

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Dominicans for justice and peace

HOW TODAY'S ADVOCACY WORK SECURES A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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LOVE AND TRUTH WILL MEET; JUSTICE AND PEACE WILL KISS.
TRUTH WILL SPRING FROM THE EARTH.
PSALM 85: 10-11

Dear FRIENDS,

One of the important projects of Dominicans for Justice and Peace which was cited by several newspapers (e.g. Washington Post 4 October 2021) was its advocacy for the rights of the sugar farmers in the Dominican Republic at the halls of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva. It is interesting to note that 510 years ago, in the same island which was then called Hispaniola, the Dominican friars preached, through fray Antonio Montesinos, the dignity of the people: “Are these not men? Have they not rational souls? Are you not bound to love them as you love yourself?” (Estos, ¿no son hombres? ¿No tienen alma racional? ¿No estáis obligados amarlos como a vosotros mismos?). We can say that echoes of such prophetic sermon was heard again on the same island and reverberated in the halls of the UN in Geneva.

Our team, led by fr. Aniedi Okure, was able to continue its advocacy efforts at United Nations, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. They brought to light the challenges faced by our sisters and brothers around the world, including Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, and the Solomon Islands. We are encouraged and inspired by the growing number of members of the Dominican Family who collaborate with the team, recognizing that preaching the Gospel entails proclaiming the Good News to the poor and the oppressed... (Luke 4:18). During the meeting of provincials and vicars of Europe in April 2022, the vicar for Ukraine, fr. Jarosław Krawiec, told us: “outside Ukraine people see news and photos of a terrible war. We see the same horror, not through the internet but through our doors and windows. But what the newspapers and the internet do not show are the many acts of kindness and solidarity among the people which you see around. People helping people. People reaching out to people.” This is the paradox, it is when the dark side of our humanity manifests its ugliness that the brightest side of humanity redeemed at the cross by Jesus also shines more clearly. Even in the midst of the violence of war, Jarosław rediscovered true peace. The gift of true peace and authentic justice can only come from God. But each one of us must do our part to prepare ourselves and the world to receive such graces. A concrete way to do so is to lend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters working at Dominicans for Justice and Peace.

Sincerely in Christ,

fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP
President

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Throughout the ages, the drive to build a better future for the next generation seems ingrained in the adult population, and an integral part of good parenting. In general, adults take the necessary measures within their means to ensure that the world they leave behind is better than the one they were born into.

This ingrained natural characteristics in the adult population seem to be fading away. Across the world we witness numerous ways human activities contribute to the degradation of our common home, the earth, the source of our nourishment, the source of healing plants, and our sustenance. We see the destruction of centuries old forests, the tearing away of fertile farmlands in search of minerals, exposing the land to erosion, mudslides and depriving the people of their precious planting land. We witness the pollution of the earth in diverse ways from dumping of toxic chemicals to plastics, and efforts to eliminate plant species in favour of monocropping. Human rights violations accompany these practices.

Rather than leave a better world for the next generation, our activities are exposing the next generation to unhealthy physical and mental environments. Cardinal Turkson summed it thus: "God gave us the earth as a garden, we have turned it into a desert for our children." The notion of collective responsibility for the preservation of a better future for our children seems replaced by insatiable greed at various levels, as if the world ends with this generation.

Creation obliges us to make the world a better place for our children. We read in the Scriptures that "The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it" (Genesis 2:15). A caretaker is expected to make better that which is given to him or her in trust, or at the very least, to preserve it. A caretaker who abuses what is entrusted to him or her manifests a basic and grave violation of trust. Such a person is deemed irresponsible and not worthy to be entrusted with something precious.

Our forebears realised their role as caretakers of our precious earth as summed up in African and Native American ancient wisdom: “We who are alive now, do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” To abuse the very source of our sustenance is to plan for our demise.

Children learn by example. Let us teach them by example our collective responsibility to care for the earth, to be good stewards of our precious common home, to be an integral part of shaping a better future for the next generation. This is a matter of justice that calls for a personal and collective reflection: In what ways are we contributing by actions and lifestyle to building a better future for our children and the next generation? Let us make it a good one.

Thank you!

fr. Aniedi Okure, OP

Director and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations |
General Promoter of Justice and Peace of the Order of Preachers

A Year In Review!
2021 Year-Ender Conversation with Fr. Aniedi Okure, OP

A reflection on what has happened and what has been achieved. In our second installment of the year-ender conversations, we want to reflect on our work in 2021 and what we have been able to achieve as human rights defenders. Take a moment and partake in our success stories, ongoing projects, and how you helped us to make it all happen!



WORKING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

How today's advocacy work secures a safe environment for future generations

After society came to an abrupt halt in 2020, even affecting many of the worldwide aid and development programmes, the world adapted to the new normal in 2021. In-person gatherings were shifted to on-line meetings. While in-person events create a different type of personal connection, online meetings, webinars and trainings allowed us to reach out to wider and new audiences in a more cost-efficient manner, and be creative in our human rights efforts that overcame certain limitations faced in the past. Connecting stakeholders from many and distant countries became as easy as clicking on a button. This helped us to continue to be effective in reaching our overall goal, which is to prepare better conditions for future generations and to leave them an earth worth living in.

Our holistic approach is reflected in the work we have done in 2021 and the victories we have achieved. Albeit still mostly in a virtual format, our work and our partners covered all continents in a variety of regions.

