

A Publication of the



YEARS OF
34
ADVOCACY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Africa Faith and Justice Network, inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, seeks to educate and advocate for just relations with Africa and to work in partnership with African peoples as they engage in the struggle for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Moved to action by their personal experiences in Africa, three Catholic missionary congregations namely the Missionaries of Africa, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans), and the Society of African Missions, founded the Africa Faith & Justice Network (AFJN) in 1983 to transform United States policy towards Africa and her people. Since that time, membership has grown and remains committed in faith to advocate in Washington, DC for U.S. relations with Africa that foster justice and peace, and to educate the public across the United States on the truth about Africa.

2016 Annual Report: Activity Highlights and Updates

Dear friends,

You have advanced the cause of justice in remarkable ways. Thanks to your support, 2016 was a very successful year for Africa Faith & Justice Network. We initiated several grassroots groups focused on community mobilization



(From left) Director of Health of Mother Earth Nnimo Bassey, Nigeria Minister of State H. E. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, and AFJN Executive Director Aniedi Okure, OP at the Nigerian National BioSafety Conference

and conducted training sessions in Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania on just governance and the common good. We created awareness in many local communities on land grabbing through workshops, radio programs and town hall meetings. We launched our new Women Empowerment Project with bold plans of expanding in the coming years. The lessons learned from the ground have equipped us to be better strategic advocates in the United States for just relations

with Africa. With your continued support, we will keep the momentum and perfect it as we work with our African brothers and sisters to forge a better and just society. Thank you for a fruitful 2016.

Aniedi Okure, OP, Executive Director



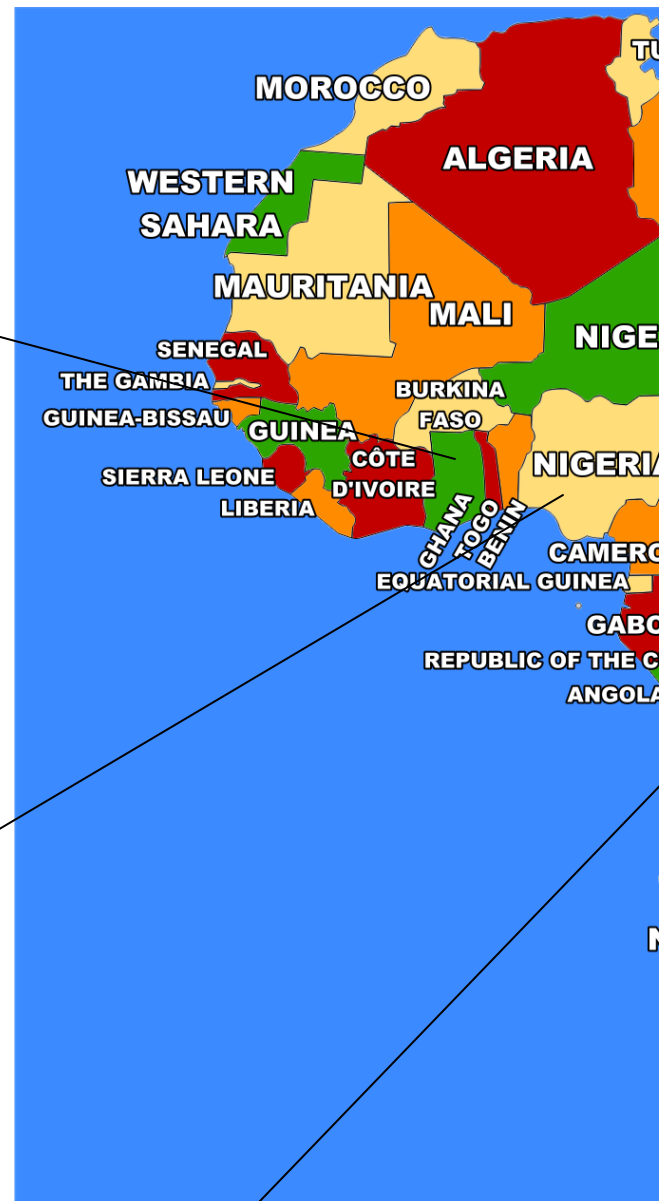
AFJN's Jacques Bahati, fourth from left, at a conference planning meeting in Uganda

