

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Weekly Newsletter
November 9—16, 2011

FALLING WHISTLES

Information from fallingwhistles.com.

Falling Whistles gives a small window into our world's largest war. Originally just a journal written about boys sent to the frontlines of war armed with only a whistle, readers forwarded it with the same kind of urgency in which it was written and demanded to know – What can we do?

The Falling Whistles campaign launched with a simple response – make their weapon your voice and be a whistleblower for peace in Congo. Read the story and buy the whistle. Together we partner with local leaders to advocate and rehabilitate for those affected by war. Share their story and speak up for them. Together, we'll become the voice of a growing coalition for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Wait, there's a war in Congo?

The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to our world's deadliest war since WWII. Over the last decade more than 6 million people have died, and nearly 1,500 people continue to lose their lives daily. Sexual violence is more rampant here than anywhere else in the world, and thousands of children are involved in the war. Why? There are a number of reasons, dating back over a century. The conflict has been tied directly to the country's vast natural resources. They are both a blessing and a curse, making Congo a country of great potential and a frequent victim of exploitation.

Today, minerals found in Congo are used in consumer electronics, including laptops and cell phones. While many benefit from the mineral trade, it is the Congolese people who bear the consequences of a conflict that sustains profitable mining enterprise.

A combination of unstable governance, a history of bitterness between local groups, and international interest in Congo makes this situation one of the most complicated on the planet. It is this complexity that has left the current systems in place largely ineffective. A new approach is needed.

Alright, so what's your plan?

The Falling Whistles story reveals two urgent needs: 1. Children escaping the war-region. 2. Children forced to the frontlines of war.

The escaped children are often traumatized and have few options for survival. The result is that they are regularly pulled back into the cycle of war. In Congo we are developing partnerships with community leaders who are rehabilitating these children through education, art, sports, music, human rights education, vocational skills training, medical treatment and nutritional services. Each organization is working to give children the tools to be whistleblowers and stand for peace within the war-region. Because of security concerns, we cannot expose the names of these organizations at this time. We are working toward healthy and sustainable relationships and look forward to the day when we can show you the physical results of your partnership. To help the children forced to the frontlines of war, the war must end. The first step toward that goal is to change the way we advocate in the West. Sold out of pockets, living rooms, garages, concerts, warehouses and retail stores, the whistle gives you the opportunity to spread the word about Congo and speak up for peace. Wear your protest and elevate the conversation.

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Falling Whistles Event

**7:00-10:00 PM at
Emen's Auditorium.
Come out and hear
the founder of Falling
Whistles speak. This
is a FREE event and
open to everyone, not
just students!**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— ON CAMPUS

Wednesday, November 9

- *Amnesty International Meeting:*
4:00 PM in Bracken Library Room #301
- *Falling Whistles at Emens Auditorium*
7:00-10:00 PM. Come out and hear the founder of Falling Whistles speak. This is a FREE event and open to everyone, not just students! Through: COMM CLUB Sponsored by: SGA, WLBC 104.1, Cool Cayenne, Ball State Federal Credit Union. Twitter : #1000whistles. Falling Whistles gives a small window into our world's largest war. Originally just a journal written about boys sent to the frontlines of war armed with only a whistle, readers forwarded it with the same kind of urgency in which it was written and demanded to know – what can we do? The Falling Whistles campaign launched with a simple response – make their weapon your voice and be a whistleblower for peace in Congo. Read the story and buy the whistle. Together we partner with local leaders to advocate and rehabilitate for those affected by war. Share their story and speak up for them. Together, we'll become the voice of a growing coalition for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For more info, visit www.fallingwhistles.com.

Thursday, November 10

- *War and Music—A Presentation by Dr. Linda Pohly*
10:00 AM at The E.B.& Bertha C. Ball Center (400 N. Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie, IN 47303) Free event, but reservations are required. Please call 285-8975. Dr. Pohly will discuss the many links between war and music. Participants are invited to share their own memories or ideas regarding the link between these two ubiquitous endeavors
- *Culture Week: The Amazing Taste: Global Food Fair & I-Fest*
4:00-8:00 pm, Student Center, Sponsored by BSU Dining, Rinker Center for International Programs, Multicultural Center, and University Program Board
- *The Sibling Suicide Loss Journey Comes Full Circle: Returning to the Road of Hope by Dr. Michelle Linn-Gust, President of the American Association of Suicidology*
7:00-8:00 PM Teachers College Room #101 — Book Signing begins at 8:00.
This is a free event and is open to the public.
- *Culture Week: International Dance Party*
8:00-10:00 pm, Student Center Ballroom, Sponsored by the Multicultural Center and Rinker Center for International Programs

Friday, November 11

- *Culture Week: Friday Night Filmworks Presents: Snow Flower & the Secret Fan*
7:00 pm, Pruis Hall, Sponsored by University Program Board

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— ON CAMPUS (CONT.)

Friday, November 11

- *Remembrance Day- National Roll Call*

7:30am-5:00pm Corner of McKinley and Riverside Aves- "The Scramble Light"

Schedule: 7:30-8:00am Opening Ceremony

8:00-11:10am 11:30-4:30 pm Reading of Names 2:00pm Minute of silence

11:11-11:30am Veteran's Affairs Ceremony at Bell Tower

4:30pm-5:00pm Closing Ceremony

Saturday, November 12

- *Culture Week: Masquerade Ball,*

8:00-11:00 pm, Irving Gym, Sponsored by the Multicultural Center, Today's Black Women, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Monday, November 14

- *OXFAM America Meeting*

5:30 PM in WB 140. For more information, contact oxfambsu@gmail.com.

