



**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

# Franciscans International



**Annual Report 2010**



## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ACPP-Hotline</b>	Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples Hotline
<b>AICHR</b>	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
<b>AIPP</b>	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>ASI</b>	Anti-Slavery International
<b>CAT</b>	Committee Against Torture
<b>CBCI</b>	Catholic Bishops Conference of India
<b>CEDAW</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>CESCR</b>	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>CFF</b>	Conference of the Franciscan Family
<b>CFS</b>	Contemporary Forms of Slavery
<b>CRC</b>	Committee on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSD</b>	Commission on Sustainable Development
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on Status of Women
<b>DGP</b>	Draft Guiding Principles
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>EMRIP</b>	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People
<b>ERI</b>	Edmund Rice International
<b>FABC-OHD</b>	Federation of Asian Bishops Council – Office of Human Development
<b>FBN</b>	Faith Based Network
<b>FF</b>	Franciscan Family
<b>FI</b>	Franciscans International
<b>FMSI</b>	Foundation of Marist Solidarity International
<b>GAATW</b>	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>IBD</b>	International Board of Directors
<b>JPIC</b>	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCSD</b>	UN Conference on Sustainable Development
<b>UN ESCAP</b>	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review

# Franciscans International



## Annual Report 2010

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*(L-R): John Doctor OFM (IBD President), Regina Holtz FSP, Denise Boyle fmdm (FI Executive Director), Averil Swanton TSSF, Markus Heinze OFM (FI Acting Chief Financial Officer), Patricia Tan Huat Neo SFO, Markus Fuhrmann OFM, Francisco Nel Leudo Murillo OFM Conv., John Celichowski OFM Cap., Doug Clorey SFO.  
Absent: José Martorell TOR*

## Message from the President

Every year presents new challenges and opportunities for Franciscans International (FI) to be an effective Franciscan presence and 'voice at the United Nations' on behalf of the Franciscan Family (FF). 2010 was no exception.

Advocacy is the main ministry of FI. Since it is impossible for our Advocates to address every issue that comes from the FF, the three primary priorities are (1) Extreme Poverty, (2) Environment, and (3) Peace-Building. A focus on these priority areas assists our offices in Bangkok, Geneva and New York to be more effective and professional. Other issues received from the grassroots are channeled to non-governmental organisations who focus on these issues at the United Nations (UN).

In accordance with our mission and advocacy focus, FI actively uses the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN as a mechanism to engage and represent the concerns of the FF who work at the grassroots. In this way FI facilitates bringing the voices of the most vulnerable to the UN to address injustices and human rights violations which cannot be resolved at a national level.

2010 provided the opportunity to put in place a Regional Director in each of the three regions: Markus Heinze OFM in Geneva, Mike Lasky OFM Conv. in New York, and Mateusz Tuniewicz in Bangkok. This significant change allows the Executive Director, Denise Boyle fmdm, to focus on fostering greater collaboration between the regions; oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan; represent FI with the Diplomatic Community, international NGOs and other key players at the UN; and to animate the Family to take greater ownership and become more engaged with the unique ministry of FI.

Financial sustainability remains a challenge. The International Board of Directors (IBD) is exploring alternative revenue initiatives, both within the FF and from other sources.

FI remains the largest faith-based non-governmental organisation at the UN, working on behalf of all Franciscans for 'the vulnerable, the forgotten and our wounded earth.'

Thank you for your ongoing support and endorsement of FI's mission. We also extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors who make the work of FI possible at the UN and in-country, for fact-finding missions and collaborative learning.

Gratefully yours,

  
**John Doctor OFM**  
*President of FI International Board of Directors*

## Overview from the Executive Director

2010 started with the tragic news of a devastating earthquake in Haiti. And the year ended with news of the first rumblings of the people's revolution in Tunisia. Franciscans were caught up in both events sharing the pain and subsequent hope of their people.

Franciscans International had a challenging and productive year raising justice issues at the United Nations brought to us by the Franciscan Family. FI is in contact with the FF in the regions of the Americas; Europe and Africa; Asia and the Pacific from our three offices in New York, Geneva and Bangkok.

The Advocacy section of this Annual Report reflects the actions FI took in response to the 'cry of the most vulnerable'. Because FI has 'General Consultative Status' at the United Nations, we are able to highlight and lobby against all forms of injustice at the UN headquarters in New York and via the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

A significant 'first' was the finalisation of the FI Strategic Plan with goals and targets through to 2012. In 2010 we implemented phase one, which provides a clear advocacy focus for the work of FI at the UN and with the FF, and ensures FI operates within the guidelines of best practice as an organisation. Another significant 'first' was the audit of the 2009 accounts, confirming that FI is adhering to the principles of transparency, accountability and fiduciary responsibility.

