



Women sharing a light moment after the meeting with IFFAMPAC after the meeting

“CREATION OF IFFAMPAC INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVE OF THE MISSING”

IFFAMPAC’s efforts towards the creation of an international archive (data base) of missing person’s from armed conflict and their family that has been left behind has been the organization’s cherished dream since its inception. As a result IFFAMPAC embarked on several projects, among them identification of surviving families of the missing and subsequent creation of Family Associations (FA) which are made up of families themselves. Further, IFFAMPAC is also in the process of helping FAs create membership clubs/chapters so that more families can share stories of their missing family members which will help in the creation of an international data base or archive.

IFFAMPAC aims to create opportunities for families of the missing around the world to have access to information pertaining to their missing family members so that they may learn their fate. Because knowing the truth provides them with answers to help heal the pain and puts the families on the right track of recovery and forgiveness.

IFFAMPAC CHAIRS FA MEETING

On 12th July 2011, IFFAMPAC’s Africa Representative, Mr. Evans Lombe, chaired an important formal meeting with the Great Lakes Women Refugees Association in Zambia. The meeting was aimed at putting in place a new GRWAZ Family Association (FA) Committee in order to create balanced participation of families of missing persons from armed conflicts from regions of CONGO DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

The meeting was crucial for IFFAMPAC as it is in the process of spearheading the creation of clubs/chapters of the family associations in various communities to enhance refugee involvement and maximize the benefits of family associations.

IFFAMPAC is also in the process of engaging many of the surviving families of the missing in various communities of Africa to join the family associations. As a result, IFFAMPAC will continue the process of introducing new clubs/chapters to more communities, so as to create greater participation in FA programs and activities. This process shall also expand the membership of these FAs in Africa. FA’s capacity development in Africa has been an ongoing process as families begin to run their own affairs without any

Participation in 2011 International Women's Day Celebration

Lusaka, Zambia- Africa. On 11th March, 2011 IFFAMPAC participated in a seminar focused on: ***Women Refugees- Challenges and Opportunities*** to mark the International Women's Day celebrations under the theme: ***"Equal Access to Education, Training and Science and Technology Pathway to Decent Work for Women"***. The seminar was held at Alliance Francise. The seminar was attended by government officials from Ministry of Home Affairs under the Commissioner for Refugees in Zambia. The government delegation was lead by Mrs. Towa Chaiwila. Refugees, women, youth, Family Association members and community drama and dance groups were among the participants.



armed conflict regions.

IFFAMPAC Africa Representative, Mr. Evans Lombe, spoke on behalf of the organization. Mr. Lombe recognized International Women's Day as a special day that reminds the world to strive towards gender equality and the continuing integration of women into society by affording them the capacity to contribute to social-economic development, especially in post-

Zambian cultural dance group entertaining families at Women celebrations

Further, Mr. Lombe shared with participants how IFFAMPAC has been supportive of the efforts of Great Lakes Women Refugees Association since its inception. He called on stakeholders such the Ministry of Home Affairs, NGOs and other institutions to supplement and support the works of Great Lakes Region Women Association in Zambia. Their support would enable the Refugees Association to expand its programs in the Great Lakes Region, so that they may share their experiences and the benefits of family association to other refugees.

Mr. Lombe also shared with the participants how IFFAMPAC has proved that organizing women through family associations or clubs is the best way to enhance their capacity and consolidate their unified voice. He also noted that Re-integration of women in post conflict regions is a way of attaining social-economic development.

Participants attending women celebrations



In his presentation speech Mr. Lombe also stated that to enhance the re-unification of surviving families of missing persons from armed conflicts, IFFAMPAC began the project of identifying families of the missing. This process required cataloging each family member with a view towards establishing an international archive which could help families have access to information in terms of searching for their missing loved one's.



Mr. Lombe shared with families how IFAMPAC has been engaging the African Union through the Civil Society and Diaspora Organization with a view toward networking and collaboration on the issue of African surviving families of the missing persons from armed conflicts who are mostly women and children. Further, Mr. Lombe noted that the issue of families of the missing has begun to take an international stage in reference to the African continent.

Mrs. Towa Chaiwila, senior legal advisor at the Ministry of Home Affairs Commission for Refugees, expressed happiness and gratitude to Great Lakes Women Association in Zambia, IFFAMPAC and participants in general for making the event possible. She acknowledged the challenges which women refugees face, especially after the loss of their beloved family

members. She stated that government had ensured that refugees in camps are provided with land for agricultural purposes in order to attain self sufficiency in food security. Further, she stated that the government, through her department, ensures that refugees access education and other social amenities and protection from any form of abuse. She also mentioned that refugees participate in programs such as voluntary repatriation, local integration and social resettlement. Further, she stressed the need for more women to participate in the above programs and access information from her department. She also shared with participants that Zambia is party to international conventions on refugees and also pointed out that domestic laws also ensures that refugees are protected.

