

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



DOMINICANS
FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
Order of Preachers

Dominicans for Justice and Peace, 37/39 Rue de Vermont, C.P. 104, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
T : +41 (0)22 779 4010, contact@un.op.org, www.un.op.org

Contents

3

Letter from the President

4

About Dominicans
for Justice and Peace (OP)

- 4** Our vision
- 5** Our objectives
- 5** International presence

7

Our Programs

- 7** Advocacy Program
- 9** Training Program

10

Our Priorities

- 10** Thematic priority
- 13** Country priorities

23

Financial Report 2018

24

Future Prospects

25

Board and Secretariat

COVER PAGE PHOTO:
Pygmy community in Isiro
Democratic Republic of Congo
© Amand-Felix Fufulafu Zaniwe

Letter from the President

Dear Friend,

As you read this annual report of *Dominicans for Justice and Peace*, I invite you to do so in the perspective of the urgent crises facing our world. Most observers of the United Nations would agree that these past years indicate an increasing polarisation among many nations and a reduced respect for multilateral institutions, linked to a disdain for human rights at the local level in too many countries. In the face of the enormous suffering that results, we Dominicans cannot remain passive! Tasked to preach the Good News of Jesus, we have to respond to the cry for the respect of human rights (of each person and of all peoples), for social justice and for peace of the people in all our areas of mission.

Our Dominican Delegation to the United Nations is our humble attempt to support and give voice to the work for justice and peace by Dominicans throughout the world. As you read this account of what was done in 2018, whether you are a Dominican or not, I invite you to reflect on and share your views on any ways that we can reinforce this presence among the 193 members of the United Nations. We Dominicans have such a rich resource of institutions and intellectual expertise. How can we place this resource at the service of resolving the injustices and conflicts reigning in our world?

I pray that this short report will spark a greater solidarity and communion among us and inspire us to a deeper compassion for the millions who daily suffer violations of their human rights.

fr. Bruno Cadoré, OP

Master of the Dominican Order
President of *Dominicans for Justice and Peace*





The cry of Antonio de Montesinos
© ladefensadelindio

OUR VISION

Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers) represents the Dominican Order at the United Nations (UN). Created in 1998 by the International Dominican Justice and Peace Commission and endorsed by the General Council of the Dominican Order as a permanent presence of the Order at the UN, the Organization has its seat in Geneva. *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* [henceforth “the Delegation”] obtained official recognition of its work in the UN when it was granted Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) in 2002.

Overall, the Delegation is dedicated to the promotion of the Good News of justice and peace in the world, proclaimed by Jesus Christ and concretized in the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, as an integral element of the Order’s mission to preach the Truth. The Order is made up of men and women from over 120 countries who are involved in many fields of action related to justice and peace, for example : struggles against land grabbing by multinationals or large industries in various countries of the South, defense of indigenous rights in the Brazilian and Peruvian Amazonia, Mexico or Guatemala, struggles against industrial pollution in Vietnam, Indonesia or the Philippines, care for vulnerable or street children in Burundi, India or South Africa,

struggles against prostitution and trafficking in persons in different continents, training of women, involvement with refugees and people displaced by war, struggles against torture, enforced disappearances and corruption, advocacy for demilitarization, for the environment and sustainable development...

In this context, the Delegation is motivated by the desire to incarnate Christ by supporting these engagements and by ensuring their visibility through an effective advocacy at the UN to the benefit of target populations in need at the local level, too often victims of violations of their rights and dignity.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The main objective of *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* is to deepen the commitment of Dominicans in finding peaceful solutions to conflicts, in addressing the root causes of various contemporary challenges, in promoting and protecting the human rights of all, and in bringing justice to people whose rights have been violated.

The Delegation has three specific objectives:

1. Engage Dominicans worldwide at all levels in the work of the UN by facilitating their participation in UN meetings and mechanisms and encouraging collaboration with other civil society actors, in order to increase their interest in, and commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights;
2. Support Dominican commitments on the ground for victims of human rights violations by raising these cases at the international level;
3. As a civil society actor, provide a Dominican contribution to the work of the UN human rights mechanisms as well as to the reflections around human rights issues.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

With an office in Geneva and with a presence in Vienna and Nairobi, *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* plays a steady role in denouncing violations of human rights and destruction of the environment in the various UN instances and in supporting Dominicans and other civil society actors involved on the ground. The Director and Permanent Delegate of the Order to the UN, Fr Mike Deeb OP, is based in Rome but spends significant times in Geneva and visits Vienna and Nairobi from time to time.