None of the above would have been possible without the tremendous generosity of:

- Our donors, those who support us financially and those who pray with us;
  - Our Franciscan sisters and brothers who share the suffering of their people and bring injustice to our attention, vital collaborators in the pursuit of justice;
  - The International Board of Directors, who support us unwaveringly, through the numerous challenges that sometimes seem never ending;
  - Our 15 dedicated passionate and competent FI Staff Members, plus wonderful volunteers and enthusiastic interns;
  - Our partners Edmund Rice International (ERI) and the Foundation of Marist Solidarity International (FMSI), plus colleagues from other non-governmental organisations.
- Together we are more effective in our common goal of seeking justice for the most marginalised.

All our friends enable FI to be an effective ambassador for the vulnerable and forgotten at the UN. We are now into 2011 with new challenges awaiting attention and action. As always we turn to St. Francis and St. Clare asking them to guide us in the ministry that was so close to their hearts. We need their deep compassion and keen sense of urgency, to empower us to eradicate systemic injustice in a very troubled, vulnerable world.

  
**Denise Boyle fmdm**  
FI Executive Director





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## Strategic Plan

**F**ranciscans International engaged with the Franciscan Family, its partners, staff, board, colleagues and stakeholders during 2009 and early 2010 in a wide-ranging strategic conversation. This culminated in the FI 2010–2012 Strategic Plan as detailed below.

Our purpose was to better understand: the external and internal dynamics of FI; the expectations of the Franciscan Family and other stakeholders; the challenges we face; and the opportunities to better serve the Franciscan Family at the UN in our joint ministry with the most vulnerable.

With the help of many, we reviewed our vision and mission, clarified the focus of our advocacy work at the UN, and developed an integrated strategic plan across the three regional offices.

### Strategic Priorities and Goals

- Build Resilience
  - Financial Sustainability
  - Robust Fundraising
  - Focused Human Resources
- Make an Impact
  - Integrated Advocacy
  - Expanded Regional Footprint
- Expand our Reach
  - Proactive Communication and Animation
  - Work more closely with the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF)
  - Involve Youth and Young Adults

In November 2010, FI held a review of progress made on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and developed action plans for 2011.

FI wishes to thank both Misesan Cara and the OFM Province of Ireland for making this work possible.

### Vision

A global community built on Franciscan values, in which the dignity of every person is respected; resources are shared equitably; the environment is sustained; and nations and peoples live in peace.

### Mission

We are a Franciscan voice at the United Nations protecting the vulnerable, the forgotten, and our wounded earth.

### Advocacy Focus

The ministry of Franciscans International at the United Nations flows from its Vision. Our priority areas are: Extreme Poverty, the Environment, and Peace-Building. We address these from an integrated rights-based perspective, and use the Universal Periodic Review as: (1) the primary mechanism for supporting our work; (2) a shared tool among the three regional FI offices to engage the whole Franciscan Family; and (3) a structured way to elicit issues from Franciscans working at the grassroots, report back on progress made at the UN, and for them in turn to monitor developments at country level. We further support the Franciscan Family with country-specific and regional sharings relevant to our ministry.



*Franciscans International Advocacy Officer, Sr. Odile Coirier FMM (right) with Franciscans preparing for the UPR on the Solomon Islands*





*(L-R): Denise Boyle fmdm, Bernadette Sullivan FSP, and Kathie Uhler OSF, seated at the MDG Hearings in the UN General Assembly Hall, NY*

## **Work of Franciscans International at the United Nations**

The 'General Consultative Status' under ECOSOC that FI was granted in 1995 permits us to highlight a wide range of justice issues at the UN on behalf of the Franciscan Family. The FF brings to our attention justice issues that they are unable to address within their own country. FI raises these issues at the UN in a variety of different ways to influence decision-makers and thereby effect positive change for the most vulnerable.

At the UN in Geneva, FI works through a variety of human rights mechanisms emanating from the Human Rights Council (HRC). These include making statements during sessions of the HRC; submitting reports from specific countries through the process known as the Universal Periodic Review; and working with special Treaty Bodies e.g. Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

In New York FI is a member of the Security Council Non Governmental Organization Committee, where countries in conflict and peace initiatives are discussed. FI is also active in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) which works with the NGO Committee monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In Bangkok there are regional bodies or offices of the UN that FI works with in particular: UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP); ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR); and the United Nations Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).



