



Annual Report 2003



Acknowledgements

Content

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Preface by Lisa Fredriksson



One of FIAN's strengths has always been the way in which the organization manages to combine a true grassroots orientation with influential advocacy and lobby work at the highest international level – being instrumental in clarifying and strengthening international legislation and the understanding of the right to food. Always firmly based in our practical work and experiences, we can act with credibility and legitimacy at the international level. I believe this is the reason why FIAN attracts members, commitment and interests from so many different people and spheres of society.

2003 was another milestone for FIAN, since this was the year of the first truly international FIAN meeting in the Global South. With the wonderful hospitality of FIAN Philippines, a FIAN Biennial International Conference (BIC) on the Basic Income concept was held in November in Manila. A group of new and old members of the ever-growing FIAN family as well as prominent guests and dear FIAN friends that had been invited to share their experiences participated. There were representatives from 16 countries and five continents. This relatively new issue for FIAN of was explored through thematic and country-specific presentations and intensive discussions.

This was the 4th BIC in the history of FIAN. We had met in 1995 in Bury St. Edmunds (United Kingdom) to discuss Human Rights Training and Education, in 1997 in Paris to discuss and launch the Agrarian Reform Campaign and in 1999 in Bonn, Germany to talk about Globalization and FIAN's vision and mission. Having this kind of international thematic conferences was introduced as a way to give the organization the time and possibility to discuss, explore and conceptualize important issues in depth.

Each year, between the Biennial Conferences, the International Council (IC), the "parliament" of FIAN meets and takes political decisions on the organizational and strategic issues that guide the organization. The „government“ of FIAN, the International Executive Committee (IEC), a group of people of different ages, gender, nationalities, backgrounds, professions – reflecting the diversity of the organization – then works to plan and structure the work in more detail within the framework set up by the IC, which the International Secretariat (IS) with its wonderful and energetic staff then implements. Last year the IEC focussed, among other things, on strengthening the interventions of solidarity through Urgent Actions and Hotlines, which is the core activity of FIAN.

One of the most important aspects of all international FIAN meetings is the sharing of experiences and getting to know each other and each other's work better. Therefore, one of the most powerful memories of the BIC in the Philippines was to see and listen to FIAN's sections and coordinations around the world as they presented themselves. Although there are sometimes differences in work approaches and methods, the strong and vibrant commitment is the same.

In just a few years, FIAN will turn 20 years of age – we have come a long way together and will travel even further. The organization is at the same time young and old, innovative and experienced. We invite you all, through this annual report, to reflect on yet another year in FIAN's history.

Lisa Fredriksson
President of FIAN International

*Review of the year***Review of the year****FIAN International Highlights of 2003 – a View From the Secretary General**

Each section and co-ordination has had its own highlights in 2003 and for FIAN International altogether there have been many important developments in the past year. A few of them stand out for me and deserve to be recalled.

The year 2003 was another year of growth in activity and organizational strength. This was clearly demonstrated through FIAN's „international action highlight“ on World Food Day, October 16, and at FIAN's International Conference „Basic Income – Minimum Wage“ in Manila in November. The international action highlight was a global action day around the slogan „Land for People – Not for Profit“. The International Secretariat together with almost all sections and co-ordinations had prepared it. The sections implemented the action day with a wide range of activities that reached out to the public. From now on, FIAN International will regularly organize one or two of such action days per year. They will highlight the unique global action capacity of FIAN International – and reach out to the public with its message, its „mistica“ and with more secular issues – such as donation-based fundraising.

It is difficult to find an English word for the term „mistica“: It means something spiritual, emotional and at the same time popular. In 2003 this „other side of FIAN“ – the grassroots' vision and mission – came out very clearly without FIAN losing any of its professional expertise, legal rationality and technical precision. Mistica was clearly in the air at the Manila conference – not only due to the visionary theme „basic income“, but particularly in the interaction of participants and experts.

The high standing of FIAN International as an expert lobbying organization came out strongly in the context of the FAO's Intergovernmental Working Group on Guidelines for the Right to Food. The International Secretariat – with the help of sections and co-ordinations – facilitated the civil society input into this process. While the US government had dispatched some of its hard line lawyers and diplomats to water

down beyond recognition this initiative of the World Food Summit, FIAN International and a group of specialists that sympathize with our cause acted as an important resource for those governments that are determined to strengthen the right to food.

Similarly, it became clear in 2003 that FIAN International is the main challenger of the World Bank's global land policies, which make a mockery out of agrarian reform and could in fact pave the way for global agribusiness to the detriment of smallholders. The global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, carried out by FIAN together with the international peasant coalition La Via Campesina, developed into a pioneering area for the gender work of FIAN International. The conference „Agrarian Reform and Gender“ in Cochabamba, Bolivia in June provided an opportunity to share the experience of rural women fighting for their right to feed themselves in the context of agrarian reform.