Hosting the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva is the key human rights centre in the world. Based a stone's throw from the UN, the Delegation is at the heart of fundamental debates and negotiations. Ms Laurence Blattmer, a jurist in international law, has been based full-time in the Delegation's office in Geneva since February, 2016. Fr. Leo Almazan, OP also supported the Delegation's activities from January to July 2018.



With a team of three lay Dominican volunteers in Vienna, the Delegation participates in the UN commissions on crime prevention and criminal justice (including corruption) and on narcotic drugs. In 2018, the team addressed the critical situation of internally displaced people in Iraq through a side event in the UN, for which Sr. Luma Khudher, OP was invited as a keynote speaker.



Due to the involvements and expertise of Dominicans in the field of environmental protection, the Delegation made it a priority issue. In 2018, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), based in Nairobi, granted the Delegation consultative status, enabling Dominicans to participate in the UN Environmental Assembly and its subsidiary structures.



*The flags at the
UN in Geneva*

© Laurence Blattmer

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The advocacy program has been in place for several years, in particular through the Delegation's presence at sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva. Since 2017, this program has been consolidated and extended to other UN human rights monitoring mechanisms: Special Procedures¹, Treaty Bodies² and Universal Periodic Review (UPR)³.

¹ The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. As part of their mandate, special procedures mechanisms can intervene directly with Governments on receiving allegations by civil society actors of violations of human rights that come within their mandates by means of letters which include urgent appeals and other communications.

² The UN Treaty Bodies consist of human rights independent experts who monitor the implementation of the human rights treaties by each UN Member which is a signatory (State Party). Each treaty has its own committee of experts, who review State Parties on a regular basis. Civil society members have the opportunity to participate in this review process and to send reports of information with their own reflections and concerns about the human rights situation in the country under review.

³ The Universal Periodic Review is a mechanism of the Human Rights Council, initiated in 2008, that assesses the human rights practice of each Member State of the UN every four and a half years. This review process is a unique opportunity for civil society members to share in a report their views on the human rights situation in the country under review and to raise concerns.

Besides active participation in the monitoring mechanisms, the Delegation engaged in other advocacy activities in 2018 as a member of various NGO working groups based in Geneva:

GeCCco | Geneva Climate Change Coalition

A group of NGOs working on questions related to climate change

UPR Platform | International Catholic Centre of Geneva

A platform of Catholic NGOs coordinating actions around the UPR. With this platform, the Delegation co-signed various oral declarations at the HRC on the need to establish national mechanisms for reporting and follow up to strengthen the implementation of UPR recommendations

ICP | International Coalition on Papua

A coalition addressing serious human rights violations in West Papua (Indonesia) and supporting a peaceful solution to the conflict

Ginebra ONG LAC

A working group of NGOs working on Latin America and the Caribbean. With the working group, the Delegation co-organized a side event on the need to strengthen the use of the UN Special Procedures' communications to prevent human rights violations, with a special focus on Latin American countries

Committee FoRB

Committee of NGOs facilitating coordinated actions on questions related to freedom of religion and belief

Forum Catholique Genève

The Delegation continued to be involved in Forum Catholique Genève and its related working groups on education, on the right to development and on family. Dominicans for Justice and Peace co-sponsored a side event at the HRC in September on family and migration

TRAINING PROGRAM

Since the aim of the Delegation's advocacy is to support and consolidate the activities of Dominicans on the ground, in 2018 it was decided to expand the running of workshops at the country level to strengthen the capacity of Dominicans to work with the UN mechanisms. The Delegation hopes in this way to ensure sustainability in the advocacy of Dominicans on the ground and improve the quality of their participation at the UN in Geneva. This formation program thus emerges as fundamental to meeting the general and specific objectives of the Dominican presence in Geneva.



Training of Dominicans in Isiro (DRC)

© Amand-Felix Fufulafu Zaniwe

In 2018, four training workshops were held: in the Dominican Republic (El Seybo), Ivory Coast (Abidjan) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa and Isiro).

As part of its training program, in 2018, *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* also hosted Dominicans and students from Argentina, France, Kenya and Canada to provide an exposure to the work of the Delegation in Geneva.

