
AdvocacyNet
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2007 ROUND-UP: AP PARTNERS STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ON FIVE CONTINENTS

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Appeal Raises \$2,710 for survivors in Bangladesh, Bosnia, Guatemala and India

AP is seeking \$3,750 to help survivors who are struggling against disability, disaster, massacre, and poverty. Many thanks to those who have donated so far. To others - please help us reach the target! (<http://advocacynet.org/>)

Council Votes to Evict Travelers from Dale Farm, UK

The Basildon Council in southeast England voted on December 17 to evict 86 Traveler families from the Dale Farm site. The Council's development committee ruled (3 to 1 with 1 abstention) that the rights of the Travelers were outweighed by the need to respect planning decisions and halt "illegal" Traveler encampments. (<http://www.basildonmeetings.info/ieListDocuments.asp?CId=309&MId=2293&Ver=4&J=2>) The British High Court will review the Dale Farm controversy on February 11. For the Dale Farm timeline, visit: <http://advocacynet.org/partners/minorities-indigenous/the-dale-farm-housing-association/>. At the request of the Dale Farm Community Association, an AP partner, AP has posted video footage of past evictions. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JAyI-oB5dc>)

Spanish Government Intervention Prompts NGO Walkout from Middle East Meeting

Civil society delegations from Israel, Palestine and Arab countries withdrew from the Madrid Social Forum for a Just Peace in the Middle East – a civil society conference – on December 12, after the Spanish Foreign Ministry invited Israeli NGOs that it thought would downplay criticism of Israel. This violated Forum rules and undercut the Alternative Information Center (AIC), an AP partner, which had been charged with selecting the Israeli delegation. (<http://www.alternativenews.org/>) Meanwhile, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Jerusalem warns of a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which is under siege and embroiled in factional fighting. The FES newsletter and website were developed this summer by Erin Wroblewski, an AP Peace Fellow. (<http://www.fessudan.org/pages/english/fes-in-the-region.php?lang=DE>)

Srebrenica Memorial Quilt to Feature in Michigan Human Rights Exhibition

The Srebrenica memorial quilt will be displayed at the Michigan State University Museum in an exhibition devoted to quilting and human rights, starting January 15, 2008. (<http://museum.msu.edu/museum/tes/quiltshumanrights.htm>) The quilt comprises 20 panels, each commemorating a victim of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, and is being made by the weavers of Bosfam, an AP partner. A second 20-panel quilt is being completed and will be unveiled in Boston in February. AP is seeking sponsors for the quilt at \$40 per panel. (<http://www.advocacynet.org/>)

Graduates Win \$25,000 Award for Education in Peru

Supporting Kids in Peru (SKIP), an AP partner, has won the prestigious 2008 Good Venture Competition, awarded annually by JP Morgan Chase to encourage community initiatives by graduate students. (<http://www.goodventures.org/>) The \$25,000 award will allow SKIP to increase the enrolment of poor children in schools in Trujillo, Peru, from 20 to 400. SKIP's winning proposal was presented by former SKIP volunteers. AP recruited two Peace Fellows for SKIP this summer. Contact Brent Latham (brentwlatham@yahoo.com)

Nepalese Advocates Denounce Agricultural Labor Practice and Prepare for April Elections

With elections in Nepal now set for the second week of April, 2008, the Jagaran Media Center (JMC), an AP partner, reports in its latest e-Bulletin that Dalit advocates in Palpa, Gulmi, Arghakhachi districts are mobilizing against the system known as Balighare, which pays agricultural workers in grains rather than money and is considered a form of slavery. (<http://www.jagaranmedia.org.np/>)

Dalit workers will now be urged to work only for cash. 10 Dalit journalists will use the JMC e-Bulletin to report on caste discrimination in the run-up to elections, helped by a \$16,000 donation from the Dutch organization Cordaid. Meanwhile, 15 episodes of the Baglung pro-democracy and human rights radio program, produced by the Collective

Campaign for Peace (COCAP), an AP partner in Nepal, can be downloaded from the AP site.

Albanians Face Summary Eviction in Belgrade

Women in Black (Serbia), an AP partner, warns that minority Albanians in Belgrade face eviction from their homes without compensation or due legal process. On December 5, a monitor from Women in Black witnessed police demolish the house of Ljiljana Nedzib Mitrovic, an Albanian, to make way for a commercial development. All other demolished houses on the street were the subject of compensation. The Women in Black monitors were threatened with arrest for “obstructing” the eviction.

(<http://www.zeneucnom.org/index.php?lang=en>)

Sri Lankan Media Struggles to Stay Neutral as War Intensifies

Adam Nord, an AP Peace Fellow with the Home for Human Rights (HHR) in Sri Lanka, blogs about the risks that face media outlets in Sri Lanka that are not aligned with the government or the Tamil Tigers. Armed thugs recently stormed the offices of a prominent newspaper in a “secure” zone and destroyed the presses. Mr. Nord also blogs about the escalating war and a visit to Sri Lanka’s Hill country, where HHR, an AP partner, has recorded an increase in sexual violence against women.

(<http://advocacynet.org/author/adam-nord/>)

Diaspora Advocacy Wins Release for Nigerian Trafficking Survivor in Texas

Advocates from the Nigerian diaspora in the US have helped to secure the release of Celestina Ifeacho Joseph, a Nigerian woman who was detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Houston and threatened with deportation.

(<http://www.africansinamericanewswatch.com/>) Ms. Joseph was trafficked from Nigeria in 1984 at the age of 10, and forced into slavery in Houston. Her arrest was publicized in April 2007 by Africans in America, an AP partner.

Malaysian eHomemakers Showcased at International ICT Conference

Sheau Ching Chong, Director of the Malaysian eHomemakers, an AP partner, led a panel discussion on ICT innovation, and reviewed the experience of the Salaam Wanita basket weavers (a project of eHomemakers) at the [Global Knowledge Partnership](#) meeting (GK3) in Kuala Lumpur (December 11-13). GK3 attracted 1,766 practitioners and experts from 125 countries. The conference predicted that 5 billion people will use the Internet by 2015.

Girl’s Schools Defy Threats and Thrive in Afghanistan

The Oruj Learning Center, an AP partner, expanded its program of girl’s education in Afghanistan in 2007 in spite of growing insecurity. Oruj now supports 992 girl students at 4 schools in Wardak province, and will soon hire 4 new women teachers. Oruj

organized 4 trainings for teachers in 2007, with a donation from the Government of Liechtenstein. Oruj also received new grants from the Flora Family foundation (\$27,500), the Global Fund for Children (\$6,000), and a matching grant from a private donor. 6 of Oruj's best students will provide home education for 60 students during the winter (January to March).

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AdvocacyNet is a service of The Advocacy Project (AP) that is offered to advocates working for human rights and social justice at the community level. AP is based in Washington, DC. Phone +1 202 758 3328. For more information visit our [website](#) or email us at dcoffice@advocacynet.org.