

2015



Annual Report 2015 Ecumenical Service on Southern Africa

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction..... | 3 |
| 2. Areas of work..... | 4 |
| Trade issues: Economic Partnership Agreement..... | 4 |
| Debt cancellation in Southern Africa: Return of the debt crisis | 4 |
| Land question | 6 |
| Farm workers in Southern Africa | |
| Dwaal net Rond – The Forgotten | |
| 15 Years of land reform in Zimbabwe – Where we are today | |
| Social security..... | 7 |
| VENRO AG | |
| BIG Namibia | |
| Other issues..... | 8 |
| Alternatives to neoliberal globalisation | |
| Platinum and German industry | |
| Partnership activities | |
| Rethinking Africa | |
| Networking..... | 10 |
| 3. Exhibition..... | 11 |
| We shall make our voices heard | |
| People live here...20 years into democracy | |
| 4. Outlook..... | 13 |
| 5. Report on trip to Southern Africa, 10–31 May 2015 | 14 |

1. Introduction

We have had an extremely eventful year. Never before has KASA received so many invitations to participate in events or organised so many events itself with partner organisations as it has this last year. This is due partly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN at the end of September, and partly to the debates about TTIP and CETA that have erupted here, serving to heighten interest once again in the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). In addition, the debate about the causes of migration and refugee flows sparked by the mass movement of refugees in 2015 has meant that associated issues addressed by KASA, such as trade, raw materials and agricultural policy, have acquired renewed significance. The considerable demand for KASA's expertise at such times of crisis has once again confirmed our process-based way of working in relation to long-term issues and gives us good reason to continue with this approach.

Over the last year, it has been interesting to see how different issues interweave with one another to form new priority themes. For example, by showing the exhibition about the widows of Marikana, we have not only reached an audience interested in art but have also, in conjunction with a film about the massacre itself and how it is connected to BASF as a buyer of the platinum mined in Marikana, begun building a new campaign around corporate and supply chain responsibility. This focus on the most recent human rights violations in South Africa has in turn extended and changed the debate about compensation for the victims of apartheid, one of KASA's priority themes.

The international court case brought against companies accused of complicity in serious human rights violations during the apartheid era has, for now, been dismissed by the US courts. This means that the issue of compensation and reparations and the associated issue of social and economic justice remain unresolved. KASA has sought to analyse these problems, both in terms of their historical continuity and in the new forms they have acquired, as part of its work during 2015.

The KASA team's official visit¹ to the region this year led us to Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Most of our time was spent in South Africa, because the land issue was a key focus of this year's visit, and KASA has access to a network of actors in Cape Town that it wished to activate. Besides this, KASA was able to participate in a country-wide video conference on the issue of a national minimum wage and to contribute experiences from the basic income project in Namibia. In addition, we met up with several long-term South African partners in several places to discuss the issue of new forms of solidarity amidst changed circumstances; this issue is set to feature prominently in KASA's anniversary conference in 2016. This visit demonstrated once again how important it is to maintain personal contacts to partner organisations and to the people who work within them, in order to understand the nature of the debates being conducted and to render them useful for the German context

¹ A detailed report of our official visit to the region in 2015 can be found in chapter 5.

2. Areas of work

■ Trade issues: Economic Partnership Agreement

After the three African EPA regions West Africa (ECOWAS), East Africa (EAC) and Southern Africa (SADC) had signed or initialled a comprehensive agreement in 2014, 2015 was dedicated to the process of ensuring its legality and getting it ratified. The West Africa EPA was to be the first to go through the process of ratification at European level. This was postponed because it appeared strange to the European Parliament to ratify an agreement that had not yet been signed by some of the West African countries themselves – foremost among them Nigeria, the largest economy in the region and in Africa as a whole.

As a result of this, only a few hearings on the EPA issue took place in the EU Parliament in 2015. During the course of the year KASA contributed to the process of opinion formation in the EU Parliament, including writing a lobbying letter and, in particular, holding several meetings with members of the EU Parliament in Brussels, in Tunisia (during the World Social Forum) and in Heidelberg. In addition, KASA accompanied a group of NGOs from Baden-Württemberg on an educational and lobbying trip to Brussels in June. The EPAs were one of the controversial issues discussed with the representatives of the Commission and the EU Parliament during this trip.

At the Federal (national) level, KASA also participated, together with other German civil society organisations, in the dispute triggered by the Justice Ministry over responsibility for the ratification of the West Africa EPA. The Justice Ministry does not regard the West Africa EPA as a political treaty that has to be put before Parliament for ratification; instead, it sees it as a set of technical regulations whose ratification is the responsibility of the Federal Cabinet. Opposition members of the Bundestag as well as some belonging to the governing parties regard this interpretation as an attempt to curtail the rights of the national Parliament to participate in all the EU's mixed international legal trade agreements. Thus KASA gave its support in July to a letter to the president of the Bundestag composed by an alliance of NGOs, calling upon him to defend the right of the Parliament to give consideration to the West Africa EPA.

Requests for talks and lectures were principally related to trade issues and the EPAs this year. There are three main reasons for this: First, ongoing debates about TTIP and CETA have awakened public interest in other free trade agreements.

In this context, KASA participated in a speaking tour on the EPAs organised by Bread for the World and ATTAC Germany between 23 September and 10 October 2015 that took in ten German cities.

Second, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN in 2015 reinforced this interest, given that some of the weaknesses of the SDGs can be readily demonstrated by reference to the negotiations over the EPAs, TTIP and other free trade agreements and their potential impacts. The SDGs emerged within a voluntary framework, whereas the above mentioned free trade agreements will be binding in international law, with far-reaching consequences for the future of so-called developing countries. Viewed in this light, the debate about the SDGs merely serves as a diversion for civil society unless it manages to exert an influence over policy areas such as trade and financial flows. The way in which these and many other areas of policy are currently managed stands in stark contrast to some of the objectives formulated in the SDGs.