Our Priorities

The Delegation's priorities are divided into two main approaches: a cross-cutting **thematic** approach and a **country** approach. This strategy aims to best meet the needs and commitments of Dominicans in the field.

THEMATIC PRIORITY

ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Environmental destruction, especially from big business activities and artisanal mining, as well as climate change are cross-cutting issues that affect the world and future generations. More than ever in recent years, entire populations, including Dominicans, have suffered the consequences of climate change and the destruction of their environment. As pointed out by Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, climate change has displaced 25.3 million people each year since 2008. Indigenous peoples are among the first to be affected, owing to their dependence upon, and close relationship with the environment and its resources. Climate change and environmental destruction directly affect many human rights, such as the right to a healthy environment, the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate food and housing, and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Human rights must therefore be at the heart of discussions on environmental protection and climate change.



Climate march during COP24 Katowice (Poland) © Laurence Blattmer

Faced with this major challenge, *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* is addressing the problem, especially from a human rights perspective. Fed by the diverse and rich experiences of Dominicans in the fight against climate change and environmental destruction, in 2018 the Delegation at the UN level highlighted direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the effective enjoyment of human rights while putting pressure on states to adopt appropriate climate policies.



Open pit mine
© Sebastian Pichler

At the HRC, the Delegation put pressure on governments through the joint organization of a side event with GeCCco on the importance of protecting the rights of people migrating due to climate change. An oral statement on the intrinsic link between human rights and climate change was also delivered in the plenary session.

Accompanied by Fr. Miguel Ángel Gullón Pérez OP, the Delegation participated in the 4th

session of the UN Intergovernmental Working Group with the mandate to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate transnational corporations and other business enterprises in the field of human rights. The Delegation also participated in the 7th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, tasked *inter alia* with promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues related to business activities and their negative impacts on human rights.

The end of the year was marked by the participation of the Delegation in the annual Conference of Parties (COP 24) of the UN Convention on Climate Change in Katowice, Poland. The Delegation was composed of Ms Laurence Blattmer, Sr. Cecilia Espenilla OP, the International Promoter of Justice and Peace and Care of Creation of the Dominican Sisters International, and a lay Dominican, Piotr Lis. The team focused on demonstrating the importance of a human rights-based approach in the overall response to climate change and environmental destruction (referring to *Laudato Si*).



Dominican Delegation at the Conference on Climate Change
Katowice (Poland)

With the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during the COP, it was vital to remind states about the importance of including human rights principles in all climate action. The Delegation also provided an ethical and moral perspective to the discussions in the UN Conference. Through the joint organization of an interfaith dialogue during the COP, bringing together more than a hundred participants, *Dominicans for Justice and Peace* highlighted the importance of a spiritual understanding of everyone's responsibility towards the Earth and towards others, including future generations.

The Dominican virtual group on environmental and climate justice gained in strength due to a more active participation of its members. This enabled the Delegation to participate in a joint interfaith response to the *Talanoa Dialogue*, a process aiming at sharing experiences and best practices among different groups in the field of climate action. The response, entitled 'Respecting Mother Earth and caring for ecological systems, the most vulnerable communities and all future generations' was eventually submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

COUNTRY PRIORITIES



In order to best meet the objectives set by the Dominican delegation in Geneva, considering the limited capacities in the office, and with a view to achieving concrete results, the Delegation focused its action in 2018 on a few targeted countries.

The main objectives of this strategy are to ensure:

1

that there is a strong, coordinated and articulated commitment of Dominicans on the ground on justice and peace issues;

2

that the concerns of Dominicans on the ground are heard and considered at the UN;

3

that Dominicans involved are recognized locally and internationally as key actors in the promotion and protection of human rights.

COLOMBIA

Two years after the signing of the Peace Accord (2016), the human rights record in Colombia continued to be of great concern. The Dominican Family in Colombia was particularly concerned by the lack of protection of social leaders and indigenous and afro-descent human rights defenders in rural areas and by the continued violence committed by guerrillas and paramilitaries. The Delegation decided to continue supporting the Colombians through active advocacy at the UN, in close collaboration with the Human Rights Program of the Order's *University of Santo Tomas*.

