

DROP THE DEBT

Spring 2006

NEWS and ACTION from Jubilee USA Network, Washington, DC

VICTORY! Debt Campaigners Pressure IMF to Keep Promise of Debt Cancellation for 19 Countries

By Kennji Kizuka, Communications & Advocacy Intern

IN DECEMBER – just weeks before the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board was scheduled to approve debt cancellation for the impoverished countries included in last summer’s G-8 debt deal – Jubilee USA Network learned that cancellation for six countries was in danger of being denied. IMF staff recommended that Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Rwanda, and Senegal not receive the cancellation promised by world leaders unless they passed an additional economic test. This was a surprise move that could have resulted in indefinite delays to debt relief even though all six countries already spent years enacting harmful IMF-mandated economic policies in order to qualify for the G-8 deal.



Jubilee USA’s Sarah Rimmington (in Grinch costume, left) and Sister Janet Gottschalk of Medical Mission Sisters (right) protest outside the IMF in Washington, DC, December 20, 2005

In response, Jubilee USA Network and Africa Action sent out an action alert that mobilized supporters to email and call key Executive Directors of the IMF. Over 21,000 emails were generated in less than one week and the offices of the Dutch and Belgian Executive Directors acknowledged that their staffs were kept busy fielding constant calls from Jubilee activists.

Along with the 50 Years Is Enough Network and Africa Action, Jubilee USA also organized a rally and press conference outside the IMF’s offices in Washington, DC on December 20, one day before the board was to make its decision. Dr. Seuss’ Grinch – played by Jubilee’s own Sarah Rimmington – made an appearance at the rally where advocates chanted, “IMF: Don’t Be A Grinch! Keep Your Promises Today.” Six debt cancellation supporters in the House of Representatives, including Iowa Republican James Leach and California Democrat Maxine Waters, also sent a letter to IMF Managing Director Rodrigo De Rato and US Treasury Secretary John Snow, urging the IMF to cancel the debts "without further delays or conditions."

continued on page 3

Top 10 Ways to Get Involved with Jubilee USA this Spring

By Diane O’Brien, Outreach & Congregations Fellow

- 1. Jubilee Sunday - March 19, 2006.** Jubilee Sunday is an opportunity for communities of faith to hold a Sunday service focused on the principles of Jubilee. On this day, Jubilee Congregations around the United States will dedicate part or all of their time together to pray for global economic justice, deepen the community’s understanding of the debt issue, take concrete action for debt cancellation for all impoverished countries, and take up a special offering to support the work of the Jubilee USA Network. Worship resources and ideas can be found in the Jubilee Congregations Handbook, “Putting Faith into Practice.” Additional Materials will be available from Jubilee USA in early February, including postcards that you can make available at tables. Contact us at congregations@jubileeusa.org or (202) 783-0214 for ideas, information and materials. Please let us know what you have planned!
- 2. Jubilee’s Monthly Grassroots Conference Call - the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 8pm EST.** Mark your calendars now for upcoming calls on March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11 and August 8. To join the March and April calls dial (319) 256-0200, access code 412891#. Contact the Jubilee office to obtain the appropriate phone number for later calls. During these calls we discuss recent developments on the debt issue, grassroots activities all over the country, and ways to build and strengthen the Jubilee movement. To receive call reminders and conference call

continued on page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Report Back from October Global Connections Tour	2
Time to Cancel Latin America’s Debt to the Inter-America Development Bank	3
Jubilee USA Adopts a 3 Year Strategic Plan	4
Ten Ways to FUNdraise for Jubilee	5
Indonesia: A Debt the G-8 Left Behind	7
Life Over Debt National Lobby Day	8



“...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you...”
– Leviticus 25:10

Jubilee USA Network began as Jubilee 2000/USA in 1997 when a diverse gathering of people and organizations came together in response to the international call for Jubilee debt cancellation. Now over 75 organizations including labor groups, churches, religious communities and institutions, AIDS activists, trade campaigners and over 9,000 individuals are active members of the Jubilee USA Network. Together we are a strong, diverse and growing network dedicated to working for a world free of debt for billions of people.

