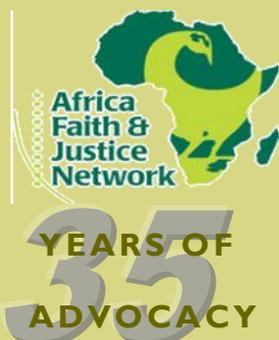


A PUBLICATION OF THE



Office Report June 2018

Welcome to Summer Interns 2018



Patrick Garvey , Tia Scoggan Brandon Beck Amie Culver

Tia Scoggan currently a 5th year senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Purdue University, in Indiana, with the hopes of pursuing a master's degree in International Relations with an International Development focus. She is an air Force ROTC.

Brandon Beck is a junior at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, majoring in Political Science and Spanish and minors in Economics

Patrick Garvey is a graduate of SUNY Brockport Class of 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science

Amie Culver who graduated in May with a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations at Oral Roberts University and currently lives in Falls Church Virginia.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Africa Faith and Justice Network, inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, seeks to educate and advocate for just relations with Africa and to work in partnership with African peoples as they engage in the struggle for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Moved to action by their personal experiences in Africa, three Catholic missionary congregations namely the Missionaries of Africa, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritains), and the Society of African Missions, founded the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) in 1983 to transform United States policy towards Africa and her people. Since that time, membership has grown and remains committed in faith to advocate in Washington, DC for U.S. relations with Africa that foster justice and peace, and to educate the public across the United States on the truth about Africa.



Fr. Daniele Moschetti Fellowship

For the past six months, Comboni Missionary Father Daniele Moschetti, born in Varese, Italy and the immediate past Provincial of the Comboni Missionaries in South Sudan, served as a fellow at AFJN. Fr. Daniele leaves on June 13, 2018 for his community in Newark from where he will serve at the UN as representative of the Combonis at VIVAT. He will also represent AFJN's interest at the UN. Fr. Daniele was instrumental to connecting

AFJN with the Episcopal Conference of Italy. We thank him for his outstanding service and contribution and advancement of the mission of AFJN in Washington and beyond.

Fall Internship Ended



We thank Etsegenet Kedir, our Fall Intern for her contribution to AFJN. She has a Bachelor's degree in Law from Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) and a Master's degree in International Human Rights Law from Lund University (Sweden). Etsegenet grew up in Ethiopia and worked in several different capacities in non-profit and government organizations. We wish her all the best wherever God leads her.

Raskob Foundation Grant

We have received with delight a grant award from the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities for AFJN's ACT (African Churches Together to fight corruption) Project in the amount of \$180,000. The terms of the grant are as follows: “**\$120,000 outright**” and \$60,000 after we have actually raised matching funds by May 2019. Incidentally at the time we received the notification, AFJN Executive Director was meeting with SECAM staff in Accra, Ghana to discuss our collaborative strategy on implementing the ACT project.

Raskob gives us until May 2019 to raise the matching funds. The check for the outright grant will be sent after the 15th of July. We are approaching several organizations: Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst (GHR), the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and the Episcopal Conference of Italy CEI) for the remainder of the grant funding. The two year project is projected to cover activities in Liberia, the DRC, Uganda and Cameroon.

2nd Quarter Invoice

Thank you you all for your continued support of AFJN. The future looks bright with your leadership. Please, if you received an invoice as an individual member and have not had a chance to reply, please do so. We will email you personally for follow up if your organizational membership contribution has not yet been received.

Shallom Fund

Sr. Roberta linked us to the Shallom Fund of the Dominican Sisters. We made contact and we hope to follow up. We look forward to applying and hope to get the favor through the advocacy of our board member Sr. Roberta. Please, if your organization has special funding or grant accounts, let us know so that we can enquire on how to apply.

AFJN Office Space

We have negotiated for the extension of the current lease of office space at Washington Leadership Academy until end of December 2018 at the same monthly rate. The lease was to expire at the end of June - this month.

Anti-trafficking campaign in Ghana



As part of AFJN's Women Empowerment Project, Aniedi traveled to the Northern Region of Ghana to accompany women religious on a four-day advocacy campaign against human trafficking - the *Kayayei* phenomenon; a project initiated by AFJN. The four-day event included advocacy in three districts, meeting with elected officials, traditional and religious leaders (including the Chief Imam of Tamale and local Imams of the district), and town hall meetings in several villages, to educate, raise awareness and highlight the ills of trafficking and motivate the community to act to stop this exploitation.



The majority of the young girls trafficked in Ghana come from the northern part of the country. The sisters brought together an impressive coalition of several NGOs and a select number of men religious (two Missionaries of Africa, one Spiritan and Presentation brother) to join in these efforts. We crowned our activities by addressing the Catholic faithful at the Cathedral in Tamale on Pentecost Sunday. The response within the community has been very positive.

Besides the media (TV, Radio and Newspaper) publicity of the event, actions have been taken by the chief executive of Tamale, the Regional Minister and one the Paramount Chief of Talon.