The representative of Great Lakes Women, Ms. Nkunda Esperance, acknowledged the challenges which most women refugees face. She stressed that most women are still struggling to attain their rights, especially in post conflict regions. She called on stakeholders concerned to help empower women toward self sustainability. She said



that her association is supplementing the efforts of promoting peace, gender equality and reconciliation among women and youths in the communities.

Left: Women from Family Association presents a Gift to Ministry of Home Affairs Senior Legal Advisor Mrs Towa Chaiwila

The seminar served as a platform for reflection on women's rights and the need to have surviving families consolidate their efforts through organizing themselves in family

associations and clubs. Events such as seminars contribute to forming greater ties, friendship and harmonious living among families of the missing. Families forget their past differences and choose to enhance their social solidarity and unity. To honor their heritage the families opted to prepare their local food, perform traditional dances, perform drama and listen to their local music. These activities help to reconstitute their dreams, feel at home and also stimulate hope for the future. IFFAMPAC will continue supporting the hosting of seminars, workshops and meetings of this nature as it rejuvenates the sense of belonging to surviving families.

PARTICIPATION TO COMMEMORATE THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Right (in red tie): IFFAMPAC Africa Representative Mr. Evans Lombe



Lusaka-Zambia, 16th June, 2011 was the day held for the commemoration of World Refugees Day. The event attracted Zambian government officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, UNHCR officials, Great Lakes Women Association, refugees and concerned stakeholders. IFFAMPAC Africa Representative was invited to attend and participate in the Commemoration of World Refugee Day.

The commemoration was focused on the theme “60 Years of Protection and Solutions – Partnering Towards a World Without Refugees”.

The UNHCR Country Representative Ms. Joyce Mends-Cole welcomed all participants and stressed UNHCR’s dedication to serving 43 million refugees globally who are displaced by violence.

Ms. Joyce Mends-Cole noted that this year’s commemoration was unique and special in that 2011 is the 60th birthday of the 1951 Refugee Convention. She observed that Zambia is a leader and witness to the continued relevance of the Refugee Convention. She further informed the gathering that Zambia was given the highest profile during this year’s Dialogues with Refugee Women and it is scheduled to Co-chair the Second Global Dialogue within the month of





June- which will be held in Geneva. She also thanked the Zambian government and the Zambian people for the extraordinary generosity to refugees for over four (4) decades.

Ms. Joyce mends also observed that today's chronic conflicts are a cause for special concern, especially because when new conflicts arise old ones are left unresolved and triggers displacements of millions of refugees.

Left: Participants during commemoration of World Refugees Day

The Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Mkondo Lungu took time to share light moments with refugees and also stressed the government's commitment to the protection and assistance of refugees in Zambia.

Ms. Erleine Mukakadego spoke on behalf of refugees; she stated that refugees are facing social and economic challenges which need sustainable solutions to uplift the standards of refugees. She suggested reintegration of refugees as a step towards a sustainable solution; especially those refugees that have stayed longer periods. She also said that being a refugee is the most painful thing and that one needs to be a refugee to understand it.

IFFAMPAC's Africa representative, Mr. Evans Lombe, was privileged to attend and participate in the commemoration. Considering that most refugees are also family members of missing persons from armed conflicts, they need our total support in their endeavor to finding lasting solutions to their current social challenges. IFFAMPAC exists to provide support for these families and to assist them in determining the fate of their missing loved ones.

IFFAMPAC UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Creation of Family Association membership Clubs/Chapters to enhance the benefits of Family Associations to families in the communities.
2. IFFAMPAC donation of educational materials to families. The educational materials shall be given to various families who requested them during a special ceremony titled "IFFAMPAC Education Support Donation to Families Enhancing UN MDGs in Africa".

"OUR DEDICATION & PHILOSOPHY OF WORK"

Our dedication to the safety and well-being families is paramount and a reason IFFAMPAC was created. We strive to better the present and future circumstances of the families of missing persons from armed conflict

through family associations. IFFAMPAC President and Founder, Ms. Jane Durgom-Powers, has dedicated her life to assisting families of missing persons around the world. Her experience in dealing with victims of armed conflicts spans from over 30 years. It is for this commitment that IFFAMPAC is the only international organization in the United Nations Economic and Social Council that is made up of the families of missing persons from armed conflicts themselves through our family associations. IFFAMPAC's track record is a clear testimony of our solidarity for the well-being of the families of the missing.

SUPPORT:

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. Ms. Alanna Herron at: alanna@iffampac.org
3. 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 persons who had 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 making a donation, volunteering or assisting us to obtain further funding – please contact us at:

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