A third reason is the worsening of the refugee situation. The increasing numbers of refugees has prompted a need to consider the reasons why people flee their homelands – and also, therefore, to consider European trade policy. (Global) trade plays a key role in generating – or rather, destroying – people's prospects in many regions the refugees are leaving behind. KASA has incorporated these interconnected issues into its activities.

■ Debt cancellation in Southern Africa: Return of the debt crisis

In the face of imminent new debt crises in sub-Saharan Africa, the German jubilee-network *Erlassjahr* asked KASA to participate in organising a joint event² in Berlin to which partnership groups and initiatives that had already taken part in the Jubilee campaign around the year 2000 were especially to be invited. The aim of the event was to encourage these groups to engage with this issue once again.

In addition to taking stock of the HIPC initiative, which delivered debt cancellation for many countries 15 years ago, the focus was on new challenges in the face of a diversified lending landscape on the one hand and on possible campaigning actions for civil society organisations on the other.

Economist Fanwell Bokosi from the African Forum and

Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD, Zimbabwe) explained in his introductory talk how debt cancellation had had a positive impact in many of the poorest countries, as it meant that resources could be made available for social welfare spending. Since 2009, however, there have been signs that debt is mounting once again. Governments have borrowed more from the private finance market, partly due to an improved credit rating achieved through the cancellation of their debt and partly because a lot of money is circulating on account of the crisis in the financial markets. In addition, Bokosi noted, many countries are currently heading for another national debt crisis because they are still dependent on fluctuating prices for raw materials and have a currency that is not particularly stable. The question of how these debts should be paid back often goes unanswered.

Kristina Rehbein of *Erlassjahr* spoke of an attempt to counter this new debt problem at international level by means of a state insolvency procedure. This attempt, put to the vote by the G77 countries at the UN General Assembly in August, failed due to six No votes, including that of the German government coalition. This, said Rehbein, is exactly where civil society can step in and call upon the German government to relinquish its obstructive stance.

In order to be able to discuss individual states in as much detail and with as much expertise as possible, the participants were divided up in the afternoon into country-specific working groups. Boniface Samsoni Komba from the Tanzanian Coalition on Debt and Development and Geoffrey Chongo from the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR Zambia) reported on the danger of new debt crises in Tanzania and Zambia respectively. Although the indebtedness indicators in each country are not yet in the critical range, the rate at which indebtedness is growing by loans taken out on the international capital market suggests that a debt crisis is looming. Civil society in Zambia is afraid that the government has no idea how Eurobonds are to be paid off in 2024. This is why JCTR is also seeking to persuade the government to take out fewer loans while simultaneously mobilising local resources. Yet, as so often, this comes up against a lack of diversification in the economy and the overwhelming power of the mining companies.

In the closing discussion it became clear that civil society engagement is most successful when civil societies of the global North and South pull together in the same direction. There are potential options for action, for example, when



Boniface Mabanza was part of the World Social Forum in Tunis discussing issues like Free Trade Agreements and regional integration.



Simone Knapp, together with members of the German Jubilee Campaign in front of the South African embassy, Berlin.



Participant at the PLAAS 20th Anniversary Symposium and Celebration in Cape Town.



Philani Zamchiya during his presentation at the Conference "15 years of Land Reform in Zimbabwe – where are we today?"

Germany takes over the presidency of the G20 group of countries in 2017. Locally, transparency and accountability are important instruments civil society can use to act and to set in motion constructive processes of consultation with governments. Here, parliamentarians in both North and South can work together and be briefed by civil society.

The conference was well attended (around 50 participants). It was held jointly with the NAD and with the support of Bread for the World on 8 October 2015 in Berlin.

■ Land question

Farm workers in Southern Africa

On the basis of a study entitled "Revolt in Paradise" about the farm workers' strike of 2012 in the Western Cape, KASA decided to give more attention to the situation of farm workers in its priority countries. The publication of a study about the situation in South Africa by the ILO demonstrates how relevant this issue has become for the debate about the land question. Thanks to an application submitted to Engagement Global, KASA is spending two years looking particularly closely at this issue of farm workers in Southern Africa. This is about, first, taking stock of the situation of the "forgotten" ones, as Thorsten Schütte described the farm workers in his second film about the land question in Namibia. Second, it is about ways of improving that situation. The question whether or not Fair Trade might play a role in this – and, if so, what kind of role – is one that KASA would like to pursue in cooperation with its partner organisations locally. To begin, two studies on Zimbabwe and Zambia and a feature about the film depicting the situation in Namibia were commissioned. The study on South Africa will be conducted by KASA itself, as there is now plenty of literature available on the subject that has been summarised and evaluated in German. Initial contacts to Fair Trade organisations have been sought and meetings held. The study on South Africa, as well as two others relating directly to Fair Trade with wine from South Africa, will be completed in 2016.

The work in this area also required that KASA engage in research and consultation with its partner organisations in the countries concerned. In the case of South Africa in particular this was not easy, as staff at universities were often not at work and inquiries remained unanswered. This was due to the students' strike – whose demands KASA resolutely supports.

Dwaal Net Rond – The Forgotten

Thorsten Schütte's documentary film depicts the day-to-day struggle for survival of Immanuel Xuagub, an unemployed farm worker in Namibia trying to apply for the state benefits that are legally due to him so that he can free both himself and his family from the downward spiral of impoverishment. On his journey through the jungle of state agencies, however, it becomes clear that it is not enough to be aware of your rights; you also need access and knowledge to get these rights upheld before the law.