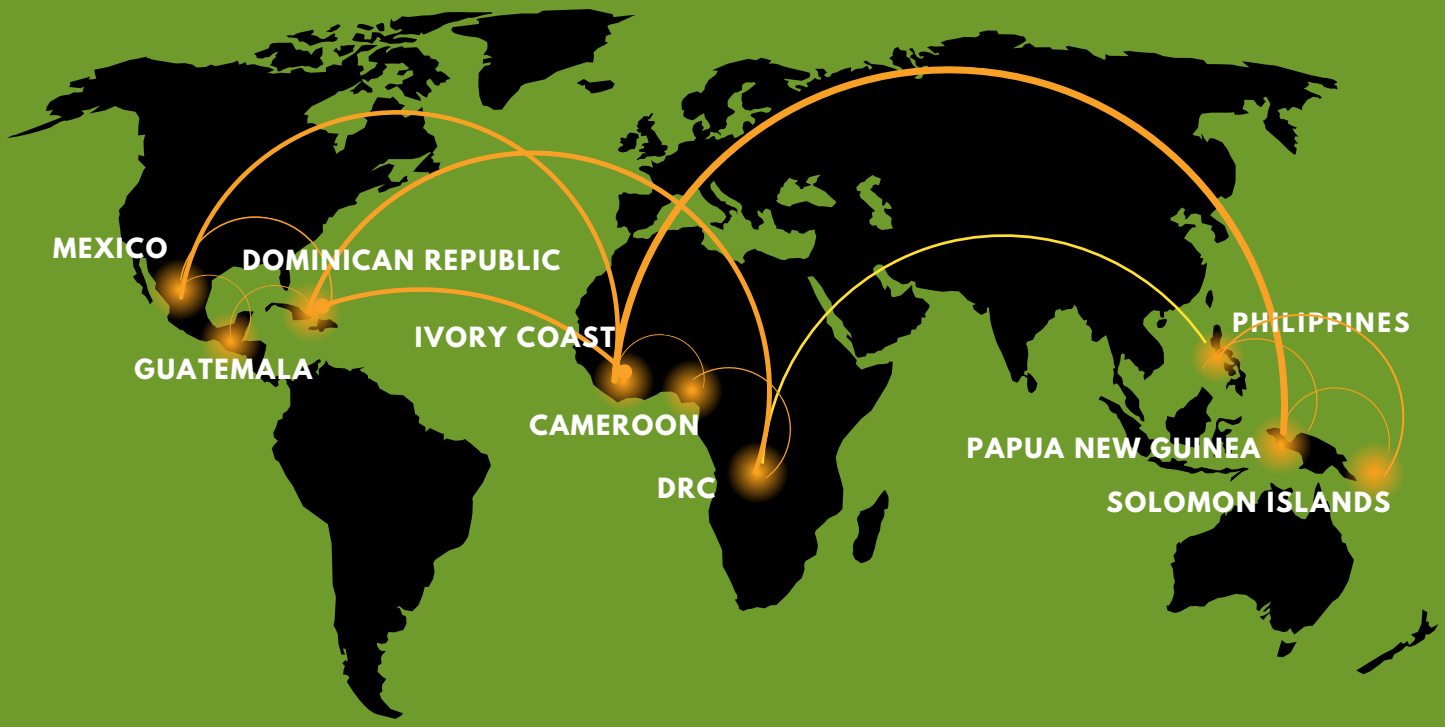
Among the countries we engage in are the Solomon Islands, where logging activities are depleting centuries-old forests, threatening the environment and the rights of the local population. We worked with our local partners in Ivory Coast to address juvenile justice, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo where adolescents still work in dangerous conditions in artisanal mines.

We continue to document human rights violations, educate local communities on their rights, train future human rights advocates and provide them the opportunity to give testimony at the United Nations. We hope that through our work and little by little, we can ensure a better world for future generations. A future without the exploitation of human beings, without prioritising business profits over the rights and dignity of the human person. A world without reckless natural resources exploitation and wanton destruction of the environment, but a world with better juvenile justice systems and person oriented labour laws, with full respect for our common home, so we have an environment where humans can flourish to the full extent of their dignity.



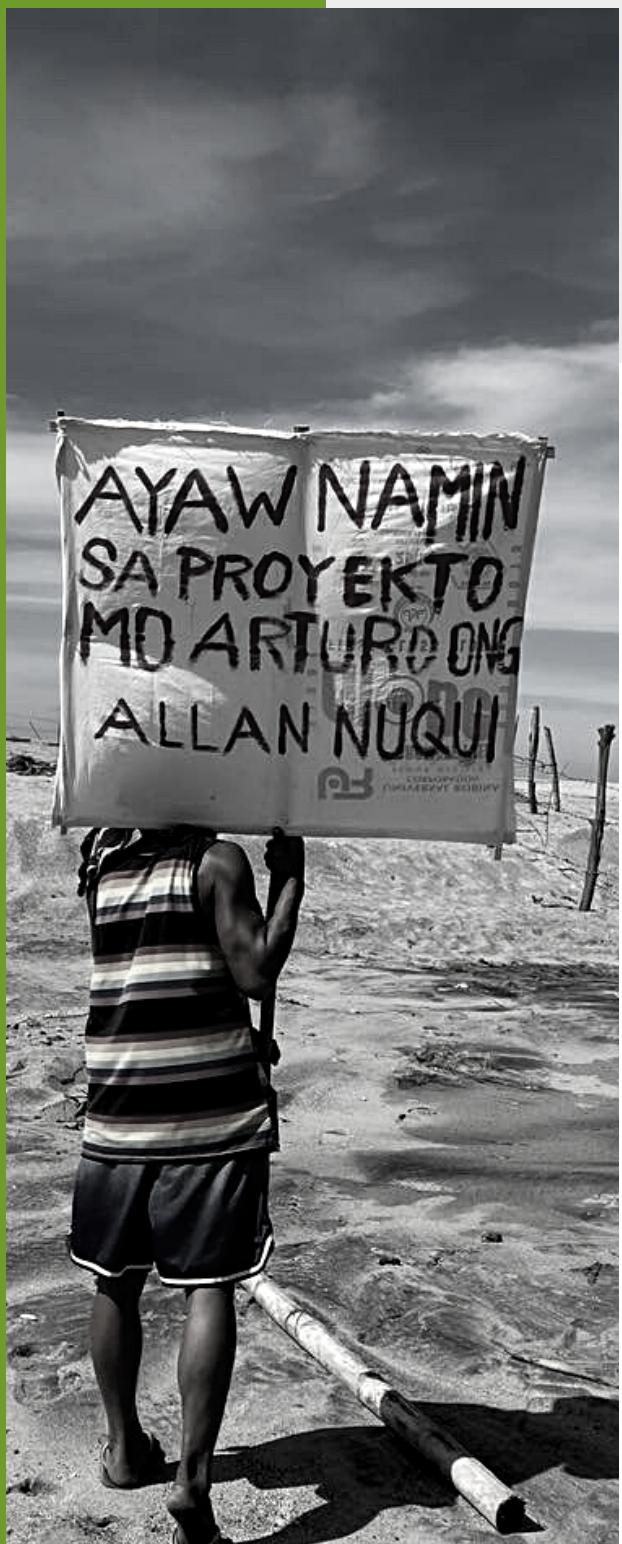
We have chosen a holistic approach in our pursuit of a better tomorrow, encompassing initiatives on the environment, human rights, rights of women and minors, and business regulations. We engaged these topics from the grassroots to the international community.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2021





Impact of the work of Dominicans for Justice and Peace in 2021



- Creation of a new UN Special Rapporteur's mandate on Climate Change and Human Rights, after years of joint advocacy with civil society and States.

- The joint participation of Dominicans and Franciscans in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Solomon Islands that gave rise to the first partnership between the two congregations in the country. This joint work significantly increased the level of monitoring on the Government's management of the logging sector.

- The Dominicans in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) became real watchdogs of the good governance in the mining sector in the Province of Haut Uele.

- The local communities and organisations denouncing black sand mining in Zambales in the Philippines felt accompanied by the Dominicans and strengthened their fight against the mining company, which vastly increased the visibility of the problem in the region.

- The human rights violations in the sugar sector in the Dominican Republic gained international attention through the press and the US Congress called the Biden Administration to investigate the Dominican Republic's sugar industry.

- The Dominicans in Ivory Coast became credible partners for the juvenile justice institutions in the country as well as trustworthy and invaluable assistants for the young detainees in the detention centre of Abidjan.

- Through a series of online sessions, the teams representing Dominicans for Justice and Peace in Vienna and Nairobi were trained to become efficient advocates at the UN.