In the Jubilee Year as quoted above in Leviticus, those enslaved because of debts are freed, lands lost because of debt are returned, and community torn by inequality is restored. Today international debt has become a new form of slavery. Debt slavery means poor people working harder and harder in a vain effort to keep up with the interest payments on debts owed to rich countries including the US and international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Jubilee USA Network brings together people to turn this reality around by active solidarity with partners worldwide, targeted and timely advocacy strategies and educational outreach. Please join us in working for Jubilee justice.

222 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington DC 20003

www.jubileeusa.org
coord@jubileeusa.org

(202) 783-3566 tel
(202) 546-4468 fax

Newsletter development and editing:
Jubilee Staff Team

Design:
Center for Educational Design and Communication,
Washington DC

Photographs:
Associated Press
Jubilee USA Network
Kusfiardi

Report Back from October Global Connections Tour: “Drop the Debt, Invest in People!”

By Kristin Sundell, Outreach and Congregations Coordinator

JUBILEE’S FALL 2005 Global Connections Tour: *Drop the Debt, Invest in People!* was a rousing success. Special guest speakers including debt activists Wahu Kaara from the All Africa Council of Churches in Kenya, Kusfiardi, coordinator of the Indonesian Anti-Debt Coalition, and Nicaraguan ecologist Magda Lanuza inspired and educated congregations, religious leaders, students, the media, legislators, and global justice activists around the United States. The speakers addressed the need for debt cancellation to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, made connections between debt and other global justice issues, and provided ways for people to take action. Highlights of tour stops in San Diego, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Western Chicago, Illinois; Miami, Florida; and Columbus, Ohio included:

- A forum with African American business leaders in San Diego (TV star Jasmine Guy was the opening act)
- Meetings with Pittsburgh mayor Tom Murphy (who committed to work to pass a city resolution in support of debt cancellation) and Pittsburgh Congressman Mike Doyle (who later signed on as a new sponsor of the Jubilee Act)
- A night out with local economic justice activists at the famous “Green Mill” jazz club in Chicago
- Engaging with over 200 students in classes at Miami Dade College
- Experiencing the “Simply Living” intentional community in Columbus, Ohio, which is a powerful alternative to the US cultural mainstream

As a result of the tour, new Jubilee coalitions are starting to organize in Southern California and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Local tour coordinators from the Chicago area participated in Jubilee’s November Network Council meeting, and seeds were planted for future global economic justice activism in the politically important states of Florida and Ohio. Many thanks to all who coordinated and organized tour stops, spread the word through their networks, and attended tour events. The tour couldn’t have happened without you! ♦



TOP: The Coalition for Christian Outreach hosted events in Pittsburgh for the “Drop the Debt” Invest in People” tour, October 2005

BOTTOM: Jubilee partners Wahu Kaara from Kenya (second from left) and Kusfiardi from Indonesia (far right) visit College Lutheran Church, a Jubilee Congregation in San Diego, October 2005

THE NEXT STEP:

Time to Cancel Latin America's Debt to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

By Sarah Rimmington, Communications & Advocacy Fellow

THE DEBT CANCELLATION DEAL that was announced by world leaders in the summer of 2005 established an important precedent and will release funds to fight poverty in 4 Latin American countries plus 14 other impoverished nations. But this deal is only the first step on the long journey towards Jubilee USA's vision of the cancellation of all unjust and unpayable debts without harmful economic conditions.

A major shortcoming of the 2005 deal is that it *did not include* the cancellation of the debts owed to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) by the Latin American nations in the agreement. As a result, Latin American countries that qualify for the G-8 deal – **Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua** – will pay almost \$1.4 billion in debt service over the next five years to the IDB. In addition, other impoverished countries not part of the G-8 deal in Latin America and the Caribbean – such as **Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti and Peru** – are also heavily burdened by unjust and unpayable debts to the IDB and other creditors. With debt cancellation this money could be used to fight poverty and provide education, clean water and health care in a region where two in five people live in poverty.

Jubilee USA Network is calling for the definitive cancellation of debts in Latin America and the Caribbean where debt repayment impedes human development.

