



777 UN Plaza, East 44th Street, Suite 6F, New York, NY 10017
 Tel. +1 646 487 0003 Email: viny@vivatinternational.org - www.vivatinternational.org

NEWSLETTER No. 68
July - September 2016

DEAR READERS,
WELCOME TO THE 68TH ONLINE ISSUE
OF THE VIVAT NEWSLETTER!

This issue begins with a story from New York on the United Nations High Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016. Prior to this was the World Social Forum (WSF) which took place in Montreal, 9 -14 August, 2016).

At national level this issue includes a statement by the participants of VIVAT International Workshop taking place in Leuven, Belgium between 10 and 15 July, 2016; three stories from African Continent, two of which come from Kenya on parish base activity of planting trees and VIVAT International Kenya (VIK) Action Plan; and a story of human trafficking in Cameroon.

It also covers three other stories from Asian Continent. The first is from Thailand on the Divine Word Missionaries' concerns about HIV/AIDS survivors and their activities related to the issue. The second story is of

International Youth Day Celebration in Indore, India organized by Javinkas Society under a special theme: "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production". A report by Fr. Charles Burrows OMI on new executions of death penalty prisoners in Indonesia is the third story from Asia.

The last story is about the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) of the U.S.A. and Caribbean Province on Immigration and Migrants in the country.

This issue ends with introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Part 1 of a series information on Sustainable Development Goals which is the vision and ambition of the United Nations for 15 years ahead (2016 -2030).

We encourage you to share your stories and initiatives with us.

IN THIS ISSUE:

UN High Level Summit..... p. 2	India: International Youth Day p. 8
WSF Montreal..... p. 3	Indonesia: New Executions..... p. 9
VIVAT Workshop Belgium... p. 4	Cameroon: Story Continues... p.10
Thailand: Changing Times..... p. 5	Indonesia: New Executions... p. 11
Kenya: Green Parish..... p. 6	Introducing SDGs (1.)..... p.12
U.S.A.: Changing Lives p. 7	

Board of Directors

Heinz Kulüke, SVD
 Maria T. Hornemann, SSpS
 Guy Mazola Mido, SVD
 Jude Nnorom, CSSp
 Carmen Bando, SSpS
 Daisuke Narui, SVD
 Zita Resch, ASC

Secretary

Felix Jones, SVD

Executive Administration

Helen R. Saldanha, SSpS
 Robert Mirsal, SVD

VIVAT Int'l rep. in Geneva

Andrzej Owca, CSSp

Contributed with this edition

Editor pro Tem

John Converset, MCCJ
 Pricilla Burke, SSpS

Translators

Spanish

French

Simone Petra Hanel, SSpS

German

Edni Gugelmin, SSpS

Portuguese

CONTACT

NEW YORK GENEVA

+1 646 487 0003 +41 022 796 991

www.vivatinternational.org

People on the Move

UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL SUMMIT ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

On 13 September 71st Session of General Assembly United Nations opened in UN Headquarters, New York emphasizing on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “The 70th Session launched the SDGs and for integrity’s sake the 71st must be the year we witness the wheels turning on the implementation of all 17 SDGs,” the President of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson, said as he took an oath of office before proceeding to open the new session.

United Nations High Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/summit>

On 19 September 2016, United Nations High level Summit for Refugees and Migrants was held in UNHQ. The theme of the Summit was agreed by the General Assembly in December 2015.

Adoption of the New York Declaration <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>

Two main features of the summit was the adoption of the landmark Declaration on addressing the refugees and migrants, known as the New York Declaration and Together Campaign to respond to xenophobia.

The declaration contains commitments to address the issue with concrete plans to actualize the commitment. Some of the commitments are protection of the human rights of all refugees and migrants, including the rights of women, girls and promoting their full, equal, and meaning full participation in finding solutions; education of all refugee and migrant children, working towards ending the practice of detention of children, global campaign to counter xenophobia recognizing and strengthening the positive contribution of migrants to the economy of host countries, implementation of comprehensive refugee and inclusive response especially in the case of mass movements of refugees, working for resettlement and relocation, strengthening global governance by integrating International



Source: <https://twitter.com/ThomsonFiji>

Organization for Migration (IOM) in UN System. The declaration contains concrete plans for the adoption of Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018 and developing guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Together-Campaign <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/together>

The Secretary-General launched a new campaign called “Together – Respect, Safety and Dignity for All” that called on all to respond to the increasing xenophobia and to highlight the positive contributions of migrants and refugees to source, transit and destination countries.

