

NOVEMBER 2020

## COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Justice and peace-related news, actions, and resources from the  
Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

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### SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS

## Sudan Moves Toward Peace



After 27 years on the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) list, Sudan has agreed to pursue peaceful relations with the state of Israel and make other concessions in the interests of peace.

The country agreed to pay compensation to American victims of terror attacks, notably including the attack on the USS Cole in

Yemen in 2000 and the attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

More than 6,000 Sudanese refugees currently seeking asylum in Israel are concerned that the peace process may threaten their own safety, with many fearing that they may be forced to return to dangerous conditions in Sudan.

Photo: IDPs in Sudan, courtesy of Wagdy Fahmi, via Flickr.

[Read more here.](#)

## Guatemalan Genocide Survivors Accuse Government of Failing to Keep Its Promises

The civil war that ravaged Guatemala for nearly 40 years ended with government promises to redress the crimes of military groups active during the conflict. Survivors are now saying that the government is retreating on those



commitments and violating the legal protections of the peace accords.

“It concerns us and at the same time it fills us with anger,” one victim told VICE News. “What they seek is impunity, and for everything that happened to be forgotten.”

Photo: As part of the peace agreement, mass exhumations determine the fate of victims of the civil war. Via Trocaire / CAFCA archive.

[Read more from VICE.](#)



## African Teens on World Stage Demand Action on Climate Change

NEW YORK (IDN) – Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has at least two African partners stepping up on the global stage and telling world leaders to “wake up” and recognize the dangers to women and girls of climate change.

In a speech broadcast as part of the Desmond Tutu International Peace Lecture, Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate tied climate change to poverty, hunger, disease, conflict and violence.

“See the danger we are in,” Nakate urged the leaders at the Tutu peace lecture.

The lecture is given every year to coincide with the South African Nobel Peace Prize winner’s birthday. Tutu turned 89 on October 7. The pre-recorded speeches, not given in person this year because of the pandemic, called for “climate justice globally.”

Nakate's speech focused on the African continent, which contributes the least to climate change but stands to suffer its effects the most.

"Climate change is a nightmare that affects every sector of our lives," she said. "How can we eradicate poverty without looking at this crisis? How can we achieve zero hunger if climate change is leaving millions of people with nothing to eat? We are going to see disaster after disaster, challenge after challenge, suffering after suffering ... if nothing is done about this."

"Leave your comfort zones and see the danger we are in and do something about it. This is a matter of life and death," she called out the world leaders.

Photo: Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate (left) CC BY-SA 4.0 and South African climate activist Ayakha Melithafa (right) at DAVOS World Economic Forum in 2020. CC BY 3.0

Read more [at InDepth News](#).

## More Topics to Explore

[Impact of Catholic Investing in the Recovery](#)

[A Global Network Connects Data Experts Around the World for SDGs](#)

[Pope Francis Appeals for Peace in Cameroon](#)

[Journalists Call for Justice and Peace in Ghana](#)

## CALL TO ACTION

### Conserve Water

Millions worldwide lack clean water, but we can help conserve this precious resource by making simple lifestyle changes.

1. **Change Your Diet.** It takes a lot of water to grow, process, and transport food. Meat and dairy products are especially water-intensive. To save water, eat lower on the food chain, eat more whole foods and don't waste food.
2. **Reduce Your Use.** Cut indoor water use by installing low-flow fixtures, checking regularly for leaks, and using a dishwasher, if you have one.



Outdoors, replace thirsty lawns with native plants that don't require additional water and install a rain barrel to capture and reuse natural precipitation.

3. **Examine Your Buying Habits.** Just as every product has a carbon footprint, each thing we purchase uses a certain amount of water in production and transportation. Cut out unnecessary purchases, reuse or recycle where possible, and donate your gently used goods so someone else can avoid a new purchase.
4. **Lower Your Energy Use.** It takes energy to move, heat, and treat water and it takes water to make energy. Conservation has a multiplier effect, so conserve natural resources wherever you can!

## Help Bring Clean Water to Vulnerable People

### Donate a Water Filter!

The Comboni Missionaries have partnered with Water With Blessings to supply water filters to areas in northern Uganda without access to safe water. One filter can supply three families with clean water for life! [Learn more.](#)

## GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Goal 6: Water and Sanitation

#### 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



While substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, billions of people—mostly in rural areas—still lack these basic services.

Worldwide, [one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water](#), two out of five people do not have a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water, and more than 673 million people still practice open defecation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of sanitation, hygiene and adequate access to clean water for preventing and containing diseases. Hand hygiene saves lives. According to the World Health Organization, handwashing is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. Yet billions of people still lack safe water sanitation, and funding is inadequate.

[Learn more.](#)

2020

November 2

### International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

In the past fourteen years (2006-2019), [close to 1,200 journalists have been killed](#) for reporting the news and bringing information to the public. In nine out of ten cases the killers go unpunished. Impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and judicial systems.

These figures do not include the many more journalists, who on a daily basis suffer from non-fatal attacks, including torture, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations. Furthermore, there are specific risks faced by women journalists, including sexual attacks.

Worryingly, only one in ten cases committed against media workers over the past decade has led to a conviction. This impunity emboldens the perpetrators of the crimes and at the same time has a chilling effect on society including journalists themselves. Impunity breeds impunity and feeds into a vicious cycle. [Learn more.](#)

November 6

### International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

Though humanity has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage.

Furthermore, the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold, and oil, or scarce resources such as fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural resources have also been found to be twice as likely to relapse. [Learn more.](#)

November 10

### World Science Day for Peace and Development

Celebrated every November 10, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable. [Learn more.](#)

November 20

### World Children's Day

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among

children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

November 20 is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the [Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#). It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights. [Learn more.](#)

## November 26

### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

The adverse psychological, sexual and reproductive health consequences of VAWG affect women at all stages of their life. For example, early-set educational disadvantages not only represent the primary obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education for girls, down the line they are also to blame for restricting access to higher education and even translate into limited opportunities for women in the labor market. [Learn more.](#)



Comboni JPIC Network

513-474-4997

[www.ComboniMissionaries.org](http://www.ComboniMissionaries.org)

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