GPF Newsletter

December 19, 2014





What's new

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Petition to end impunity initiated in the wake of CIA torture report



Following the release of the US Senate Intelligence Committee's study of the CIA's detention and interrogation program on December 9, 2014, two former UN Assistant Secretaries-General and UN Humanitarian Coordinators for Iraq, Hans von Sponeck and Denis Halliday, initiated a petition to start a judicial process against the violators of the UN Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions. The petition, which has now become

global through the campaigning of the Brussels Tribunal, an activist think tank and peace organization with a focus on Iraq, will be delivered to the US Government, the International Criminal Court, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Human Rights Council and the European Court of Justice.

Men and Boys for Gender Justice: Delhi Declaration and Call to Action



The second MenEngage Global Symposium was held in New Delhi, India, from November 10-13, 2014 and brought together more than 1200 activists and professionals coming from 94 countries. The outcome of

the Symposium was the creation of the Delhi Declaration and Call to Action. This document presents the shared concerns of all participants regarding the gaps in the progress of the gender justice movement and, against this background, affirms the commitment of all parties to the continuous engagement of boys and men in key efforts to ensure gender equality and gender justice for all. Wide-reaching and transformative recommendations are proposed: from putting in place systems to ensure individuals are held accountable for gender equality, promoting gender equitable socialization and engaging men to participate equally in care work.

New Report: Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2003-2012



Washington based think tank Global Financial Integrity has launched its latest edition of "Illicit Financial Flows from the Developing World: 2003-2012." The study finds that developing and emerging economies lost US\$6.6 trillion in illicit financial flows from 2003 through 2012, with illicit outflows increasing at an staggering average rate of 9.4 percent per year—roughly twice as fast as global GDP. This study is GFI's 2014 annual global update on illicit

financial flows from developing economies, and it is the fifth annual update of GFI's 2008 report, "Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries 2002-2006." This is the first report to include estimates of illicit financial flows from developing countries in 2012—which the study pegs at US\$991.2 billion.

Pricing the priceless - Economic valuation of nature



The economic valuation of nature has now been debated for several years, having already been implicit in the Kyoto Protocol that set targets for greenhouse gas emissions and provided the framework for trading CO2 equivalents. The role of nature in models to measure prosperity and of market-based instruments in nature conservation was discussed at a conference organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Global Policy Forum and terre des hommes in Bonn, Germany, in November.

Presentations and discussions at the conference focused on conceptual origins of the concept, on methodological problems in establishing the true value of ecosystem capital and services and also on whether a valuation of nature need inevitably result in trade and markets. While participants in the meeting generally agreed that an assessment of nature and establishing it in national accounting could supply additional useful information for political decision-making, some also maintained that an economic valuation of nature could not counter further harm to the environment.

Dirty Profits report launched



Facing Finance in collaboration with several other organizations has launched the third edition of the "Dirty Profits" report. The report documents sample cases of serious violations of internationally established norms and standards. It investigates 25 controversial companies that in 2013 had a joint revenue of approx. €4.196 trillion and achieved net profits of €450 billion. Companies that have been selected include some that are blacklisted on investors

exclusion lists, others that do not comply with international or national law, or those that face serious allegations by the media or civil society. Dirty Profits 3 also investigates the extent to which these companies are supported by European financial institutions.

Corporate Conquistadors at COP20



A new report released at COP20 by Corporate Europe Observatory, Democracy Center and Transnational Institute shows how corporations causing social and environmental destruction in the Andes and Amazon are driving climate change, whilst enjoying influential seats at the climate-negotiating table. The case studies included demonstrate how corporations from the global North operating in the extractives industry use well-honed practices of political manipulation while

hiding their true nature through extravagant public relations campaigns which trumpet their disingenuous environmental credentials. The consequences of these corporations' manipulation of decision-making processes include: the opening of new gas fields that destroy indigenous territories, the decimation of local water supplies and the forced displacement of whole communities. Yet in the midst of such exploitation the writers of the report have also witnessed brave acts of resistance by local communities.

Banking with Principles?



A new study released by BankTrack, "Banking with Principles? Benchmarking banks against the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights", assesses how banks are doing at implementing the Principles into their own operations, policies and reporting. The report checks 32 large global banks against the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which set out the responsibilities of businesses to respect fundamental human freedoms.

The report shows that, while some progress has been made since the Principles were launched in mid-2011, major gaps remain.

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