The info-graphics based on official data sources from UN website gives a vivid picture of the present crisis situation: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/info-graphics>.

Civil Society and the Draft Declaration

On 18 September 2016, civil society led and co-convened by a global, self-organized Action Committee held an open meeting to discuss advocacy at and after the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, 19 September 2016. This committee was formed in May 2016 to focus

on action, outcomes and implementation of UN General Assembly High level Summit on addressing large movement of refugees and migrants. It was co-convened by International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the NGO Committee on Migration (New York) of which VIVAT International is a member. Prior to the meeting the New York Declaration and other documents were widely circulated for feedback and discussion, and negotiations for influencing a human rights approach to the declaration that consisted of seven commitments for acting on policies and implementation, accountability and allocation of resources.

The declaration was discussed September 18th meeting highlighting the follow-up that needs to be done post-summit. The jointly signed statement with an analytic scorecard of each of the commitments contained in the declaration was submitted to the world leaders on 19 September 2016. http://refugees-migrants-civilsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/0685-HLD_Act-Now-GB.pdf

Conclusion

Unsafe and forced migration and refugee crisis is not new, but the international community has opened up to the possibility of addressing this unprecedented issue. In every continent the crisis is there, be it in Syria and the middle East, Central America, or South Sudan. Hence it is a relevant step by the world leaders. Faith based organizations have long contributed and continue to address this issue. As a faith based organization VIVAT International members are involved in addressing the issues of forced and unsafe migrants as well as refugees. The policy development at the international level is a positive step to follow up at the national levels with the Governments.

Helen Saldanha, SSPS

Another World Is Needed. Together It Is Possible

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IN MONTREAL, AUGUST 9 - 14, 2016

The 12th World Social Forum was the first of its kind to be held in northern hemisphere of the world. It does provide a space for developing collaborative action as people and movements from different parts of the world come together in the pursuit of making our world a better place through positive alternatives.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WSF-MONTREAL

The “independently organized activities” (i.e., the workshops, seminars and discussions, etc. organized by various participating entities) were grouped into thirteen major themes for the sake of organization and follow-up opportunities. Those 13 themes are: Economic, Social and Solidarity Alternatives facing the Capitalist Crisis; Democratization of Knowledge and Right to Communication; Culture of Peace and Struggle for Justice and Demilitarization; Decolonization and Self-Determination of Peoples; Rights of Nature and Environmental Justice; Global Struggles and International Solidarity; Human and Social Rights, Dignity and Fight against Inequalities; Struggles against Racism, Xenophobia, Patriarchy and Fundamentalism; Fight against the Dictatorship of Finance and for Resource Distribution; Migration, Refugees and Citizenship Without Borders; Democracy, Social and Citizen Movements; and Workers against Neoliberalism; Cultural, Artistic and Philosophical Expressions for Another Possible World.

Roughly 1,200 of these events were held; a good many other events were canceled, often because the intended presenters did not obtain visas to enter Canada. The independently organized events took place in the mornings and early afternoons over three days (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). In the later part of the afternoon, there were also “assemblies of convergence” in which the participants were to hopefully indicate some action points to be carried out. Later each evening there were “major conferences” on a variety of themes, featuring well-known presenters, that had been prearranged by the



organizing committee.

The “Comboni Network” team, which is also a VIVAT International Associate Member Congregation, consisted of 16 people (two Comboni Missionary Sisters, two MCCJ religious brothers and 12 MCCJ priests); the team was smaller than that of Tunis due to the situation of the two Comboni Institutes and also the great costs of participation in the WSF at Montreal. Besides the Combonis, there were also a number of VIVAT International members from other congregations such as Divine Word

Missionaries (SVD) represented by Br. Jim Zabranski, SVD and Sr. Helen Saldanha, SSpS, representing the VIVAT International Executive Team in New York and the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit.