As part of its awareness raising work about farm workers in Southern Africa, KASA is distributing the film to cinemas and organisations in order to draw attention here in Germany to the situation of Namibian farm workers. Thorsten Schütte shot the film largely for the Namibian context, and for this very reason *Dwaal Net Rond* provides an even more direct window onto the issues it portrays. The film is as honest as it is able to be: instead of dramatising its subject matter to elicit pathos, it shows straightforwardly the obstacles and hindrances faced by Namibian farm workers without pulling any punches.

KASA tried very hard to get the film into German cinemas, but its efforts were met with a very modest response. In December 2015 KASA showed the film in Heidelberg, with director Thorsten Schütte in attendance. The audience consisted primarily of people involved in Namibia-related networks and of personal acquaintances. The need for social security for Namibian farm workers remains a niche issue that would require a comparatively large amount of effort in terms of publicity and campaigning to attract broader attention.

“15 years of land reform in Zimbabwe – Where we are today”³

This is the heading beneath which a seminar took place in Bonn on 15 and 16 May 2015 in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Network and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. With some 50 participants, the conference was very well attended. This demonstrated once again that Bonn is highly suitable as a location for conferences of this kind.

In two talks, political scientist Philani Zamchiya addressed the fundamental political currents and their impacts on land reform, as well as looking at the actual everyday living situation of the rural population. With the help of precise and instructive analyses he also highlighted some positive, though primarily critical aspects of land reform. He spoke of physical

and structural violence as key characteristics of land reform and dissected the government's inability to provide adequate support for new farmers. Zamchiya named the de-politicisation of farming as the most important overall objective – this being dependent on the necessary political will. Overall, he said, there continued to be room in Zimbabwe for change; the people need to build upon existing successes – such as the exemplary constitution – and to put constant pressure from below on those in government.

For Dr. Prosper B. Matondi, agricultural scientist and general manager of the Ruzivo Trust, fast-track land reform is an established fact on which there is no going back. The triumphant rhetoric of the government, however, does not reflect the actual situation. There is no dispute, he says, about the fact that many people are profiting – and will profit – from the redistribution; and yet the losers in particular remain invisible. These are above all the women as well as the former farm workers from the dispossessed lands. For the continued development of Zimbabwe, he said, it is important to realise that implementing a sensible land policy requires considerable patience and perseverance given the radical overthrow of what had existed before. Challenges exist at every level: land-use planning, relations of ownership, valuation of property and land, compensation for confiscated lands, arbitration mechanisms in the case of disputes, technology and infrastructure, additional training and advisory services. A multi-sector approach is needed, he said, that tackles not just the practical problems on the land and in the farming sector but also issues of governance and administrative structure. Matondi argued clearly for small-scale peasant farming that can secure food supplies over the long term. There is no need for agribusiness with external financing – resources can be acquired within the country itself.

■ Social security

KASA continues to support the idea and implementation of an unconditional basic income. This is due, not least, to the positive outcomes of the pilot project in Namibia, for which KASA has provided policy advice from the beginning. The coordinators are frequently invited as experts to give talks on the project in Germany. Unfortunately, the coalition in Namibia that was to advance the project politically and to lobby the government is currently very weak and more or less non-existent as a partner.

VENRO AG

KASA is part of the "Social Security" working group set up by the German umbrella organisation VENRO and seeks to promote the idea of a basic income in the German context as well. Although the working group has relatively few members, it managed last year to hold a meeting with research assistants working for members of the Bundestag about the significance of social security in development cooperation. The meeting held in Berlin was very well attended. The working group was also able to provide substantial input into the Round Table on Social Security convened by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and to have an initial exchange of views with the ministerial departments about the demands that emerged from the position paper⁴ produced the year before. In the course of this it became clear that the human rights approach features far too little in practice, meaning that further debate is required. The BMZ's newly adopted positive assessment of this issue can be regarded as an outcome of the study day held in 2014, where KASA introduced the universal basic income as a poverty alleviation strategy by reflecting especially on the success of the pilot project in Namibia: the research assistant in the BMZ responsible for social security emphasized that, if a partner government sought assistance with introducing a basic income, the Federal government would view their inquiry in a positive light. We regard this as a concrete outcome of successful lobbying by KASA and an important element to be considered in our strategy for 2016. Initial meetings have already been held with Namibian embassy staff to convey this new attitude on the part of the Federal government.

BIG Namibia

Since Hage Geingob was elected President in March 2015, hopes for the permanent implementation of the unconditional basic income in Namibia have received a significant boost. These hopes were further advanced by the announcement that the minister for the newly created Ministry of Poverty Eradication would be former bishop Zephania Kameeta, an unrivalled advocate of the basic income in Namibia. Part of KASA's research work has been dedicated to the policies and projects implemented by the government, resulting in newsletter articles and lectures/talks, including at the University of Vienna and at the strategy conference of the European Christian Workers' Movement (ECWM) in Strasbourg.

KASA also contributes to the Facebook page of Namibia's BIG⁵. In addition, KASA is also providing advice and support to two students who are writing their Masters thesis about the impact of the basic income grant in Namibia on the labour market and its longer-term sustainability.

■ Other issues

Alternatives to neoliberal globalisation

Given the ongoing crises of the capitalist economic and social model, more and more people are feeling the need to consider alternatives. KASA is also participating in this search for alternatives, and seeks to contribute perspectives from Southern Africa in the debates taking place in Germany about what has come to be called the "great transformation". KASA sees this search for alternatives not as an "add-on" to its work but rather as a perspective that runs through all the issues it addresses and frames their analysis. Viewed in this light, the search for alternatives is reflected in all KASA's activities relating to issues of trade, land, debt and raw materials. Additionally, KASA continues to receive inquiries from organisations and groups engaged in considering the fundamental issues of principle entailed by an alternative world order. One example in 2015 was the evening event organised by the Centre for Information and Education in Unna in September on the theme of "A different world is possible. Examining alternatives to neoliberal globalisation." This event focused on the statement of principles produced by KASA in 2009 entitled "Alternatives to neoliberal globalisation." Another example of a forum that aims to address these cross-cutting perspectives and has been facilitated by KASA for several years now is the "Rethinking the economy" project week held in Munich's Rudolf Steiner schools. In 2015 the project week dealt with the topic "Economy and/or freedom", with KASA running a workshop titled "For an economy that serves life".