The next step on debt is to make sure that Latin American countries get a fair deal. From April 4-6 the IDB will hold its annual meeting in Brasilia, Brazil. Now is therefore an opportune time to be doing advocacy work around IDB debt cancellation ahead of these meetings. As a limited first step towards achieving definitive cancellation of Latin America and the Caribbean's debt, Jubilee USA calls for the immediate and total cancellation of the debts owed by **Bolivia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua** to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) ahead of the IDB Annual Meetings in Brazil in April. This debt cancellation should be enacted without economic conditions - and urgently - as delays to debt cancellation cost lives. Moreover, to avoid future debt crises we call for a move away from new loans to grants. More broadly, Jubilee USA Network is calling for the definitive cancellation of debts in Latin America and the Caribbean where debt repayment impedes human development and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Finally, we call for the establishment of a just process to identify and cancel odious and illegitimate debts in the region.

If you are interested in learning more about the debt crisis in Latin America - fueled by odious or illegitimate loans in many cases - please consult the fact sheet and other resources available on Jubilee USA's website. And for information on how to take action please sign up for Jubilee USA Network's grass-roots listserv by visiting www.jubileeusa.org and clicking "Join Our Lists". ♦

Debt Campaigners Pressure, *continued from page 1*

In an unusual move, the IMF Executive Directors overruled their own staff's recommendations and approved cancellation for five of the six countries whose debt cancellation appeared threatened on December 21. Mauritania, unfortunately, was not granted cancellation at this time. Pressure from debt campaigners across the US and the globe as well as supportive governments made this important reversal possible. Jubilee USA supporters were critical to this effort.

The IMF also approved the 100% cancellation of the debts of 14 other countries on December 21. Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia qualified for cancellation under the terms of the G-8 deal; In addition, the IMF agreed to cancel the debts of Cambodia and Tajikistan, impoverished countries that were not included in the G-8 deal. In all, 19 countries received \$ 3.3 billion in debt relief which will now be available for human development needs such as health care, education and fighting HIV/AIDS.

While Jubilee USA welcomes this outcome, the G-8 debt agreement is far from complete. In the months to come we will have to be vigilant to ensure that the World Bank finalizes approval for its share of the promised debt cancellation. Jubilee also remains concerned that there will be additional hurdles placed before the next group of countries scheduled to receive debt cancellation under the G-8 deal.

Moreover, the G-8 agreement is but a first step towards conclusively addressing the debt crisis faced by impoverished countries. It excludes dozens of other impoverished nations and debt to other significant creditors such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), does not address odious and illegitimate debt, and does not end the harmful economic conditions that countries must implement in order to qualify for urgently needed debt cancellation. Jubilee USA will continue its campaign on these issues in 2006 and beyond. ♦

Jubilee USA Network Adopts 3-Year Strategic Plan

Vision Calls for Growing Network Leading into 2007 Sabbath Year

By Neil Watkins, National Coordinator

FOLLOWING TEN MONTHS OF CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS, interviews, meetings with Southern partners and other allies, Jubilee USA Network Council members affirmed a three-year strategic plan for the Network at the annual November 10-11 national Jubilee meeting. The plan sets forth three main campaign goals and identifies key strategies and activities for our work from 2006-2008.

THE NETWORK WILL:

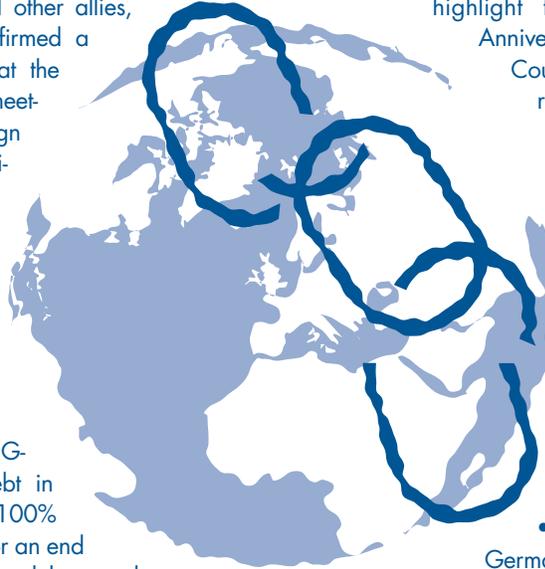
- 1. Hold the Bush administration, Congress, and the World Bank/IMF accountable for the fullest implementation and expansion of the 2005 commitments on debt.** Jubilee USA will be a watchdog to assure that the Bush Administration and the G-8 keep the promises they made on debt in 2005. We will assure key principles like 100% debt stock cancellation while advocating for an end to harmful conditions on debt relief, and that debt cancellation be broadened to include the Inter-American Development Bank.
- 2. Build broad support for significantly expanded debt cancellation without harmful conditions that is needed for poverty eradication, and work to ensure expanded debt cancellation is a critical piece of national and global campaigns working to achieve and surpass the Millennium Development Goals.**
- 3. Focus significant attention on the injustice of debt, and build broad public awareness and political support for the cancellation and/or repudiation of odious and illegitimate debts.**