The Comboni Network team presented six workshops on land-grabbing, trafficking in persons, climate change, the situation in South Sudan, the situation in the DR Congo and on damage done to the environment and indigenous communities by international mining groups in Brazil. All these workshops were well-prepared and had relatively good attendance -- half of them were done in collaboration with other groups. In presenting the urgency of dealing with climate change, I met George Martin and Julie Enslow of the Milwaukee-based Liberty Tree Foundation and 350.org again. In Montreal I went to their workshop on militarization and climate change and they came to mine on the urgency of moving past the Paris Agreement of COP 21.

The WSF in Montreal was very different from that in Tunis. In Montreal the events were scattered over many different localities. They were not too far apart, only a few kilometers from each other, and the metro and bus services were good. However, the result of this dispersion was that, with the exception of the opening march, we never saw very large numbers of people together in one place. Also we had the impression that there were relatively few young people taking part -- although the organizers claim that there was a good number. The “South of the world” was vastly under-represented at the WSF-Montreal.

John Converset, MCCJ

BELGIUM: Empowering and Strengthening Grassroots

STATEMENT OF THE VIVAT WORKSHOP, LEUVEN, JULY 10 - 15, 2016

We, the 20 members of VIVAT International, belonging to eight religious Congregations, Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Comboni Missionaries, Congregation of the Holy Ghost, Little Sisters of the Assumption, Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Society of the Divine Word, Religious of the Assumption, and a representative of the NGO "Convivial", participated in a Workshop in Belgium, organized by VIVAT International from 10-15 July 2016.



The workshop has allowed us to come to a better understanding of the United Nations' (UN) systems and mechanisms; history, goals, structures and organization of VIVAT, its relations with the UN, as well as "advocacy" which is its primary mode of action.

The workshop addressed many issues with the assistance of resource persons. This allowed us to come to a better understanding of the issues pertaining to human rights such as migrants, climate change and human trafficking. It was backed by the topics, Biblical perspectives of justice and peace, as well as Social Teaching of the Church.

In addition, the workshop opened our eyes to the various JPIC commitments of our congregations and we became aware of the importance of advocacy to

change the causes of injustice. We also learned that the group in Belgium is in the process of forming the national branch of VIVAT International in Belgium. The technical support for translation by Fr. Georg Laun SVD, and the two translators, Fr. Vincent O'Grady CSSp and Mr. Alex Dechamps was helpful in enhancing our participation in the workshop.

Having participated in this workshop we see the need of networking at the grassroots and with the other NGOs at local, national as well as international levels, which will help us to create a greater awareness of those issues. However, looking at the evolution of our congregations, average age and ongoing restructuring, we discussed other viable options for collaboration, such as promoting a European level network.

Hence, we commit ourselves to:

- Raising more awareness among the members of our congregations and among others members of VIVAT.
- Taking interest to work as a network and identify relevant issues that we can jointly address.
- Engage in advocacy and collaboration in Belgium that can later spread to Europe and other regions.

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Comboni Missionaries, Congregation of the Holy Ghost, Little Sisters of the Assumption, Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Society of the Divine Word, Religious of the Assumption.

THAILAND: Changing Times - Open to the Spirit

VIVAT INTERNATIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE LIVES OF HIV/AIDS SURVIVORS IN THAILAND

The Mother of Perpetual Help Center in Nong Bua Lamphu in Northeast Thailand began in 1997 as “welcome house” where men and women infected with AIDS could receive counselling and guidance. A former seminarian started the center, and later, with Brother James Wilkins SVD and I, (Br. Damien Lunders, SVD) the center expanded its services. Gradually, programs were developed to help children and adults with AIDS, as well as poor families throughout the province. An extensive education and awareness program in schools for HIV prevention was also started. The mission and work of Mother of Perpetual Help Center depends very much on the help of our truly dedicated Thai staff. We have tried over the years to be open to the Spirit and to change with the times as needs emerged. God has truly been good, and without his help and the generosity of many benefactors, the center would not be what it is today.

In the past young men and women came for care at Villa Marie Hospice at the Mother of Perpetual Help Center, but many were already in poor condition and did not survive. With the development of antiviral medications, many patients now improve and can live normal lives. Those who return to home, family, and friends are able to find work and continue on with life. Those who have no home to return to due to discrimination and rejection stay on and are accommodated at our farm just outside the city limits. On our farm, they are able to care for themselves and make a living by looking after the fruit trees, and raising ducks, chickens, and fish.



