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## NEWS from AEFJN

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### 1. AFRICA

#### **Consequences of European non-entry policies for West African Mobility**

In collaboration with African countries, the EU is fighting irregular migration to Europe through border control and deportations. However, rather than halting irregular migration, such policies reconfigure mobility flows and make migration routes more dangerous and difficult. The phenomenon of migrants and asylum-seekers crossing the Mediterranean in boats to reach Europe is just one example of this phenomenon. In a Policy Brief, Nauja Kleist explores the consequences of EU migration policies and the fight against irregular migration, focusing on West African migration. The overall policy tendency is a differentiation of African migration flows, making mobility easier for educated and privileged groups and more difficult and dangerous for the large majority of migrants. Likewise there is a tendency to conflate migration within Africa – by far the largest and most important aspect of West African migration – with migration towards Europe.

<http://www.diis.dk/sw111807.asp>

#### **Nobel honors African, Arab women for peace**

The 2011 Nobel Prize for Peace has been awarded to three indomitable female campaigners against war and oppression - a Yemeni and two Liberians, including that country's president. This award means that women's rights are vital for world peace. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman freely elected as a head of state in Africa, shared the award with compatriot Leymah Gbowee, who promoted a "sex strike" to end Liberia's civil war, and Yemen's Tawakul Karman, who called her honor "a victory for the Arab Spring." This Prize highlights an incredibly important issue all over the world but especially in Africa and in the Arab world: democracy and lasting peace in the world cannot be achieved unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society. Karman, 32, an Islamist journalist dubbed the "Mother of the Revolution," has been a key figure in protests this year in the Yemeni capital Sanaa. "This is a victory for the Arab Spring in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen," she told Reuters. "This is a message that the era of Arab dictatorships is over."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/07/us-nobel-peace-liberians-idUSTRE79614F20111007>

#### **Billions of development aid diverted to companies in rich countries**

A decade after donor governments agreed to stop tying development aid to lucrative contracts for their domestic companies, a major new study done by EURODAD, the European Network on Debt and Development, reveals that most aid contracts worth billions of dollars continue to be awarded to firms in rich developed nations. "It's a scandal that more than 60 per cent of all contracts funded by bilateral aid go to rich country companies and consultants," says Bodo Ellmers, author of the report. The aid goes right back to rich countries rather than fully benefiting the world's poorest.

<http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=4640>

## 2. Food Sovereignty

“Ethical and biblical view on land grabbing” leaflet has been written by the AEFJN working group on food sovereignty. This 4-pages paper provides biblical and ethical guidelines for groups in Africa and Europe who are working with communities that are facing the human tragedy of land grabbing.

<http://www.aefjn.org/index.php/action-347/articles/land-grabbing-ethical-and-biblical-view.html>

### International guidelines to protect vulnerable land users

Voluntary guidelines to ensure priority land rights to farmers, herdsmen and fishermen are currently being negotiated at the new World Food Security Committee (civil society, governments and international organisations). They will strengthen the states vis-à-vis private investors by providing a general framework for governance of land, a preliminary to any adoption of investment rules. They take into account internationally recognised standards of human rights, including the right to food. But, to be effective, they must receive international consensus and be accompanied by measures to ensure their implementation.

<http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/19371>

## 3. MEDICINES

### Burkina Faso – Round table on fake medicines

From 27 to 29 September 2011, a round table on fake drugs was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. It was organized in partnership with the 15 ECOWAS countries and health institutions in Burkina Faso and West Africa and the Chirac Foundation among others. The objective was to strengthen sub-regional strategy and the establishment of a platform for coordinating the fight against fake drugs. Experts from various backgrounds worked for three days on topics related to trafficking in counterfeit drugs. They were able to firm up the action plan of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) and the advocacy document to use with WAEMU, the West African Economic and Monetary Union. They also created a platform for technical and financial partners.

