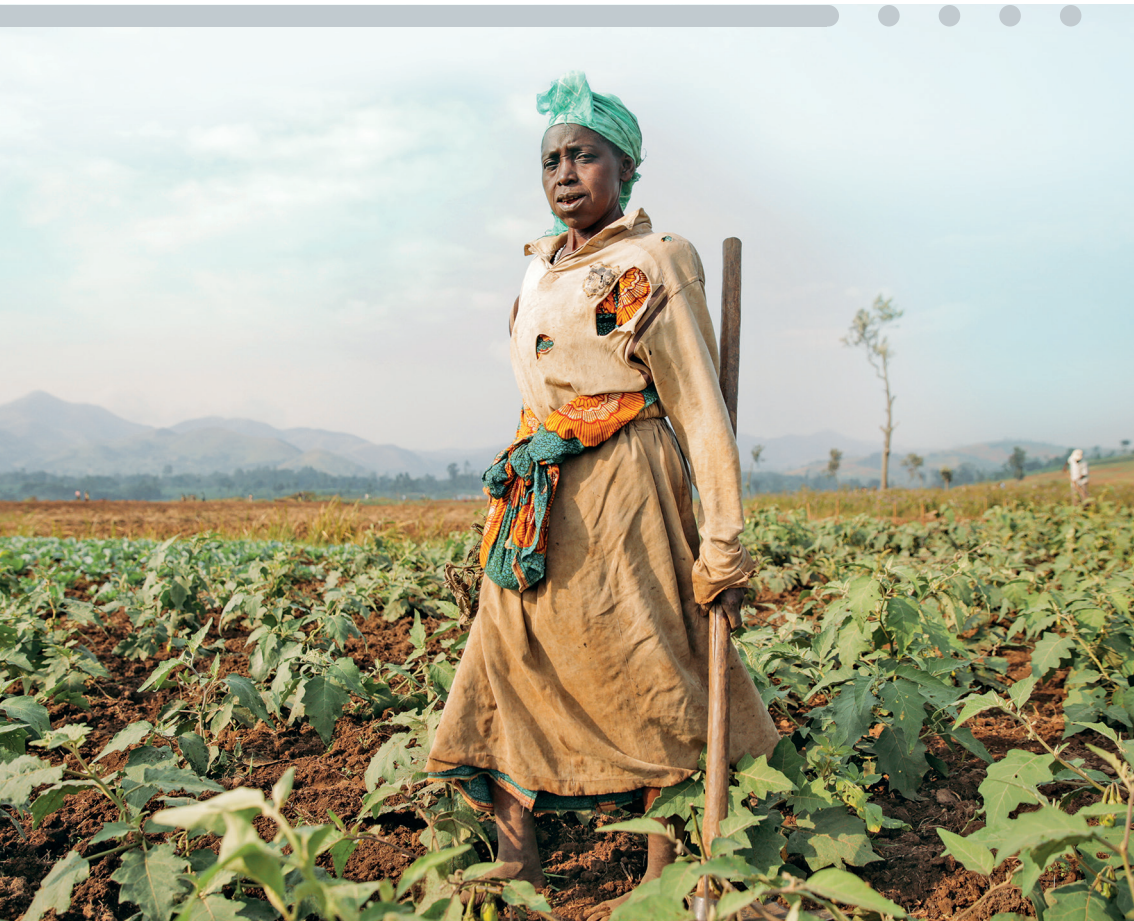




**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

# Franciscans International




**ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

# FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2016

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
GLOBAL POLICIES	4
REGIONAL PROGRAMS	6
2016 AT A GLANCE	6
AFRICA	8
AMERICAS	10
ASIA-PACIFIC	12
FINANCES	14
FINANCIAL REPORT 2016	14
DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT	14
HELP US PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS	15

## Imprint

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Human rights are at peril every day. Protecting and promoting them is the mission and purpose of Franciscans International. To this end, Franciscans International staff and partners have worked with great perseverance at grassroots, State and United Nations levels, advocating for justice, peace and respect for the environment.

2016 has seen Franciscans International active in over 30 countries across the four continents, tackling some of the most pressing human rights issues of our times: violence in the African Great Lakes Region, migration in Central America and transitional justice in Sri Lanka, among others. Globally, Franciscans International encouraged the UN human rights system to create synergies between the SDGs and climate action commitments and State human rights obligations.