Platinum and German industry

The Marikana massacre addressed in the exhibition "We shall make our voices heard" drew attention to a strong connection between Germany and South Africa: BASF is the main buyer of platinum mined in Marikana by the British company Lonmin and destined for, among other products, the manufacture of catalytic converters. This connection has been taken up

and used by KASA to start a debate about the credibility of claims by German industry to take responsibility for their supply chains. A two-year project has been devised in collaboration with Maren Grimm and Jakob Krameritsch of the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies at Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts. Two networking meetings have taken place with selected individuals and organisations in Berlin and Mannheim to provide information about the project and to plan activities for 2016, including a speaking tour with the widows of Marikana and the Khulumani Support Group and their presence at the BASF shareholders meeting.

Partnership work

In 2015 KASA continued to provide advice and support for many partnership groups seeking to further develop their knowledge and awareness of issues. As it does every year, the KASA team, along with colleagues from our sponsoring organisation EMS (*Evangelical Mission in Solidarity*), planned and organised the South Africa Partnership Conference and was also involved in running it. A new element of KASA's work in this field is its involvement in two educational measures conducted by the sponsoring organisations of the volunteer programmes. There is clearly potential for long-term cooperation in this area: many organisations involved in the volunteer programme are very keen to integrate analyses of structural issues, such as those conducted by KASA, much more into their internal developmental activities.

One exciting project is a cooperative venture set up with the Moko Choir in Heidelberg, which wishes, alongside an organisation newly founded there, to set up a centre in Ratan-da and Heidelberg/Südafrika aimed at more effectively providing advice and support for social change in the township. KASA will provide consultancy support for the conceptual planning of the project and for the choir's work with the project. It will also provide access to its wide network of contacts in South Africa for potential collaborative work.

Another workshop was held at the Käthe Kollwitz School in Bruchsal for students preparing to visit their partner school in South Africa. The personal stories told by the widows of Marikana are especially suitable for groups of this sort, as they offer plenty of opportunity to address the country's apartheid history while at the same time giving the pupils an insight into the daily lives lived by the majority of the population in South Africa.



Simone Knapp presenting the Namibian pilot project on a universal basic income grant at a conference organised by the European Christian Workers Movement ECWM.



Boniface Mabanza at the Nuremberg Convention for the Right to food through preservation of biodiversity.

Rethinking Africa⁶

The “Rethinking Africa” conference took place for the third time in succession in Frankfurt am Main. As is the case every year, KASA was involved in planning and running this conference. More than 120 attendees addressed the topic “Decolonialities 130 years after the Berlin Conference”. The speakers included renowned Congolese historian Elikia Mbokolo, who placed his long years of experience in teaching, research and journalistic work in African history at the service of this year’s conference. His analyses helped the participants to recognise and discuss continuities and discontinuities in African history since the Berlin Conference. Continuities were established at those points where patterns of colonial thinking, perception and behaviour still shape realities in Africa in either old or new guises. Education is one area where these continuities were demonstrated at the conference. Another example of continuities is the realm of trade relations, which became the focus of strategies of domination by the colonial powers in the 1960s in the wake of processes of decolonisation, after they had been forced to relinquish the political structures set up at the end of the Berlin Conference. The fact that these decolonisation processes remained symbolic in nature in most countries can be seen today in the economic structures that continue to predominate there. These structures cement Africa’s role as a supplier of raw materials and make many African economies dependent on foreign beneficiaries – the only difference now being that corporations have taken the place of colonial countries. The EU’s Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African countries, subject to negotiation since 2002, are a clear indication that the spirit of the Berlin Conference is alive and kicking. In this context KASA was able to contribute its expertise about the EPAs to the conference. In addition to the many continuities discussed there, the participants also dealt with aspects of decoloniality. These were identified in moments of resistance in African history and of the decolonisation of thinking, structures and institutions. In the present day, too, liberation projects are continuing at various levels in all kinds of initiatives where attempts are being made to overcome colonial thinking.

■ Networking

KASA’s networking activities happen in two ways: “by the by”, as it were, and in formal contexts. The latter include KASA’s work on the advisory board of KOSA (Southern Africa Coordination), of which KASA is a member, and in the Africa advisory board of its sponsoring organisation EMS.

There are also a variety of ways in which KASA establishes contacts in its priority countries for solidarity or church-based groups: by conveying information either on the telephone or via e-mail, and at workshops and conferences. It was particularly interesting this year to work closely with fair trade advisors who invited KASA to a preparatory workshop for a planned visit to South Africa. This also fitted especially well with KASA’s work on the farm labourers and on the differences in living and working conditions on wine farms in South Africa. This meant that an initial direct contact to Fair Trade could be established and KASA’s concern to subject Fair Trade to critical analysis could be discussed and elucidated.

Zimbabwe Europe Network ZEN

KASA continues to be a member of ZEN (Zimbabwe Europe Network) and is now even a member of the board. As it does every year, ZEN organised a large conference in 2015 in Brussels, attended by representatives of Zimbabwean and European civil society as well as by the ambassadors of the EU, Britain and the Netherlands. The topic of the conference was the normalisation of relationships between Zimbabwe and the EU and the potential re-entry of Zimbabwe to structural funding mechanisms within the European Development Fund. ZEN was also engaged in a process of restructuring in 2015, as the financial support of Dutch organisations that had borne the main burden of funding ZEN up to now has been significantly reduced in the wake of cuts in government development funding. ZEN’s members, including KASA, have been asked to look for new sources of funding in their respective national contexts in order to place the network’s financial situation on a firm footing.