## Work at the United Nations, Geneva

### The Human Rights Council

During sessions of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva, FI has the opportunity to provide both written and oral statements to raise key human rights issues and concerns. These opportunities arise during general debates on specific human rights issues and the adoption of the final document of the country under review during the Universal Periodic Review process. FI works closely with Franciscans and NGOs on all of these matters to gather first-hand information on justice issues. Wherever possible we bring Franciscans working at the grassroots to present oral statements and lobby diplomats from different countries.

#### FI submitted written statements on:

- Haiti, to uphold human rights during the rebuilding of the country after the earthquake;
- Access to medicine for children living with HIV and HIV/TB co-infection;
- Human Trafficking and Contemporary Forms of Slavery (CFS), stressing the urgent need for a system which ensures protection of victims or, as FI calls them survivors;
- Extreme Poverty, emphasising that this is a gross human rights violation;
- Improving procedures of the HRC.

*Jane Muthogoa Wangari SFO, (R) Kenya with Sr. Patricia Ndunge LSOSF, delivering a report at the UN*



*FI Advocacy Coordinator, Francesca Restifo, delivering an oral statement at the UN*

#### FI delivered oral statements on:

- UPR follow-up process on Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ivory Coast, Italy, Canada and Kenya;
- Joint report on different initiatives relating to peace initiatives focused on the DRC;
- Ongoing situation in Sri Lanka post the ceasefire;
- 2010 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council, Geneva;
- Education policies and threats to religious minorities in Pakistan;
- Victims of trafficking and issues pertaining to the prevention of trafficking in persons;
- Violence against human rights defenders in the Philippines including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

*"This work is important for me because I find meaning in working with the most vulnerable people in society who frequently suffer physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuses and harassments. My Congregation was started by a domestic worker in Blois, France, for the welfare of domestic workers. Hence it is more meaningful and it is our charism to work for the empowerment of the domestic workers of India today."*

Sr. Nisha Mathiew FSM, Karnataka, India

## Human Rights Council – Public Debates

During HRC sessions, NGOs have the opportunity to highlight significant issues of injustice through what is called a 'side event'.

FI organised panel discussions on the following justice issues:

**Human Trafficking:** FI in collaboration with the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) provided a forum for sharing experiences and practices on how to ensure that responses about survivor-centred human trafficking issues always respect the individuals through confidentiality, protection and provision of choices (May).

**Domestic Servitude:** FI in partnership with Anti-Slavery International (ASI) and GAATW arranged a panel discussion on the issue of domestic servitude. This was in conjunction with the release of the Annual Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (September).

**Climate Change:** FI co-organised with other faith-based non-governmental organisations a UN side event on 'Climate Change and Poverty' to address issues of climate change from the perspective of its impact on the poor and the most vulnerable (September).

**West Papua:** During the meeting of the Faith Based Network on West Papua, FI and two West Papuan human rights defenders met with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Indonesia, the Philippines and the UK to discuss justice issues and ways in which these could be effectively addressed.

## The Universal Periodic Review

FI actively participates in the Universal Periodic Review, which is a mechanism of the HRC that ensures all 192 Member States are regularly reviewed on the fulfillment of their human rights obligations and commitments. This process is carried out on a four-year cycle, whereby each country submits a review of their human rights situation. FI with other NGOs has the opportunity to submit a report, in which justice issues possibly not raised by the government in question can be tabled and considered. Franciscans working in the country under review provide accurate information on these issues. FI then lobbies other governments to ask questions and make recommendations to the country under review, which in turn has to implement these changes. FI continues to work with Franciscans to monitor the implementation of the recommendations, thereby putting pressure on the government to address human rights abuses.

### UPR Reports

FI submitted UPR Reports to address specific justice issues raised by Franciscans in each of the following countries:

- **Australia:** Rights of indigenous peoples; rights of refugees and asylum-seekers; climate change; and education.
- **Papua New Guinea:** Right to education; rights of people with disabilities; and children living in destitution.
- **Solomon Islands:** Right to education, especially regarding children with disabilities; violence against children; and extreme poverty.
- **Kiribati:** Rights of the child; corporal punishment; discrimination; and right to education.
- **United States of America (USA):** Right to adequate housing; human trafficking; rights of migrant workers; mining and its impact on the rights of indigenous peoples; right to food; and genetic engineering technology.
- **Croatia:** Palliative care; rights of elderly persons to health care; and homeless persons.
- **Malawi:** Human trafficking; HIV/AIDS and its impact on human rights; right to an adequate standard of living; and right to education.