PHILIPPINES

The Covid crisis in 2021 exacerbated an already alarming human rights situation in the Philippines. Disadvantaged populations were the first to be impacted by the health restrictions imposed by the State. The authoritarian policy against illegal drugs, national security and the pandemic resulted in numerous violations of human rights with a high level of impunity, including killings, red-tagging of civil society actors, arbitrary arrests of journalists and reduced access to food supplies. The Dominican Family has continued to provide unwavering support to local populations in need while risking being targeted by the Government. In this context, it was fitting for the Delegation to organise an online follow up human rights training to empower the Dominican network to document human rights violations. From July to December, five training sessions were organised in which some twenty members participated. The training included the organisation of two fact-finding missions in which participants gathered information on two main issues: the socio-economic impacts of extrajudicial killings on the families of the alleged victims and the human rights impacts of black sand mining on local communities. With this training, the participants could build trust with local communities and families and elevate their voices at the UN level. In this particularly challenging context with the sanitary crisis, the fact-finding missions concretely showed solidarity with the victims and demonstrated that their concerns can be heard, thereby promoting long-term change.



PHILIPPINES

Attorney Mario E. Maderazo is the managing partner of Maderazo, Valerio and Partners Law Office. He was a trainer in the Dominicans for Justice and Peace 2021 training. Attorney Mario is a human rights and environmental lawyer. Since 1997, he works extensively with NGOs and peoples organisations on a broad range of issues affecting the rights of farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, workers and women among others.



"By being involved in the documentation process, [civil society and church-based organisations] also enable the vulnerable and marginalised sectors who are usually economically weak and politically powerless, to claim their rights and to seek appropriate legal and/or non-legal remedies."



Attorney Donatello Justiniani is a junior partner at the Maderazo Valerio and Partners Law Office and was also a trainer at the 2021 training organised by Dominicans for Justice and Peace. Attorney Donatello is engaged in documenting human rights violations and does policy research, participates in congressional deliberations, and provides seminars, workshops, and training to numerous civil society organisations.

"Healing the wounds caused by human rights violations involves more than just pursuing legal action in court. It also includes advocacy and education, which all starts with documentation. There will be no justice if we are not able to learn about the victims and their families and how these crimes affected them."

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Before commercial logging activities began in Solomon Islands, lush forests covered 96% of the country. However, since the 80s, foreign companies increasingly intensified logging activities, which resulted in environmental devastation and in serious human rights issues. Food insecurity, pollution, commercial sexual exploitation of children and domestic violence are just a few striking examples of the high cost of logging activities in this country. In addition, logging exacerbates the climate change impacts on the islands, such as flooding. In this context, Dominicans for Justice and Peace accompanied in 2021 the nascent justice and peace team in the country to reinforce their fight to denounce the injustices caused by this industry. A series of working and training sessions were organised together with Franciscans International to prepare the Dominican and Franciscan network for the Universal Periodic Review of Solomon Islands in May 2021. The online training helped the partners to strengthen their advocacy and gave them the impetus to reach out to diplomatic missions and share their concerns about logging. 39 missions have been contacted in total. The increased engagement of the Dominicans and Franciscans has borne fruits in the UPR. No less than 20 recommendations were made by UN Member States to Solomon Islands on issues related to logging and climate change. This represents a major increase in visibility between the 2nd and 3rd UPR cycles. Finally, an oral declaration was delivered by a Dominican sister at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in which the Government of Solomon Islands was called to diligently implement all UPR recommendations related to logging activities and ensure the full and meaningful participation of civil society in this process.

"The Solomon Islands natural forests are predicted to be commercially exhausted by 2036"

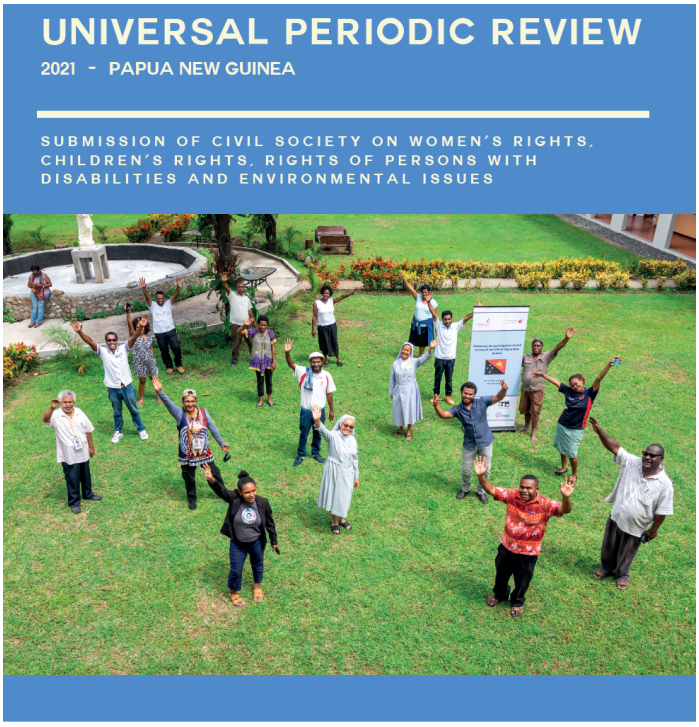
Ministry of Finance of Solomon Islands





PAPUA NEW GUINEA

With its important reserves of gas, gold and copper and its lush forests, Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a resource-rich country. And yet, a high proportion of the population lives in poverty, with restricted access to basic health services and education. In 2020 - 2021, Dominicans for Justice and Peace was engaged in a joint capacity-building project entitled Human rights enhancement in Papua New Guinea through the Universal Periodic Review. This project, led by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (ICCG), aimed at coordinating advocacy efforts of local civil society partners, including Dominicans, towards a better implementation of human rights in PNG. Several in-country and international activities were organised around environmental issues, women's rights, children's rights and the rights of people with disabilities. A joint UPR submission with 18 other local and international organisations was prepared and shared with 62 States. A side event was also organised as a follow up to the review in which specific human rights concerns were raised directly with the Government who was part of the panel.