- *Social Justice League Meeting*

6:00PM at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (310 N. McKinley Ave.) For more information, contact SJL@bsu.edu.

Tuesday, November 15

- *Feminists for Action Meeting*

6:00 PM in BB 220. Come have tea, discuss current events, and become an activist for gender equality. Everyone is welcoming, including non-students and community members. For more information, contact feministforaction@gmail.com or ckhurst@bsu.edu.

- *International Ambassadors Club*

7:00PM at the L.A. Pittenger Student Center in Room 306. For more information, contact IAC@bsu.edu.

- *"Invisible Children— The Rescue"*

7:00-10:00PM in the Student Center Ballroom. There will be a guest speaker, merchant display, and booths from on-campus organizations.

Wednesday, November 16

- *Continuum Brown Bag Series*

12:00-1:00 PM Student Center room #306

- *Oxfam America Hunger Banquet*

6:30--8:00 PM Student Center Ballroom--Hunger is a global problem. 25,000 people die from hunger every day. Oxfam's hunger banquet will bring to life the inequalities and allow you to gain a new perspective...all while providing a free meal!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS

Wednesday, November 9

- [Bloomington] *Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan* will hold their general monthly meeting at 5:30 pm First United Methodist Church, 219 E. 4. For more info, visit hchp.info or email Robert Stone or Karen Green Stone at rstone@hchp.info.
- [Indianapolis] *SuEllen Fried will speak about her book "Banishing Bullying Behavior"* at 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center, 6701 Hoover Road, sponsored by Indianapolis Section of National Council of Jewish Women, Mother's Circle, The Villages and Prevent Child Abuse as part of the 13th Annual Ann Katz Festival of the Books and the Arts. For more info, contact Larry Rothenberg at lrothenberg@JCCindy.org or 715-9233.

Friday, November 11

- [Indianapolis] *The weekly vigil protesting warfare* will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, North and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or we will provide you with one. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 926-3068 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org
- [Indianapolis] *A Town Hall Meeting on refugee immigration* entitled "Making Indiana Home" will take place at the Indiana Historical Society, Ohio and West, with a Reception at 6:00 pm and the program at 7:00 pm.
- [Indianapolis] *The film "Pig Business,"* which reveals that huge factory meat farms overcrowd and mistreat animals, put small farmers out of business, and pollute the water and air, endangering the health of local residents and consumers, will be shown at 7:00 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 6450 Allisonville Road. Special guest will be Barbara Sha Cox from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Watch. For more info, phone 251-1481 or email epworthgreenteam@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 12

- [Indianapolis] *Justice for All* will meet at 2 pm at Earth House, 237 N. East. For more info, phone Jennifer Cobb at 222-8476.
- [Nashville] There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not the Answer!" at 6:00 pm at Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or annntom@hotmail.com.

Sunday, November 13

- [Indianapolis] *Indianapolis Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)* will meet, 2-4:00 pm, in W125 (West Entrance 4) of Broadway United Methodist Church, 609 E. 29. A presentation will follow confidential sharing time. For more info, email Annette Gross at Schwester26@comcast.net.
- [Indianapolis] *Dignity Indianapolis, a Catholic GLBT and friends group*, will hold its monthly Mass and pitch-in meal at 6:00 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Illinois and W. 46. For more information, visit dignityindy.com or email Marvin Wagner at rita_marvin@sbcglobal.net.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS (CONT.)

Monday, November 14

- [Indianapolis] *Charles Fishman, journalist and author of "The Wal-Mart Effect,"* will help us re-evaluate our relationship with water in a presentation entitled "The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water" at 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center, 6701 Hoover Road (Cost: \$5; \$3 for JCC members) as part of the 13th Annual Ann Katz Festival of the Books. For more info, email Larry Rothenberg at lrothenberg@jccindy.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

ON-CAMPUS

- November 17: Freshman Connections Presents: Tapped
TC 101 7:30pm
Think you know everything there is to know about bottled water? The film *Tapped* will show you how much more there is to learn about the far-reaching problems created by the big business of bottled water.
From the plastic factory to the ocean in which so many of these bottles end up, this inspiring documentary follows the path of the bottled water industry and the communities that have become unwitting chips in the struggle to make water a commodity to be bought and sold. A powerful portrait of the lives affected by the bottled water industry, *Tapped* features those caught at the intersection of big business and the public's right to water.
Created by Stephanie Soechtig and the producers of *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, this film will give you a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of an industry that bombards us with claims that "bottled is better."
Following the showing of *Tapped*, Falon French will discuss some of the most pressing environmental impacts of the bottled water industry on the lives of Hoosiers, from water bottles' carbon footprint to the oil it takes to manufacture and ship them. Falon will also suggest safer and healthier alternatives to bottled water and ways to wean Indiana off the bottle.
Falon French joined the Hoosier Environmental Council staff in 2008. As a policy researcher and outreach associate, she has worked on numerous state-level and federal campaigns to address some of the most critical environmental issues facing Indiana, including climate change, coal pollution, and water quality and run-off contamination.

DISCLAIMER: The events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

If you would like for your events to be included in this newsletter, please contact Lacey Lord at lglord@bsu.edu.