

AFRICA ACTION SHEET

April 2014



AEFJN CALLS FOR A 5 YEAR MORATORIUM ON LARGE-SCALE LAND ACQUISITIONS IN AFRICA

Large scale land acquisitions (LSLA) worldwide by agribusiness corporations are a huge threat to people's rights and the use of common goods. LSLA can deprive people of their land and homes and hinder their access to food, water and natural resources. Excluding human beings from the gifts of creation is unethical, breaks the moral order and so jeopardizes social peace. **Land grabbing** puts riches into the hands of a few, while driving many more into poverty and hunger.

Some land grabs are facilitated by policies of investor countries and by practices of international organisations. Therefore the issue of **land grabbing** and its consequences for local communities should be high on the political agenda. A 5-year **moratorium** would suspend LSLA by large agribusiness and other investors, stopping the damage done to peoples' economy, social rights and cultural identity.

During the moratorium, countries targeted by LSLA will be able to undertake a simplified **land reform** which will grant family farmers the right to own the land they work and live on. All countries concerned will have time to establish and adopt binding legislation for agricultural investments in order to protect the rights of local communities

Faith-based organisations, churches, local farmers' organisations and civil society groups around the world have expressed opposition to land grabbing by issuing declarations and statements such as the **Dakar Appeal** and the **Calabar Declaration**, raising awareness and supporting local resistance to unjust land grabs.

More information: www.aefjn.be/index.php/resources-509.html and on www.oxfam.org/en/grow/landgrabs

LAND GRABS IN AFRICA WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Saturday 5th April 2014

12.30 — 6 pm

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Hall,
Leyborne Avenue, Northfields,
London W13 9QZ

Newcomers welcome

To reserve your place

email: aefjnuk@yahoo.co.uk

or text:

07787 078833

NEW VISION FOR TRADE

Last November, a European alliance of over 50 civil organisations, including AEFJN, launched the **Alternative Trade Mandate**. They want our governments to support this positive manifesto about the EU trade policy instead of the free trade policies they have been pursuing. Rising markets open for global agribusiness are wiping out small farmers and is a major cause of hunger.

The **Alternative Trade Mandate** will form the basis of an EU-wide campaign to make trade and investment work for people and the environment. In the European elections in May, parliamentary candidates will be asked to pledge their support.

www.alternativetrademandate

A TRAGEDY OF EPIC PROPORTIONS

a 21 century slavery under the guise
of foreign investments is unfolding
across Africa



Invest in African farmers, food security and the future.

“The promise is more binding than the debt.” African proverb

Over 810,000 people are in need of immediate food aid in northern [Mali](#) and in total there are around three million people, over half of whom live in northern Mali, at risk of having nothing to eat in the coming months.

In 2003, African leaders came together in Maputo, Mozambique, and agreed to re-invest their resources and re-focus national attention to building stronger, more dynamic agriculture sectors to improve food security, reduce poverty and spur rural development. The so-called [Maputo Declaration](#) has been an absolutely critical driver in maintaining focus on those who need it most – the small scale producers, the women, men and children struggling to get enough to eat.

From promise to action In Maputo the African leaders made promises to invest at least 10 percent of their national budgets in the agriculture sector. However, reality has left a bitter taste in the mouths of too many African food producers: **only 8 countries** of the 54 that make up the African Union have kept their promise!

The time is ripe to take action: governments across Africa have launched an effort this year to take stock of what has been achieved in the fight against hunger and to plot a path forward at the continental, regional and country levels. If more budgets come prepared to re-commit efforts to meet their Maputo commitments, the impact for African food producers could be tremendous. To ensure the commitments made in Maputo are translated into concrete acts OXFAM, in conjunction with ONE, have started a new petition: **“[For a new commitment to Maputo](#)”** to deliver at the upcoming meeting of African Union Heads of State and Government. **To sign the petition to African leaders:**

“Invest in our Farmers, Food and Future” go to: www.one.org/doagric/partners/

Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Pax Christi International supports the **Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)** initiative. The 4th edition of GDAMS is scheduled for **14 April 2014** and will feature various themes and activities.

GDAMS 2014 resources produced by Pax Christi UK and other representatives of the UK NGO community can be found at

www.demilitarize.org.uk



The Africa Action Sheet is produced by the:

AFRICA EUROPE FAITH & JUSTICE NETWORK-UK
15 Corfton Rd. Ealing
London W5 2HP

aefjnuk@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 0778 707 8833

ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT—EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Elections to the European Parliament will be held in all member states of the European Union between 22 and 25 May 2014. In the **UK** these elections are scheduled to take place on **Thursday 22 May 2014**, coinciding with the 2014 local elections in England. In total, 73 members of the European Parliament will be elected from the United Kingdom. The country is divided into regions, the number of representatives for each region is related to population. The 74 Westminster constituencies which cover Greater London elects eight representatives. The South East region elects ten and the South West elects six.

Voting for an MEP

Proportional representation—regionally closed lists

This means that political parties put forward names of candidates in rank order, the number of candidates being no more than the number of seats allowed for each region.

The ballot paper lists the parties' names (and their candidates), and any independent candidates. Put a cross next to the party or independent candidate that you wish to vote for.

Go to: www.europarl.org.uk and click on the rectangle for more information:

Can I vote? Reasons to vote? Candidates for 2014. The voting system. Previous election results.

Other useful websites: [Members of the European Parliament for the United Kingdom 2009–2014](#)

[European Parliament election, 2014](#)

wdm.org.uk/email your MEP candidates