In recent years, a new need has arisen. Older people are being sent to us for care at Villa Marie Hospice. The majority of them have mental or physical disabilities, several are blind. Though it may sometimes seem like “the blind leading the blind”, it is heartwarm-



Pawan and Gaew at Mother Mary House

ing to watch how the elderly people have befriended one another and look after each other. Due to their disabilities, they are no longer accepted by their families, so most will be long-term residents. These seniors will need care for the rest of their lives.

After working for a number of years at Ban Mae Maria, Bernd Ruffing, SVD—a German Brother—recently left Thailand to begin a new ministry with refugees in Europe. Truong Thong Le SVD, a seminarian from the United States, here for his cross-cultural training program, has stepped in to help take care of teenagers at Ban Mae Maria (Mother Mary House). Working with orphaned and unwanted teenagers has been a real challenge. Since the opening of Mother Mary House in 2010, many youngsters have come and gone. It is inevitable that these young people want to venture out to live independently when they reach maturity. However, once on their own, some discontinue their antiviral medications. After years of training and education about the importance of this medicine, it is difficult for us to grasp why some young adults fail to follow through with these life-changing drugs. Once off the antiviral medicine, doctors are reluctant to reintroduce these young adults to the medication. Sadly, this usually brings them back to us, to Villa Marie Hospice, for care as their health deteriorates.

As times change and bring us struggles and difficulties, they also bring us joy as we see progress made in small but significant ways at our center everyday. We try not to become discouraged when we read that the number of AIDS infections has not decreased significantly, even when information and education are available. We remain open to the Spirit, who helps us to keep going with our hospice work, our education and awareness programs, and our response to the needs of the elderly. Our hope is that one day HIV/AIDS will be eliminated.

*By Br. Damien Lunders, SVD,
VIVAT International Thailand
Republished under the permission of
Divine Word Missionaries Magazine*

KENYA: Moving Forward

- ❖ GREEN PARISH: GRASSROOTS RESPONSE TO “LAUDATO SI”
- ❖ VIVAT INTERNATIONAL KENYA’S ACTION PLAN

The increasing natural calamities day by day all over the world speak something to us human beings who are given stewardship on God’s creation. These calamities whisper something very profound to our ears, telling us that we have completely failed in our task of taking care of the creation. We have been selfish for exploiting creation instead of taking good care of it. Hence, natural calamities are calling us to stop harming the earth and take action of reviving her. In this regard, Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* asks us members of the Catholic fold and the whole humanity a deeper and critical question: “*What kind of world would we want to leave for the next generation?*” Further, he reminds us of the stewardship entrusted to the human beings by the Creator over His creation (Gen. 1:28).

I started asking myself about my duty towards God’s creation. How am I to take care of this earth? Deeply disturbed by this question, I shared it with the Parish Council. We then came up with a common decision in the Parish to plant as many trees as possible and to take care of them.

Holy Trinity Parish, Morombo is of a semi urban setup. There are hardly any trees in the vicinity. Viewed from above, the parish looks bare and roof houses made of corrugated iron sheets dominate the landscape. Hence, the decision to plant trees during this Year of Mercy as an expression of care and mercy for our Mother Earth was well received.

The faithful contributed to the fencing of the entire parish compound. They came one day to dig pits for 150 trees, 450 trees more will be planted near the houses of our parishioners. Now we are sure that we have made a conscious effort to leave a green parish for the future generation.

I believe this green revolution can be the trademark of SVD. The idea of making



our parishes green goes along with our SVD dimension of Peace, Justice and Integration of Creation (JPIC). We are called to bring life to Mother Earth who is now struggling to provide good

breath for us human beings as the result of deforestation and urbanization. We can be good agents of new life. It could be our special contribution to the local place where we are and to the natural environment. In this Year of Mercy, planting trees and building green parishes is one concrete action we can do for the future generation.

(Fr. Peddy Costolino, SVD)

=====

IT IS MOVING FORWARD

Vivat International Kenya (VIK) is moving guided by its Action Plan. VIK has its National Board of Directors (NBOD) in place. VIK has its Executive Team (ET) in place. VIK has its



Office in placed although still very bare and empty as needed equipment and furniture are not yet available, but they will be made available in due time.