Ahead of the UPR of Colombia (May 2018), in March, the Delegation invited a Dominican friar, Fr. Juan David Montes Flores OP, and a leading woman of the Afro-Colombian community to raise specific concerns at the international level. The Delegation organized a side event at the UN in which the two Colombians presented their views on the peace process, the ongoing resistance and the absence of governmental institutions. The event, supported by seven organizations, was broadcasted live on Facebook and reached more than 3000 viewers. An oral declaration was also delivered in the HRC's plenary on the lack of protection for indigenous and Afro-Colombian local leaders and human rights defenders, as well as on the state's institutional absence and hence failure to address key issues of the Peace Accord.



Side event on Colombia organized during the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

© Pauline Faure

In addition, the Delegation had meetings with several key stakeholders, such as diplomats of various countries, civil society actors and UN experts. This advocacy bore fruit during the UPR of Colombia in May when all the topics proposed by the Delegation were raised by states in their recommendations to Colombia. The latter accepted the vast majority of those recommendations, thus generating a responsibility to implement them.

MEXICO

The holding of elections, the crossing of migrant caravans, the separation of migrant children from their parents at the American border and the turbulent relations with the United States marked the political, social and economic climate in Mexico in 2018. In this context, and with the upcoming reviews of the Mexican human rights record by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (CESCR) and the UPR, the Delegation decided to work actively on this country. In close collaboration with the Order's *Centro Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP*, the Delegation participated in the review of Mexico during the 63rd session of the CESCR, to which a joint parallel report had been submitted in 2017. One of the main Dominican preoccupations concerned large-scale investment projects with their recurring violations of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. The Delegation also co-signed an oral statement at the 38th session of the HRC calling for the protection of the rights of migrants.

Finally, ahead of the UPR of Mexico in November, the Delegation hosted Mr. Donovan Ortega, from the *Centro Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP*, to spearhead the advocacy for specific concerns with several country missions in Geneva. These efforts paid off as various states, in their review, raised similar concerns such as gender violence, impunity and human rights abuses by businesses.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The critical social and economic situation in Dominican Republic, especially in the region of El Seybo, continued to draw the Delegation's attention in 2018. After a year of fighting for the rights of the 80 families that had been forcibly evicted by the sugar company Central Romana in El Seybo, a court in Dominican Republic finally decided, in December 2017, that the case did not constitute a violation of the penal code due to the fact that the families did not own the land. Nevertheless, this motivated the Dominicans on the ground and the Delegation to continue putting pressure on the Government and the company to recognise that the human rights of these families had been seriously violated and to ensure that reparations be provided.



*Interview of Fr. Leo Almazan OP
and Laurence Blattmer at Radio Seybo (Dominican Republic)*

As part of the Delegation's strategy to strengthen capacity of Dominicans on the ground, in April, Fr. Leo Almazan OP and Ms Laurence Blattmer went to the Dominican Republic where they ran a workshop for 36 Dominicans and other civil society partners, who were trained in the nature and use of UN human rights mechanisms. Their main concerns on the human rights situation were identified and formed the basis of a report which was later submitted as a contribution to the UPR of the Dominican Republic. During their visit, the Delegation met victims of the El Seybo evictions as well as government and UN officials and legal experts. They also shared the fruits of the workshop in a radio interview and in a conference organised by the *Centro de Teología Santo Domingo de Guzmán* in Santo Domingo.



Haitians working in sugar canes fields in El Seybo (Dominican Republic)

© Laurence Blattmer

The information gathered in the Dominican Republic enabled the Delegation to develop a more effective advocacy in the HRC. In the September session, the Delegation organized a side event, supported by a dozen national and international organizations, on the sugar industry and human rights ("Bitter Sugar") in the Dominican Republic. A representative of the victims of the El Seybo evictions and Fr. Damian Calvo OP, Director of *Centro de Teología Santo Domingo de Guzmán*, were invited to Geneva to take part in the panel as well as to engage with state representatives and UN experts. The Delegation took the opportunity to launch an international media campaign on the sugar industry in the Dominican Republic and its impacts on human rights. Several journalists in Switzerland interviewed the two guests and articles were published in newspapers in Spain, the Dominican Republic and Switzerland. The event was also relayed in social media around the world. This was greatly assisted by the presence of the Order's General Promoter for Communication, Fr. Javier Abanto Silva OP, on his first visit to Geneva to discover the work of the Delegation at the UN.

