

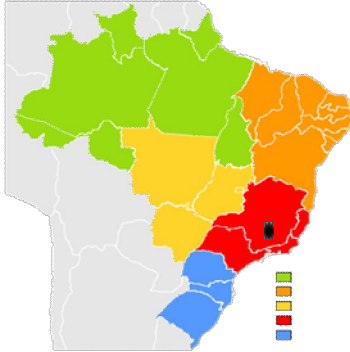


Updates September 2010

UNANIMA in Brazil

The mayor of Belo Horizonte, a city in the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil has heard of UNANIMA International and he is disturbed that we have criticized him for threatening to evict squatter families from public land.

Maureen Foltz, the UNANIMA representative for the Carmelite Sisters of Charity Vedruna received the following information from her Sisters there.



Over 1,000 homeless and landless families in Belo Horizonte, decided to become squatters and occupy some abandoned land in the city. These squatter settlements are three communities named Dandera, Camilo Torres and Sister Dorothy (named for Sister Dorothy Stang, SND de Namur who was martyred in the Amazon several years ago.) The Judicial System is unresponsive to the cause of the homeless and landless. However, the three communities are determined to resist the threatened eviction.

Sister Maria José Meira, ccv, reports: María Rosario, fJ (lawyer for the settlers) wrote to tell me that there was a public hearing today in the legislative assembly of Belo Horizonte to deal with the issue of urban occupations in the Human Rights Commission. She told me that the lawyer for the mayor in his talk protested that he had received a letter from UNANIMA that came through one of the Sisters. He seemed worried.



Rosario was signed up to talk and she said to those present that actually "the mayor of Belo Horizonte, through his lawyer, seemed frightened to state that the cry of the homeless had reached the United Nations." The people who were participating in the hearing were happy and hopeful.

As a result of this, there was a meeting the next day, Friday the 16th with the governor of the state and other authorities interested in having a discussion about the case. The people involved in this struggle were very happy about all of this.

Maria José sent the text of the report in Spanish and it will be posted on the UNANIMA web site.

UNANIMA in Australia

Brigidine Louise Cleary participated in the UN Department of Public Information's annual conference in Melbourne, Australia. She was a presenter at a side event offered by the Salesians and the Augustinians on the theme of Global Health and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



UNANIMA in Ethiopia

As the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development Catherine was invited to attend the expert group meeting which will prepare for the 49th Commission for Social Development on Poverty Eradication to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 15-17 September 2010. She will be participating in a panel and present a paper entitled: NGOs, the Global Crises and effects of Poverty Eradication. Her paper will be available on line at the UNANIMA International web site and also on the Commission for Social Development web site. This paper is a unique opportunity to get the ideas of the NGO Committee included in the Secretary General's report which will be used as the basis for discussion and negotiation at the Commission meeting.



UNANIMA in New York

We are happy to report that UNANIMA's first quadrennial report has been accepted by the Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations. This means that our work over the last four years has been noted and accepted by the committee of government representatives as having made an appropriate contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

UNANIMA's semi-annual board meeting will be held in New York from 23-25 September at the Cabrini Apartments common room. There we will be considering future planning and the on-going work of the Stop the Demand campaign and the Water = Life Campaign. Please contact your congregation's representative for more information.

UNANIMA in Germany

If you have not already done so, do read Jessica Chen's very interesting and informative reports on the last set of negotiations on Climate Change held in Bonn, Germany, from 2-6 August 2010. The next set of negotiations will be held early in October in Tianjin, China. Jessica will not be attending these negotiations but will be following them for us via internet.