A 3 days Workshop for the JPIC Coordinators of the 9 Member Congregations (CSSp, ASC, CMS, MSHR, RA, OMI, MCCJ, SVD, SSpS) present in Kenya & Tanzania will take place in November from 8-10, 2016. It is dubbed: SKILLS TRAINING geared towards Advocacy and Lobbying. Three facilitators were invited and they are from the Jesuits International, the Marists International and Franciscan International. The other two Member Congregations like Cssp and LSA are not yet present here in Kenya.

Plan of Action: Animation of JPIC Coordinators of VIK Founding and Member Congregations

Strategies:

1. Education & Organization-Building
 - Providing training of skills & consciousness-raising, e.g. workshops and seminars
 - Finding out available training programs useful for VIK JPIC Coordinators
2. Communication
 - Research - data gathering, fact-finding
 - Newsletter - communicating on issues, best practices, relevant materials
 - Setting up a directory of VIK JPIC members and resources
3. Networking
 - Identifying GO's and NGO's, Faith-Based Organizations (FBO's) and Online Networks with the same JPIC orientation
 - Partnering on activities with selected Organizations

*Fr. Eusebio Manangbao, SVD,
VIVAT International Kenya*

INDIA: The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

International Youth Day was celebrated in Janvikas, Indore, on 12th August, 2016

by youth from the slums of Indore city. The theme of the International Youth Day 2016 is: "The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production." Janvikas Society has initiated a new venture with the help of Mission Office (Steyler Missionare), Austria to organize youth in the slums of Indore city to empower them to empower the society. Four such Youth Clubs are formed in each slum to orient the youth (both boys and girls) and to assist them to become better, responsible citizens of the country.

Mr. Navneet Shukla, Chief Secretary, Indore Press Club, was the Chief Guest of the function. The youth icon and the 'Best Hero' award winner of the year Mr. Ranjit Singh from Indore Traffic Police Department was the special guest who inspired youth through experiences from his own life. He urged youth never to lose self-respect, and work hard to achieve goals. "Total dedication and commitment in whatever we do will bring about great success" he said. He also mentioned the importance of respect and love one must show towards one's own parents.

Mr. Hemant Sharma, Secretary of Indore Press Club was a guest of honour.



Fr. Jomon SVD, the Vice President of Janvikas, inspired youth to work hard to fulfill their dreams, enumerating examples of great leaders and champions in the world. Fr. Roy, Director of Janvikas, through a power point presentation,

explained about various activities of Janvikas carried out in different slums of Indore for women, children and youth.

Youth from different slums (300) participated in the 'Talent Show' (cultural program) exhibiting their hidden talents through dance, speech, skit, etc. Some of the youth shared their experiences of being part of a youth club organized by Janvikas and how it had transformed their lives.

Janvikas initiated the process of organizing youth clubs in four major slums in Indore in January, 2016. The focus is on "Empowering Youth to Empower the Society" - enabling youth to become responsible citizens for social action. A survey was conducted and

over 1000 youth were enrolled from these slums. Youth are provided with training in leadership, health and sanitation, career guidance, gender equality, environmental concerns, the role of youth in promotion of peace and harmony, employment opportunities etc.

*Fr. Roy Thomas SVD
Director of Janvikas Society Indore; Member
of VIVAT International*

U.S.A: Changing Lives

The Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters of the USA – Caribbean Province through the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Department, strive to uphold the SSps-USA mission of promoting human dignity and working for justice and peace. Our work with migrants and immigration is especially important during this time when anti-immigrant sentiments, misinformation, fear, and hatred are finding their way into U.S. laws and policies. As Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters and VIVAT International, we believe it is extremely urgent that we stand with immigrants and with those who share our passion for just immigration reform.

In 2010, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters voted for a corporate stance: “We, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, in collaboration with dedicated laity and clergy, strive to live and proclaim the Gospel of God’s love, justice and peace by reverencing the dignity of each person and creating a spirit of



hospitality. With the strength of the Holy Spirit, we stand in solidarity with immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons of diverse cultures and traditions and minister, as well as journey together with them.”

We stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees in many ways, but the most significant work we do is through prayer, actions, educational efforts and our advocacy efforts. Through advocacy we can address the root causes of migration and create more just and



immigrant-friendly policies. In doing so, we are creating a more holistic permanent change in the lives of migrants and their families. We advocate each week by sending out an Advocacy Weekly Alert, which includes the current state of immigration reform, prayers, resources, petitions, and various actions. These alerts are sent out to organizations and individuals and it is our hope that people will share the alert among their networks. We also post these alerts to our Facebook. Other actions we take include lobbying for compassionate immigration reform and just legislation toward immigrants, letter-writing campaigns and emailing our elected officials for policy change, participating in prayer vigils and public rallies, holding voter registration drives, utilizing social media, and visiting the offices of our public officials.