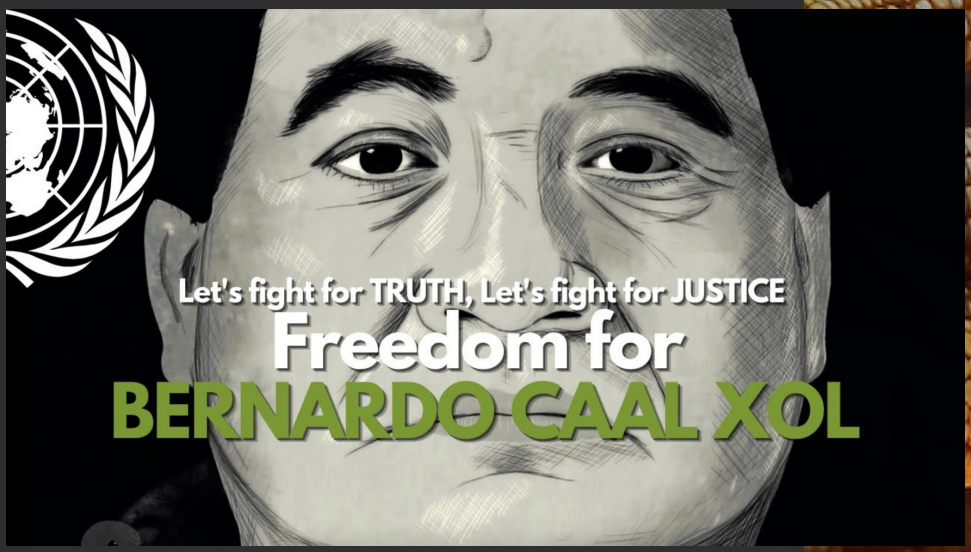
WITH THE SUPPORT OF

GUATEMALA

2021 saw continued efforts by Dominicans for Justice and Peace to raise concerns about the human rights situation in Guatemala with the international community. At every Human Rights Council's session, the Delegation delivered or co-signed oral statements noting the importance of an independent judicial system and highlighting the systematic criminalisation of human rights and environmental defenders, specifically drawing attention to the case of the indigenous leader Bernardo Caal Xol.

Collaboration with partners in Central America and Guatemala was also strengthened. In October, a two-day online training on justice and peace was conducted for the Dominican Family in Central America. This was followed by another online training, organised together with Franciscans International, focusing on business and human rights, the right to water and the rights of indigenous peoples and human rights defenders.

All these activities were accompanied by social media campaigns, aimed at reaching a broader audience to raise awareness and gather support for the human rights defenders in Guatemala.



"Bernardo Caal Xol was sentenced in 2018 to over 7 years in prison, in what can only be described as an arbitrary trial to silence the peaceful protest against the Oxec hydroelectric power plants."

Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Youtube video published on 25 August 2021



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Mother Jones
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominicans for Justice and Peace has been engaged in upholding the rights of sugar cane workers and of local communities affected by sugar production in the Dominican Republic since 2016. The organisation's tireless work to defend human rights in the country bore fruit in 2021. With the ongoing legal proceedings in the US against the sugar company Central Romana and the constant denunciation of its practices by Dominicans for Justice and Peace and its partners, the company could not get the ProTerra standard. This is a worldwide certification ensuring that the food production is done in a sustainable manner and in compliance with human rights standards.

The collaboration of the organisation with the Washington Post and the release of the Pandora Papers scandal have also given unprecedented international attention to the negative human rights impacts of sugar exploitation in the Dominican Republic. The Delegation also provided important information on human rights violations in the sugar sector to a US journalist who then published an investigation on the inhuman working and living conditions of sugar workers. The press coverage led the United States Congress to call for an investigation into the inhuman conditions of sugar cane workers. You can read the full story of the engagement of Dominicans for Justice and Peace on its website.

"Disturbing news reports have recently detailed appalling conditions under which sugarcane workers of Haitian-Dominican descent continue to live and labor to produce sugar in the Dominican Republic for U.S. consumption."

U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer



MEXICO

Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for human rights defenders. In 2021, a series of judicial investigations began, resulting in the arrest of hundreds of defenders and protesters throughout the country, among them the young indigenous lawyer Kenia Inés Hernández Montalván, who was active in the defence of human rights and gender violence. Dominicans for Justice and Peace assisted the Human Rights Centre Francisco de Vitoria in Mexico to denounce this unjustified arrest and arbitrary detention at the Human Rights Council. Given the increased concerns about the weakening of the national institution mandated with the prevention of racial discrimination in the country, the organisation also helped the Centre to raise this issue in a follow up report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the context of the mid-term review of Mexico.



CDHVitoria

JULY 1, 2021
02:59 pm

47TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

KENIA WAS DEPRIVED OF HER LIBERTY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS FOR THE FABRICATION OF 2 CRIMES OF ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE, ACCUSED IN 3 DIFFERENT STATES OF

"ATTACKING FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS ROUTES", ADDING UP TO A TOTAL OF 8 INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST HER.

READ MORE ON WWW.UN.OP.ORG

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Although the new mining legislation entered into force in 2018 and provided for better governance of the mining sector and better protection of human rights, its implementation continued to lag behind in 2021. The 2020 training organised by Dominicans for Justice and Peace on human rights documentation allowed the Dominicans in the Province of Haut Uélé to properly monitor the impacts of the mining sector on local populations. Consequently, throughout 2021, they could document the presence of children and pregnant women working in inhumane conditions in artisanal mines in the region. They also reported evictions of entire populations by mining companies, which led to civil unrest and violence. The Delegation continued to assist the Dominicans in the region in their work and ensured visibility of their concerns through a statement at the 48th session of the Human Rights Council and a meeting with the new Human Rights Minister of the DRC. The latter was able to inform that the DRC was in the process of adhering to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in the Extractive Sector, thus demonstrating that the Government has not remained deaf to the advocacy of civil society in recent years.



“Poor governance in the mining sector poses a direct threat to peace and security in the country.”

Oral Statement at the 48th session of the HRC



CAMEROON

In 2021, atrocities continued to be committed by armed separatists and Government forces on a regular basis in the English speaking region of Cameroon. Unfortunately, this crisis has been poorly addressed by the Human Rights Council. Dominicans for Justice and Peace, together with other international organisations, organised a series of diplomatic meetings with members of the UN and States' diplomats to explore ways to encourage a mediation process to end the crisis.



IVORY COAST

In Ivory Coast, despite recent improvements in legislation, the authorities continue to make excessive use of detention as a punitive measure when minors are suspected or accused of committing an offence. In 2021, boys and girls continued to be criminalised at alarming rates and detained in deplorable prison conditions.

Dominicans for Justice and Peace started the second phase of its Juvenile Justice Project. A series of fact-finding missions were carried out in juvenile protection services and detention centres by the Justice and Peace Dominican Commission in Abidjan. The team followed the path of a juvenile offender through the different stages of the justice system, from arrest to reintegration into society. The observations made were consolidated into an advocacy report with clear recommendations for improving the situation. The conclusions were then shared in a webinar during the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in May in Vienna. This event entitled "New approaches to juvenile justice in the African context" was organised by the Delegation jointly with the U.S. Department of State and the UNODC. The representation of the Delegation in Vienna also participated in the hybrid session of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto. Fr. Aniedi Okure OP took this opportunity to deliver an oral statement advocating for and directly supporting initiatives that ensure a better criminal justice system aimed at restoration and integration rather than incarceration.

"A minor in pre-trial detention has now been languishing in Abidjan prison for 3 years and 11 months..."
Delegation's Advocacy paper distributed to national institutions and the UN

PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & FIGHT AGAINST ABUSES COMMITTED BY BUSINESSES

In 2021, the climate and environmental crises continued unabated with extreme weather conditions and environmental disasters. Combined with the Covid-19 pandemic, the most vulnerable populations have once again experienced the greatest suffering. Throughout the year, Dominicans for Justice and Peace continued to push for strong and coordinated actions by the international community to address these planetary crises.

