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NEWS and INFORMATION from AEFJN

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A WARNING CALL AND CRY FROM THE HEART!

"No Time To Quit"

The withdrawal of international donor in the fight against HIV/AIDS risks destroying years of progress and of causing a large number of avoidable deaths. This is the warning in a new report published by the humanitarian organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

"If there is reduced funding, then it will mean more people will die, and we will have more orphans," said Catherine Mango, an HIV patient from Kenya.. "The ones that are positive often need to assist others, like their children. People will lose hope and die. It will be the end. If there are no drugs there is no future."

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/MSFIntl/127496019119.htm>

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Responsibly destroying the world's peasantry?

Olivier de Schutter argues that both the diagnosis and the remedy for world hunger and malnutrition, presented recently in a joint analysis by the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, and UNCTAD, are incorrect. These agencies also presented seven voluntary "Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment" which, they claim, provide a "win-win" response to the huge surge in large-scale foreign investments in agricultural land in Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere. However, these principles are "woefully inadequate" according to the author, because they ignore the human rights of local peasantries. <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/deschutter1/English>

Senegal: Farmers Union imploring people to buy local food

The President of Senegal's new Farmers' Union urges the Senegalese population to buy local not imported food to ensure the livelihood of Senegalese farmers. However he does not address the problems of trade imbalance, EU agricultural subsidies, and local producers' relative lack of access to local distributors.

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=23782> [English text beneath the French version in this link]

D R Congo South-Kivu : more and more peasants without land

Land has become a cause of conflict in villages and in towns because it can be sold for profit. The mountainous lands of South-Kivu are greatly coveted by town dwellers who, more and more, are buying land off villagers without necessarily cultivating it. The farmers then crowd into Bukavu's shantytowns or become paid workers on their own land.. <http://www.syfia-grands-lacs.info/index.php5?view=articles&action=voir&idArticle=1753> [French only]

INTERNATIONAL WEAPONS TRADE

International weapons transfers continue to increase

According to the SIPRI Yearbook 2010, the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons continued to increase in the last five years. Between 2005-2009, the volume of deliveries was 22% higher than the previous five year period. The US, Russia, Germany, France and UK were the largest suppliers of conventional weapons accounting for 76% of total exports. Meanwhile, the top five recipients of arms were China, India, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and Greece. Source : www.iansa.org

HEALTH

WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (Published: 21 May 2010)

Contributed by: Yann Siegenthaler

The WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, adopted at the 63rd World Health Assembly in May 2010, seeks to establish and promote principles and practices for the ethical international recruitment of health personnel, as a core component of national, regional and global responses to the challenges of health personnel migration and health systems strengthening. The Code includes articles advocating the establishment or strengthening of health personnel information systems, including health personnel migration and its impact on health systems, and the collection, analysis and translation of data into effective health workforce policies and planning in countries. The full text of the Code is available under Resolution "WHA63.16" in the six official languages of WHO at: http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha63.html

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Chad : Uranium

The risks linked to exploitation of uranium are enormous. If Chad must exploit this resource it must also prepare accordingly and do everything possible to minimise these risks. Especially in developing countries, numerous irregularities in the extraction of uranium have been denounced – not only environmental impacts but above all the negative social consequences on the people living close by.

<http://www.cefod.org/spip.php?article2430>

Goldman Sachs backs Angolan oil deal despite corruption risks

Global Witness has a long record (over 10 years) of investigation into the diamond and oil businesses in Angola. Many observers believe that small and little-known companies are used as fronts by top Angolan officials to enrich themselves privately." A shadowy connection to the Dos Santos family and other elites is suspected.

http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/970/en/goldman_sachs_backs_angolan_oil_deal_despite_corru

AFRICAN WISDOM

A poor man's view on Freedom Day

"There is no reason to say that you are free when you know that you are not. We as the poor have to support each other and give courage to each other so that we can strengthen the freedom that is in us all. We have to face up to the need for a second struggle," says the author. <http://www.abahlali.org/node/6729>