

REFUGEE

Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia

Accompany, Serve and Advocate the Cause of Forcibly Displaced People



Preface

It was an exciting time around Easter celebrations. The JRS staff from the Asia Pacific, Cambodia and Indonesia office met in Jakarta to draft a strategy for JRS regional advocacy on the promotion of the ban of Landmines and Cluster Munitions in the Region. JRS attended a reception by the Norwegian Embassy, civil society workshop and workshop for parliamentarians in promotion of the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions that will become international law on 1st of August. Just after the South Aceh program on Displacement Prevention finished their needs assessment for the fourth cluster of communities acclaimed photographer Fr Don Doll, SJ visited the projects providing training on how to improve visual documentation of JRS's work in the three pioneer projects.



WORKSHOP ON THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

By: Lars Stenger

Active for many years in Landmine and Cluster bomb eradication in the ASEAN region, JRS representatives from Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia met in Jakarta during 22 and 23 March to plan on how to further promote the universalisation and implementation of the two successful disarmament treaties. "Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) rejoiced when Indonesia ratified the Mine Ban Treaty and destroyed its stockpiles of mines in 2008,

the same year Indonesia signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions," remembers Fr. Adrianus Suyadi, SJ Director of JRS Indonesia.

The meeting was followed by a CMC (Cluster Munition Coalition) workshop for civil society organisations including representatives from the press, NGOs and Universities. On 25 March parliamentarians from commission one, the ministry of





Various types of unexploded Cluster Munitions found in Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of John Rodsted

foreign affairs and ministry of justice and human rights were invited to learn more about the issue of cluster munitions and the new treaty banning it. Aim of these workshops was to create a momentum that supports Indonesia's swift ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) entering into force on the 1st of August. "Indonesia should ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be able to make a leading contribution as a full member in the first meeting of States Parties to the CM treaty scheduled for November 2010 in Vientiane, Laos," says Fr Bernard Arputhasamy, SJ Regional Director of JRS Asia Pacific.

Laos, Philippines and Indonesia are the only three signatories in the region, leaving Cambodia and Vietnam as heavily affected countries along with Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Burma/Myanmar still outside the Cluster Bomb Treaty.

JRS will join with other campaigners of the Cluster Munitions Coalition all around the world drumming, dancing and praying to celebrate the Entry Into Force of this new disarmament Treaty banning Cluster Bombs on August the 1st 2010.

Landmine survivor and International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) ambassador Tun Channareth from Cambodia said, "With these explosive remnants of war around I

never feel in peace. I feel like a refugee again and again. Today, I want ASEAN to be leaders in building peace and justice, especially in care for the survivors of landmines and cluster munitions."

Campaigners noted that the people of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia are still suffering from this weapon used two generations ago.

"In solidarity with our injured brothers and sisters ASEAN states should join and implement this treaty. Indonesia along with Lao and Philippines are the beacons of hope for the ASEAN region," said Sermisri Ingavanija, campaigner of JRS Asia Pacific.

The first step for Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Burma/Myanmar, is to join the 104 countries that have signed the Cluster Munitions Treaty.

Even though Indonesia has never used or was targeted by this weapons its Peace Keeping troops witnessed the lethal impact cluster munitions have on peoples' lives in Lebanon.

For more information on the conventions and advocacy efforts undertaken in Indonesia please visit: www.antiran-jaudarat.or.id



Ambassador of International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) Tun Channareth expressed his expectation in the CCM workshop



Tun Channareth and Fr Adrianus Suyadi, SJ before attending the CCM workshop

TAKING PICTURES WITH EMPHATY

A NOTE FROM JRS PHOTOGRAPHY COACHING SESSION WITH FR. DONALD DOLL, SJ



One of the session in photography coaching for JRS staf of the Displacement Prevention Program in South Aceh

By: *Franciscus Yoppie Christian*

"...the person who is the subject of your shot is your brother and sister. Together and one in God." (Fr. Donald Doll, SJ)

There are various types of media used to deliver messages in this world. Some people use words, motion pictures, optimizing still images or combining all types of media. The objective is to touch and change those who see it. Even if this change is ever so small, it will still be significant in a way. This is especially the case for an organization that provides services out of humanity, such as Jesuit Refugee Service.

