

AFRICA ACTION SHEET



February/March 2015

Nigerian farmers face destitution from 300 sq.km land grab backed by UK aid

Development Secretary Justine Greening faces questioning over UK involvement in a massive land-grab in Nigeria that is evicting local farmers from 300 square kilometres of fertile farmland to clear the way for a rice farm owned and controlled from the US and Canada. A 45,000 strong community faces landlessness and destitution.

Farmers in Nigeria's north-eastern state of Taraba are being forced off lands they have farmed for generations to make way for US company *Dominion Farms* to establish a 3900 square kilometre rice plantation.

The Dominion Farms project forms part of the UK-based *New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa* and the Nigerian government's *Agricultural Transformation Agenda*.

Both initiatives are ostensibly intended to enhance food security and livelihoods for small farmers in Nigeria. But a report published on 29th January, '*The Dominion Farms land grab in Nigeria*', finds that the lands are part of a public irrigation scheme that 45,000 people depend on for their food needs and livelihoods. The local people are united in their opposition to the Dominion Farms project: "*We want our land back so that we can continue to produce food for our families and the people of Nigeria.*"

Already, local people have been cut off from public water systems, forced to abandon their traditional grazing rights and large fishing ponds have been filled with sand. A local farmer says: "*We are speaking in one voice against Dominion Farms because we are opposing their activities.. They came with security personnel to evict all farmers, who were working on their lands.*" More information and to take action at: www.farmlandgrab.org and www.wdm.org.uk/ea-action



Help make tax fair!

When big companies dodge their taxes, the rest of us lose out. **It is estimated that corporate tax dodging costs developing countries \$160 billion every year** and none of the UK political parties are doing enough to stop it.

With the **general election in May** this year, we've got a really important opportunity to influence the priorities of the next government. So **Action Aid** and 16 organisations including **OXFAM**, **Christian Aid**, and the **NUS** are calling for the introduction of a **Tax Dodging Bill** to tackle the worst bits of UK law that make it easy for big companies to dodge their taxes in the UK and in the world's poorest countries.

THE
**TAX
DODGING
BILL**
CAMPAIGN

Developing countries lose an estimated \$160 billion a year from corporate tax dodging.

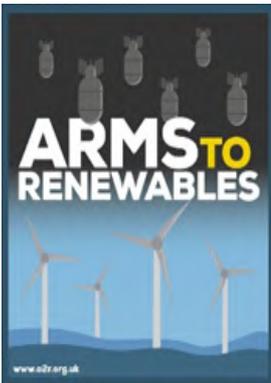
But it doesn't have to be this way. Ask your parliamentary candidates to support a Tax Dodging Bill

EMAIL YOUR CANDIDATES

The **Tax Dodging Bill** could help raise £1.6 billion for the UK and billions in poor countries. This would help them to raise revenue so as to improve vital services like health, education and roads, allowing them to pull themselves out of poverty.

Your candidates will be eager to hear what their potential constituents care about ahead of the general election—tell them you want them to support a Tax Dodging Bill.

To email your candidates, and for more information: www.actionaid.org.uk/tax-dodging-bill



ARMS TO RENEWABLES

CAAT's National Gathering

21st March 2015 9.45-17:00

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square,
London WC1R 4RL

Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) new campaign "Arms to Renewables" seeks to redirect the vastly disproportionate political and financial support the arms trade enjoys towards renewable energy instead.

Our vision is that true security will only be achieved if we **tackle inequality and climate change and end profit from conflict and human rights abuses.**

We are excited about the opportunity to bring together campaigners on human rights, social justice and environmental justice. The National Gathering is a chance to do just that - to learn, make links and plot action against the arms trade and for a better future

For information and to register:
www.caat.org.uk/events

New Lent materials to help us reflect on God's gift of creation

Pope Francis, who takes his name from the great lover of the environment, St Francis of Assisi, has spoken about the importance of caring for creation for the good of everyone, but in particular, our global neighbours.

To help us engage with these issues, we have produced **six postcards on key themes of Catholic Social Teaching:** creation, the common good, earth as neighbour, faith and climate change, Christ as redeemer and who is my neighbour?

The **climate reflection postcards** include Church teaching that grounds us in the rich traditions of our faith; questions to reflect on individually or in a group; and prayers to help us ask God to open our eyes and hearts to the needs around us.

Order your free set of **One Climate, One World** postcards from the **CAFOD shop**, phone 0300 011 5680. or **download a pdf version of the cards at www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Climate-reflections**



WDM launches 'Global Justice Now'

Take back our world!

Saturday, 21st February 10.30am—5.00pm

Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road,
London E1 6LA

Featuring international speakers, films, workshops, music and an exhibition of Mexican street art.

Eighty-five people own as much wealth as half the world's population. This level of inequality is unprecedented, but it's not an accident. The past three decades have seen the world's economies restructured to suit big business. Public services have been privatised. Common land has been grabbed. Climate change has accelerated. Financial markets now rule the roost.

Speakers include:

Paul Mason, author and Channel 4 News economics editor
Samia Nkrumah, Ghanaian food sovereignty campaigner and leader, Convention People's Party
Natalie Bennett, Green Party leader and many others.

Join discussions on: Food sovereignty • Latin America's alternative • Energy justice • Art and social change • Fighting TTIP and corporate power • Reversing privatisation • Resisting dirty energy • Movement building

To download the programme and book your place go to:

www.globaljusticenow.org.uk/our-world

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