



Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network
Réseau Afrique Europe Foi et Justice

ECHOES from AEFJN

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www.aefjn.org

aefjn@aefjn.org

REFLECTION

Penny Wise, Pound Foolish: a Counter-Productive Philosophy

The UK antenna of the AEFJN held an event in November in which the *International Secretariat* of the network in Brussels participated. The theme of the event was: **IT'S NOW OR NEVER; CARING FOR CREATION, CARING FOR HUMANITY**. Among other things, it was an occasion to awaken greater sensitivity to the potential implications of an unambitious outcome of COP21 for Africa and the global community, ranging from food insecurity and malnutrition in the global south to a critical new wave of migration, terrorism and insecurity in the global North - and all forms of natural disaster occasioned by ecological disequilibrium. The antenna considers the COP21 conference which begins in Paris on November 30 to be *the fight of our life* in which each and every person must be involved so that the usual desires and ambitions of business corporations do not prevail again at the expense of creation and humanity. [Read more](#)

AFRICA

Benin: Meeting of Major Superiors in Benin (18 - 19 November)

From 18th to 19th November, the secretariat was invited to talk about the Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network to major superiors meeting at Dassa, Benin, close to the Grotto of Arigbo, a place of pilgrimage. Fruitful discussion followed the presentation of the main themes that AEFJN works on (minerals, land grabbing and trade), the different branches of the Network and the AEFJN Manual. The religious of Benin shared their concerns about education and in particular the brain drain that was impeding the country's development. Then there were discussions about migration, the use and processing of African natural resources by industry and the minimal benefit this trade was delivering to local Africans. Finally, the meeting wondered what role the Network offered the African diaspora in Europe and what initiatives had been developed with them. The secretariat responded to all these questions, detailing the various initiatives undertaken with the diaspora. [Read more](#)

Kenya: Conference on Land Grabbing and Just Governance

Together with SECAM (Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar), AFJN (Africa Faith & Justice Network) and CIDSE (network of Catholic development agencies) the Secretariat organised a conference on Land Grabbing and Just Governance in Nairobi, Kenya from 23 to 26 November ahead of the Pope's visit to Kenya. Land grabbing and just governance, issues that constitute a significant threat to food sovereignty, were discussed during plenaries and a variety of workshops. The event gathered about 150 participants from the African continent and beyond, including many people directly involved in land grabbing struggles. On our website you can read a press statement and the statement adopted at the conference. [Read more](#)

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Dangers of WTO 10th Ministerial Conference: New Round + TTIP + TPP + EPA

There is much talk these days about TTIP, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Africans know very little about TTIP. They have, however, suffered a lot under EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements) for the last nearly thirty years, but few in Europe know about this. Why do people in Europe not know or care to know about EPAs? What is all this hoo-ha about TTIP, and why is it important for Africans to know about it? [Read more](#)

Lobby Planet Paris: A guide to corporate COP21

The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in December 2015 in Paris. This Climate Summit should, theoretically, perfect the new global agreement for after 2020. Governments should commit to reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, and societies must undergo an energy transition by changing their patterns of production. But companies – major industrial and financial lobbies – had a different agenda to interfere in the talks in order to protect the status quo. The UN climate talks are a ‘greenwashing’ heaven: companies spend lavishly to invent examples of their climate performances, to claim the most virtuous social practices, and to increase their profits. [Read more](#)

MEDICINES

Shortage of anti-venom serums

Snake bites are considered as one of 24 neglected tropical diseases. There are an estimated 50,000 annual deaths by snakebite in India and 32,000 in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the absence of treatment, the death rate is 10 to 20%. The anti-venom serum (Fav-Africa) was produced by Sanofi Pasteur, world leader in the manufacturing of vaccines. It was versatile, helpful against snake bites and most especially of the ocellated carpet viper, endemic in West and Central Africa. Unfortunately, Sanofi Pasteur stopped production in 2014. There are 11 other serums in Africa. MSF has used one in the Central African Republic with unfortunate consequences. The death rate increased from 0.47% with Fav Africa to 10% with the new serum. In addition, the first injection does not always stop the bleeding and it was often necessary to give several injections. [Read more](#)

VIDEOS

[TAFTA ou Climat: Il faut choisir](#)

The impacts of free trade agreements on our environment (French with English subtitles) (1 min)

[Together : We can cool the Planet](#)

Alternatives agro-industrial system that turn the tide. (15 min)

[TTIP : The Countryside gone in liquidation](#)

Video on the effects of TTIP (15 min)