Each month, with the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI), we visit immigrants in the detention centers. We listen to their stories, pray for them, and show dignity for each one of them. It is our way of showing them that they are not alone —

we are on this journey together. We want them to know that there are people out there advocating for them and fighting for their rights. Another way we show our care is by helping those who are released from prison to get transportation, food, clothes and whatever they need. This makes a difference to them in a very real way. Education and prayer are also crucial in the fight for comprehensive immigration reform. We attend many conferences, seminars, and lectures on all the issues surrounding migration. Each month, in partnership with Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI), we hold a public witness on the streets of Chicago. We hold signs advocating for immigration reform and hand out flyers with information and resources to educate others on this issue.

Collaboration is vital to our success. We partner with dozens of organizations within the city and state who are also working on these same issues. We have been working with the Healthy Illinois Campaign to get health care for the undocumented. We team up with the SVDs and our Adoration Sisters called the Joint Immigration Venture and a number of other organizations to make a difference to immigrants.

Are we changing lives? It’s hard to say. Advocacy and prayer are about long-term systemic change. We work to influence change on a broader level by targeting systems that are not responding to the needs of the people. It can take decades to see the fruits of our labor, but for now we will continue planting the seeds of justice, peace, and love, and hope. With VIVAT International, we are making a small but significant difference in not only the lives of the people around us, but in the lives of future generations as well.

*Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSps
(JPIC Coordinator for the USA-Caribbean
Province)*

INDONESIA: New Executions of Prisoners on Nusakambangan Island

The 3rd group to be executed in the time of the Jokowi Government (the current President of Indonesia) was to be on Tuesday, July 26th 2016. We, as the Spiritual Accompaniers were told by the police to go to Wijayapura Port in West Java at 18.00 to receive a briefing from the Prosecutors' office. We then took a boat to Nusakambangan Island, where there is a jail for those who commit serious crimes, including drug dealers, murderers and terrorists. On the boat I met the Consul of the Nigerian Embassy for Indonesia and got to talk to him.

When we arrived at the jail we learned that 8 of the 14 to be executed were Nigerians. They all had false passports to bring in drugs. But as they wanted their corpses to be sent back to Nigeria they needed Nigerian passports and the Consul agreed to get them the passports. Among the eight Nigerians, there was a Protestant and three Catholics. There was also an Indonesian Catholic lady who was accompanied by a Franciscan Priest – Fr. Bimo. Fr. Vincent O.M.I. was to look after one of the Nigerians and I would look after prisoners no. 1 and 14 on the execution list. The Nigerians felt they were being discriminated against because they were black at which they were very angry. One felt he had not been given access to his lawyer and therefore refused to sign any documents. There were some language problems, so I helped where I could and managed to get him access to a phone. When he finished I offered to pray over him and he accepted and blessed himself. I listened to his story – he believed he was framed and was innocent. He told about police brutality which is common. We then helped with interviews with the other Nigerian Catholics and in late evening returned to the port and by boat to Cilacap.

The next morning we took our own transport for Fr. Bimo, Fr. Vincent, Minister Yosafat and myself.

We crossed over to the island and were transported to a police outpost and put in a room and told this was as far as we could go as we would only be given two periods of 3 minutes to console the Prisoners – 3 minutes when they arrived at the place of execution and 3 minutes just before they were to be shot. However we all protested. At this stage

Just after 23.00 P.M, they began the process of taking the prisoners from their cells and at about 24.00 P.M. the fourth prisoner, sobbing uncontrollably, was handed over to the police to be brought by a vehicle – half cabin – half open back and at this time we were informed that only 4 were being executed – the others, were given a temporary reprieve – also that the last transport out of the jail was the semi utility vehicle taking the fourth prisoner – so



5 Protestant Ministers, 2 Moslem clerics and 3 Catholic priests – so we were taken to the jail where the prisoners were being held in separate cells and waited to be given access. As time went by we asked and asked for access but were never given access. Usually the prisoners begin their journey (\pm 10 kms.) to the execution site at \pm 22.00 P.M. and as the handover from wardens to police takes time it would be close to 00.00 P.M. by the time they all get there – at 23.00 P.M. nothing had happened so we knew something was going on.

we had to run and pile in the back and at this stage we were having a storm with heavy rain, winds, thunder and lightning. As it was open in no time we were all totally drenched but as the prisoner in the enclosed part of the vehicle was to be shortly executed, we were not complaining – very little sacrifice for the gift of life. Actually none of the Catholics were now being executed and later we learned the lady's sentence was reduced to life in prison.