<http://www.fondationchirac.eu/en/programs/access-to-medicine/international-mobilization/ouagadougou-roundtable-september-2011/>

### The West African fight against fake drugs

Operation "Cobra", carried out simultaneously in six African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal), aims to fight against counterfeit medical products and dismantle pharmaceutical crime networks. Investing in the fake drugs trade is financially very productive.

At the beginning of October 2011, 2.5 tonnes of counterfeit medicines were seized and 23 people were taken to court in the cities of Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouagadougou. The operation was conducted by Interpol, customs and national and municipal police forces. A similar operation took place in Togo, where more than 7 tons of drugs were seized.

These seizures are to be welcomed but questions remain. Are these drugs illegal (non-patented) or "fake"? And if they are fake, who said they were? Once they have been seized, there is a legal process – what penalties are laid down? Was the network really broken up? Is there a relationship between seizures and the Round Table on fake drugs? To address this public health problem permanently, we need a political will that is often absent and a long-term strategy involving consumers and retailers of these drugs.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=88003>

## 4. SMALL ARMS

### Reports on the Program of Action on small arms

In July 2001 UN member states embarked on a series of commitments - at national, regional, and global levels - to address the problem of small arms proliferation and misuse. The agreement is known as the “Programme of

Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA)”. National reports on PoA provide a critical opportunity for states to document what they have done to implement their commitments. 92% of African countries have submitted at least one PoA national report on their implementation. **The PoA: Review of National Reports** done by the Small Arms Survey gives a brief summary of the state of play regarding PoA national reports until December 2010. The PoA plays an important role in monitoring and addressing small arms and light weapons proliferation.

[www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research\\_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-10.pdf](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-10.pdf)

### **Expansion of Private Security Industry**

The private security industry has expanded to employ some 20 million documented personnel worldwide—almost twice the number of police officers, reveals the *Small Arms Survey 2011: States of Security*. In some countries, the figure represents a doubling or even a tripling of the number of private security workers over the past 10–20 years. Government outsourcing of many security functions appears to be driving the boom. Despite the rapid growth of the sector, private security personnel hold far fewer firearms than do state security forces. A review for 70 countries reveals that they hold no more than 4 million, compared to some 26 million held by law enforcement and 200 million held by armed forces. Findings also show that private security arms are not evenly distributed. The Survey also presents case studies on ongoing security challenges in Côte d’Ivoire, Haiti, and Madagascar. This edition also presents the 2011 Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer, an estimate of the annual authorized trade in light weapons, and reviews developments related to small arms control at the United Nations.

[www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/by-type/yearbook/small-arms-survey-2011.html](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/by-type/yearbook/small-arms-survey-2011.html)

## **5. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Traceability of minerals - Creation of trading centres in Kivu**

Complying with the Dodd-Frank law, MONUSCO, the UN Mission for the stabilisation of the DRC, has decided to get involved in the implementation of a mechanism for tracing ore mined in the eastern part of the RDC. Trade centres were created in North Kivu and South Kivu in eastern DRC to boost the export of Congolese minerals in accordance with the international standard.

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201109230371.html> (French only)

## **6. TRADE**

### **EU sets deadline for EPA negotiations**

EPA negotiations had largely come to a standstill over the last year. The period of calm is now over. Frustrated with the lack of progress in the EPA negotiations, the EU decided to step up the pressure on the ACP countries. The EU's proposal foresees that the ACP countries either have to ratify and implement EPAs or the duty free/quota free access of their goods to the European market will be revoked by the 1st January 2014.

<http://www.aefjn.org/index.php/351/articles/epa-news-update-october-2011.html>

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Climate change negotiators see no major Durban deal**

But while negotiators see no chance for a sweeping deal to control greenhouse gas emissions, they say that the talks could yet lay the groundwork for a binding climate deal that could include the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, China and the United States. Seven days of talks in Panama were marked by assertions by developing nations that industrialized countries were blocking progress on the Green Climate Fund, envisioned as \$100 billion in annual finance for poor countries to address climate change.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/08/us-panama-climate-talks-idUSTRE79708I20111008>