In February, the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA 5.1) of the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi was an excellent opportunity for the team representing the Delegation at the UNEP to identify the advocacy opportunities around biodiversity, climate change and pollution.

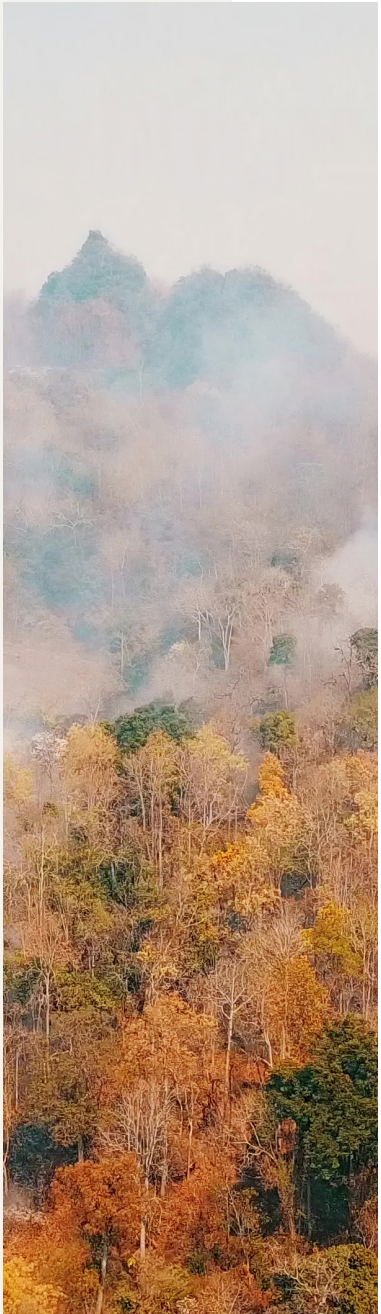
Through the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights (GIF), to which the Delegation belongs, joint advocacy actions were organised at every HRC session. In March, a webinar entitled “Urgently addressing climate change as a human rights issue: small island states, indigenous peoples, youth and faith perspectives” was organised and attended by more than 120 people. Dominicans for Justice and Peace also pursued its joint advocacy with GIF and other NGOs to build momentum at the HRC to create a new mandate of a UN Special Rapporteur focusing on climate change and human rights. GIF has been calling for the establishment of this new mandate since 2010. Such a mandate would strongly convey the message from the international community that human rights must be integral to climate change policies.



In this context, various declarations were submitted, an advocacy document was produced and meetings with Member States were organised with the aim of pushing the Council to take action.

Finally, in two landmark decisions on the 8th of October, the Council created a new Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change and recognised the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, marking the culmination of years of efforts from civil society.





The year ended with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November. The Delegation co-organised with the Interfaith Liaison Committee the Informal Interfaith Gathering at the Garnethill Synagogue, bringing together 150 participants, including various faith leaders, and 50 people online. The event offered the participants a nourishing environment to express, reflect, and prepare themselves for the challenges of the COP and addressed the importance of solidarity of voices and action in tackling the climate crisis.

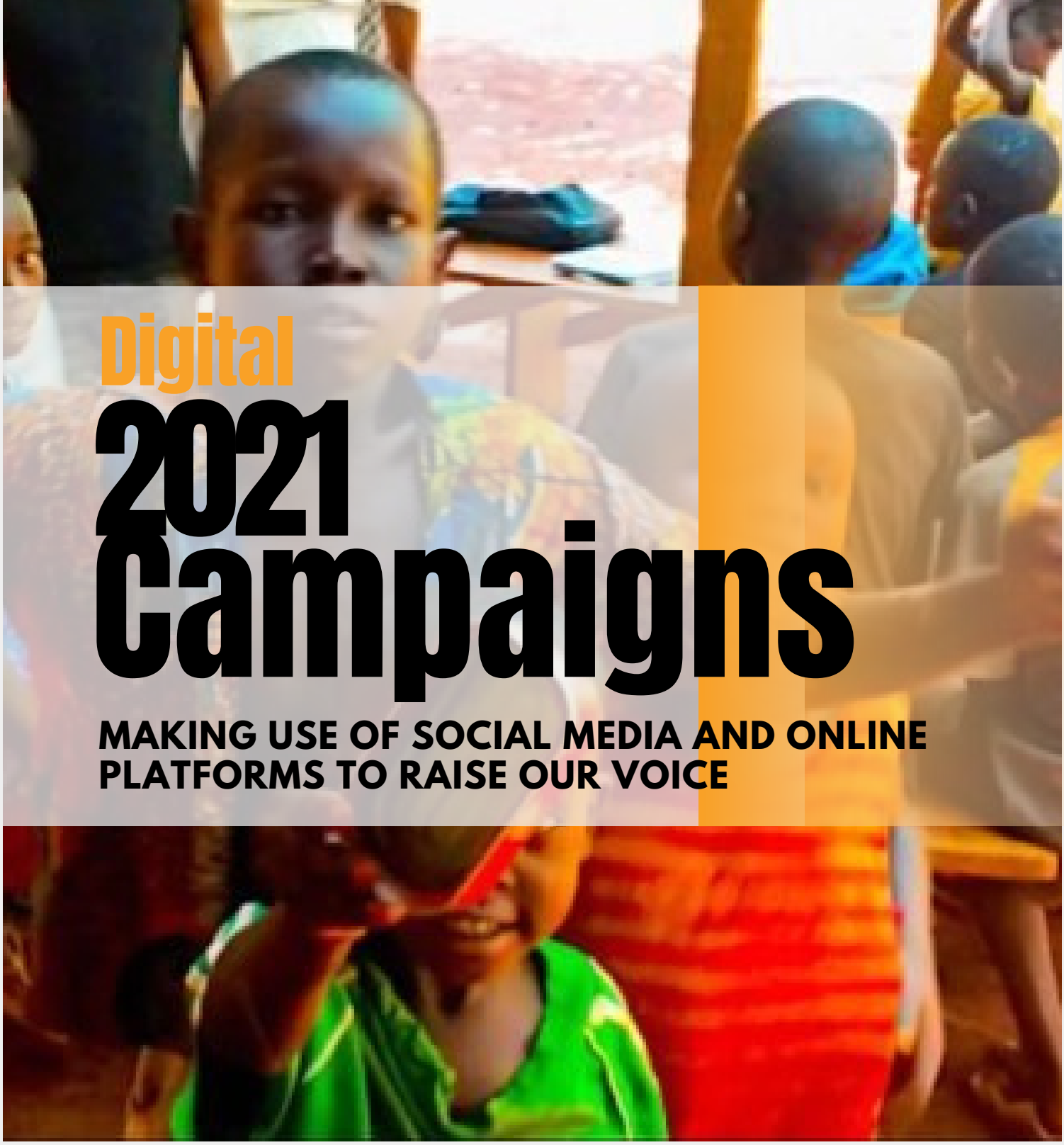


Academic Engagement Programme

During the year 2021, the Coordinator of the Academic Engagement Programme continued to explore the theme of human rights tensions. Six short notes were addressed to partners in the field (members of the Dominican Family committed to justice and peace) and to members of the Dominican Order directly involved in intellectual life. The topics addressed were: women's rights and the right to life, self-determination and territorial integrity, universality of human rights and respect for the cultures of peoples, freedom of education and state regulation, the fight against terrorism and individual freedom, freedom of expression and the fight against hate speech. Each text was accompanied by questions to stimulate reflection and gather additional input. A few reactions were received each time, in small numbers but of high quality. They came from a variety of sources, depending on the topic, but they tended to come from those working in the field.