(continued to page 11...)

CAMEROON: Stories Continue....

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN CAMEROON: SOME EXPERIENCES

Trafficking refers to the lure to move a person from his or her home or family and community to another place for the purpose of exploitation. The 2005 law on Child Trafficking in Cameroon focused on children with an age limit of 18 years, but was amended by the 2011 law, the term of child was replaced with Human Trafficking thereby putting no age limit. The 2005 law on child trafficking caused many problems because there were victims that left their villages at the age of 15 years. They were under exploitation for a period of 6 years and returned at the age of 21. As a result their cases could not be placed by the magistrates for prosecution as they were above the age. From the experience we can classify trafficking into four different aspects as follows:

Voluntary Trafficking: This is where a girl is brain washed with promises and she chooses to go. This has come very clearly from the experience of nine young women that I am in touch with who are still trapped in Kuwait and three returned cases, two from Kuwait and one from Lebanon. This is also clear from so many others whose parents or guardians do not know how they left. The story of a returned third year student in one of the national Universities exemplifies this aspect of trafficking among other young Cameroonian women still stranded in Kadama Centre in Kuwait. This has been a huge challenge. A priest from Kumbo diocese who so much appreciates the efforts made by the project travelled to England for studies early this year. He came across a Cameroonian young woman who shared a sad experience about her friend stranded in Kuwait.

Forceful Trafficking: This is where one is put under pressure by parents, families and custodians. The cases of two young women and two young men tell it all. All under the care of grand-

mother and a poor mother respectively, an uncle sent them to work for people while he received the salary.

Trafficking as a Debt Recovery: This is where a debtor is exploited on the excuse to pay off a debt. The story of Mary moving from Dubai to Kuwait, Kuwait to Lebanon, Lebanon to Saudi Arabia and back to Kuwait was all in an attempt to pay off her debts that she incurred in order to travel. She is now mentally challenged and now undergoing treatment.

Kidnapped Trafficking: This is where one is kidnapped and sold for slavery. The story of Esther who was sent by her mother without the knowledge of the family members is clear evidence. She finds it hard to believe that her own mother could do that and she finds it hard to forgive her. She is undergoing counseling.

According to a report by the U.S. Department of State, Cameroon is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Cameroon is a source country for men in forced labor. Awareness about trafficking has led to parents being less willing to give their children to these intermediaries.



Cases of kidnapping are reported regularly. Cameroonian children are exploited in many sectors, such as domestic service; restaurants; street begging or vending; mining and gravel quarries; agriculture, including tea and cocoa plantations; in the urban transportation and construction

sectors, where they perform odd jobs as errand boys and laborers on construction sites; and in prostitution within the country. Cameroonian women are lured to Europe and other regions by fraudulent internet marriage proposals or offers of domestic work and subsequently become victims of forced labor or forced prostitution in Switzerland and France, with smaller numbers in Russia. In 2013, a group of approximately 35 Cameroonian men were exploited in forced labor in forestry work in Sweden; most were granted temporary residency permits during the investigation. During the year, Cameroonian trafficking victims were also identified in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Cyprus, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Haiti, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and several West and Central African countries.

A lot still needs to be done in terms of protection, prevention and reintegration/rehabilitation of the very vulnerable rural population which is at high risk of trafficking. The poverty situation of the households has been identified as the underlying factor which sustains this increasing phenomenon, with victims, primarily girls, who are lured in the name of jobs and exploited in domestic servitude, work as sexual tools once they reach their destination. This is the case of a testimony by a returning victim which revealed that many Cameroonian girls are being traded in Lebanon, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia where they are subjected to sexual abuse and slavery.