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

2006 will be a year of capacity and movement building to assure our ability to place our prophetic demands on the global agenda again in 2007. In 2006, we will focus our energies on expanding the Jubilee Congregations program and grassroots capacity. We are planning to:

- Bring a delegation of Jubilee congregations leaders and activists to Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington in March and a lobby day in June;
- Organize a regional grassroots training conference in Portland, Oregon in May and a national speaking tour in October;
- Build support for a re-introduced and strengthened JUBILEE Act; and
- Continue our successful monthly action program which provides congregations, local chapters, and individual supporters a concrete way to take action with Jubilee every month.

- At meetings of the IMF/World Bank, we'll also highlight the fact that 2006 is the 10th Anniversary of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative with a new report and creative action. We'll call for a bold new approach apart from HIPC to address the crisis of debt.



We are calling for a Sabbath Jubilee Year in 2007, seven years after Jubilee 2000. The Jubilee scriptures call for a Jubilee year every 50 years, but every seventh year is the Sabbath, and debts are to be cancelled at the Sabbath as well. 2007 is a year with many opportunities:

- The G-8 summit will be in Germany (the site of the Jubilee 2000 debt relief commitments);
- The World Social Forum will be held in Africa for the first time amidst calls from Jubilee South for repudiation of odious debts;
- It is the halfway point to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and five years after the UN Monterrey conference; and
- It is the 200th Anniversary of the end of the Atlantic slave trade, which groups in Africa plan to celebrate with a demand for justice.

A strong 2007 campaign will lead us into 2008 with strong capacity to assure issues of debt and global poverty are part of the US election discourse and campaigns. To see the full plan, visit www.jubileeusa.org/take_action/strategic_plan.pdf ♦

Ten Ways To FUNdraise For Jubilee!

*By Abbey Fisher, Coordinator, Jubilee York, PA;
Co-Chair, Jubilee USA Network Coordinating Committee*

WE HAVE SET AMBITIOUS GOALS for our work for Jubilee justice including a major national push in 2007, the Sabbath Year. In order to build the capacity we need to achieve our goals, we need to raise money for staff, regional and local organizers, and more. Fundraising is seen by many as chore, but it can be fun! Here are some ideas for you to get started with:

1. Birthdays/Anniversaries/Holidays. Instead of a traditional gift, ask friends and family to consider making a donation to Jubilee USA Network in your name. Include an appeal in your party invitation and ask them to donate one dollar for every year of your age or anniversary! One Network Council member raised almost \$400 on her birthday!

2. Have a community yard sale. Ask co-workers and/or members of your organization or religious congregation to donate items they no longer use and sell them in one big community yard sale. Divide the profits between your local group and the Jubilee USA Network national office. Have Jubilee information on hand to give to customers and a donation can so folks can give even more! For great tips on having a yard sale, visit www.organizedhome.com.

3. Bake sales. Make organic cookies, brownies or nutritious trail mix bags to sell at your school, office, a conference or at work, donating the proceeds to Jubilee USA. Everyone loves a good snack!

4. Sell coupons for submarine sandwiches, the car wash, fruit baskets, etc. A tried and true option! Many local businesses are more than willing to donate these items for a good cause.