The Coordinator of the Academic Engagement Programme participated ex officio in the Dominican Order's Working Group on the Salamanca Process. This was an opportunity to contribute to a better definition of the Salamanca Process, with a view to articulating intellectual life and preaching, especially in the field of human rights and the work of the Delegation of the Dominican Order to the UN, as well as to carry out an interdisciplinary reflection between theology, law, social sciences, etc.

The Coordinator of the Academic Engagement Programme also intervened in a webinar organised in January 2021 by the European Regional Promoter of Justice and Peace on environmental protection and social justice.



Digital 2021 Campaigns

MAKING USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS TO RAISE OUR VOICE

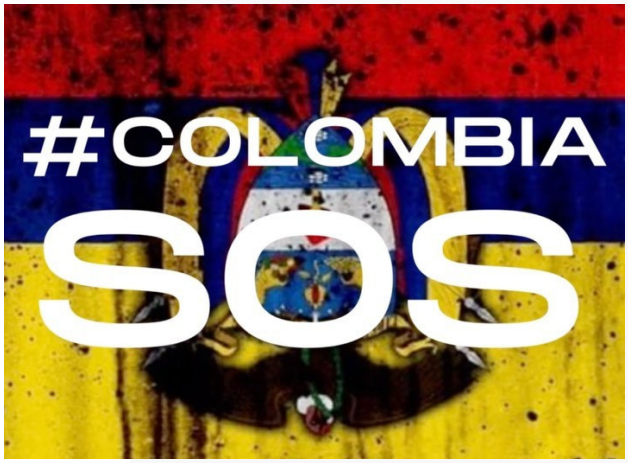
2021 was a year in which the Delegation increased its social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Linkedin, and Youtube, introducing the username @unop_dominicans #unopdominicans to the public. By enhancing the organisation's presence on all social media and digital platforms, the Delegation was able to efficiently inform wider audience about its activities and boost its fundraising campaigns. It has published an average of one or two posts weekly to implement this strategy.

Top trending social media campaign posts for 2021 are:

#IStandUp - In solidarity with women across the world

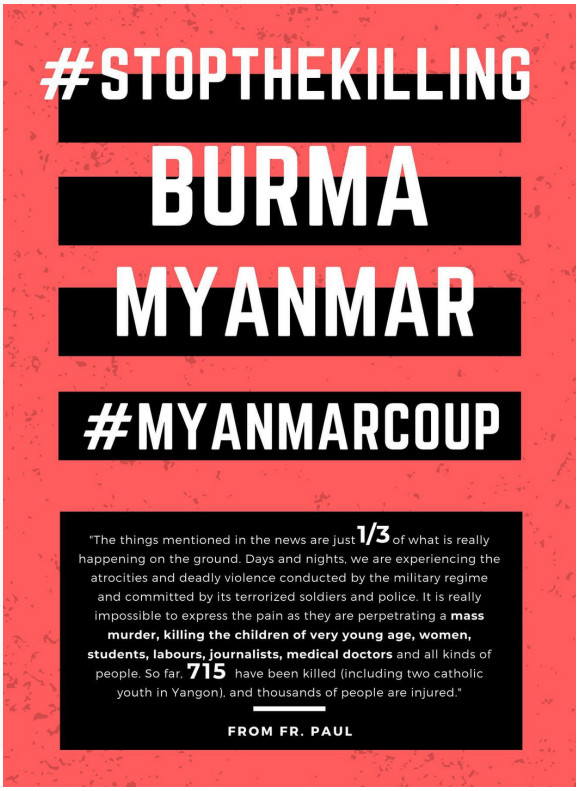
As part of our continued celebration of Women's History Month and in honor of all our empowered partners in UNOP Dominicans, we want to shine the spotlight on some of the women who are leading, innovating and making a lasting contribution in their human rights work. In solidarity with women across the world.





Given the social protests and the rising violence in Colombia, we initiated a social media campaign to ensure visibility of the crisis and closely monitored the situation with our partners in the country.

Solidarity with the people in Myanmar



#YearEnderConversationsSeries
The Power of Open Conversations through the Pandemic





A Call to Inspire

A call to inspire... was a resource mobilisation and visibility campaign held in 2021 that sought to recover the spirit of the long Dominican tradition of engagement in the promotion of justice and human dignity with the hope to drive up support for contemporary action in justice and peace work. Various events underlined the work in this field and the personalities that graced the online events put forward interesting thoughts:



Dr. Hugo SLIM, UK

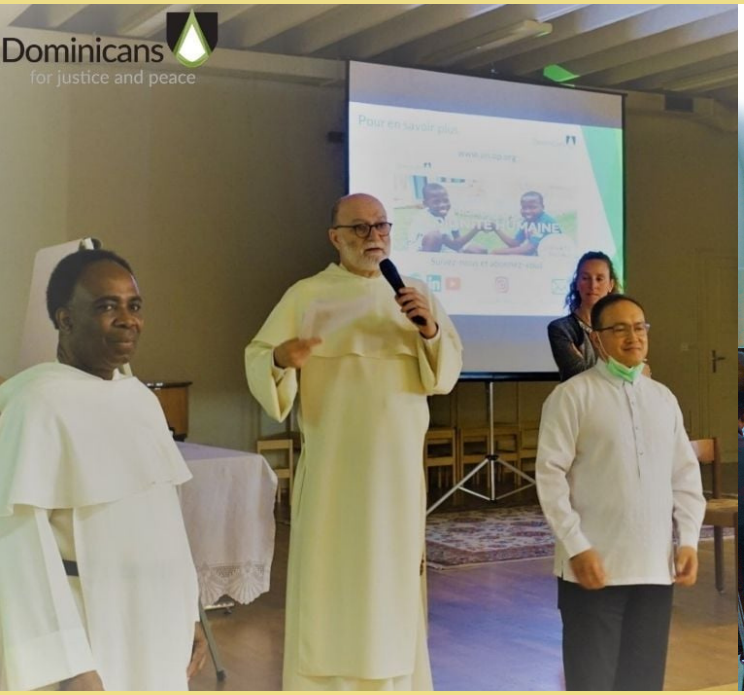
"The climate crisis poses two questions: First is the immediate challenge of working out an urgent form of climate humanitarianism: ...justice demands that we agree on basic life-saving measures for all who experience climate disaster...
The second question for justice is about climate transition over the longer term: ... human society has to adapt to climate change by reorganising our land-use, our living space and our economies."