Advocacy efforts continued a month later with the visit to Geneva of Fr. Miguel Ángel Gullón Pérez OP to assist with lobbying around the UPR of the Dominican Republic. Various bilateral meetings were organized with delegates from permanent missions, including those of the Dominican Republic, as well as with the Secretariat of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

Meetings between Dominicans and diplomatic staff of embassies in Santo Domingo were then subsequently organized. This was a concrete achievement of the Delegation's objective to strengthen the capacity of Dominicans on the ground to defend human rights.

GUATEMALA

In 2018, Fr. Mike Deeb OP, visited Guatemala to clarify the support the Delegation could offer to the Dominicans working with the indigenous people through the *Centro Ak' Kutan* in Cobán, and with many communities of the Q'eqchi' people in the parish of Cahabón. They are particularly concerned about the negative impacts of a hydroelectric project of the company Finca Oxec S.A. on the environment and the livelihood of the Q'eqchi' people near Cahabón.



Hydroelectric project of the company Finca Oxec S.A., Cahabón (Guatemala)

The Delegation decided to raise this issue in the UN with a report to the Human Rights Committee based on the information about the situation of the Q'eqchi' people provided by the friars on the ground. The Delegation then participated in the review of Guatemala during the 122nd session of the Human Rights Committee. The Delegation also had several exchanges about the way forward with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, who made an official visit to Guatemala in 2018.



Q'eqchi' community negatively affected by the hydroelectric project, Cahabón (Guatemala)

CAMEROON

In 2018, the international community was deeply concerned by the worsening humanitarian and security situation in Cameroon. The tensions around the anglophone regions continued to escalate, provoking the death of hundreds of people. The Delegation began engaging with other organisations to explore ways to advocate with sensitivity for an end to the atrocities that were being witnessed. Meanwhile, Dominicans on the ground were also very concerned by the severe impacts on both the environment and human rights by palm oil and rubber production in the country's tropical forests. The serious lack of maintenance of public infrastructure was also a source of concern as it threatened access to drinkable water, especially for medical centers and schools. In this context, the Delegation decided to support the advocacy for these issues and submitted a report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Thereafter, the Committee sent a list of questions to Cameroon in April 2018 to which the State had to respond. The Delegation's participation in this review reaped good fruit as the Committee's questions included all the concerns raised by the Dominicans.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In 2018, the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was more than ever the focus of the international community's attention and under constant surveillance by the UN. The Dominican Order at the global level was also concerned about the situation and selected the DRC as a priority for the promotion of international solidarity through its annual *Dominican Month for Peace*, which took place in December.

In this context, the Delegation identified the DRC as one of the priority countries for its advocacy at the UN in Geneva for 2018. The Delegation, composed of Fr. Mike Deeb OP and Ms Laurence Blattmer, embarked on a mission to the DRC in July 2018 to visit the Dominicans in Kinshasa and Isiro (Haut Uélé Province).



Visit of Dominicans to a Pygmy community in Isiro (DRC)

© Amand-Felix Fufulafu Zaniwe

As part of its mission, in collaboration with the Dominicans on the ground, the Delegation organised two training sessions on the UN human rights system, the role of the civil society and the engagement of Dominicans in the promotion and protection of human rights. In these sessions the Delegation was able to gather vital information on the human rights situation in the country, which constituted the content of a joint report which was submitted for the UPR of the DRC (scheduled for May 2019).

Among the main concerns identified by the participants were the restriction of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Kinshasa, the prevailing insecurity in the province of Haut Uélé, the right to health, access to free education and the numerous violations of human rights around the exploitation of natural resources.



Brutal repression of peaceful protests led by religious leaders, Kinshasa (DRC)

© Amis de Nelson Mandela



©Human Rights Watch YouTube video

Fruitful exchanges of information and discussions on the role of the university in addressing these challenges were also held at the University of Uélé in Isiro. These workshops and the production of a joint report enabled the Delegation to consolidate a fruitful collaboration with Caritas, Franciscans International and the World Evangelical Alliance.

Advocacy work was then pursued at the international level. The Delegation co-sponsored a side event at the HRC on the crisis in the DRC and co-signed an oral statement on the deteriorating political, humanitarian and human rights situation in the country.

IVORY COAST

After the devastating post-election crisis of 2000-2011, Ivory Coast has experienced relative stability and security in recent years. Nevertheless, 2018 was still marked by major shortcomings, particularly in basic services such as education and health care, as well as in the judicial system, particularly with regard to minors.