3. Exhibitions

“We shall make our voices heard”

In August 2012 the Lonmin mineworkers’ strike at Marikana/ South Africa reached a tragic climax. Workers and security personnel were killed. Finally, the strike was broken by police violence. 34 mineworkers were shot dead, some shot in the back. On 31 March 2015 the investigative inquiry set up by President Zuma after the Marikana massacre presented its final report to the South Africa government. But the report does nothing – particularly for the relatives of the dead, desperate for justice – to explain exactly what happened or to determine any appropriate actions as a result (cf. KASA newsletter Nov/2015). For this reason it is all the more important for KASA to continue to provide information about the significance of the events and about the investigation into them. Hardly anything has changed in Marikana: the workers at the Lonmin mines are still subject to poverty and social exclusion; they are without electricity and running water; they are chronically underpaid and work in inhumane conditions. The strikers’ demands for higher wages have been ignored by Lonmin, there are no plans for enforceable reparations, and those responsible for the deaths of 34 people still cannot be named even after the publication of the inquiry report.

In a therapeutic workshop organised by the Khulumani Support Group the relatives of the victims were able to work through their pain and the events of 16 August 2012 using so-called bodymaps. The pictures that emerged from this workshop can be seen since 2014 in the exhibition “We shall make our voices heard”. The exhibition met with considerable interest in German cities: first it was displayed in the *Welt-Haus* (World House) in Heidelberg, and later on in the *Wi-chern* congregation in Heidelberg-Kirchheim during a series of events on South Africa. At the end of the year, the *Volkshochschule* (adult education centre) set it up in their building. The exhibition was displayed in Karlsruhe as part of the International Anti-Racism Weeks. KASA participated in the opening ceremony and in an evening church service with music. The documentary film “Miners shot down” was shown at the exhibition’s opening in Schorndorf. This film, which has won several awards, documents the brutality with which the police intervened in Marikana and how hard it is to establish the facts of the matter due to the complicity of high-ranking political figures. In an introductory talk about both the exhibition and the film and by means of the discussion that followed the



Opening of the exhibition on the occasion of the international weeks against racism in Karlsruhe.



PACSA director Mervyn Abrahams is opening the exhibition “People live here” in Frankfurt.

film, KASA was able to help those present to better understand the context and the repercussions of the events in South Africa.

In 2016 the exhibition will be shown in Mannheim during the BASF shareholders meeting, in Bad Wissen, Bad Rappenaun, and in Hermannsburg on the occasion of the partnership conference run by the Evangelical-Lutheran Missionary Agency in Lower Saxony (ELM).

“People live here...20 years into democracy”

In July this year KASA, together with PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action), a longstanding partner organisation that works for social justice in South Africa generally and in the province KwaZulu-Natal in particular, and renowned South African photographer Cedric Nunn, opened the travelling exhibition “People live here...20 years into democracy” at the ESG in Frankfurt. The exhibition was conceived and commissioned by Bread for the World.

The exhibition comprises 28 photographs that address various aspects of life in South Africa. Even now, twenty years after the introduction of democracy, the signs of social

inequality, poverty and corruption in South Africa are everywhere apparent. But if we look more closely – or perhaps a little differently – at KwaZulu-Natal, everyday life is also shaped by new forms of solidarity which people themselves are discovering and experimenting with. They no longer wait for the government or the local authorities to act, but rather show them how it is done, taking their destiny in their own hands at local level. Cedric Nunn has captured this power of people to shape their own life and conveys it in his pictures in impressive fashion. An exhibition catalogue conceived and written by KASA places the images in relation to the situation in South Africa in general and KwaZulu-Natal in particular, providing the necessary background information in the process.

This year the exhibition has already been displayed in Frankfurt, Schwäbisch Hall, Berlin and Basel, with KASA giving talks on the issues it addresses. Many visitors to the exhibition were very moved by the pictures and have formulated messages for the people in KwaZulu-Natal and for PACSA using interactive media. KASA will pass on these messages to PACSA in a single batch.

The exhibition is almost booked up for the new year as well: it will be on display in Oldenburg, Ingolstadt, Bad Rappenaun, Bad Winsen and Darmstadt.



Outlook

2016 will be marked by several important events for South Africa's collective memory: It is 20 years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission took up its work. 40 years have passed since the Soweto uprising, which was brutally crushed by the apartheid police. Recalling these events is a potentially explosive act in the context of South Africa's current situation, given that the Commission's "unfinished business" still hangs over the country day by day. KASA will follow the debates around these events in South Africa in a context of growing economic instability and will consider its ongoing projects – "The situation of farm workers in Southern Africa", "Platinum and German industry", and those dealing with trade issues – in the light of these important commemorations. 2016 can already be defined as a key year particularly with regard to the Economic Partnership Agreement, because the EU and SADC have decided to sign the agreement in June at the latest in Gaborone (Botswana). Whether or not the necessary steps towards ratification will be taken in the course of this year remains unclear. Since our partner organisations worked intensively on the EPAs especially at the beginning of the negotiations, it will be very interesting for KASA to see what activities they will initiate in relation to the signing and ratification process.

In addition to this, 2016 will be marked by further intense debate about the recognition of genocide in Namibia and its resulting consequences; KASA will analyse and, as far as possible, contribute to this debate. One of KASA's priorities in its work on Namibia will be to consider the way this debate can be linked and coordinated with the debate about the introduction of an unconditional basic income, and to see whether they will influence or hinder one another.