During the above country reviews, FI met with the following Permanent Missions to lobby them and make recommendations on human rights concerns: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, Djibouti, France, Finland, Guatemala, Ireland, Kenya, Kiribati, Mexico, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK), USA and the Holy See.

## Franciscans speak at the UN

FI invited Franciscans working at the grassroots from Belgium, India, Italy, Kenya, Sweden, Tanzania, and West Papua, to personally present their human rights concerns to the HRC and Permanent Missions at the UN in Geneva.

## Special Procedures

The Special Procedures System is the mechanism of the HRC used to bring specific thematic and regional concerns to the Independent Experts or Special Rapporteurs appointed by the UN. This mechanism provides the opportunity to alert the HRC about urgent human rights concerns through a process known as 'Urgent Actions'.

### FI submitted the following Urgent Actions:

- **Morocco:** Expulsion of a Franciscan friar (March).
- **Egypt:** Over 250 asylum seekers kept in slave-like conditions in the Sinai Desert by human traffickers (December).
- **Pakistan:** Practice of religious freedom and the use of blasphemy laws against Christians (July, August and September).

### Meetings with UN Special Rapporteurs

To voice specific human rights concerns brought to our attention by Franciscans, FI met:

- The UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian, during an informal dialogue about her mandate and how it can best be supported by FI.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to address concerns in West Papua.

## Treaty Bodies

The UN human rights treaty bodies are committees of independent experts who monitor the status of the implementation of International Human Rights Instruments such as the 'Committee on the Rights of the Child' (CRC), 'Committee Against Torture' (CAT), 'Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' (CESCR), and the 'Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women' (CEDAW).



*Franciscans at the UN, Geneva: Sr. Nisha Mathiew FSM, Sr. Odile Coirier fmm, Fr. Godfrey Odunga OFM Cap., and Sr. Genevieve Ngina Nzika LSOSF*

### FI worked with the following UN Committees:

- **CEDAW:** FI submitted an alternative report on Kenya addressing gender discrimination reported by Franciscans (December);
- **CAT:** FI submitted a report on France addressing the mistreatment of elderly persons in institutions throughout the country (May);
- **CESCR:** FI submitted a report on Sri Lanka about the right to housing, slum-dwellers and indiscriminate evictions (May).

## Work at the United Nations, New York

FI advocacy activity in New York (NY) focuses on Peace-Building Initiatives, Inter-Religious Dialogue, Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Sustainable Development, Indigenous Peoples, and Women's Rights. The most effective means for FI to advocate is through its membership of the Security Council Non-Governmental Organization Committee, which provides the opportunity to liaise closely with Ambassadors on sensitive security and peace-building initiatives.

In NY, faith-based NGOs have built a strong coalition to work together on issues that they bring to the UN. FI has been involved with this group since its beginning. NGOs working collaboratively on common advocacy initiatives is the most effective way to address issues at the UN, in order to achieve positive results. This is further reflected in the joint submission of statements and reports through the UN structures.

## Working Groups

FI has a special focus on monitoring the achievements of the MDGs. As part of this work, FI actively participated in the following working groups:

### UN working groups

- Commission on Status of Women (CSW);
- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

### NGO working groups at the UN

- Security Council, addressing issues related to Peace-Building and Inter-Religious Dialogue;
- UNICEF Working Group on Girls, Advocacy Task Force, addressing issues related to Child Rights;
- Commission on the Status of Women, mainstreaming gender issues;
- Committee for Social Development Subcommittee on the Eradication of Poverty, addressing environmental issues and the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable strata of society;
- Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights, tackling discrimination policies based on various issues.

## Work with the United Nations Regional Bodies, Bangkok

FI closely monitors the major developments in policy and advocacy and meets with the principal UN regional bodies and intergovernmental institutions, including:

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP);
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR);
- United Nations Development Programme Asia-Pacific Regional Centre;
- OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia;
- ASEAN Regional Centre of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals.

In 2010, FI engaged the regional office of the High Commission on Human Rights in the activities carried out in the Asia-Pacific Region. FI takes an active part in UN ESCAP meetings to monitor developments and initiatives concerning the socio-economic dimension in the region.

## Fact-Finding Missions and Workshops

At the invitation of Franciscans working at the grassroots, FI joins them in their own countries to discuss their concerns about human rights violations. They exchange information on how to use the formal mechanisms of the UN, and discuss ways of monitoring and implementing action for justice at the local, national and international level.