With the recent creation of a Dominican Family Justice and Peace Commission in the country and with a strong motivation of the Dominicans to monitor the human rights situation, the Dominican Delegation to the UN saw the need to support this engagement at the international level.

In July 2018, the Delegation organized a training workshop in Abidjan on UN human rights mechanisms for members of the Dominican Family as well as other civil society actors. This was a first step to identify a long-term advocacy strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights in Ivory Coast. It also marked the beginning of a close collaboration with partners based in both Geneva and Ivory Coast, namely the *Marist International Solidarity Foundation* (FMSI) and the *International Catholic Child Bureau* (BICE).

The training enabled key issues to be identified for which advocacy could be promoted in the UN. Thus, ahead of the UPR on Ivory Coast (scheduled for May 2019), the Delegation joined BICE's submission of an alternative report on the prison system and juvenile justice in the country. In this report, published on the United Nations website, concrete and realistic recommendations to Ivory Coast have been proposed to improve the situation.

SRI LANKA

In 2018, the Sri Lankan Government made several commitments to ensure justice, truth, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence for alleged crimes under international law. However, progress in implementing these commitments has been extremely slow. Also, the threats of serious environmental degradation by the Colombo International Financial City project, raised by the Delegation in a report to the UN in 2017, continued to preoccupy the religious community in 2018.



Fr Manoj Rasanjana protesting against the Colombo International Financial City in Sri Lanka

In this context, the Delegation pursued its monitoring of the situation in the country in collaboration with Dominican friars at the local level. At the 37th session of the HRC in March, the Delegation orally denounced the negative impacts of the Colombo International Financial City project on people's rights and on the environment. It also shared the religious community's concern about transitional justice through co-signing a statement on the slow and limited implementation of the Government's commitments on this matter.



Sri Lanka demonstration in solidarity with people whose land was confiscated by the military during the war

INDONESIA – WEST PAPUA

West Papua (comprising the two most eastern provinces of Indonesia), is one of the areas in the Asia-Pacific region which remains strongly affected by human rights abuses. These arise from the political conflict and the exploitation of natural resources for the past five decades. 2018 was marked by a considerable increase in political arrests in peaceful demonstrations as well as by an increase in the number of reported extra-judicial killings. Widespread cases of malnutrition and the high number of victims of epidemics also raised serious concerns with regard to the enjoyment of the right to health.

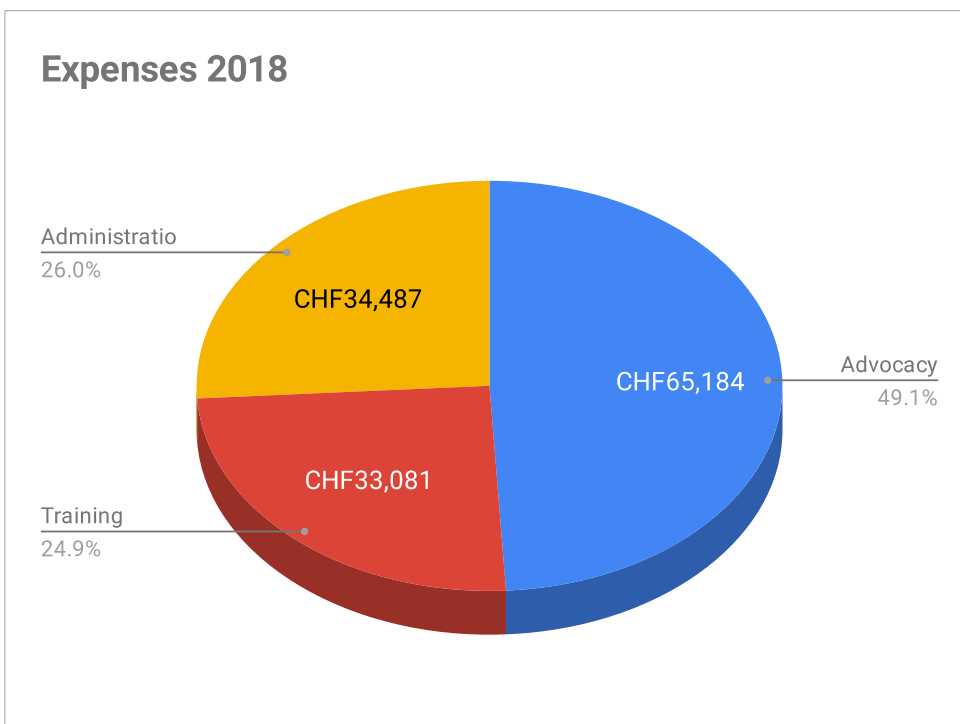


Refugees fleeing from a military operation, West Papua (Indonesia)

