



COMBONI JPIC NETWORK

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North American Province

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In North America and across the globe



Comboni Missionaries indignant over dire consequences for migrants.

At their recent *Intercapital Assembly* in Rome in September, the **Comboni Missionaries** issued a statement “manifesting our deep emotion and indignation for the premature death of so many of our migrant brothers and sisters in the waters of the Mediterranean.” They referred specifically to the senseless September 6th shipwreck of a boat transporting 130 Tunisians from North Africa to Italy.

Their statement asks for: (1) more effective and operative systems of search and rescue; (2) political reform in favor of legal immigrants,

without denying or violating the rights of migrants in irregular situations; (3) increased forms of dialogue among migrants especially those who come from realities, cultures and religions different from our own; and (4) a new model of citizenship based on respect, sharing and recognition of the dignity of the life of migrants. [Read more.](#)

Unbearable situations continue for Eritreans and Sudanese trying to reach Israel.

Comboni Sister Azezet Habtezghi (right), known as “Sr. Aziza” to her *Physicians for Human Rights–Israel* co-workers, has documented more than 1300 migrants’ stories of unconscionable torture and rape. Recently, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) denied her group’s request to assist 21 Eritrean asylum seekers trapped on the Israel-Egypt border. **To watch CNN Freedom Project’s *Stand in the Sinai*, [click here](#). Read about the refugees’ scorching desert jail, [here](#).**



U.S. Election 2012: What the Candidates say about Hunger and Poverty. What will our next president purport to do to end hunger and poverty? 65 Christian “Circle of Protection” leaders asked President Obama and Governor Romney to submit their video statements. **Listen [here](#)**; (also in Spanish). **Learn more** about the *Circle of Protection* and why protecting programs for the poor is so important, [here](#). **Read *Bread for the World’s* fact sheet** that examines how Latinos are hardest hit by hunger [here](#), and get the **2012 Election Year Guide for Parishes**, [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW? The U.S. faces a “fiscal cliff” at the end of 2012. To protect the poor and marginalized, Rep. Keith Ellison, *Congressional Progressive Caucus* Co-Chair, has introduced the ***Inclusive Prosperity Act*** (H.R. 6411; [learn more](#)). This incorporates a *Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)*, usually between 0.0001 and 0.5%, that will affect “speculative, high frequency traders.” **Read more** in the latest *Maryknoll News Notes*, [here](#).

Take Actions

technology in contrast to the “bloody trail” that the mining of its essential mineral, “coltan,” leaves behind, [here](#).

◆ **Abolish the Death Penalty.** The **Comboni Missionaries of South Sudan**, who have appealed to the *Sudanese Catholic Bishops*, ask for your support. [Sign a petition here](#).

◆ **Stand with Native Americans to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline.** Even as the clearing of land in southern Texas begins, it’s not too late to tell the *Bureau of Indian Affairs* to “enforce native American sovereignty and stop the *TransCanada’s* **Keystone XL pipeline** from bulldozing their sacred burial grounds.” [Sign a petition here](#).

◆ **Demand fair trade cell phones:**

Listen to Congolese Bandi Mbubi’s well-measured view on the value of

U.N. News & Other Events

U.N. Observance Days for October are listed [here](#).

67th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. The **General Assembly**, now in session, is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the **United Nations**. Comprising all **193 Members**, it provides a unique

forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. **For the calendar and agenda**, [click here](#), and for the **scope** of the session, [click here](#).