5. Look for or organize community events and tabling opportunities in your city. Are there concerts, teach-ins or farmers markets where you can set up an information table loaded with Jubilee materials and sign-up sheets for the listserv? If so, contact the national office for suggestions on what to bring with you, and remember always bring a donation can. You can also order Jubilee USA t-shirts and "Drop the Debt" hats to sell at the tables.

6. Host a potluck dinner and invite the community to bring international-themed dishes. Ask for a modest admission fee. Make a presentation and a special appeal for donations to Jubilee USA.

7. Does your employer have a company gift matching program? Look into donating to Jubilee USA Network directly from your paycheck and make your money go even further when your company matches your gift. Many companies offer this option and it's a great way to give.

8. Sponsor a project or campaign. Does a particular Jubilee project or campaign excite you? If so, you can start a fundraiser for that specific project. Ask friends, family, co-workers, and members of your community to raise funds for that project. Set a goal and a deadline. Many people are likely to give more if they know their money is going toward a specific purpose. Contact the Jubilee office at coord@jubileeusa.org or (202)783-0214 for a list of ongoing projects and campaigns and a "wish list" of projects that could be implemented with your help!

9. Become a Jubilee Congregation. For more information, call (202)783-0214, email congregations@jubileeusa.org, or visit the Jubilee website and click on Jubilee Congregations.

10. Link the Jubilee USA website to your organization's or your personal website and make a special appeal for donations.

Of course, these are simply suggestions to get you started. Get creative and you may come up with your own great ideas to fundraise for Jubilee USA Network. And please contact the Jubilee Office at coord@jubileeusa.org or (202)783-0214 if you have any questions. Thank-you! ♦

Top 10 Ways to Get Involved, *continued from page 1*

notes by email, sign up for the Jubilee grassroots activist listserv by clicking on "Join Our Lists" on the front page of Jubilee's website www.jubileeusa.org and submitting your information after checking off the Jubilee-grassroots option.

3. Grassroots Organizing Conference in Portland, Oregon - May 19-20, 2006.

Learn how to increase your effectiveness as a debt activist, strengthen (or start) a local Jubilee coalition, and deepen your knowledge of debt issues. Meet and network with debt activists from all over the country at trainings, information-sharing sessions, and a closing party on Saturday night!

4. Life Over Debt National Lobby Day in Washington, DC - June 23-26, 2006.

Jubilee USA's first annual lobby day is organized in cooperation with the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) Africa Program. Come to Washington, DC to educate your congressperson about debt and the unjust economic policies that are often associated with it. The June 26 lobby day will be preceded by a conference and training on "The Challenge of Creating People-Centered Economies in Africa," a great opportunity to prepare yourself to advocate for policies that promote peace and economic justice in Africa. For more information contact AFSC via email at africa@afsc.org or call (215) 241-7168.

5. Come to Washington in March: Ecumenical Advocacy Days - March 10-13, 2006.

The 2006 conference, "Challenging Disparity: The Promise of God - The Power of Solidarity," will be the largest national gathering of progressive, grassroots, and religious activists in the US that is focused on a broad spectrum of international and domestic policies. Jubilee USA is co-leading a conference track on Global Economic Justice which will include discussion of debt and trade issues. Kenyan activist Wahu Kaara - 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee and one of the inspiring speakers during last fall's Global Connections Tour - will be one of the Global Economic Justice plenary speakers. Come to learn about the issues and to lobby Congress for justice! A limited number of scholarships are

available from Jubilee USA Network. The application can be found by clicking on "Join Jubilee for Ecumenical Advocacy Days" at www.jubileeusa.org.

6. Participate in a Jubilee Congregations Call.

The Jubilee Congregations conference call is held every other month at 8:00pm EST. Join us for an update on the debt issue, to hear what other Jubilee Congregations are up to around the country, and to exchange ideas on how to get your church or faith community involved! A call schedule will be available soon. Please contact the Jubilee office at (202)783-0214 or congregations@jubileeusa.org if you would like more information about joining Jubilee Congregations conference calls.

7. Stay informed by joining a Jubilee listserv.

You can sign up for monthly or more frequent updates by clicking on "Join Our Lists" on the Jubilee webpage www.jubileeusa.org.