As President of the Franciscans International Board of Directors, I am pleased to present this 2016 Annual Report. Concise and sharp, this year's Annual Report presents the main activities of Franciscans International via a regional approach. Highlighting the reach and impact of our actions, at both local and international levels, this report will give you an entry point into our advocacy work, which you can explore further by visiting the Franciscans International website.

The Board of Directors of Franciscans International wishes to express its sincere thanks to all who contribute to make our work possible, especially the Franciscan Orders and Congregations who continue to support this common ministry of the Franciscan Family, the funding agencies and foundations with whom we are associated, our partners and all those who have collaborated with Franciscans International. The Board is extremely grateful to the staff and management of our organization for their indefatigable work. Without these contributions Franciscans International would not be able carry out its work of defending those in need, upholding human dignity and protecting the environment.

**Joseph Rozansky, OFM**

*President, Franciscans International Board of Directors*



### GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

*Influencing international policies towards a rights-based model: sustainable development, end of extreme poverty, and business accountability for social and environmental justice.*

After influencing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adoption process to include important human rights standards, Franciscans International began working to ensure that their implementation concretely supports the enjoyment of human rights by all.

In 2016, Franciscans International engaged in key events and activities with coalitions and networks composed of local, national, international, faith and non-faith based partners, in order to achieve this global policy objective.



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Franciscans International and key partners held strategic meetings to crystallize ideas into plans to encourage the UN human rights system to create synergies between State's human rights obligations, their SDGs and climate action commitments. Franciscans International and its partners began monitoring the efforts of countries in complying with their human rights obligations when implementing the SDGs.

In 2016, Franciscans International highlighted the links between human rights based approaches, the fight against extreme poverty, and the incompatibility of a model of development focused on extractivism with the promises of the 2030 agenda. This advocacy work was particularly prominent around international fora such as the World Social Forum, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous People issues, and the second session of the UN working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

## 2016 AT A GLANCE



### AMERICAS

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haïti
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- Peru
- United States
- Venezuela

### AFRICA

- Benin
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

**ASIA-PACIFIC**

Australia  
Indonesia/West Papua  
Japan  
Myanmar  
Nauru  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Sri Lanka  
Thailand

**FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL  
ADVOCACY IN NUMBERS**

- |                                               |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>54</b> Statement & Advocacy Briefs         | <b>16</b> Workshops      |
| <b>39</b> Expert and Advocacy Meetings        | <b>6</b> Case Studies    |
| <b>27</b> Side Events and Public Conferences  | <b>6</b> UPR Submissions |
| <b>22</b> National Consultations and Advocacy | <b>5</b> Urgent Appeals  |
| <b>20</b> Local Partners advocating at the UN |                          |





## AFRICA PROGRAMME

*Political dynamics and violence in the region continue to threaten human rights.*

Franciscans International has followed closely the important political developments in the Africa region throughout 2016, to draw the attention of the international community and push for timely and appropriate responses.

The political crisis in some countries of the Great Lakes region, where democracy and the rule of law continue to be threatened, have been at the centre of Franciscans International's advocacy work.

Countries like Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are experiencing ongoing violence and human rights violations in the context of their respective elections. Together with national and international partners, Franciscans International played a key role in placing the DRC and Burundi on the top of the agenda of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). In calling for an inclusive and constructive dialogue among all actors as the only way to prevent a further deterioration of the human rights situation in the two countries, Franciscans International succeeded in influencing the HRC's decisions.

Franciscans International's focus on Africa in 2016 has also extended to Benin. There, it addressed the issues of ritual infanticide and birth registration by engaging with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's review of Benin. It then conducted a high-level follow-up mission in the country, which constituted a first step towards the dissemination of the recent United Nations recommendations on child rights and their implementation on the ground to various domestic and international actors.



## AMERICAS PROGRAMME

### *Bringing Central America to the forefront of the global debate on migration and building partners' capacity.*

The refugee and migrants' crisis in Central America is serious. It is estimated that in recent years, hundreds of thousands of people crossed Mexico in the attempt to reach the United States. This crisis has seen a rapidly increasing number of migrants at risk including unaccompanied minors arriving in Mexican shelters. Migrants on the move are vulnerable to extortion and violence often perpetrated in complete impunity.