In the face of the intensifying economic crisis in Zimbabwe, the government there is coming under increasing pressure to introduce reforms aimed at facilitating Western investment. The idea is that these reforms will also enable Zimbabwe to be accepted as a full partner in the context of structural cooperation with the EU. What the future holds for Zimbabwe in terms of its relations not just to the EU and the US but also to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and how these external relations will affect the internal power struggles around Mugabe's succession, are questions KASA will pursue via its participation in the European network ZEN.

For Zambia, 2016 is a year of parliamentary and presidential elections and the consolidation of democracy. The elections of January 2015 were held as a result of the death of the incumbent President Michael Sata in October 2014. In accordance with the constitution, the sole duty of the President who emerged from these elections, Edgar Lungu, was to see the deceased president's legislative term of office to an end. New elections are scheduled for 11 August. As in every election year, many of our partner organisations will be busy with the election process. It remains to be seen whether this year's elections will be taken as an opportunity to make progress on the eagerly awaited new constitution. The latter is intended not only to change the current expensive election system but also to provide fresh impetus to land issues, the mining sector and a human rights based approach to social security.

2 See conference documentation at:
http://woek.de/web/cms/front_content.php?idart=2781

3 See full documentation at:
http://woek.de/web/cms/front_content.php?idart=2790

4 http://woek.de/web/cms/upload/pdf/kasa/publikationen/venro_2014_positionspapier_soziale_sicherheit.pdf

5 <https://www.facebook.com/Basic-Income-Grant-in-Namibia-BIG-210777598944581/?ref=hl>

6 Videos of the talks and panel discussions held at the conference can be viewed at <http://www.afrika-im-zentrum.de/videos.html>. Visual recordings are also available here as part of the conference documentation.

5. Official visit in Southern Africa: April 19 to May 10

Official visit in Southern Africa: April 19 to May 10

KASA's official visit to the region took the team to South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The focus was on South Africa because the land issue was a central concern of this year's trip and KASA has a network of partners in Cape Town working in this field. The main findings and experiences are summarised in the KASA Newsletter 2/2015:

International Symposium on Global Agrarian Change at the University of Cape Town

The KASA team had the chance to participate at the "International Symposium on Agrarian Change in the 21st Century: Processes and Politics", which was held at the University of Cape Town on 22 April due to the 20th anniversary of the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS).

South Africa debating a minimum wage

The introduction of a national minimum wage in South Africa is one of President Zuma's election promises. The discussion is taking place at various levels, ranging from the minimum wage a living wage, a decent wage, to a universal basic income. The central question is still the means by which poverty and inequality can be solved. The KASA team was part of a nationwide video conference organised by South African Women on Dialog and was asked to present the experiences from the Namibian basic income pilot project.

Ratanda – The future is in our hands

For many years, there is a relationship between the German Heidelberg and his little sister Heidelberg in South Africa near Johannesburg. The Moko choirs and the Lesedi Show Choir under the direction of Thabang Mokoena practice active musical exchange. Now the relationship is to be expanded in order to build a cultural centre in Heidelberg, South Africa. KASA will accompany this project and network with relevant stakeholders especially. KASA had the opportunity to visit the township Ratanda, from which the members of the Lesedi Choir originate and where the centre will be situated and conduct a workshop there.



Boniface Mabanza sitting in front of the press reports on the Marikana massaker at Bench Marks Foundation.



Pietermaritzburg says not o Xenophobia.

Gogos' Forum – grandmothers in East Rand change society

The Gogos' Forum belongs to Khulumani Support Group in East Rand and is an association of elderly women who care for their community. They recently have won a prize with quite an innovative project. But what they are really up to is overcoming taboos and thus provide a real change in their community.

Zimbabwe: not really a victory

The political landscape in Zimbabwe was for quite some time marked by infighting between two factions vying for the succession Mugabe. After in December the faction which is led by the current vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa gained the upper hand and the long-standing Vice-President Joyce Mujuru had to give up her posts in party and government, many Zimbabweans believed this would be the end of the long-standing blockade within the government. But nothing has changed actually.

Südafrika

Land issue – Farm workers

KASA is conducting three studies in which South Africa will play a central role concerning the situation of farm workers in Southern Africa. For this KASA is reliant on their long-standing partnership with TCOE. The first discussion with TCOE already showed the relevance of the forthcoming studies. The working conditions of farm workers in the country are almost everywhere catastrophic, and the degree of organisation in trade unions is very low, especially outside Western Cape. Many farm workers, who are now about 40 years old, originally came from Mozambique and crossed the border at 15. The most urgent issue is a strategy for a decent living wage, because at the present the lowest annual salaries are around 20,000 rand.

South Africa's agricultural production is diversified: Western Cape farmers produce fruit and wine for export, while Eastern Cape and other provinces cultivate for local markets. Wine producers in the Western Cape initiated the Wine Industry Ethical Trust (WIETA) in order to shape and implement labor standards. In a participatory project Together with the University of Cape Town TCOE will train farm workers to document

their own stories in order to be able to compare WIETA-, Fair Trade-certificated and farms where CWAAWU has access to workers.

Moreover TCOE supports farm workers who are confronted with violence on the farms, with an SMS service. This makes it possible to document all cases of abuse, to link communities and to bring them in touch with human rights organisations. Thanks to this service murders on farms became known.

Cases of racist and sexist discrimination, not to mention the working conditions of seasonal workers, are reported even from WIETA farms. The farm workers' union CSAAWU is very much aware of the disastrous working and living conditions on farms. The union, which the KASA team could also visit during their stay in Cape Town, is suffering from a lack of capacity and has come financially under pressure after two lost lawsuits against farm owners. These lawsuits have taken a lot of energy and the union lacks money for an appeal and sets its hope on the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI) in order to take over these cases and to mobilize financial resources. Although the union lost the lawsuits, the officials still feel vindicated and continued with recruiting new members and networking through social media. Together with other unions CSAAWU intends to challenge the social standards of WIETA. CSAAWU is willing to invest in mobilizing and wants to engage their members to get to know better the labor law system. In doing so they would need even more capacity in terms of logistics, infrastructure and staff, which still is the biggest obstacle for a small union. Very few farm workers are unionized and those who are members, are much too poor to defray the union. And as long as unions like CSAAWU struggle to survive the constitutional freedom of assembly remains a dream, especially as farm workers work in an environment that is characterized by fear due to the long history of oppression. This suppression still goes on and today particularly affects women and migrants. Both groups are exposed to a shameless exploitation.