Taking a photograph is not only about freezing and immortalizing one event or a chain of events but also a part of a mission "to give a voice to those who are voiceless". How is it possible to make a picture have a voice which is even louder than a human's voice? This was the topic of the modest photography-coaching workshop for JRS staff of the Displacement Prevention Program, held in South Aceh on 2 and 3 March. The workshop was facilitated by Fr. Donald Doll, SJ, a Jesuit priest, lecturer and photographer now the publications adviser for JRS International.

Fr. Donald Doll, SJ has been involved in the world of photography for about forty years having reached creative maturity in this field, he spent two days coaching JRS field staff about the visual transfer of knowledge and experience. Inviting the participants to reflect on how the JRS mission of accompaniment, service and advocacy could be supported through pictures and publications.

After an introduction of techniques on how to maximize pictures expression through choosing the right exposure and aperture using pocket or D-SLR cameras, the focus shifted to the importance of the subject and of what is inside the photographer's head. For JRS, photography is a mission, not only mere work, let alone just a hobby.

"The most important thing in taking photos is: The subjects put their trust in you!"

JRS work around the world is, above all else, a service based on the power of accompaniment. From that intensive friendship good quality relations are born, meaning that there is a bond between JRS staff and refugees and the people we serve. Good relations always means relations based on trust because only if there is trust then there will be openness.

From JRS' perspective, trust is also the main premise in photography - that it is very important for your subject to have trust in you as a photographer. The expression and energy of the subject will be exposed and the next duty from the photographer is to get enough lighting, the right angle and an interesting composition, then click.....! Freeze a moment and a strong picture will be caught. If the picture is supported by a strong narration then the message is delivered completely. The message will be even stronger if the photo is accompanied by music for example in a slideshow.

The rest is about technical issues, which will develop in the process of experience. In brief, there are some key factors that need to be taken into account before one can take beautiful photos, even though they may be taken using a simple pocket camera. Simple recommendations given included:

- a) Do not oppose the light, but rather, use the morning or afternoon light to achieve a more dramatic photo. Avoiding taking pictures in the bright daylight or with the use of a flashlight
- b) Taking a expressive picture: Take pictures when the subjects are doing activities or are working, for use in publications avoid taking posed photos
- c) Choose a simple background: Do not let the back-



Example of a good photo capturing the enthusiasm of its subject. Photo courtesy: Fr Don Doll, SJ

ground switch the attention from the foreground

d) Choose descriptive backgrounds: Create photographic layers where information is visible in one frame

e) Learn some photo editing software: For example, Photoshop CS 4, or other programs, to be able to correct photos taken. And save the big resolution photos in "Tiff" format so that they can be used many times with as much information possible captured in the file.

Many more techniques can be explored through computer programs and books about photography. "The most important thing is to always bring a camera when on duty, when taking photos be as creative as possible in exploring different angles, and discuss with others how you can improve your photos" states Yoppie the Information Advocacy Coordinator of the JRS Displacement Prevention Program in South Aceh closing the workshop.



Staff enthusiasm during the workshop



Photo capturing a Simulation of a Disaster Response. Photo courtesy: Fr Don Doll, SJ



Lively photo that includes background information on place and activity. Photo courtesy: Fr Don Doll, SJ

THE NEAR END OF THE FIRST PART OF A JOURNEY

AN ADVOCACY REFLECTION AFTER TWO YEARS INTO THE DISPLACEMENT PREVENTION PROJECT



Workshop on DRR in South Aceh held by JRS and Satlak PB. Including the Vice Regent of South Aceh (Left)

Oleh: Franciscus Yoppie Christian

The journey of Displacement Prevention program in the first 13 villages in South Aceh is almost completed. After two-years of JRS accompaniment of communities in Kluet and Pasieraja area, hard-heartedly JRS is preparing to say goodbye. However, it is not an easy thing for a humanitarian agency like JRS to end a program. Like always it seems that time run too fast and yet many more things could have been accomplished. Yet there is hope some of these ambitions will be achieved by the communities themselves.