Since 2004, the Dominican Order's Delegation to the UN in Geneva has been a member of the *International Coalition for Papua*, working to address the serious human rights situation in West Papua and to support a peaceful solution to the conflict. With the objective to experience the situation first-hand in order to determine the nature of the Dominican advocacy for the region, a local brother, Fr. Robini Mariantio OP, and Fr. Mike Deeb OP visited West Papua in February. At the end of the visit, some key issues for which advocacy was needed, could be identified, such as the importance of promoting freedom of expression, the right to food and a stop to the violence committed by state agents. Following this visit, the Delegation co-signed an oral declaration during the 37th session of the HRC on the right to food and the cases of malnutrition in West Papua.

Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers) Financial Activities 2018

CHF (= € 0.88)	2017	2018
INCOME		
Funding	141,524.55)	157,449.65)
Interest	1,510.99)	2.59)
Total INCOME	143,035.54)	157,452.24)
EXPENSE		
PROGRAMMES		
Advocacy	10,071.29)	65,183.82)
Training	4,013.42)	33,081.15)
Total PROGRAMMES	14,084.71)	98,264.97)
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	99,546.85)	34,486.52)
Total EXPENSE	113,631.56)	132,751.49)
Net Income	29,403.98)	24,700.75)



At the end of 2018, the Delegation undertook to develop a two-year action plan to implement its strategic orientations in a fruitful and sustainable manner.

Improved communication and fundraising have been identified as priorities for 2019-2020. In order to increase the visibility of its activities and impacts, within the Order and beyond, the Delegation will strive to improve its communication strategy in the long term, in particular by intensifying its use of social media and creating information tools. The Delegation also hopes to diversify its funding sources to ensure the sustainability of its advocacy and training programs in Geneva and in the field. To this end, the Geneva office will strengthen its team to ensure effective work in these two crucial areas.

The issue of environmental destruction, climate change and human rights will continue to be at the heart of the Delegation's advocacy in the coming years. It hopes to intensify its support for the Dominicans involved in this issue, in particular by developing synergies between their commitments on the ground and the work at the United Nations.

Follow-up training will also be organized in the Dominican Republic, Ivory Coast and the DRC to ensure that by the end of 2020, the commitment of Dominicans to justice and peace issues is solid, coordinated and articulated. In addition, the Delegation intends to initiate a process of close collaboration with the Dominicans in the Philippines and will organize field trainings to familiarize them with the UN human rights mechanisms. Ultimately, the Delegation hopes that the Dominicans in these countries identified as priorities will be recognized as key actors in the promotion and protection of human rights at the local and international levels.

The Delegation also intends to find ways to involve Dominican academics in forms of research that will assist a deeper response to key questions emerging in the UN. If, in 2019, the Delegation can achieve a greater level of sustainability, it is hoped to focus more on this question in 2020.

BOARD



Fr. Bruno CADORÉ
President
Master of the Order of Preachers



**Sr. Marie Therese
CLEMENT**
Vice President
*International Coordinator
Dominican Sisters International*



Fr. Michael DEEB
Director and Permanent
Delegate to the UN
*General Promoter of Justice and Peace,
Order of Preachers*



Fr. Benjamin EARL
Treasurer
*Procurator General of the Order of
Preachers*



**Fr. Orlando RUEDA
ACEVEDO**
Board Member
Socius for the Apostolic Life of the Order



Fr. Michel FONTAINE
Board Member
*Honorary Professor at HES-SO and
Pastor of St Paul's Parish in Geneva*

SECRETARIAT



**Ms. Laurence
BLATTMER**
Program Coordinator
Secretariat



Annual Report 2018

Dominicans for Justice and Peace, 37/39 Rue de Vermont, C.P. 104, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
T : +41 (0)22 779 4010, contact@un.op.org

www.un.op.org