In 2010, FI went on mission in the following countries:

### Africa and Europe Programme

**Kenya:** Workshop on the UPR and HRC mechanism (Nairobi, June).

Outcome: FI and its partners submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (December).

**Tanzania:** Workshop on national and international human rights advocacy work (Arusha, July).

Outcome: Preparation of a UPR Report to address specific human rights issues.

**Geneva:** Faith Based Network (FBN) meeting on West Papua for 39 members from Australia, Hong Kong, Germany, Netherlands, West Papua, Switzerland and the UK (September).

**Uganda:** Workshop on the UN HRC mechanisms, with a specific focus on the UPR and Climate Change (Kampala, October).

Outcome: FI and partners prepared a UPR Report on Uganda.

**Ethiopia:** Workshop on UN Human Rights Mechanisms, with a specific focus on the UPR and the environment (Addis Ababa, October 2010).

Outcome: First step to prepare and submit a UPR Report on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Ethiopia.

**Brussels:** Workshop for Franciscan missionaries on how to submit human rights concerns to the UN (October).

**Kenya:** East Africa Regional Workshop on Human Rights and Active Non-Violence, in collaboration with the Office of Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) (Nairobi, October).

Outcome: Built a critical mass of young individuals in the region to help influence societal change through human rights advocacy at the national and international level.





*FI Advocacy Officer, Morse Flores, working with Franciscans in Arusha, Tanzania*

**Kenya:** National NGO Consultation for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) led by JPIC and supported by over 20 national and local women; and members of youth NGOs from around Kenya (Nairobi, November).

Outcome: Report submitted to CEDAW in mid-December.

**Benin:** Seminar and panel discussion on the follow-up to UPR recommendations made in 2008 and to raise awareness on the issue of 'Witch Children'. This was attended by Franciscans working at the grassroots in Benin, NGOs, journalists, the Government of Benin, the European Union, psychologists and local midwives (Cotonou, December).

Outcome: Preparation of a concrete action plan to raise awareness and stop the infanticide and killing of so-called 'Witch Children.'

**Geneva:** Workshops and presentations about FI, human rights advocacy at the UN and the HRC mechanisms for Franciscan groups (FI Geneva office, throughout the year).

## Asia Pacific Programme

**Australia:** Regional workshop, co-facilitated with FMSI, to increase knowledge and understanding of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), related UN mechanisms and advocacy (Brisbane, May).

Outcome: Participants agreed to conduct advocacy at the community level and collect suitable data for human rights reporting.

**Philippines:** Regional workshop on human rights and efficient advocacy using the UN mechanisms for the protection of human rights (Tagaytay City, December).

Outcome: Participants agreed to engage in the preparation of a UPR Report.

**Solomon Islands:** Workshops on human rights and advocacy for Anglican religious from Pacific Basin countries; focused on rights of women and children, environmental protection, and good governance (20kms from Honiana, November).

Outcome: Participants issued a joint media statement about working for justice.

**Thailand:** FI expanded its outreach and network with other human rights NGOs by presenting at the Caritas Thailand Conference on the FI Asia Pacific Programme (Bangkok, December).

FI also participated in meetings hosted by Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples Hotline (ACPP-Hotline) (May), and Global Alliance against Trafficking of Women (October).

## The Americas Programme

**New York:** Seminar on advocacy at the UN with preparation activities for the Commission on the Status of Women. This seminar was organised prior to the CSW to raise awareness, discuss key issues and share experiences (March).

Outcome: Participation in meeting and contribution to the CSW final report.

**New York:** Seminar to prepare for the Commission on Sustainable Development meeting. This was an opportunity to plan for the CSD meeting and network with the Religious at the United Nations (RUN) and with the NGO Working Group on Sustainable Development (May).

Outcome: FI, together with other members of the working group, submitted a joint statement on mining, transportation and sustainable means of production and consumption.

**Bolivia:** Fact-finding mission with Franciscans working at the grassroots on issues related to extreme poverty. Consultations were held with a variety of local groups in preparation for the 2011 workshop on the UPR and UN human rights mechanisms (Tarata, Uberlandia, Brasilia December).

Outcome: Preparation for 2011 regional workshops.