The Displacement Prevention Program is implemented in four terms also called clusters. Each cluster consists of 5-7 villages and runs for 1.5 year. After six months into the first cluster of villages JRS started its accompaniment in the following cluster of villages. Six months after that the third cluster of villages will start and so forth, enabling JRS's staff to use valuable experience and lessons learned in designing activities for the new villages. By the end of the 3.5-year program in December 2011 JRS hopes that 25 villages feel empowered to face the challenges of natural disasters and be able to guard and promote a save and peaceful living together.

In the last months of accompaniment in the first 13 JRS assisted villages JRS staff is being preoccupied with ensuring past efforts can be sustained by the communities themselves once JRS leaves. The following years will show how successful JRS presence and program was preventing future displacement of the communities experiencing repeated short-term displacement during the conflict years and currently threatened by natural disasters. South Aceh was assessed as being prone to recurring displacement due to the unfinished post-conflict recovery and the potential threat of natural disasters like floods and land slides.

The Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement state that every community deserves a 'safe' and 'durable solution'. In reality communities are often left on their own in trying to find stability and security, especially when it comes to pro-

tect or in rebuilding its institutions and assets broken or lost in the past. With very little support from the outside communities themselves often have to take on a role in building a sustainable and save lives. During the limited time of its presence it was JRS's aim to empower communities to be able to face the challenges of minor conflict and natural disasters by providing trainings in participative community organization, value based peace education and disaster mitigation and response and encouraging the inclusion of youth and needs of vulnerable people like women, elderly, children and the disabled in the village planning and disaster preparedness activities.

Besides strengthening the communities in itself, efforts were made to build community relations with the local government who has a mandate to protect its people from the threats of displacement and damage. Between the activities on grassroots level, advocacy efforts where made to promote a better understanding and collaboration on the issues of preventing hazards of natural disasters and on how to strengthen skills to sustain a peaceful together. So far efforts to promote a sustainable policy ensuring threats and damages of disasters are addressed systematically by local authorities are still in the very beginning. The lack of awareness and resources for disaster mitigation and risk reduction policy encountered in South Aceh government seems to be representative for the majority of Indonesia's 550 districts, out of witch only 61 established a Local Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (Rencana Aksi Daerah PRB). JRS contribution could be described here as "planting seeds" by encouraging local communities to take on a more active role in addressing threats and building a first link and awareness with the local authorities by starting a dialog on disaster risk reduction issues. Satlak PB and Kesbanglinmas are yet to draft a special strategy for DRR but are still waiting for a structural framework from the provincial government to provide budget and guidance on this.



School Children train how to react to earthquakes in Emergency Response training .



DRR Simulation at Air Pinang Village, Tapaktuan Sub-district: save the vulnerable group

Seeds planted for the “DRR tree” to grow, were a public discussion on DRR and a DRR workshop conducted last year by JRS along with the government of South Aceh. From this initial step it became clear that further initiatives will be needed particularly focussing on encouraging the local government to actively nurture further progress regards the development and implementation of a district strategy on disaster risk reduction. Here JRS hopes its groundwork in the 13 communities of the first two clusters of villages will bare fruits and eventually village initiatives and the villa-

gers themselves will be able to inspire local authorities. For JRS this project provides an exciting opportunity not only to learn about displacement prevention through disaster risk reduction and peace education but also about the impact that past displacement can have on the social structure of a community.

“JRS mission is to Accompany, Serve, and Defend the Rights of Refugees”

INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 1 May International Workers’ Day (May day)
- 3 May World Press Freedom Day
- 8 May World Red Cross Day
- 15 May International Day of Family
- 21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 29 May International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 June World Environment Day
- 17 June World Day to Combat Deserfication and Drought
- 20 June World Refugee Day
- 26 June International Day Against Drug Abuse
- 26 June Illicit Trafficking and International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

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