In conclusion I quote the words of Pope Francis during the Angelus in St. Peter's on the 8th February 2015, "I encourage those who work helping the women, men and children who are enslaved, exploited, abused as instruments of work or pleasure, who are often tortured and mutilated. May each one of us feel committed to being a voice for our brothers and sisters who have been humiliated in their dignity".

*Sr. Mercy Muthoni, MSHR
VIVAT International Cameroon*

Indonesia: New Executions... (...continued from p. 9)

When we arrived at the execution site we were put back in the room we had been in. The group asked us to pray together and we did so, until the four to be accompanied for 3 minutes were called out to console the four about to be executed. Three were Protestant Nigerians and 1 Indonesian Moslem. The Spiritual accompaniers came back quite upset. So we prayed together again for consolation for the prisoners and accompaniers. All this time the rain, wind, thunder and lightning continued. One struck hit the nearest electricity post, knocking out the electricity and put the place in darkness. The executions then took place in the darkness. It was difficult to hear the shots with the thunder claps. The general feeling was that God was protesting the executions. The four accompaniers were given their second three minutes and with them and we prayed together again. Two of the Protestant Ministers were ladies and they found the experience difficult and traumatic. As there were no Catholics being executed, we did not have to wait to pray over the corpses so we headed back to the port. This time we were in a covered truck and then by boat back to Cila-cap. The next day I gave interviews to many news outlets and reaffirmed my rejection of the death penalty.

The Government, up to this time has not given the reasons why four prisoners were executed and 10 given a temporary reprieve, but the realization that 8 of the 14 were Nigerians and black, probably had some influence – as the Consul would have reported this and the Indonesian Government would not want to be seen as racist.

On Saturday we had a meeting with the Justice and Peace Commission of the



Indonesian Bishops Conference and the need for a Standard Operational Procedure (S.O.P.) as to the role of Spiritual Accompaniers in the 72 hour process leading up to executions. Also discussed was an in-depth investigation as to the traumatic effects on the 10 prisoners

who prepared and waited for an execution that did not take place – and on their families – as one could say they were 50% executed and it would be unjust to put them through such torture for a second time.

Hopefully the whole experience will make the Indonesian Government think again before they plan the next round of executions.

*Fr. Charlie Burrows OMI,
on the Island of Java, Indonesia;
Member of VIVAT International*

INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PART 1

It was on September 27, 2015 at the 70th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, that 193 Member States adopted and officially declared Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a global development agenda for 15 years (2016 – 2030). In some way SDGs is a continuation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000-2015), however, SDGs are more in terms of number (17 Goals) and concerns and has a different approach. If MDGs employed state-based approach excluding civil society both in the process and in its implementation, SDGs is a shared responsibility and common project of Member States and Civil Society un-



der the umbrella of human rights. Therefore, not only Member States but also the participation of civil society without exception are taken into account for the success of SDGs implementation in each country.

Each goal has its targets and indicators. It is the way to ensure that each goal can be put into action. Three pillars of SDGs are people, planet and prosperity and its guiding principles are participation, partnership and “leave no one behind” (inclusivity). Following are the seventeen development goals:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce income inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Beginning with the next edition, we will learn more details about SDGs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) Quito, Ecuador (17-20 October 2016)
- 24 October - 18 November: 65th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and pre-sessional working group for the 67th session 65th session (24 October – 18 November 2016) and Pre-sessional Working Group for the 67th session (21-25 November 2016) Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XVI, A Building.
- UN Climate Change Conference - Marrakesh, Morocco - November 2016
- 26-27 November: Global Sustainable Transport Conference, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

UN Calendar of International Days:

October:

- 1 : International Day of Older Persons
- 2 : International Day of Non-Violence
- 3 : World Habitat Day
- 5 : World Teachers Day
- 11: International Day of the Girl Child
- 15: International Day for Rural Women
- 16: World Food Day [FAO]
- 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 31: World Cities Day

November:

- 2 : International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
- 6 : International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 6 - 12: International Week of Science and Peace
- 14 : World Diabetes Day [WHO]
- 16 : International Day for Tolerance
- 17 : World Philosophy Day [UNESCO]
- 20 : Universal Childrens Day
- 25 : International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

December:

- 1 : World AIDS Day
- 2 : International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 : International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 5 : International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development World Soil Day [FAO]
- 9 : International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10 : Human Rights Day
- 18 : International Migrants Day
- 20 : International Human Solidarity Day