2016 Africa Faith & Justice

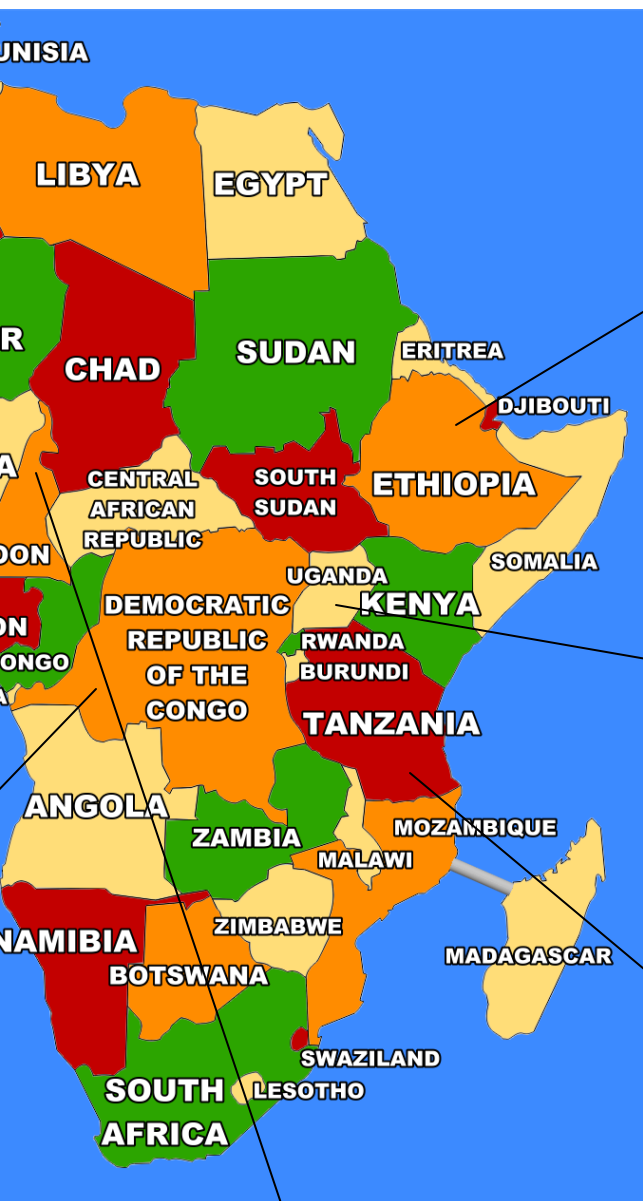
Our team traveled to **GHANA** three times in 2016, first in March for the launch of the Ghana Integrated Platform for Governance of Land, Water and Seed. In the Volta region the team held town hall meetings to inform people of the implications of land grabbing. This was followed by a National Forum on Land Grabbing in Accra in August. Fr. Aniedi Okure was then invited back in November to brief the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference on land grabbing. The gave a prominent place to the issue in their final communiqué.

AFJN traveled to **NIGERIA** twice in 2016, first in May for a conference on land grabbing and GMOs that drew over 300 attendees. This also was the start of our women empowerment project. We returned in November when we held an advocacy training workshop for 86 women religious to encourage them to participate in the overdue and much needed transformation of structures which have failed to alleviate poverty and rid Nigeria of social injustice.

We helped organize the meeting of the Independent Electoral Commission Chairman of the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** at the State Department and a civil society forum at the DRC Embassy in March in an effort to save the democratic process as the country's presidential elections continue to be postponed.



Justice Network Highlights



Our advocacy efforts in **ETHIOPIA** include a statement titled “Free the Democratic Space in Ethiopia, Stop the Killing and Release the Imprisoned.” We also signed on to a coalition letter supporting the U.S House of Representatives Resolution 861, “Supporting human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.”

Our conference in **UGANDA** on land justice brought together 90 stakeholders from various backgrounds and professions. Conference participants came up with some practical approaches to the problem, including training community mediators to resolve land disputes at the lowest community level, thereby avoiding unnecessary legal battles.

92 leaders from faith based organizations, civil society groups, and government agencies from across the country attended the conference land justice in **TANZANIA** in September. As a result of the gathering, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement invited CARITAS Tanzania to participate in the review of its current land policy reforms.

In partnership with the Oakland Institute, we sent a letter to the Department of State regarding Cameroonian embassy officials’ involvement in supporting land grabbing by Herakles Farms in **CAMEROON**.



