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# 2001 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA

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## Introduction

The Washington Office on Africa (WOA) is the only Washington-based ecumenical advocacy organization focused on Africa. Emerging from our history of engagement with the liberation struggles in southern Africa, we seek to articulate and promote a just American policy toward Africa. Supported by a wide range of national church bodies and individuals, we monitor Congressional legislation and executive policies and actions and issue action alerts and take other actions to advance progressive legislation and policy. We work in partnership with colleagues in Africa, the Africa advocacy community in the United States, and grassroots organizations concerned with various aspects of African affairs.

In 2001 our Board launched a Millennial Campaign for Africa under three rubrics, *Economic justice*, *Peace and reconciliation*, and *Health and human welfare*.

- Under *economic justice* we gave special emphasis to the ongoing international debt cancellation campaign and to the intellectual property rights issue, especially as it affects African small-holder farmers and local communities.
- Under *peace and reconciliation*, we focused upon the child soldiers protocol, landmines, conflict diamonds in Sierra Leone, and capital market sanctions on Sudanese oil.
- Under *health and human welfare*, our emphases were HIV/AIDS and development assistance.

We published our full complement of issues of *Washington Notes on Africa*, including a key Millennial Campaign for Africa issue for long-term use, along with a directory of key Washington contacts on Africa, and a special issue on the situation in Zimbabwe. WOA also introduced a bi-monthly theological reflection letter, *Just Faith and Action*, with the full six issues for the year.

There were few changes in our very fine Board in 2001. Sadly for us, Dan Hoffman resigned from his post with the Africa Office of the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ in Indianapolis, and thus left our Board. He has served WOA well for many years, including as President.

Our Board initiated a long-range financial planning study with the naming, and reporting, of an ad hoc Board committee. This process will continue into 2002, but the Board did reflect upon WOA's legal status as a 501(c)4 advocacy organization and the impact that had upon grant funding, and upon WOA's ecumenical standing and the opportunities that offered for broadening support.

As a part of our financial deliberations, but also as a part of our concern to be in solidarity with similar organizations, our Board held a joint meeting with the Board of the Africa Faith and Justice Network in December. Decisions were made by both Boards to continue cooperation in 2002. We continued our internship program with two excellent summer interns, Ms. Belinda Lamptey and Ms. Naomi Senkeeto. Ms. Lamptey, originally from Ghana, was a law student at the University of South Dakota, specializing in international law, and came to us through a grant from the University's International Human Rights Center. Ms. Senkeeto, originally from Uganda, was a rising senior at Rutgers University, specializing in African studies as part of her political science major.

During the first half of 2001 WOA gave particular attention to

- Peace in the Sudan, with special focus upon the Sudan Peace Act. WOA's concern about possible military assistance under the act, and later its hope for capital market sanctions for foreign oil companies under the act, made it both a promising but cautionary piece of legislation.
- AIDS, with special focus upon appropriations and affordable access to medicines.
- Debt issues, with special focus upon multilateral – especially IMF and World Bank – cancellation.
- Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), including concern for an NGO parallel meeting to the forum for African finance ministers. Our Executive Director traveled to Mauritius in January, meeting with ecumenical leaders and with proponents of AGOA, as Mauritius is deemed to be a key beneficiary of textile provisions in the US legislation, toward which WOA has maintained a critical stance.
- US support for the OAU initiative to support local communities and small farmers, especially in relation to intellectual property rights.
- Conflict diamonds issue, with a special focus upon an alternative progressive bill countering an industry-supported piece of legislation.
- Ratification of the child soldiers protocol.
- The perennial development assistance issue.

September 11th dramatically altered US priorities and perceptions, of itself and its relationship with the rest of the world. Given the shifting priorities and preoccupations of the Congress and this administration toward anti-terrorism initiatives, it became a serious strategic question in the latter part of 2001 as to what Africa advocates could effectively raise. The Bush administration offered mixed messages, claiming that all was now "different", yet proceeded with its old agenda as if nothing had changed. For example, the very day that President Bush spoke to the nation in the aftermath of September 11th, US government officials, almost alone, were in Geneva fighting to protect the interests of pharmaceutical companies against the cry for affordable AIDS medicines for Africa. Concern for terrorism further muddied the Sudanese waters, where the Sudan Peace Act was effectively set aside because the Khartoum government was being co-operative on the US international agenda. And though the evidence was clear that oil profits were fueling the civil war, the Bush administration remained adamant that foreign oil companies should have access to US capital markets.

