



Where Justice and Truth Meet

February 2016

"With active hope we choose to imagine the world we want to inhabit and accept the urgent responsibility to collaborate in bringing it to birth."

Together – Birthing Anew, Chapter 2014

What might it look like if we personally and collectively gave up fear for Lent? Might it change the way we look at our brothers and sisters and the situations around us? Might it mean the difference between life and death for many who have little choice about the sacrifices they are making this Lent? The resurrection after Good Friday promises new life, new relationships, not a return to the past but "all things made new." What might that newness look like if we dare to welcome the stranger, shelter the widow and orphan, feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and be merciful to all those in need? Let us begin to imagine...

"We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners. I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descended from immigrants."

Pope Francis

driving nativist, populist politics, and thus policies that contribute to the crisis.

With the rare exceptions, each country is trying to push the burden on somebody else, which means nobody is actually trying to handle the crisis, which means the crisis is getting worse all the time. Desperate refugees have to go somewhere. Leaving them to die under barrel bombs, or be persecuted by dictatorships, or to live out their lives for a generation or more in packed refugee camps in Jordan or Turkey or Kos is not a real option, but it's the option. And it is simply too high a price to pay to soothe our own insecurities.

Family Prisons Licensed for Child Care?

We have heard with deep sadness the stories of immigrant families and unaccompanied children held in [prison-like detention](#) in the United States. Many of us called and wrote to our legislators about this inhumane practice.

New light seemed to dawn last July when Federal Court Judge Dolly Gee ruled that Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, was breaking the terms of a 1997 settlement requiring immigrant children without documents to be removed from detention centers



as quickly as possible. If the children can't be resettled with families, they must be housed in facilities licensed by state agencies responsible for child welfare.

Until that ruling, most of the undocumented families, including unaccompanied children, were being held at two facilities located in



The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) says the number of people driven from their homes

by conflict and crisis has topped 50 million for the first time since World War II, with Syrians hardest hit. There are [two layers to this crisis](#) and why it has grown so dire.

1. An often-overlapping web of wars and crises has forced millions of people from their homes in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere.
2. An increasingly anti-refugee sentiment is seen in politics in Western and other wealthy countries that are best suited to take them. People in those countries, insecure and fearful over the effects of immigration, preoccupied with vague but long-held ideas about national identity, are

Dilley and Karnes City, Texas. The majority of detainees at these facilities (run by the Corrections Corporation of America and the GEO group, two of the largest [for-profit prison companies](#)) arrived in the U.S. in 2014.

Now the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, charged with protecting child welfare in the state, has established a new category of facilities allowing the two detention centers to apply for the necessary license after March 1 and thus remain open and continue to detain children and families in prison-like conditions.

Right to BDS

Last month's [newsletter](#) highlighted the painful and unjust situation confronting Palestinians daily in their own land and the North American [Dominican Justice Promoters advocacy](#) for U.S. recognition of Palestine and support for the Palestinian-led BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) Campaign to pressure Israel to end its occupation of Palestine.

This month U.S. Senators (including our own Mark Kirk from Illinois) introduced the "[Combating BDS Act of 2016](#)" ([S.2531](#) and [H.R.4514](#)) designed to impose financial pressure on companies that attempt to boycott goods from Israel, including those produced in settlements in occupied territories, the West Bank and Golan Heights.

We invite you to [sign a letter to legislators](#) to tell them that you support BDS as a nonviolent means to achieve Palestinian freedom, justice and equality and do not endorse the combating BDS bill.



Justice delayed: SOA Grads Responsible for 1989 Jesuit Massacre Face Extradition

The 1989 massacre of 16-year-old Celina Ramos, her mother Elba Ramos, and six Jesuit priests at the University of Central America in El Salvador, that sparked the movement to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas, is making headlines again. This month a U.S. judge in North Carolina cleared the way for SOA graduate and retired Salvadoran Colonel, Inocente Orlando Montano, to be [extradited to face charges in Spain](#). He was trained by the U.S. military at the School of the Americas in 1970.



On the following day, El Salvador's national police force announced that four ex-soldiers, who were also involved in the massacre, were arrested, and await a ruling from El Salvador's Supreme Court on their extradition. Two of the four were trained at the SOA in 1987 and 1988.



Twelve other former Salvadoran soldiers with international warrants in connection with the massacre remain at large, and it is unknown whether they are in El Salvador or have fled the country. A United Nations Truth Commission cited 26 Salvadoran officers for the 1989 "execution-style" massacre. Nineteen of those were trained at the School of the Americas. And, unfortunately, the training continues...

An Invitation to Lenten Reflection

Taming the Wolves

Among the better-known Native American tales is a conversation between a grandfather and his grandson. The elder explains to the younger that two wolves live inside of each of us. One is ferocious, harmful and vengeful. The other is gentle, loving and steadfast. They are, the grandfather explains, perpetually at war with one another. With the curiosity so typical of the young, the lad inquires, "Grandfather, who will win the war?" With the insight so typical of an authentic elder, the old man replies, "The one that you feed." ...

[Read the reflection by Margaret Galiardi, OP](#)

Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present

