



Last Monday, ActionAid joined in a solidarity action to demand for an end of Israel's 50 years of occupation abuses in Palestine. In case you thought that this was a religious war, read on and unlearn your thinking. Welcome to today's Weekly edition.

ActionAid in Solidarity with Palestine-End Occupation!



Some of the photo Actions by the ActionAid staff last Monday. The team stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people to demand for an end to Israel Occupation.

Last Monday, ActionAid stood in solidarity with the Palestinians to demand for an end of Israel occupation of their land and the right to self determination. Clad in white, Red, Green and black (colours of the Palestine flag), ActionAid staff held placards with messages demanding for an end to the 50 year old injustice.

During a solidarity dialogue on the Palestinian Occupation held in the Organisation's board room, Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid informed staff that the Palestine- Israel conflict is not about religion as many tend to think but about land grabbing by the powerful.

"For half a century, Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip has resulted in systematic human rights violations against Palestinians living there" he said adding that the last 50 years have seen Israel force thousands of Palestinians off their land, occupying and illegally using it to create settlements that exclusively house Jewish Israeli settlers.

"Their homes and livelihoods have been destroyed, they've had restrictions on their movements, water, land and other natural resources enforced on them. The communities have also been violently attacked by the Israeli military and settlers. As ActionAid, we exist to challenge such injustices and work for the restoration of lives of dignity" he challenged urging staff to do any action in their power to denounce these injustices.

Staff were however informed that the injustice can only end if our governments stop enabling the economy that keeps these illegal settlements growing hence fuelling the suffering of the Palestinians.

"The issue is not just about Israel taking Palestinian land and resources illegally. Governments around the world are letting goods produced in these settlements into their markets, and are allowing companies in their countries to operate in settlements. All of this is helping the illegal settlements to profit and thrive", he noted.

The dialogue ended with a photo action and commitment by staff to work within their ability to put pressure on World powers to put an end to the cycle of violations suffered by Palestinians living under Israel's occupation.

Since the occupation first began in June 1967, Israel's ruthless policies of land confiscation, illegal settlement and dispossession, coupled with rampant discrimination, have inflicted immense suffering on Palestinians, depriving them of their basic rights.

Israel's military rule disrupts every aspect of daily life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It continues to affect whether, when and how Palestinians can travel to work, school, abroad, visit their relatives, earn a living, attend a protest, access their farmland, or even access electricity or a clean water supply. It means daily humiliation, fear and oppression. People's entire lives are effectively held hostage by Israel. As one Palestinian puts it;

"The worst thing is the sense of being a stranger in your own land and feeling that no single part of it is yours"

Ann Mary Imoni, Teso's Best performing staff!



Mary, the midwife delivering lives with no support staff!

Last week, ActionAid with funding from the Democratic Governance Facility held the first ever Teso Awards Gala. The event was conducted to recognize and reward civil servants, Political leaders and service delivery departments that have performed exceptionally well in delivering quality social services to the people of Teso amidst several working challenges.

The event follows a qualitative and quantitative assessment conducted in the five districts of Katakwi, Kumi, Soroti, Serere and Ngora on the performance of the key sectors of Education, Health and Agriculture.

According to Benjamin Tukei, the ActionAid Program Officer in Katakwi, the assessment was conducted by an independent body and it's their findings that informed the day's winners.

The day's overall winner was Ms. Anne Mary Imoni, a midwife at Omatenga HCIII. Ann was recognized for her exceptional dedication to saving mothers and their babies during child birth at the health facility which she has managed for the last 8 years without any support staff.

The best performing politician was Ben Eumu, the District Chairperson of Ngora. While he hails from the opposition (FDC), Ben has managed to unite the people of Ngora to work towards developing their district. Mary Aigo, the AG-Head teacher of Awaliwali Primary school as recognized as the best performing civil servant in the Education sector. Under her leadership, the school performance in the primary leaving exams has exceptionally improved.

Other winners include Atim Mary, the District Education Officer of Katakwi, Odeke Valdo, an extension worker in Kumi, Opolot Kokas, a health worker and Dr Ongala Emmanuel.

Justice David Batema of the Soroti High Court congratulated the winners and urged them to keep only on the top.

"You have made us proud. Congratulations. You have set the bar so high for the rest of us" he said. Justice Batema challenged workers who are always blaming their tools to do their best within the current situations and leave the rest to the Government.

Look out for the full profiles of the winners in our next publication.

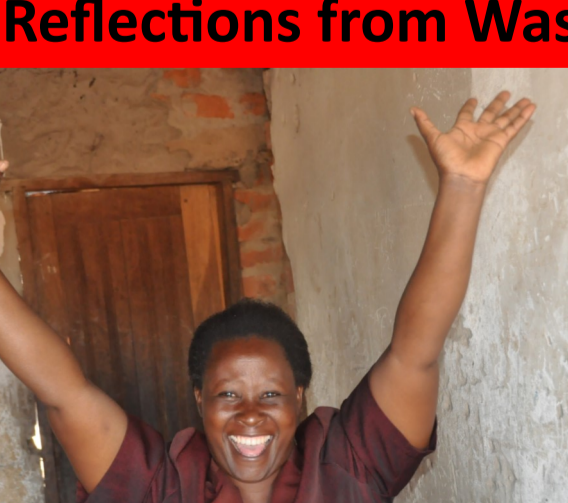


Justice Batema speaks at the Award Gala.



Ben Eumu, the District Chairperson of Ngora shows off his award!

Reflections from Washington



Today, Arthur tries to open our eyes further to the 5th Strategy. What will success look like in its Era?

"...success is not just at activity or even output level but must be reflected in the shift in power and greater justice for people facing oppression. This will be achieved if these people themselves are defining and leading the change process and challenging the injustice manifested in all the dimensions of power and not ActionAid receiving praise or coverage for an activity. In fact, receiving applause from government could be an indicator for movement in the completely opposite direction.....".

[Read on here](#) and share your thoughts with us @Samanya.kyategeka@actionaid.org. We shall feature your feedback next week.

WEEK AHEAD:

- This week, ActionAid leadership are holding meetings in Lira and Mbale to complete the Local Rights Strategies. The same meetings will be used to roll out the fundraising strategy.
- ActionAid will dispatch a team of journalists to document the recent unrest in Kapchorwa. This arose from the Government directive to open the UWA boundaries including the contested Benet area. While the community has tried to resist, they are under pressure. Deaths have been recorded and our officers on ground have said that it's the UPDF that is giving security to the UWA officials against the community. Details of this story in our next publication.