Fr. Miguel CONCHA OP, Mexico

"...The work of defending and promoting human rights is located in contexts and territories that are often hostile to the social and justice work that we carry out, so that as defenders, we face situations that can endanger our integrity, and even putting our life at risk. Similarly, our work can make certain spheres of political and economic power uncomfortable, which is why many human rights defenders have been unjustly singled out and deprived of their liberty, for the simple fact of defending human rights."

REACHING OUT TO ENTITIES OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY





While many persons and entities within the Dominican Family are still unaware of the work of the Delegation, some strides were made to reach them in 2021.

At the occasion of the celebration of the 800th anniversary of St. Dominic, the Delegation had the opportunity on May 31, 2021 to present the work of the Delegation to St. Paul's parish in Geneva, which is a Dominican parish. The presentation highlighted the rich tradition of the Order's engagement in the ministry of justice, the importance of human rights advocacy and training, and some of the latest work of the Delegation, particularly on juvenile justice in Ivory Coast and on the UPR of Solomon Islands.

As part of its fundraising efforts, on March 6, 2021, the Delegation visited the friars of the St. Nicolas de Myre community in Zurich who listened attentively to the presentation. It was followed by a discussion on ways to contact communities and organisations in Zurich to help raise funds for the Delegation's projects.

On the 23rd of November, a presentation was made in Fribourg, Switzerland during the Intersessional week organised by the theology faculty of the University of Fribourg where several Dominican friars teach and study. The presentation on the work of the Delegation and particularly how it brings to the UN the concerns of partners on the ground was very well received. Afterwards, the Delegation was welcomed by the friars of Saint-Hyacinthe convent.

With the help of Dr. Belen Tangco who leads the Lay Fraternities in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific region, the Delegation was able to meet Lay Fraternities from the Philippines, Taiwan and Indonesia for the first time and this has resulted in initial actions by the lay members to support the work of the Order in the promotion of peace, justice and human dignity.

LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Innocent Madrandele

Human Rights Defender in the DRC



How will your advocacy work ultimately reduce child labor in artisanal mines?

Our advocacy work with the UN regarding the presence of children in artisanal mining sites in the DRC will not only alert States Parties to this phenomenon in our country, but also lead the UN to remind the DRC of its obligation to respect its commitments to protect children. Also, the DRC will be able to take effective and appropriate measures to supervise the children who are in the artisanal exploitation sites throughout the country. Protecting youth means training the leaders of tomorrow.



Sr. Teresa Tebaia

Human Rights Defender in Solomon Islands

What do you hope to achieve with your engagement to uphold human rights in Solomon Islands?

My prayer and heartfelt desire are to witness the sustainable felling of trees by the logging industry as well as changes to the ways it interacts with the local communities, especially women and children. I hope that our engagement as Dominicans will push the Government to better enforce the current laws to curb illegal and unprecedented logging that exposes the communities to natural disasters. Additional governmental oversight would also help curtail the sexual exploitation of children.



Fr. Ricardo Guardado

Human Rights Defender in Guatemala

What inspires you to work with indigenous peoples and denounce environmental injustices?

I am inspired by life with all its relationships, as well as the spirituality with which they live their struggles for the recognition of their culture, the vindication of their rights, their philosophy, as well as their cosmovision, their ancestral wisdom and wealth. This allows them to discover and proclaim to the world, that God is Father-Mother of all, therefore, you and I, we are brothers, and we have the responsibility to take care of each other. Striving for environmental justice and peace is an imperative for the survival of all creatures.

Sr. Marissa Figueroa

Human Rights Defender in the Philippines

How does your fight for environmental justice give hope for future generations in the Philippines?

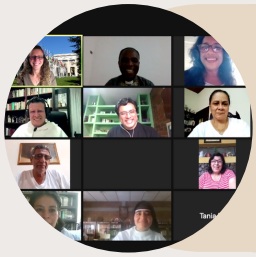
To fight for environmental justice is never an easy task. Educating people is important so that they realise the value of nature. Making a stand for the environment can be done in supporting those who are affected and seeking justice will raise the issue with the proper authority. Educating and involving young people about our advocacy on climate justice is a big help and hope for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. We create more environmental projects and activities for the poorest of the poor so that they can be part of sustaining our Common Home.





WHAT DO THEY SAY?

Testimonials



"[The workshop] has been an extremely interesting and practical space that opens up more the panorama of our actions in favour of Justice and Peace."

- Trainee from Central America

"Working with the Delegation during the CCPCJ in 2021 was an opportunity to bring together the voice of the UN and civil society in advocating for the importance of prevention of violence against children, drug abuse and crime as one of the best investments for Africa (...)."

- JEFFERY BAWA,
Programme Officer, UNODC





[The training] has ushered in a new perspective for me. To see advocacy work as a structured and organised engagement and not one based solely on compassion. Research, Data, and Collaboration are all integral in advocacy work.

- Trainee from the Philippines

I see the beginnings of a better synergy between the projects of Dominicans for Justice and Peace, always to be as close as possible to the most vulnerable, and what we experience in particular in Geneva through our commitments in an environment that is already international, intercultural and multi-confessional.

- FR. MICHEL FONTAINE,
Prior of the Dominican community and
pastor at st. Paul Dominican Parish, Geneva



What's Online?

Digital Report

January 2021 - December 2021



Top Tweet:

Tweets | Top Tweets | Tweets and replies | Promoted

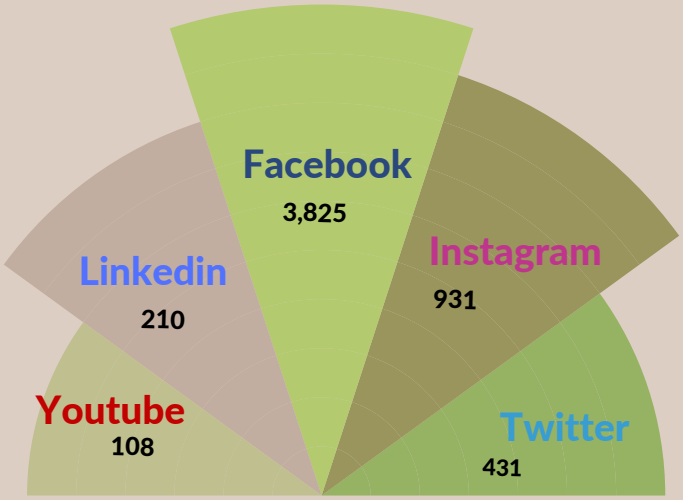
Dominicans for Justice & Peace @UNOP_Dominicans · Sep 16
On the occasion of the 48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council **@HumanRightsCoun** & on behalf of the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment & Human Rights, an oral statement was delivered, highlighting the importance of human rights in climate change action. pic.twitter.com/7hmUPaK2kd