A news clip from Ghana's Opera News reads "**The Regent of Tolon District of the Northern Region, Major Retired Sulemana Abubakari has pledged his support to end child trafficking in the Northern Region** (reported in Opera News May 25, 2018). Major Sulemana made the pledge when the Catholic Reverend Sisters and some civil society groups in partnership with African Faith and Justice Network Ghana advocating against child slavery paid a courtesy call on him at his palace."

We have also learned that for two weeks, following our advocacy activities, the regional minister (state governor) sent security agents in the night in Tamale to pick up young people on the street and contact their families and "educate" them plus a warning.

Human Trafficking Conference and Advocacy



AFJN took part in the conference and advocacy on Human Trafficking on May 15th. The theme was "Shine the Light on the perpetrators of human trafficking. Shine the light on the survivors and their hope." The event was organized by the National Advocacy center of the sisters of the Good Shepherd, DC, the Baptist Convention and other. The advocacy included the support for the bills: H.R 4485 and its companion in the Senate S. 1942 and H.R. 2408 and its companion in the Senate S. 1580. While these are aimed at curbing trafficking within the US, Africans are among those affected by human trafficking networks in the US.

Hearing on Protecting Civil Society, Faith-Based Actors, and Political Speech in Sub-Saharan Africa



On May 9, 2018 AFJN was on Capitol Hill for a hearing mentioned on *Protecting Civil Society, Faith-Based Actors, and Political Speech in Sub-Saharan Africa*. The Enough Project Founder, John Prendergast's testimony focused on the shifting dynamics in advocacy. He explains that traditional sanctions such as withholding aid for social programs or direct foreign aid to governments are not particularly effective against corrupt, human rights violators and authoritarian regimes. He proposed the use of soft power, such as going after the entire Network of financial transactions to put financial pressure on individuals, those who are acting on their behalf, and the entities owned or controlled by the primary targeted individuals. He noted that there is no need for a new law as the "[Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act](#)" of 2016 is enough.

Convening on Overcoming Polarization at Georgetown University

Fr. Aniedi was among the about sixty leaders across the country invited by the Georgetown based think tank center, the **Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life** to discuss ways of overcoming polarization in society and within the church. Aniedi made a presentation on Global Solidarity and Security - focusing on the flawed foundation of modern attempts of solidarity and security and ways it negatively impact Africa and the developing countries. It was also an occasion to make important connections which we hope will be beneficial to AFJN.

Nigerian Government to end the Killing of innocent people



On May 22 we held a prayer vigil/peaceful protest in front of the Nigerian Embassy to urge the Nigerian government to, without delay, provide security to the Nigerian people threatened by the herdsmen. The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria had called on all citizens and people of good will to peacefully take to the streets on May 22 to demand security from the government. The herdsmen killed 2 priests and 17 faithful on April 24th during morning Mass at Saint Ignatius Catholic Church in Mbalom, Benue State and have since attacked several other places.

Publication/ Member News

In an effort to establish our outreach and in a particular way our organizational members, our articles in Italian and English have been published and cross published online by an independent journalist, the Comboni Missionaries and Missionaries of Africa. We encourage you to share the content on our website with your audience as well.

DR Congo, una bomba a orologeria published by AFRICA RIVISTA

<https://www.africarivista.it/jacques-bahati-rd-congo-una-bomba-a-orologeria/124438/>

Repubblica Democratica del Congo: bomba a orologeria published by MONDO E MISSIONE

<https://www.mondoemissione.it/africa/10960/>

Democratic Republic of the Congo: a time bomb! published by COMBONI WEBSITE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

<http://www.comboni.org/contenuti/109531>

Dall'impazienza alla rabbia nella Repubblica Democratica del Congo, published by COMBONI WEBSITE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

<http://www.comboni.org/contenuti/109492>

Media Appearance



On May 2, 2018, AFJN was invited to participate in the Voice of America (VOA) program **Straight Talk Africa**. AFJN Executive Director highlighted the just governance project of AFJN and emphasized the importance of just leadership that focuses on working for the common good as a way to achieving development and lasting peace on the continent. He noted in the same vein, that true and lasting security is achieved through justice for all and not with military might.

AFJN 35th Anniversary

The celebration of Africa Faith & Justice Network's 35 Years of Advocacy, Capacity Building and Education for Transformation is scheduled for Friday September 14, 2018 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The theme of the Public Event is: "**Africa in Global Perspective**" We are working hard to secure the venue. As of now we have made contacts with The Catholic University of America and the Office of Senator Van Hollen (D-MD) for help on getting space in Capitol Hill Visitor center. We sent speaker invitation to 12 members of Congress inviting them to the anniversary celebration. Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, M.Afr. has accepted our invitation to speak at the gathering. The Missionaries of Africa who mark their 150 years of evangelization in Africa are sponsors of the public event. If your congregation wants to co-sponsor the event please let us know.

Advocacy on Land Grabbing



We met with the legislative Assistant for Representative Dutch Ruppersberger, (District -MD) to call attention to the issue of land grabbing and its impact on food security, peace and economic development of the affected people. He promised to look into this and asked AFJN to stay in touch. Some American companies are directly involved in land grabbing in Africa.

CONTACT US

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