

May 2009

ERJ UPDATE

EDMUND RICE JUSTICE AOTEAROA NEWSLETTER

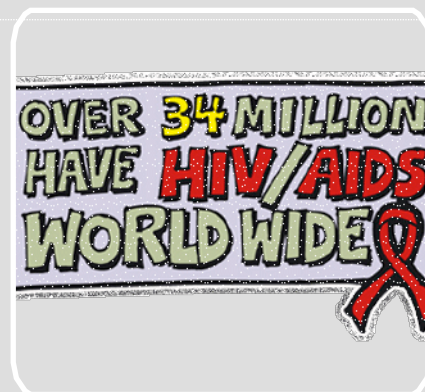
www.erjustice.org.nz



Kids playing on a tank barrel in Northern Sudan

HIV/AIDS AND CHILDREN

HIV is a problem that is growing at an unthinkable pace around the world. As the problem has grown so has the range of medications that can extend the lives of the many affected. **These medications are prohibitively expensive in the majority world where the choice is between food *or* medication.** With the help of ERN schools we will be making some noise about the issue over the next few months. [To get involved check out the issue here.](#)



GLOBAL ARMS TRADE

Every year the Governments of the world elect to spend \$900 billion on military yet only \$60 billion on aid. The driving of military development and loose controls on the arms trade lead to the inevitable involvement of child soldiers in places such as the Congo and pandemic levels of gun violence in Guatemala and Haiti. An Arms Trade treaty is currently under development but needs the pressure and support of western governments to ensure change happens. [Check out the issue](#)



SPOTLIGHT: PAMBAZUKA.ORG

Many of us in the west still see the problems of poverty as being centered in Africa but where is the African voice in this somewhat distorted perspective? Pambazuka.org provides this voice on a range of social issues that affect the diverse history of the continent with over 850 million people. Through videos, podcasts, articles and interaction this is a really great way to hear a voice different to the predominately negative view of Africa in mass media. [Check it out here.](#)



ACTION THROUGH ADVOCACY

Developing the voice of young people is a key goal in the area of Edmund Rice Justice both in New Zealand and internationally. **The voice of young people is vital for the promotion of issues for change.** We are currently building a network of young adults around NZ that are willing to lead advocacy groups in their home areas. If you would be interested in leading such a group [drop us a line here](#), we are really keen to support new [social justice advocacy initiatives](#)



MONTHLY GATHERING

We all hear lots about Fair Trade and the important and positive impact of ethical consumer choices. The movie Black Gold puts a human face on the inequality of the global coffee trade and give some solid **personal examples of why Fair Trade is a positive choice for the international community.** Come along on the 10th of June from 7pm in Auckland to view the movie and have a yarn about Fair Trade stuff. [More details are online here](#)



THANKS

Its been an exciting month around NZ social justice networks with issues such as Fair Trade and the closure of Guantanamo gaining exposure, we also had the unfortunate news that [NZAid](#) will be reintegrated into [MFaT](#). Check out www.erjustice.org.nz for new resources and information about a range of Social Justice issues. Keep updated and informed in some of the more important issues around our globe!