8. Become a Jubilee Congregation - It's easier than you think!

Contact the Jubilee office at (202) 783-0214 or email congregations@jubileeusa.org if you are interested. We will mail you a "Putting Faith into Practice" handbook which will guide you through how to become a Jubilee Congregation.

9. Educate your community.

Are you apart of a labor union, community organization, Sunday school class or student organization? Ask your organization for 15 minutes to educate them on the debt crisis and what they can do to make a difference. You can find up to date information on the Jubilee website or call the Jubilee office for advice about what to say and what materials to use.

10. Watch a film.

Check out Jubilee USA's great list of Global Justice Films by clicking on the "Resources" link on the left side of the front page our website. *Life and Debt*, an excellent film on the debt crisis in Jamaica, can be rented through online video rental services such as Netflix and Blockbuster online.

For more information on any of the activities above, please contact Diane O'Brien at (202) 783-0214 or coord@jubileeusa.org. ♦

2006 UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Ecumenical Advocacy Days	Washington, DC	March 10-13
<i>Grassroots Conference Call*</i>		<i>March 14</i>
Jubilee Sunday		March 19
IDB Annual Meetings	Brasilia, Brazil	April 4-6
<i>Grassroots Conference Call*</i>		<i>April 11</i>
IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings	Washington, DC	April 22-23
<i>Grassroots Conference Call</i>		<i>May 9</i>
Grassroots Organizing Conference	Portland, OR	May 19-20
<i>Grassroots Conference Call</i>		<i>June 13</i>
Life Over Debt National Lobby Day	Washington, DC	June 26

**March and April Grassroots Calls, 8pm EST
(319)256-0200, Access Code 412891#*

Indonesia's Odious Debt: A Debt the G-8 Left Behind

By Kusfiardi, Coordinator of the Indonesian Anti-Debt Coalition (KAU) and Sarah Rimmington, Jubilee USA Communications and Advocacy Fellow

ALMOST HALF OF INDONESIA'S 210 MILLION PEOPLE live below the poverty line. One in three Indonesian children under five is malnourished. One in four Indonesians does not have access to safe drinking water. And one in ten is not expected to live to 40.

At the same time, Indonesia is facing a severe debt crisis that is negatively impacting its impoverished population and that is not being sufficiently addressed by the international community. Indonesia's debt currently stands at approximately \$132 billion and service payments consume roughly half of the state's revenues every year. In 2006 debt service payments will amount to \$7 billion, up from \$4 billion in 2002. This is more than ten times the amount spent on health and more than double the amount spent on education.

Given these circumstances it may be shocking to some that Indonesia has not seen any of its foreign debt cancelled, even in the wake of the devastating 2004 Tsunami and with the recent attention debt cancellation has received on the world stage from leaders of the G-8 countries. However, the exclusion of Indonesia from recent debt cancellation agreements is even more troubling given that much of its debt is odious and illegitimate, having been incurred under the 32-year long dictatorship of General Haji Mohammad Suharto. Many of the major lenders - the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank and some G-8 countries - made large loans to the Indonesian government during Suharto's regime knowing that significant amounts would either be used to oppress the people or would be lost to corruption. As a result, a growing number of voices both inside and outside Indonesia, including the Indonesian Anti-Debt Coalition (KAU), are calling for the cancellation of Indonesia's debt not only as a question of charity or meeting human needs, but as a question of justice.

Under international legal precedent, debt is considered odious if a creditor knowingly lends to an undemocratic government which uses the money to oppress its people or for personal purposes. In this case, the creditors may be said to have committed a hostile act against the people and cannot legitimately expect repayment of such debts. The United States set the first precedent of odious debt when it seized control of Cuba from Spain in 1898 and repudiated - or refused to pay - Cuba's debt to Spain. It argued that the debt ought not to be paid because it was imposed on Cuba by force of arms and served Spain's interest rather than Cuba's. This precedent was again upheld in the case of *Great Britain v. Costa Rica* (1923). Moreover, the United States justified the recent cancellation of

Iraq's large foreign debt because it had been incurred under Saddam Hussein's long dictatorship.