The land question was also discussed with Economic Justice Network. EJN together with Oxfam and organizations from 27 countries, including Mexico and India, is part of an EU project which examines possibilities for the integration of small producers in the market. Food sovereignty and land as well as fair taxation and health insurance form pillars of this project.

Civil society organizations in light of new challenges

Given the intensifying challenges in South Africa, organizations like PACSA, Church land program and Diakonia Council of Churches are going to reconsider their own work. PACSA is focusing more on the support for so called community organizers. A research on the food price barometer showed that South Africa is a low-wage country with all the consequences in regard to education, nutrition, health, etc. This research also made it clear that the current breadline is not sufficient given the high unemployment rate and the fact that often several family members have to live from the salary of a single person. Hence the need for restructuring the economic architecture and at the local level for restructuring the urban tariff structure is given. There is need for space and platforms where people can come together and reflect on how a new society might look like and what is needed, given the existing power relations. It is both a necessary reinvention of democracy and redefining the role of theology in this process and the angle from which an organization like PACSA argue. Does the discourse emerge from the grass roots level? Are the oppressed developing strategies for overcoming the crisis? How can ones scope overcome the complaint about the missing of religious voices? All these questions show that solidarity needs to be the central category of the work and this applies both to the relations between PACSA and suffering communities and to North-South relations. Communities try to live this solidarity by nudging alternative projects for food production and trying to return to the basics. The accompaniment of such processes means for PACSA to rethink the developmental discourse and re-evaluate the basis of political spaces which can also mean: "Sometimes not doing something can be so powerfull."

Both Diakonia and PACSA accompany processes of poverty reduction or income-generating activities of local initiatives. Diakonia works closely with Sinamandla which helps especially women in rural or semi-urban villages to free themselves from the poverty trap in finding meaningful projects. For PACSA the intense relationships and the confidence to some civil society organizations built in recent years are very helpful. Therefore consultation and accompaniment in solidarity has taken the place of project work.

The CLP (Church land program) is intensively engaging itself in reflections of the post-Apartheid South Africa because dealing with the unjust past is central. This got obvious recent-

ly during the xenophobia attacks: What is the fertile soil for such developments? Graham Philpotts analysis suggests that South Africa had not overcome the mentality of Apartheid. White South Africans have managed to shrug off their responsibility and do not participate in building a new society. They use the state machinery to protect their privileges. There were expectations in regard to the land issue, which Government could not fulfill and the land reform was degraded to a mere technocratic issue. There is still no real mobilization around the land issue and no autonomous voice of the landless. At the same time private companies in cooperation with traditional structures control more and more land for mining and therefore destroy the livelihoods of the people. What can be done if people in rural areas get under pressure? What kind of resistance is necessary when new dynamics mean that access to land for the majority of the black population is becoming increasingly difficult, because politics is convinced that only agribusiness and mining are profitable and these activities are only possible for whites and elites? There are more and more exploration and investment in coal mining, as the Ibuto Coal Mining shows. A search for inclusive and sustainable models is not part of the political agenda. How is it possible to create solidarity among the affected? Trade unions concentrate on formal employment and thus address only 20 to 30 percent of South Africans. What about the old and the new farm workers? 70 percent of South Africans are still fighting for the right to have rights, because only about 20-30 percent has access to the rights guaranteed in the Constitution. Race and class still play a central role. The prevailing system marginalizes people and civil society organizations hesitate to perceive the resistance of people, let alone to show solidarity with them. Therefore, in the context of South Africa it is important to seek proximity to the poor and to maintain and operate from a healthy distance from hierarchies that are trying to control the poor. Platforms and spaces for discussing theories of change and their practicability are relevant and needed.

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the discussions revolved mainly around the land issue, civic education and mining.

Since the new Constitution of Zimbabwe came into force, organizations like ANSA, SCMZ and the Christian Action Trust / Zimbabwe raised awareness to ensure that the citizens get to

5. Official visit in Southern Africa: April 19 to May 10

know the content in order to better advocate for their rights. SCMZ is focusing mainly on students, CAT / Zimbabwe is working in rural areas and trying to form a network of clergy who act in their churches as agents of education about the opportunities provided by the new constitutional rights and its scope of action. ANSA has designed a nationwide project to pursue a socio-economic education and to initiate a similar mobilization of grass root groups, such as those which led to the founding of the MDC. All three organizations suffer from the restrictions associated with the political and economic environment in Zimbabwe. ANSA had already dismissed employees due to the bail out of some European donors. If financing for the national socio-economic empowerment program is not acquired by the end of the year, the office of the ANSA might be closed in Zimbabwe and relocated as a regional program to Gaborone in Botswana. This would be a pity not only for Zimbabwe, but for many organizations in Europe working on socio-economic issues in Zimbabwe and relying on the expertise of ANSA.

The diamond industry in Zimbabwe is in a productivity crisis: alluvial diamonds are becoming rare and the operating companies have neither the expertise nor the technology to drill deep. The government wants the companies to merge, which would not solve the problem. Regardless of the methods companies currently operating in Marange use, people damn them. Melanie Chiponda of Chiadzwa Community Trust who was traveling with us to the diamond area last year, has a community biocultural protocol carried out which aims to help those communities confronted with external stakeholders to protect their nature and defend their rights. This research shows that those affected have more knowledge about the history, about the value system and the structures of the village communities, as is generally assumed. The project made it possible for the Communities to write their own stories, document and reflect their lives before mining activities started. This study clearly indicates that mining destroys the livelihoods culture of people.