- ◆ **October 2, 2012: International Day of Non-Violence** marks this birthday of Mahatma Gandhi with the message of non-violence, through education and public awareness. [Click here](#). [For Spanish](#); [For French](#).
- ◆ **October 11, 2012: International Day of the Girl Child**. [Click here](#); [Gender and Education site](#); [United Nations Girls' Education Initiative](#), [here](#).
- ◆ **October 16, 2012: World Food Day (FAO): Agricultural Cooperatives-Key to Feeding the World** highlights the role of cooperatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger. [Click here](#); [For Spanish](#); [For Italian](#); [For French](#). [Get educational tools](#) (multi-language), as part of *Churches Week of Action on Food*, [here](#).
- ◆ **October 17, 2012: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** promotes awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, and is now a development priority. [Click here](#). [For Spanish](#); [For French](#).
 - ◆ **Related multi-language resources:** *Do One Thing to End Poverty*: [here](#); *Overcoming Poverty*: [here](#); *World for World*: [here](#); *Stand Against Poverty*: [here](#); *Millennium Goals*: [here](#). **For prayers (Rome)**, [click here](#).
- ◆ **October 24, 2012: United Nations Day** highlights the aims and achievements of the U.N. [Click here](#).

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in Holding Pattern: Check for the resolution calling for adoption of an ATT during UNGA's first committee meetings this month. The final vote will be in December. **Stay current** [here](#), and [here](#).

Update on RIO + 20: No Future Without Justice: Report of the Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives is the main outcome of the joint deliberations that describes the root causes of the multiple crises, reconfirms the framework of universal principles and rights, reconsiders development goals and indicators, and [draws conclusions](#). [Click for the summary](#). A response to this document from NGOs can be found [here](#).

Resources

- ◆ **Public-Private Partnerships: Working Together to Reduce Global Hunger**, generated by the *Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns*, examines the role of the private sector in global agricultural development and food security, with concern for the dignity of all people and God's creation. It details historical trends that led to the *New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition* formed at the *G-8 Summit* in the U.S. last May ([learn more](#)). [Read the discussion paper here](#).
- ◆ **Mining vs. Human Rights in Guatemala (film): Defensora** is the moving story about the ancient **Mayan Q'eqchi** people of eastern Guatemala (near Lake Izabel) and the Canadian corporation mining impacting their lands. The film is about their struggle to find justice for the murder, shootings and rapes in their communities. [Watch trailer here](#).
- ◆ **An Introductory Handbook on Non-Violence from the Perspective of Conflict Transformation**, *Pax Christi International's* new release, contributes to the processes of non-violent transformation in the Latin American region. **For the handbook** (in English), [click here](#).
- ◆ **How to Defend the Prophet? (article)** The Muslim reaction to the anti-Islam film produced in the U.S. ruined their chance to use Western traditions of freedom of expression to punish the creators for inciting hatred. Instead, the violent reactions helped reinforce the stereotype that Muslims are violent, argues journalist Alaa al-Aswany. **Read article** [here](#).
- ◆ **Modern Slavery: The Secret World of Trafficking of Women**, the *Network for Peace Through Dialogue's* new educational resource on sex trafficking, includes a DVD, background information and an outline for discussion. It features the passionate anti-trafficking activist Sr. Eugenia Bonetti. [Click here](#).

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- ◆ **Congratulations to Father Saverio Paolillo** (Brazil, South), director of the *Network of Basic Assistance to Children and Adolescents*, who received the *Medal Orlando Bonfim Junior* for his commitment to the defense and promotion of human rights. The Award was received in the chambers of Parliament in the State of Espirito Santo, Brazil.
- ◆ **In Memoriam.** The life of **Bishop Cesare Mazzolari**, who died last year, was recently honored with the dedication of a park in Brescia, Italy. The Mayor remarked that "Bishop Cesare brought his works of charity into a place that had always been the scene of extreme poverty and great conflict. He was greatly esteemed by the people of South Sudan for whom he spent all his energy so that the voice of a community could be heard."

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◆ To receive this newsletter, email combonipn@combonimissionaries.org; *for all back issues*, [click here](#). ♦ **Web site:** www.combonimissionaries.org; [related articles at www.jp-pic.org/en.php](http://www.jp-pic.org/en.php).

Comboni Press Network (CPN) newsletter provides access to information on global issues from Church and Mission-related sources. Our focus is on Justice and Peace issues, and on how the U.S. policies affect the Third World countries. **Please share your suggestions and ideas with us—we're only an e-mail or fax away!**