Thus, in the fall of 2001, WOA acknowledged the need to address the September 11th tragedy, but we also suggested that the US would be deluding ourselves if we affirmed the view that Americans are simply misunderstood rather than that our government's policies, especially in relation to the Global South and to Africa, have shown arrogance and insensitivity, and have in many respects directly undermined the needs and hopes of Africans. If the US does that, we argued, then our present anti-terrorism agenda would be nothing more than an articulation of narrow self-interest instead of common cause with the rest of the world. WOA thus reaffirmed its commitment to the issues cited above, and moved forward with our Millennial Campaign for Africa as one that still had integrity. We ended 2001 with the view that our task was to keep before our government that Africa matters to us, and that a just US policy toward Africa – expressed in concrete ways – ought to remain very much a priority.

## *Solidarity*

In 2001 WOA sustained our commitment to work in solidarity with others who share our concerns and hopes. WOA remained a faithful participant in the Advocacy Network for Africa (ADNA) as a structure that brings Africa advocates together across a wide range of issues, and our Executive Director began to facilitate this monthly gathering. Our staff – Executive Director and interns – were actively engaged in various coalitions, including the Africa Trade Policy Working Group, the AIDS and Health Care Working Group, the Sudan Working Group, Faith Action, the Inter-Faith Working Group on Trade and Investment; Jubilee Network USA, and the US Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

## *Administration*

In 2001 our Board's long-range financial planning process (noted above) gave special attention to our addressing our ongoing staff shortage. Plans were put in place for sponsoring church support of long-term (one-to-three years) appointees. The first appointee, through the United Methodist Church, was scheduled for early 2002, and funding was secured for a Lutheran Volunteer Corps staff addition, scheduled for later in 2002.

Board members also actively encouraged their own "constituents" to become directly engaged with WOA, leading to a significant increase in our data base and to commitments to be involved in our Campaign. Toward the end of 2001 we re-designed our website, [www.woafrica.org](http://www.woafrica.org), and introduced new software.

## *Sponsorship and support*

We welcomed a new sponsoring church in 2001, the Reformed Church in America. They joined long-standing sponsoring organizations, who continue to be generous in their support of the Washington Office on Africa, and we acknowledge them, with gratitude, here:

Church of the Brethren	Missionaries of Africa
Disciples of Christ	Presbyterian Church USA
Episcopal Church	Reformed Church in America
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	Society of African Missions
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	United Church of Christ
Mennonite Central Committee	United Methodist Church

WOA continued its practice of twice-yearly appeals both for financial contributions and for increased involvement in our advocacy efforts, especially through our Rapid Response Network. We are grateful for the loyalty and support of many individuals.

We include on the next page what we consider to be the most informative financial tables from our 2001 audit.

## 2001 Audit

Statement of activities and of functional expenses for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000.

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
<b>Support and revenue</b>		
Sponsors	\$ 76,500	78,500
Contributions	11,276	14,026
Grants	9,730	14,257
Publications and subscriptions	934	762
Contributed services	0	3,800
Registration fees	0	1,200
Miscellaneous	4,452	2,550
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>102,892</b>	<b>115,095</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services	92,871	88,842
General and administrative	23,591	15,679
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>116,462</b>	<b>104,521</b>
<b>Changes in net assets</b>	<b>(13,570)</b>	<b>10,574</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>46,067</b>	<b>35,493</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>32,497</b>	<b>46,067</b>

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	<u>Program services</u>	<u>General/ Admin</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Salaries and benefits	\$ 51,938	\$ 11,264	\$ 63,202	\$ 61,002
Consultants and professional fees	1,890	2,345	4,235	2,890
Donated services	0	0	0	3,800
Rent and storage	11,742	2,910	14,652	14,334
Office expense	3,664	1,349	5,013	4,422
Accounting services	685	3,880	4,565	3,975
Conferences and meetings	100	0	100	0
Equipment leasing	450	242	692	1,524
Equipment maintenance and repairs	0	0	0	111
Office supplies	2,578	795	3,373	2,140
Printing	5,087	29	5,116	5,312
Travel	1,993	487	2,480	3,224
Complimentary publications	11,729	0	11,729	0
Depreciation	655	116	771	654
Miscellaneous	360	174	534	1,133
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 92,871</b>	<b>\$ 23,591</b>	<b>\$ 116,462</b>	<b>\$ 104,521</b>

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