The Chiadzwa Community Trust together with other communities plans to build a Mining Communities Coalition to influence the forthcoming adjustments to the mining laws in the new constitution. If indigenization is taken seriously and really wants to contribute to the promotion of economic possibilities of the majority in rural areas, it should allow and encourage small-scale mining.



The KASA-Team participating in the SAWID Roundtable on the National Minimum Wage.



Zambia Land Alliance staff and KASA-Team discussing the idea of a joint study on farm workers.

The land issue and the debate on the situation of farm workers we could discuss with Prosper Matondi from Rusivo Trust, whose main focus is research, advocacy and policy advice on land. For example the Trust advises Land Working Group, consisting of representatives of the EU, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and France. The government didn't want to negotiate with them directly, especially not about land ownership, compensation for expropriation and creation of conditions in regard to land policy. The Trust mediates between the Land Working Group and the Zimbabwean Government. Against this background, Matondi analyzed both the Lancaster Constitution in view of the country as well as the Fast Track Land Reform critically. The first, because they hadn't incorporated access to land for Zimbabweans to improve their living conditions and their nutrition sovereignty, and the second because it was politically abused despite its justification. One group of victims of the FTLR is the farm workers. Since most of them were not unionized, it is difficult to quantify their number accurately. Today, the farm workers work in different sectors and only 5 percent of them have received land. Some of them still live on their old farms, many have returned to their countries of origin. Only 40 percent of arable land is used in Zimbabwe at the moment, mainly because of lack of subsidies. In addition, the limited functionality of the banking sector makes access to capital and loans virtually impossible.

The challenges the Zimbabwean society still has to cope with in regard to land are the following:

- Compensation of the farm workers who have lost their livelihoods. The government argues that this is an obligation of the commercial farmers. But they themselves claim compensations and are partly abroad.
- Lack of conflict mediation and resolution: there are no specific mechanisms for that. The judiciary is politically controlled and is not really accessible to most people.
- Reappraisal of the land administration system: Land Audit, cadaster, land registration code, design and implementation of an agricultural strategy.
- Strategic realignment: This requires an unsparing analysis of the experience of recent years and all options of land management that exist worldwide in order to develop the best option for the Zimbabwean context.

Zambia

The two prevailing topics in Zambia were on the one hand the situation of farm workers and on the other hand the debt issue. On the land question, we linked up with the study on land grabbing and met with both Eugene Kabilika of Caritas and with Zambia Land Alliance. Caritas continues to work together with FIAN on this issue, but so far could not merge the different studies on land grabbing.

The KASA team participated in a meeting organized by ZLA on church and land issues. The catholic and evangelical church and some smaller denominations were represented, but the Council of Churches in Zambia CCZ was missing. Kabilika invited the churches to address the land question in the light of Amos and the Jubilee and take an active role in protecting the poor. It was decided to build width and to use both existing committees as well as radio stations. In a subsequent discussion with ZLA director Nsama Nsemiwe and the staff the idea came up to make a follow-up on the land use in Mpika after the end of the Ferrostahl project. KASA also presented their project on farm workers and asked ZLA to consider whether and how they might contribute to the study. Nsemiwe indicated the German company Amatheon Agri which has acquired the land on a large scale and also has to deal with labor problems.

In a discussion with Andrew Simpasa of JCTR (Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection), we learned that Zambia is sliding back towards a debt crisis, if the 2012 and 2014 signed Euro Bonds are not rescheduled in time. The question of where the fund for repayment will come from arises particularly in light of the withdrawal of the tax increase in the mining sector. Here President Lungu gave in after enormous pressure from the mining companies. They threatened to pull out of Zambia because with higher taxes their operation wouldn't be profitable any more. They also threatened indirectly the kwacha would continue to lose value if the government does give in. Zambia's economy completely depends on mining and still is not diversified. Unlike Eugene Kabilika who puts little faith in President Lungu, Simpasa sees Lungu as a chance for Zambia because he "might be a bit naive but altogether pragmatic and rather technocratic and plays less political power games." However, since the change of government 2012 both the fight against corruption as well as the constitutional reform has been slow.

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Eastrand with KASA-Team

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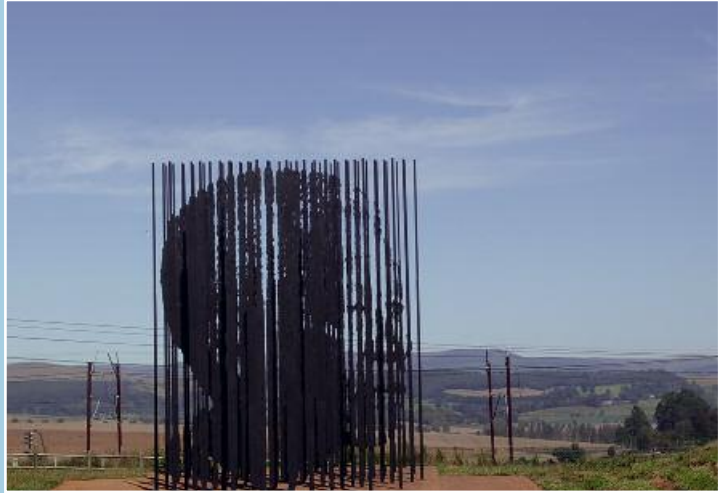
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Asimbonanga
Asimbonang' uMandela thina
Laph'ekhona
Laph'ehfeli khona

We have not seen him
We have not seen Mandela
In the place where he is
In the place where he is kept