*"FI enabled us to raise international awareness at the UN on the issue of 'Witch Children' in Benin. Additionally, the FI training helped me in my work at the grassroots as I now have a better understanding of human rights and how to effectively report to the UN if they are being violated. I now have an action plan and will continue to train all Franciscans in Benin, to know more about human rights."*

Fr. Auguste Felicite Agounpke OFM Cap., Benin



*Abandoned children now living in a Franciscan orphanage in Cotonou, Benin, seen here with Francesca Restifo, FI International Advocacy Coordinator*

**Brazil:** Fact-finding mission with Franciscans working on justice issues at the grassroots. The focus was on marginalisation, land disputes, the environment and women's issues (Sao Paulo, December).

Outcome: Preparation for the UPR report in 2012 and also for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in December 2012.

**Geneva/Washington:** Web conference, co-organised with Franciscan Action Network (FAN), on the follow-up to the UPR recommendations which the USA Government accepted in November. FI drew attention to the most important recommendations which Franciscans had raised in the USA (December).

Outcome: Inputs on advocacy strategy at the national level to ensure that the US Government takes the necessary steps to address justice issues pertaining to migrant workers, trafficking, forced labour, women, and indigenous peoples.

**New York:** 'Hear it from the Experts' Lecture Series with guest speakers addressing FI themes:

'Fighting for our Environment' with Dr. Robert K. Musil, American University School of Public Affairs; 'The Power of Film at the Service of the Poor' with Gerard Thomas Straub; 'Trafficking and Organised Crime' with Ronald Charles Chance, Neumann College; 'Islam in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' with Fr. Elias Mallon SA, FI Advocacy; 'Migration' with Sr. Liliame Alam fmm; and 'Millennium Development Goals' with Donald Lee, UN Representative.

*"This experience taught me that no man is an island. In order to have a functional society we all need to interact with each other to solve our own problems. It is only when there is mutual respect and trust between different religions and cultures that we can achieve a peaceful world."*

Nellie Ayodo, Pax Romana, Kenya

## Advocacy Focus Areas

At the request of Franciscans in different countries FI worked on the following themes at the UN:

### Contemporary Forms of Slavery

FI is concerned that different forms of slavery in our world today remain largely unknown and are inadequately addressed by state policies. Forms of slavery include: debt bondage, forced labour, child labour and child servitude, trafficking in persons, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, sale of children, forced marriages, and the sale of brides and wives.

### Activities

During the HRC sessions, FI routinely raised issues of CFS through its UPR Reports, and oral and written statements. The issue of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and labour purposes was prominent in the UPR reports of the US and Malawi; and these were addressed during discussions with permanent or diplomatic missions.

### Workshops and Consultations

**India:** FI organised a fact-finding mission to address CFS in South India. Consultations were held in Mumbai, Goa, Karnataka, Trichy, Ernakulum and Trivandrum with 200 Franciscans, the Association of the Franciscan Family of India (AFFI) and partners working on CFS (August).

### Extreme Poverty

FI is concerned that Extreme Poverty is the most widespread violation of human dignity in the world. Despite this, governments or states rarely address this issue in relation to human rights, or see it as the root cause of human rights violations.



*FI Advocacy Officer, Enkelada Papa, visiting a refugee camp for Sri Lankan refugees, helped by Franciscans, in Trichy, India*

### Activities

FI played a key role in contributing to the HRC work on the Draft Guiding Principles (DGPs) on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, which needs to be adopted by 2012. FI was one of the primary organisations that supported the renewal of the mandate of the UN Independent Expert linking human rights abuse with extreme poverty; this was also highlighted in every report that FI submitted to the UN.

### Workshops and Consultations

**South India:** FI investigated poverty as the root cause of CFS in this huge sub-continent. In order to find a lasting and effective solution to CFS, extreme poverty must be acknowledged worldwide as being a key factor of this heinous crime (Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Kerala, Trichy, August).

**Bangkok:** FI met with the Federation of Asian Bishops Council - Office of Human Development (FABC-OHD) to work together to address issues on extreme poverty, hunger and food security (July).



*Irregular Neighborhoods Association of Uberlandia (L-R): Marqinhos, President of the Association, Markus Heinze OFM, FI Regional Director in Geneva, Mike Lasky OFM Conv., FI Regional Director in New York*

## Environment

FI works with Franciscans around the world and with other national and international NGOs and institutions to raise key concerns regarding the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable.

### Activities

**Geneva:** Participated in a four-day conference on water and sanitation, led by Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Independent Expert on Water and Sanitation (September).

**Geneva:** Co-organised a side event addressing the impact of climate change on the poorest strata of society, during the UN Social Forum on 'Climate Change and Poverty' (October).