← Town hall meeting in Kunda village in Ghana to look over land leases and discuss how land grabbing is directly affecting the community

Sisters advocating for just governance and the rights of women and children at the Nigerian National Assembly as part of their advocacy training workshop in Abuja



Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing And Human Settlements Development Hon. Dr. Angelina Mabula meets with sisters attending the just governance and land grab conference in Tanzania

Priest farmers present their ideas for next steps following a group brainstorming session at the just governance conference in Nigeria addressing the issue of GMOs and the Nigerian Biosafety Law



Co-sponsored by AFJN, the National Caravan for Governance of Land, Water and Seed gets underway in Accra, Ghana before continuing on to Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal

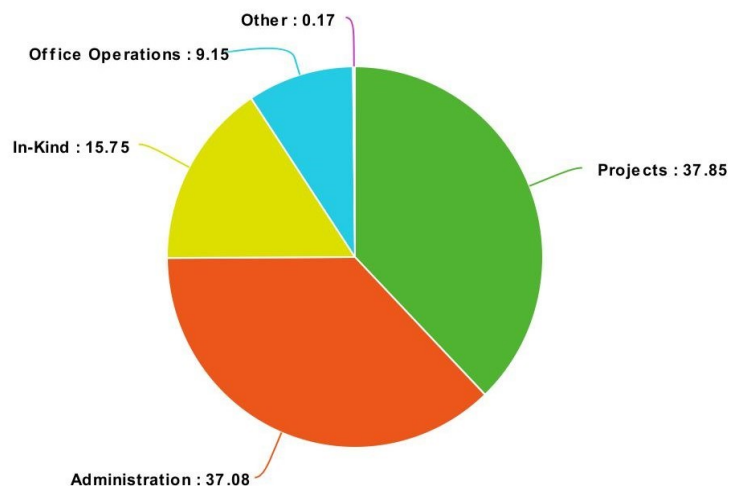
AFJN in the Media

In the past year alone, Africa Faith & Justice Network work has been profiled on Voice of America TV's Straight Talk Africa, Voice of America Washington Forum, Vatican Radio, Ghana News Agency, Spirit FM 90.5M, Agenzia Fides/Information service of the Pontifical Mission Societies, The Ghanaian Times, Servizio Informazione Religiosa, WPFW Radio and many other newspapers and online publications. The topics of conversation ranged from just governance, democracy, and presidential term limits in Africa to land grabbing, Boko Haram, and US policies towards Africa.

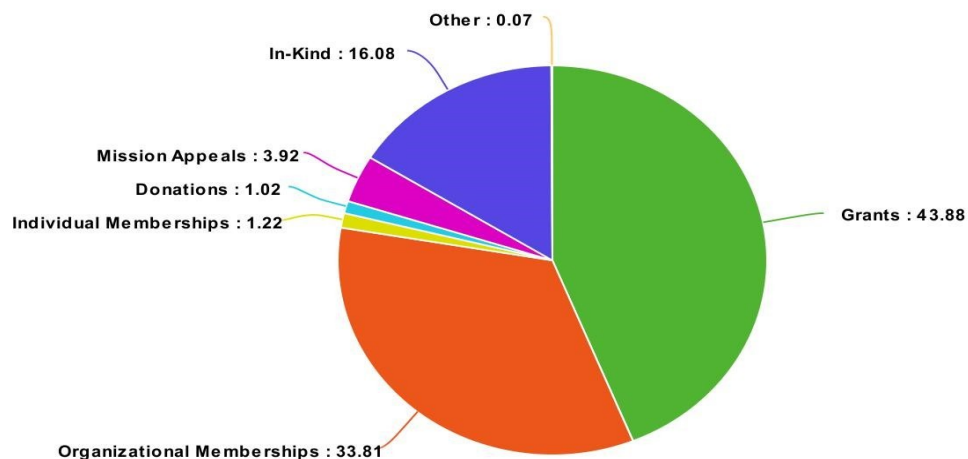


2016 Year-End Finances

2016 Expenses



2016 Income



Office Programming

- Bishop Matthew Kukah of Nigeria gave a briefing on Boko Haram with over 30 people from various civil society organizations and faith backgrounds in attendance.
- Mr. John Ashworth briefed us on his continuing work in South Sudan as part of a Catholic Task Force on Africa (CTFA) gathering.
- Fr. Peter Konteh, Executive Director of Caritas Sierra Leone, engaged the staff in discussions on development and land grabbing challenges in his country.



Bishop Kukah (center) following his presentation on Boko Haram



John Ashworth (center) updates us on South Sudan

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