Much of Indonesia's current debt was incurred after General Suharto assumed power after a military coup in 1965. Suharto's rule was characterized by oppression and gross human rights violations. In the two-year civil war that followed Suharto's coup, between 160,000-500,000 people were killed. And during the 24-year occupation of East Timor the Indonesian army killed one-third of the population. Moreover, Suharto's regime was also notorious for embezzlement. Despite these circumstances many creditors made sizable loans to Indonesia. The World Bank, for example, lent \$30 billion to Indonesia under Suharto, \$10 billion of which is estimated to have ended up in his personal bank accounts. And in a leaked memorandum the World Bank estimated that 20-30% of funds received by the Indonesian government for development projects are lost to informal payments to government staff and politicians. These loans are clearly odious having been knowingly lent to a regime that used the funds for personal purposes and to assist in oppressing its people.

Within Indonesia, groups like the Indonesian Anti-Debt Coalition (KAU) are working to raise awareness of Indonesia's debt crisis and its origins. They are also pressuring the Indonesian parliament and government to call for the cancellation - or repudiation - of its foreign debt, and not to take out any new loans. KAU works within Jubilee South, a larger coalition of impoverished countries, to pressure for cancellation of all impoverished country debts - including odious and illegitimate debts - without harmful economic conditions. Many southern countries that, like Indonesia, were not included in the recent G-8 debt deal (including South Africa, the Philippines, Kenya and Argentina) have been forced to stand in line for decades waiting for cancellation of debt that was also accrued under oppressive regimes. The apartheid government in South Africa, for example, was lent billions of dollars that were used to the detriment of the very people that now have to foot the bill. And while the odious debt of Iraq must be cancelled, Indonesians and others of the world's poorest citizens should not be forced to wait any longer for similar treatment. They say that they "don't owe" and that they "won't pay."

To contact Kusfiardi and the Indonesian Anti-Debt Coalition (KAU) please email kusfiardi@gmail.com. ♦

VOICE FROM JUBILEE USA'S NETWORK COUNCIL

Life Over Debt National Lobby Day

Washington, DC on Monday, June 26, 2006

Co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and Jubilee USA Network

By Jessica Walker-Beaumont, Trade and Debt Specialist, American Friends Service Committee

THE LIFE OVER DEBT NATIONAL LOBBY DAY is part of the Bill Sutherland Institute for Africa Advocates. The Institute is a training event sponsored yearly by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This year's theme is "The Challenge of Building People-Centered Economies in Africa." It will be held in Washington, DC from June 23-25, 2006. This event is designed to improve activists', advocates', and educators' abilities to change US policies toward those who promote peace and justice in Africa. The Institute is inspired by the unofficial 50 year ambassadorship of Mr. Bill Sutherland, which has linked AFSC and its diverse constituencies. AFSC seeks to create an environment where basic skill training and issue analysis takes place.

A pillar activity for the annual institute is a national lobby day. This year's lobby day will be co-sponsored by



Jubilee USA, and will focus on promoting the JUBILEE ACT (H.R. 1130). The Jubilee Act is a potential new bill that includes debt cancellation for some countries that have odious and illegitimate debts.

Lobby training will take place from 9:30-11:30 AM on June 26 near Capitol Hill. The group will then head out for lunch followed by Congressional lobby

visits in the nearby House buildings. Each participant is likely to attend a minimum of three meetings in a group of about three people.

For program and registration details please visit AFSC's website at www.afsc.org/sutherland/default.htm. For more information contact AFSC via email at africa@afsc.org or call (215) 241-7168. ♦

YES, I want to help Jubilee USA Network!

I will invest in Jubilee justice every month by making a Monthly Donation of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____

I authorize Jubilee USA Network to charge my credit card at the end of every month. I understand I can change my monthly pledge at any time by notifying Jubilee USA.

I want to help fight for economic justice with my one-time gift of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other \$_____

I've enclosed my check payable to Jubilee USA Network

Please charge my credit card:

Visa MC Discover AMEX

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

- Please send me Jubilee USA's quarterly newsletter
- Please do not share my name
- Please add me to your once monthly e-mail update/action list

Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

DON'T FORGET! You can also donate online at: www.jubileeusa.org

Contact Information

Name

Organization/Church if applicable

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

Mail your gift to:

Jubilee USA Network

222 East Capitol Street NE

Washington, DC 20003 USA