collaborate and make the strategic plan work. [Read more...](#)

Canada, Dominican Republic & Haiti - Caribbean Solidarity Tour



Canadian Jesuits International led a Caribbean Solidarity Trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti from June 30 to July 7, 2018. The group was accompanied by CJI Outreach Coordinator Pieter Niemeyer and CJI Director Jenny Cafiso and locally it was hosted by Fr Mario Serrano SJ and Centro Montalvo, a Jesuit social action centre. Participants learned about social justice and environmental issues in the region, including poverty, pollution, inequality, racism and forced

migration. They visited numerous places and people, including communities affected by Canadian mining companies such as Barrick Gold and Unigold, banana plantation workers, Jesuit Migrant Service staff who work at the Haitian border, shelters for street children, a textile free trade zone and Fe y Alegría schools. [Read more...](#)

Amazon - Jesuit Response to the cry of the Amazon



In 2014, CPAL established [Servicio Jesuita a la Pan Amazonía \(SJPAM\)](#) as a response to "defend and promote life and a sustainable environment in Pan-Amazonia in solidarity with the poorest, the most excluded and in particular with the Indigenous Peoples." There are 62 Jesuits working across this vast geography. SJPAM intends to pursue a global approach to the Pan-Amazon concerns in cooperation with Church and civil society actors. SJPAM has a presence

in three Amazonian borders: Leticia in Amazonas, Colombia (Peru, Colombia, Brazil); Assis in São Paulo, Brazil (Bolivia, Peru, Brazil); and Bonfim (Roraima, Brazil)-Lethem (Upper Takutu-Upper Essuquibo Region, Guyana) (Brazil, Guyana) and has three work areas: awareness, education, and training; reflection, research and advocacy; and service to the Church and inculturation of Spirituality. [Read more...](#)

Ireland - Pope urges Jesuits to help with the healing process

Pope Francis had a private meeting with over 60 Irish Jesuits, including the Irish Provincial Leonard Moloney at the Papal Nunciature in Dublin on 25 August 2018. Fr Moloney began by asking Pope Francis if there was anything the Irish Jesuits could help him with in line with their Fourth Vow - special obedience to the pontiff. The Pope responded by asking them directly to help to address clerical sexual abuse, with the healing process and with the



reparative work that needs to be done. Jesuit Scholastic Niall Leahy also gave his overall impression of the meeting. "Given the circumstances of his visit, our meeting with the Holy Father inevitably made us painfully aware of some of the dark realities within the life of the church. But we were also consoled to witness how a mere man can courageously face these realities

and carry the cross. For me this was a paschal moment." [Read more...](#)

Global - Jesuits debate how to transform the world together



The University of Deusto was since July 9th the epicenter of Jesuit universities. Until July 12th, around 300 rectors and leaders of more than 200 universities, colleges and Jesuit institutions of higher education from all over the world met at the World Assembly of Jesuit Universities-IAJU, with the motto: *Transforming our world together*. The solemn opening ceremony of the

World Assembly of Jesuit Universities, held in the district of Deusto, was attended by the Lehendakari, Iñigo Urkullu, King Felipe VI, the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Pedro Duque Rector of Deusto, José María Guibert, and the general head of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, among other authorities. [Read more...](#)

USA-Canada - Jesuit Conference issues Statement on EPA Affordable Clean Energy Rule



In light of Trump administration Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announcement that the Clean Power Plan (CPP), an Obama administration policy aimed at combating climate change, will be replaced by the new and significantly weaker Affordable Clean Energy Rule, the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology has released the statement. The Clean Power Plan was enacted in 2015. On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order mandating

EPA review of the rule. In October of 2017, the EPA announced plans to end the CPP. [Read more...](#)

South Korea - Migration, an issue that hits close to home



"If I had not joined the Society, by now I would most probably also be working in a foreign country as a migrant worker like my friends. This programme has made me realise that in fact in the Society I am a migrant and that being a Jesuit, who is generally always on the move, resembles a migrant." Myanmar Scholastic Joseph Zaw Goan realised this during the Immersion Programme on Migration hosted by the

Korean Jesuit Province from June 20 to July 5. Together with two other participants, one from Vietnam, the other from South Africa, he learnt about migration issues in South Korea and the situation faced by migrant workers in the country's farms and factories. [Read more...](#)

Europe - A gift for the homeless

The Irish Jesuit Province have announced that three properties in the Gardiner Street Parish of Dublin's north inner city will be converted to 16 apartments for the homeless, pending the approval of the Charities Regulator. The large Victorian buildings at 26-28 Sherrard Street Upper - which have housed various Jesuit organisations over the years including the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice and the Pioneer Association - will go toward helping the Peter McVerry Trust as they continue with their important work trying to combat the scourge that is the homelessness crisis. [Read more...](#)



You receive this official *Headlines (HL) Newsletter* from [SJES](#) - sent in 4 languages to around 9.000 subscribers in 130 countries - because you are our esteemed subscriber.

[Modify your Email ID](#) :Kindly write under subject '**Modify**';

[Unsubscribe](#) :kindly write under subject '**Unsubscribe**'

If you are not receiving our Journal **Promotio Iustitiae (PJ)**, kindly [Subscribe](#)



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES)

Borgo S. Spirito 4 - 00193 Rome, Italy

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

Editors - Xavier Jeyaraj & Rossana Mattei

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