**New York:** Organised a seminar on 'Climate Change and Millennium Development Goals' prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Sustainable Development. Franciscans then attended CSD meetings and addressed the issues of: 'Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development'; and 'Poverty Eradication', as well as 'The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development' (May).

**Geneva:** Incorporated environmental issues in its UPR reports and lobbied permanent missions to address the concerns of Franciscans working at the grassroots on these issues.

### Workshops and Consultations

**Ethiopia, Uganda and Solomon Islands:** The FI advocacy team held workshops with Franciscans that focused on the environment and specific UN mechanisms. The collaborative interchange was aimed at raising awareness about the impact of climate change on the lives of the most vulnerable.

## Indigenous Peoples

An important focus of FI is defending the rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to their ancestral lands. This issue is closely linked to issues on the environment and extreme poverty.

### Activities

**Geneva:** FI participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). During this meeting FI provided information to indigenous groups on the functioning of the UN mechanisms and how to prepare and submit written and oral statements to the UN (July).

**Bangkok:** FI strengthened collaboration with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), and the Office for Justice and Peace Diocese Jayapura, Papua (JPIC-SKP) and hosted consultations with JPIC-SKP members based in Bangkok.



*FI Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Mateusz Tuniewicz, works with Franciscans and other Religious on human rights in Sri Lanka in the context of reconciliation.*



### Workshops and Consultations

**Geneva:** FI hosted a workshop on Indigenous Peoples Rights and Development with two guest speakers (July).

**Philippines:** FI organised an advocacy workshop on Indigenous Peoples Rights, with a focus on the impact that mining and extractive industries can have on the lives of indigenous peoples (December).

### Peace-Building and Reconciliation

FI works with Franciscans to bring issues of peace-building and reconciliation, inter-religious dialogue and social justice around the world to the attention of the international community.

### Activities

**Nuclear Non-Proliferation:** FI cooperated with the Permanent Mission of Japan at the UN in New York to host a major event at the UN Church Center. Archbishop Joseph Mitsuaki Takami, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Nagasaki, Japan, sponsored the event and read a statement calling for nuclear disarmament (May).

**Racism and Xenophobia:** Throughout 2010, FI participated in the annual 'Sacred Seasons Program' sponsored by the Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. The purpose of the programme was to bring attention to the Durban Initiative as a practical means of eliminating racism.

*FI Advocacy staff with Archbishop Joseph Mitsuaki Takami, of Nagasaki, Japan, during the Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the UN, NY*



**Inter-Religious Dialogue:** FI views this important issue as an essential means of promoting peace through dialogue to facilitate greater understanding of differences. FI participated in the following:

- The Conference of the Abrahamic Religions 'The Notion of Peace in Judaism, Christianity and Islam' (New York, February);
- The Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops to promote 'Communion and Witness in the Region' (Rome, October).
- Br. Elias Mallon SA, gave a lecture at Fordham University School of Law entitled: 'The Legal Status of Religion at the UN' (New York, December).

**Thailand:** During the political upheaval and the violence that marred the country from March to April, FI together with the Franciscan Family of Thailand and Church organisations, discussed advocacy measures for peace and reconciliation via inter-religious dialogue.

**Pakistan:** FI continued to look into the issue of discrimination and persecution of religious minorities in the country. Of particular concern is the new Blasphemy Law, which is being implemented arbitrarily with devastating results, including violence and death in some communities. Those opposed to the law say it is promoting religious intolerance and increasing persecution of Christians. FI submitted a written report on the blasphemy law to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Beliefs (Geneva, May).

**India:** FI, with the Franciscan Family in India and the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), explored possible advocacy strategies to help Orissa Christians displaced from their homes during sectarian violence in 2008.

### Workshops and Consultations

**Sri Lanka:** In 2010 FI organised workshops to promote advocacy for human rights in the context of reconciliation following the violent 30-year civil war. Franciscans in Sri Lanka played a key role in promoting peace initiatives at the local level (Kandy, February and October).



## Financial Summary

The Advocacy work of FI is entirely dependent on the support of the Franciscan Family, Donor Agencies, and Franciscan-hearted people. Franciscans provided over half the income thanks to their generosity and special fundraising initiatives. Funds from Donor Agencies and Foundations further enabled FI to expand its work at the UN, and implement fact-finding and learning projects at the grassroots. The operational support provided by FI's three regional offices enables effective service to the FF and practical access to the UN.