In 2016, Franciscans International focused on bringing Central America to the forefront of the global debate on migration. To this end, Franciscans International invited Mexican civil society partners to Europe to meet with various non-governmental organisations, United Nations (UN) bodies, and Geneva-based State representatives. Within this project, Franciscans International's partners had the opportunity to denounce the human rights situation of migrants in Central America. To maximise the impact of this advocacy project on the global narrative on migration, Franciscans International and its Mexican partners also participated to the UN Global Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in New York.

Franciscans International's engagement in the Americas also extended to capacity-building activities focused on increasing the ability of the Franciscan Family and its partners to document human rights abuses in their communities. Within this context, Franciscans International organised workshops and trainings on economic, social and cultural rights in both Colombia and Guatemala.





## ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRAMME

*Franciscans International is active on multiple fronts in Asia-Pacific as human rights in the region remain precarious.*

The situation of transitional justice in Sri Lanka remains of deep concern for Franciscans International. In February 2016, Franciscans International conducted a fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka to monitor the implementation of the 2015 United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution of promoting reconciliation and accountability for past violations. Despite some positive developments, the human rights situation remains a deep concern. Franciscans International actively advocated at the HRC to address this slow progress.

Throughout the year, Franciscans International was also active in the Philippines, where it mainly addressed two key issues: the impact of the extractive industry on human rights and the extrajudicial killings connected with the war on drugs.

Franciscans International expressed its strong concern at the United Nations (UN) regarding the repression of peaceful protest by indigenous activists in West Papua (Indonesia). Furthermore, Franciscans International addressed the limitation of freedom of expression of the indigenous people in Okinawa (Japan), as they protested against the expansion of a foreign military base on their island.

Franciscans International's advocacy work also focused on asylum seekers and refugees seeking protection from Australia, including urging the Australian government to fulfil its international obligations.

In the Pacific region, Franciscans International in collaboration with partners continued to promote the integration of human rights in climate actions as a follow up to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



	CHF	Percentage
<b>Income</b>		
Franciscan Orders and Congregations (unrestricted)	324.462	28,8 %
Franciscan Funds (restricted)	193.692	17,2%
Funding Agencies and Foundations	605.723	53,7 %
Other Donations	1.851	0,2%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1.125.728</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advocacy	(624.529)	61,2 %
Communications, Animation and Fundraising	(143.029)	14,0 %
Administration	(252.745)	24,8 %
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>(1.020.303)</b>	
<b>Non-Operating Income and Expenses</b>	<b>(9.551)</b>	
<b>Contingency Reserve</b>	<b>95.874</b>	

(Reviewed by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA)

## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Franciscans International wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Franciscan orders and congregations as well as the following funding entities for their generous funding in 2016: Adoff (Netherlands), Adveniat (Germany), Brot für die Welt (Germany), Canton de Genève (Switzerland), Fastenopfer (Switzerland), Franciscan Foundation (USA), Franziskaner Mission (Germany), Mensen met een Missie (Netherlands), Miseen Cara (Ireland), Misereor (Germany), Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (Germany), Rose Marie Khoo Foundation (Singapore-Switzerland), Trócaire (Ireland), Ville d'Onex (Switzerland)

## HELP US PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS: SUPPORT THE WORK OF FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

### Visit our new website

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

### Make a donation

Human rights need urgent protection. Your support can help us defend those in need, uphold human dignity, preserve the environment, and work to secure justice.

## Bank Details

### Switzerland

**Name of account holder:**

Franciscans International

**Address of account holder:**

Rue de Vermont 37–39, CH 1202 Geneva

**Bank Name:** UBS SA

**Address:**

Route de Florissant 59, CH 1206 Geneva

**SWIFT/BIC:** UBSWCHZH80A

**Clearing No. 240**

**CHF Account No:** 240-357384.01F

**IBAN:** CH69 0024 0240 3573 8401 F

**EUR Account No:** 240-357384.61W

**IBAN:** CH85 0024 0240 3573 8461 W

### USA

**Name of account holder:**

Franciscans International

**Address of account holder:** 246 E. 46th St.,

Apt. 1F, New York, NY 10017-2937

**Bank Name:** JPMorgan Chase Bank

**Address of Bank:**

1 United Nations Plaza, New York NY

10017 USA

**Account Number:** 292500458265

**ABA Number:** 021000021

**Currency of Account:** USD



# Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

*We are a Franciscan voice at the UN protecting the vulnerable, the forgotten, and the wounded earth.*

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