View Tweet activity

Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
2,264	34	1.5%



Mailchimp Database



Our Audience

Our Social Media Presence

NUMBERS & STATISTICS

62.9%
Average YouTube Views

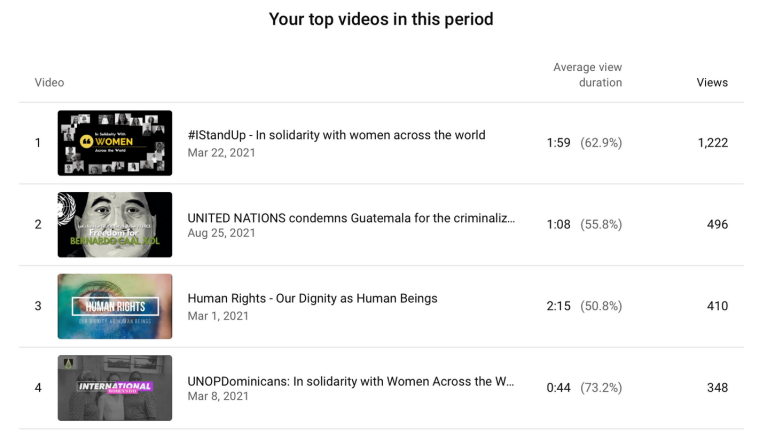
4,867
Channel Views

SOURCE:
GOOGLE ANALYTICS 2021
(Youtube)

PERCENTAGE: Average Page Views per Visit = Page Views / Total Visits

CHANNEL VIEWS means the total number of people that watch our YouTube videos, livestream, or shorts in a given timeframe.

REACH represents the number of unique users who see our post or page. This is the engagement and interactions from both followers and non-followers.



23,152
Facebook Page Reach

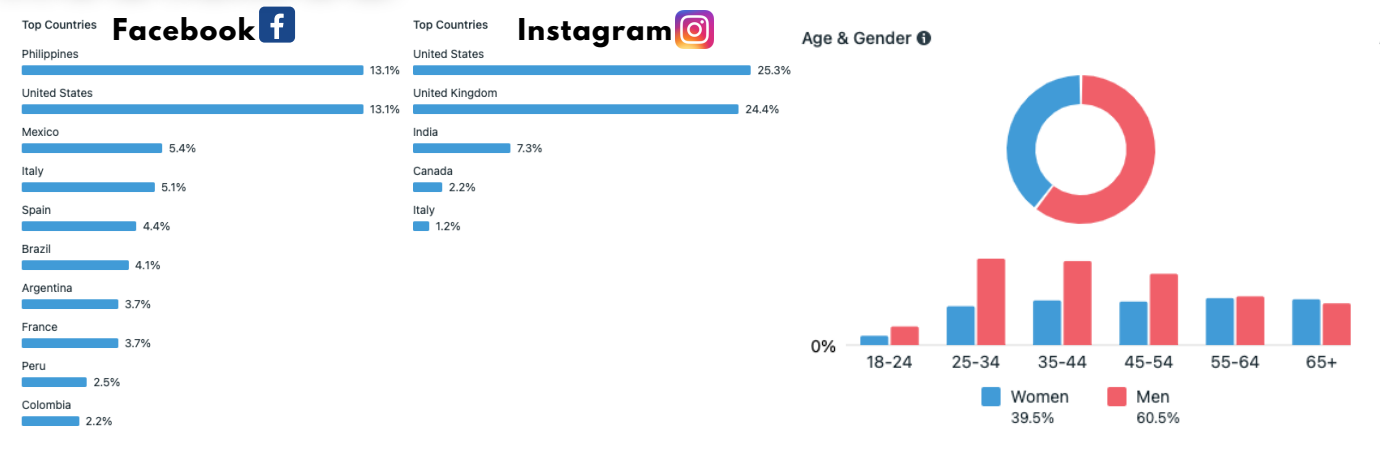
4,324
Instagram Reach

SOURCE:
FACEBOOK INSIGHT
ANALYTICS 2021

This report contains the latest internet, mobile, and social media stats as well as essential insights into digital use in 2021.

AUDIENCE:

SOURCE:
FACEBOOK INSIGHT ANALYTICS 2021

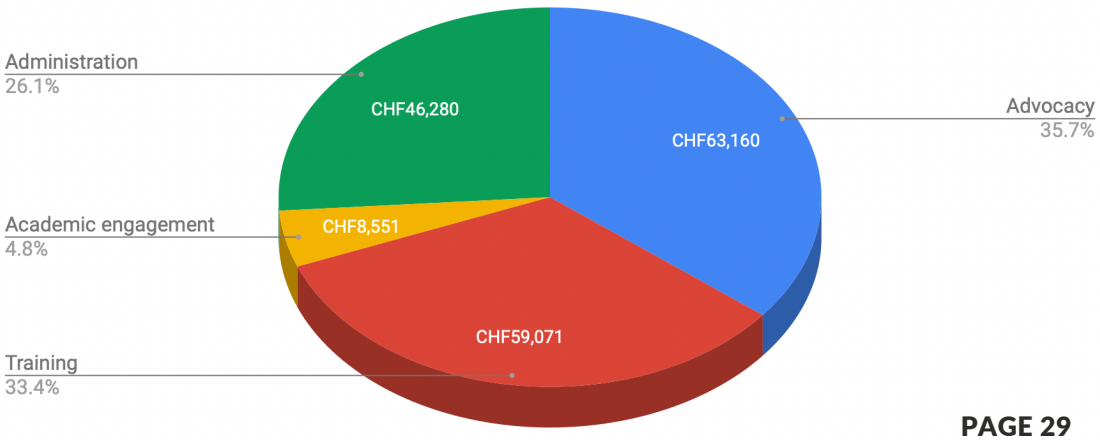


Financial Report 2021

Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

	2020	2021
INCOME		
Funding	161,024.55	169,256.33
Interest	53.20	130.24
Total INCOME	161,077.74	169,386.57
EXPENSE		
PROGRAMMES		
Advocacy	66,320.50	63,159.68
Training	44,995.98	59,070.98
Academic engagement	11,635.74	8,550.50
Total PROGRAMMES	**122,952.21**	**130,781.17**
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	20,404.30	46,279.63
TOTAL EXPENSE	**143,356.51**	**177,060.80**
Net Income	17, 721.23	-7,674.23

Expenses 2021



MESSAGE FOR OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD MEMBERS



Dominicans for Justice and Peace expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the institutions, parishes and individuals who have graciously contributed financially in 2021 to the work of the Delegation in promoting the dignity of persons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **The Dominican Order**
- **The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy**
- **The Kloten parish in Zurich**
- **The Racine Dominicans in the US**
- **And individuals: Louis de Strycker, Shander Olanka, Cesar Mercado and others**

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING !

We thank all our volunteers for their valuable work in 2021. Their dedication is essential to the work that we do !

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD !

We are also grateful to the members of our Board, who have given us the benefit of their expertise, leadership and compassion!

Dominicans
for justice and peace

Make Your Donation Please Visit www.un.op.org

Help us continue our fight for justice & peace

Volunteer Programme & Internship Opportunities

You can now be part of the organisation! A volunteer programme has been established by Dominicans for Justice and Peace. Visit www.un.op.org to be part of our advocacy!



