

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR JUSTICE

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Twomey Center For Peace Through Justice**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF) 5
January 26 – 31, 2005 - Porto Alegre, Brazil**

The World Social Forum 5 is being organized by Brazilian Organizing Committee (BOC) composed of 23 organizations. There are eight Work Groups such as Space, Solidarity Economy, Environmental and Sustainability, Culture, Translation, Communication, Call for Action and Free Software (linked to Communication WG). For the historical background of WSF download our bulletin February 2003, volume2 #6 and February 2004 volume 3 #5 at
[www://www.carmelites.info/ngo/globalnetworkbulletinindex.html](http://www.carmelites.info/ngo/globalnetworkbulletinindex.html)

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Headlines – News from the Jesuit Social Apostolate, 2005/01

#1 Special Issue on the South East Asian Crisis

In India and Sri Lanka

Fr. Hector D. Souza, provincial of South Asia, entrusted the coordination of the relief and rehabilitation work to Social Action Secretariat of South Asia (JESA) and to New Delhi's Indian Social Institute (ISI). JESA and ISI are promoters and active members of the South Asian Peoples Initiatives (SAPI) Network, a platform of local and national peoples of civil society organizations with members spread all over Sri Lanka and Southern India. JESA and ISI are planning to support the affected people in these states through SAPI. Frs. Joseph Xavier, SJ (JESA Secretary) and Jimmy Dhabhi, SJ (ISI Director) have been visiting the affected areas, attending meetings with Jesuits involved in relief and interventions, meeting local organizations and NGOs, visiting devastated fishing villages and dalit hamlets, and talking to victims. They saw that the fundamental challenge of rehabilitation is to accompany the victims, rebuild their self confidence and support them in

regaining full strength and control of their lives. Fr. Joseph Xavier, SJ jesa@jesuits.net Fr. Jimmy Dabhi, SJ <jimmydabhi@hotmail.com>

In Tamil Nadu, the worst affected Indian state, the Provincial of Madurai has appointed a Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Committee to organize activities at the local level. Chaired by Fr. Manual Alphonse, SJ the team will facilitate collaboration among teams of southern, central and northern Tamil Nadu, providing expertise and disseminating information to all concerned. Collaborating with SAPI, JESA and ISI on policy issues, it has drafted a concept paper setting out the main challenges of reconstruction and the main axes of interventions. These comprise psychological counseling, medical help, sustainable housing, and livelihood materials like boats and nets.

According to the first assessments sent by Fr. Xavier, the emergency phase in Tamil Nadu is almost over and the government has already started rebuilding some basic infrastructure. The major task facing the Jesuit effort is monitoring the rehabilitation program of the government and linking up all the affected people to access the government package, ensuring that no one is left out. An important area of monitoring will be discrimination against the vulnerable non-fishing communities (especially dalit communities) during the relief and rehabilitation process. Monitoring activities need to be accompanied by capacity-building programs aimed at helping the fisher community get back on its feet so that their livelihoods are restored and vibrant, say the two coordinators. An overall assessment led by Mumbai's Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), where Fr. Joseph Xavier is a faculty member, is planned. This will be supported by the Jesuits, as are other initiatives planned in collaboration with local groups. A group of Jesuits who have rented a house in Nagapattinam, a heavily hit district south of Chennai, Tamil Nadu will work in alliance with local organizations for fisher-folk, but concretely concentrate specifically on dalit hamlets. Fr. Manu Alphonse, SJ, Director, Social watch Tamilnadu manu50@vsnl.com

In Sri Lanka a coordination meeting called by Fr. Provincial, Sebastian Maria Anthony on January 4th, was attended by the Superiors of the affected districts, the Provincial Curia, the Social Action coordinator, those already involved in relief and by Fr. Joe Xavier and Fr. P. S. Amalraj SJ, the

Regional Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) South Asia. Here, relief work will have to continue for yet a while. While emergency operations progress, Jesuits are already thinking about reconstruction of the lives of tsunami victims, of their houses and livelihood through the setting up of a Jesuit Relief Board. According to the preliminary "Sri Lanka Jesuit Tsunami Relief Project, Jesuit intervention will be in four priority areas: counseling and trauma therapy; health and sanitation (especially the provision of drinking water); low cost shelters in accordance with government plans; and protection of particularly vulnerable groups such as widows and orphans. "Attention and efforts the plan states," should be directed mainly to those areas which are overlooked or neglected by the State. Whatever work we plan, it should take cognizance of the legal entitlements of the affected people and maximize grassroots participation. JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) is also present in the country and actively involved in relief activities, working with refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) in over 50 camps. The tidal wave devastated those very areas that have already suffered enormously from the long period of civil conflict in Sri Lanka. "our counselors have been moving from camp to camp together with our teachers, just listening to the people telling them about their traumatic stories and allowing them to pour out their feelings," said Fr. P.S. Amalraj, SJ to the JRS international office. Teachers have been documenting the orphan children so that long-term plans can be made for their care; they have also been working with students in the camps, trying to ensure that a sense of normality is brought into their lives as soon as possible. JRS website: www.jrs.net.

In Indonesia and Thailand (part of the East Asia and Oceania Assistency)

As Fr. Provincial A. Priyono Marwan wrote in his letter dated 30 December, the Society's support in Indonesia is channeled largely through the JRS together with other Jesuits, in particular Fr. Ignatius Ismartono, SJ at the Crisis Center of Indonesian Bishops' Conference. He said in his letter that they are all "untiring in their efforts". Fr. Paul Dass, SJ the newly appointed Social Apostolate Coordinator for East Asian Assistency, visited Aceh and reports that: "the local population is slowly moving on to longer terms needs and concerns. I think that we too must move likewise, that is, forsee help and aid for them in regions most affected by the tsunami, for it has been present here since 2001, providing service and accompaniment

to people affected by the conflict in Northern Sumatra. As in Sri Lanka, here too the tsunami struck a population that has suffered from many years of prolonged conflict. The office in Banda Aceh, spared by the devastation, is becoming a key coordination point, providing a space where many people from different groups and organizations can meet and share information. As well as administering direct assistance to the victims, for example, setting up large communal kitchens or offering basic medical equipment to the local health station, JRS Banda Aceh continues to support local NGOs and IDP groups. Since most of the large international NGOs are focusing attention on big camps, local partners are in the best position to assist the Asia Pacific Regional Office prepare a project proposal for a two-year Tsunami Response Program in Aceh and Sumatra. This program targets Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPS) that have been affected by the tsunami in northern Sumatra and entails both emergency initiatives as well as rehabilitation projects such as the provision of basic health and sanitation facilities; education activities; capacity building of local NGOs, trauma healing and life restoring initiatives.

In Thailand, Jesuits have answered the call for interpreters for non-Thai survivors in hospitals. The Provincial of Thailand in Bangkok, Fr. Martin Suhartono, SJ is among those acting as interpreter and counseling patients.

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New:

UN Millennium Project

Alliance for the Protection of National Resources and Human Rights Expresses its Grave Concern Over the Direction of "Rebuilding Sri Lanka" after 26th

December Tsunami

