

AFRICA NEWS LETTER VOLUME 4

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ALARMING POVERTY LEVELS AMONG FAMILIES OF THE MISSING PERSONS IN AFRICA

On 10th July, 2009 IFFAMPAC Africa office through African representative & volunteers undertook field study of the families of the missing persons from armed conflicts in Africa. The field work assignment has been an ongoing undertaking and it targets families of the missing who reside in communities commonly known as shanty compounds.

Families of the missing persons in Africa live in extreme poor conditions as a result of poverty

IFFAMPAC Africa fieldwork assignment establishes that hundreds of families of missing persons are living in abject poverty; they lack social needs and proper housing. Most of families revealed that they only manage to eat once in day and; they can not afford three meals in day, as result of lack of income. Their future is always uncertain and they hoped that organizations like IFFAMPAC and; other stakeholders should strive to empower them through economic activity

ventures such as basic skills training. African families of the missing have no access to clean running water, health services and education for their children. Therefore, this situation has made daily life of these families a HORROR. One family described poverty which they go through as painful and inhuman.

Your donations of funds or services will help us to act as an advocate for family associations. In addition, it will enable IFFAMPAC to implement projects that directly benefit the missing and their families. Donations are US tax deductible. IFFAMPAC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information about IFFAMPAC and our work with the families of missing persons from armed conflict, or if you can help us with additional fundina. please contact us
P.O. Box 6888 Phone: +1-815-877-1099
Rockford, IL 61125 Fax: +1-815-637-4259
The United States of America E-mail: info@iffampac.org

“POVERTY INDEED ROBS THE PRIDE OF HUMAN DIGNITY”



Women preparing flitters for sale as a source of their income to survive

Due to high levels of poverty women become vulnerable and their children engage in early marriages as a way of supporting their families. Poverty among the families of the missing has destroyed the fiber root of stable families, as most families have given up hope for a better life.

The unplanned population among the families of the missing is growing rapidly, thereby causing social commotion and more poverty.

IFFAMPAC role in addressing poverty has been centered on encouraging families of the missing persons to join the newly formed family associations, in order for them to attain a unified voice and be able to lobby for their social rights. This is the key for their future once they realize the need to join hands.

Poverty among the families of the missing can not be resolved through food donations as it is not sustainable. Families need to undergo massive training in basic skills and empowering them through micro-financing programs which would give them impetus to stand on their own and support their families.



A family of the missing selling charcoal for her income to help feed her family

In one community we found a group of families of missing persons at a Bar (Beer Hall) busy drinking local beers and when asked why they spend much of their time drinking. They responded by saying that when they drink they forget about problems and as such it keeps them going in terms of life.

The poverty situation among families of the missing from armed conflicts could be described as catastrophic, because it keeps on robbing the fundamental values of a family. One woman said that poverty has robbed them the ***PRIDE OF HUMAN DIGNITY***.



Indeed the life of families of the missing is on the knife edge bridge, they feel demoted and depressed by the situation.

IFFAMPAC is determined to contribute to the process of making families of the missing being heard and above all helping them to reclaim their social rights as enshrined in the universal Declaration of human rights.

We do believe as IFFAMPAC that what ever we do to help families of the missing we propel Africa's emerging society of hope for social development. And our desire is *African family transformation from Poverty to prosperity.*

A mother with her children posing for the photo during IFFAMPAC Fieldwork

WHY SUPPORT, DONATE and FUND IFFAMPAC WORKS IN AFRICA?

In Africa, IFFAMPAC has begun to get an accurate accounting of the surviving families and their missing family members. Our approach gives us unique understanding of the overall problems that families face, and will enable IFFAMPAC to represent them effectively at forums such as the United Nations and international conferences with governments, agencies, and other NGOs. The planned project for building schools, skills and recreation centers for these families is a cornerstone for the fulfillment of fundamental human rights for a basic unit of society, which is the family.

IFFAMPAC welcomes donors to become part of the project implementation team. Our organization cannot work in isolation. As a team we can realize success. We welcome volunteers, and other organizations to affiliate with us. We also welcome in-kind donations.

For Donations and any other assistance please contact the following persons:

1. Ms. Jane Durgom-Powers at: jed-p@iffampac.org
2. Mr. Evans Lombe at: africa@iffampac.org

A BRIEF HISTORY OF IFFAMPAC

Below is a brief list of the history and accomplishments of IFFAMPAC.

1970s: Our President first became involved with the issue of people who have disappeared and their families. She worked directly with families around the world, helping them to set up Family Associations. She began drafting national laws and reforms to assist surviving family members.

February 2003: The ICRC conference on The Missing recognized the need to unite and co-ordinate the work of the numerous associations of affected families in many parts of the world. Our President addressed the conference.

April 2003: IFFAMPAC was incorporated in the USA.

March 2006: IFFAMPAC was appointed to the United Nations Working Group on Persons who are unaccounted for in Connection with Events in Kosovo.

May 2006: The United Nations Economic and Social Council granted IFFAMPAC Special Consultative Status.

December 2007: IFFAMPAC was approved for association with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).

March 2008: IFFAMPAC opened a Kosovo branch office in Pristine.

April 2008: IFFAMPAC opened an African branch office in Lusaka, Zambia.

September 2008: IFFAMPAC is chosen by the UN to conduct a workshop on families of missing persons from armed conflicts at the UN prestigious meeting in Paris, France celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

If you would like more information on the issue of missing persons from armed conflicts or if you can help us continue our work by assisting us to obtain further funding, to make a donation, or to volunteer— please contact us at:

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

P.O. Box 6888

Rockford, IL 61125 USA

Tel: (+1) 815 877 1099

Fax: (+1) 815-637-4259

info@iffampac.org www.iffampac.org

IFFAMPAC- AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

P.o Box Fw 128, Lusaka-Zambia

Plot 6237, Thornpark, Bukavu Rd

Phone: +260 966 804871

africa@iffampac.org



**FAMILIES OF
THE MISSING**
no one disappears alone