FI wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the following Donor Agencies and Foundations for their generous funding in 2010: **Cordaid** (The Netherlands); **Fastenopfer** (Switzerland); **Holy Name Province Benevolent Fund** (USA); **Misean Cara** (Ireland); **Misereor** (Germany); **Missio Aachen** (Germany); **Missionzentrale der Franziskaner** (Germany); **Rose Marie Khoo Foundation\*** (Singapore).

### Income Received (pre-audit)

	CHF Amount	Percent
Franciscan Family	785,857	46.7
Donor Agencies	552,298	32.8
Rose Marie Khoo Foundation	129,485	7.7
Individuals	51,439	3.1
Partners	62,315	3.7
Special Fundraising Initiatives and 5 For Francis	100,671	6.0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,682,065</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Allocation of Expenses (pre-audit)

	CHF Amount	Percent
Advocacy	757,227	46.5
Administration/Operational Support	313,000	19.2
Animation and Communication	109,278	6.7
Development/Fundraising	401,080	24.6
Partner Collaboration	48,810	3.0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,629,395</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The finances of FI are audited annually by an external auditor

\* Rose Marie Khoo Foundation, 34 rue de Synagogue, CH-1204 Geneva, Switzerland

## Animation and Communication

Franciscans International continued to keep the Franciscan Family in touch with the advocacy work and achievements through:

- The FI website with regularly updated news and advocacy information ([www.franciscansinternational.org](http://www.franciscansinternational.org));
- The monthly *Franciscan Voice* email newsletter, published in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish (subscribe on the FI website);
- Feature articles in Franciscan and Catholic publications and websites;
- Animation visits to Franciscan communities, schools and churches worldwide;
- Launch of the Human Rights Competition for Youth, to raise awareness and support for the work of FI.



*Dionysius Mintoff OFM, receives the first FI Human Rights Award from John Doctor OFM, FI IBD President, and Denise Boyle fmdm, FI Executive Director*

### Human Rights Award

The International Board of Directors was delighted to present the first 'Human Rights Award' to Fr. Dionysius Mintoff OFM, Province of Malta, at a special celebration in Geneva, during their meeting in April.

In 1982 Fr. Dionysius and Sr. Elizabeth Cameron OSF (RIP) independently articulated the idea of Franciscans working together for justice at the United Nations. Their determination to make this dream a reality ensured that the establishment of Franciscans International came about with the opening of the New York office in 1989.

In accepting the award from Fr. John Doctor OFM, IBD President, Fr. Dionysius said: "No one better than Franciscans can play an active role for peace. I want to thank God for the work of Franciscans International. FI is uniting many religious orders who are doing justice and peace work as a mission. We have to go to the minorities, bring them back into society and give them back their dignity."



*(Front L-R): Bernadette Sullivan FSP, Denise Boyle fmdm, Mary Theresa Plante FMM. (Back L-R): Averil Swanton TSSF, Patricia Tan Huat SFO, Doug Clorey SFO, Markus Fuhrmann OFM, Regina Holtz FSP, John Doctor OFM, Harry McKnight*

### Outstanding Service Award

Sr. Bernadette Sullivan FSP, and Sr. Mary Theresa Plante FMM, were acknowledged and thanked for their tremendous work representing the Franciscan Family at the United Nations for so many years. Fr. John Doctor OFM, President of the International Board of Directors (IBD) presented the FI Outstanding Service Award after a special Eucharist in St. Francis Church, Manhattan, New York, on 12 November.

In the presence of friends and members of the IBD, Fr. John spoke of the dedication, commitment and passion of Mary Theresa and Bernadette since the idea of Franciscans working at the UN was first suggested. He highlighted the sisters' achievements and the wonderful example they are to us for their years of faithful service as members of the FI Team. Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm, Executive Director of FI, suggested that "valiant Gospel women", is the description that best fits Bernadette and Mary Theresa.

During a reception following the presentation, Sr. Bernadette said: "It was a fulfilling mandate from the Franciscan Federation, to be a founding member of the NGO called Franciscans International. Focusing as it does on the world's poor, the need for peace, and the environment, FI reflects the work of Franciscans around the world."



## New Fundraising Initiative

Franciscans International is entirely reliant on donations to continue its unique work at the UN. FI launched a new initiative, '5 for Francis' to encourage Franciscan-hearted people to give \$/£/€ 5 each month. This can be easily fulfilled on the FI website or by contacting an FI office.

### 5 ways to support Franciscans International



*Sign up to give \$/£/€ 5 each month*



*Take 5 minutes to visit the FI website*



*Email the Franciscan Voice e-newsletter to 5 friends*



*Name 5 or more Human Rights*



*Ask 5 friends to give 5 for Francis*





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