Highlighting some issues makes it inevitable to leave out other equally important ones – such as the increasing level of day-to-day interventions into violations of the right to food through letter campaigns, by way of fact-finding missions and advocacy – or the sound liaison and educational work with sections and interested civil society organizations in different parts of the world. 2003 was a year of reform in FIAN International's publication sector: our web-site was completely overhauled, a new quarterly newsletter „Hungry for justice“ and an expert publication the „Right to Food Journal“ were launched.

2003 was a positive year for FIAN International. The sections were consolidated and the range of activities and related budgets were expanded. Many challenges remain for 2004 – both politically and organizationally.

Rolf Künnemann
Secretary General of FIAN International



Joining Hands for the Right to Food – FIAN in the World

Since the organization was set up in 1986, FIAN has witnessed a steady growth in terms of members and activities. Over the years, local structures have been created at the local level – so called sections and co-ordinations. Being grassroots organization, the need is felt for a sound balance between the consolidation of existing structures and the drive towards further expansion. The year 2003 was characteristic in that sense. In the course of it, one co-ordination of FIAN was turned into a section (that of Uttar Pradesh, India) and a group of human rights activists, all long standing FIAN members, decided to set up a new FIAN co-ordination in Bangladesh. Likewise, major efforts were made to stabilize already existing sections and co-ordinations. All over the world, there are now currently 19 sections and co-ordinations. The organization counts over 3000 members in 57 countries, who receive FIAN information and participate in selected activities.

Another characteristic of a grassroots organization is the involvement of active members – a key asset for its development. Their activities must be supported and to some extent coordinated by the national secretariats of the sections in co-operation with the international secretariat of FIAN. Originally, the secretariats were all run by voluntary staff. But over the years, the increased and diverse number of activities of FIAN lead to a demand for more professional secretariats. A tour of the local structures of FIAN around the continents shows what the major events of the year were.

Starting with Asia

In Asia, FIAN is firmly implanted in the Philippines and in India – in the latter country with a total of three sections and one co-ordination. Meanwhile Sri Lanka and in Bangladesh are taking their first steps in this direction.

FIAN Philippines added to its sectional strength and capability in 2003. The section was engaged in two major events during the year: A Regional Training Workshop on the Right to Food in Bangkok, Thailand, and the FIAN Biennial International Conference in Manila, Philippines. Both events were carried out very successfully with a substantial impact on FIAN as a whole. Apart from organizing and assisting these events, the section continues to document violations of the right to food, which are mostly due to the non-implementation of agrarian reform and to lobby with national authorities responsible for such violations. On the organizational side, there are now four local groups, in Mindanao, Visayas, Manila and Sariaya. Each of these local groups has its own specific focus based on its areas of expertise.



Importation of genetically modified grain prevented in India

On February 26th, the FIAN network learnt about a pending decision of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of India on whether to allow the importation of 23,000 tonnes of genetically modified (GM) Corn-Soya blend. In a Special Intervention addressed to the Indian Prime Minister, the Secretary General of FIAN international expressed his concern about the tendency to invite GM food to India under the pretext of food aid. He also pointed out that India had some 50 million tons of foodgrains stocked in its silos – enough to address the current food shortages without recourse to GM food. Foreign relief agencies could simply be provided with local grains to assist in the implementation of the Supreme Courts orders. Such an approach is widely advocated internationally, because it strengthens local producers of grains rather than confronting them with highly subsidised competition from abroad. On March 6th, the GEAC rejected the request by aid agencies to import GM Corn-Soya - a decision that confirmed FIAN's concern and gave a boost to the ongoing struggle for the Right to Food in India.

Joining Hands for the Right to Food - FIAN in the World

FIAN Uttar Pradesh consolidated in 2003. The section now has a professional secretariat with two full-time co-ordinators. The joint project between FIAN Uttar Pradesh and FIAN Norway is running successfully with its first fact-finding mission having taken place in November 2003. The purpose of the fact-finding mission was to gather facts on violations of the right to food related to land problems, lack of implementation of the Supreme Court orders on the right to food and minimum income standards in four regions of Uttar Pradesh (Chitrakoot, Bahraich, Allahabad and Lucknow). Parallel to these activities, the section is collaborating closely with the right to food campaign in Uttar Pradesh.

"We managed to conduct four fact-finding missions in 2003, and the international conference organized by our section really inspired people! Plus it is so encouraging to see the number of our members grow – A successful year!"

FIAN Austria

With a newly employed programme officer, FIAN West Bengal is set to take off. One of its main activities in 2003 in collaboration with FIAN International was the co-ordination of FIAN workshops for the World Social Forum in January 2004 in Mumbai as well as the organization of a fact-finding mission on the right to water in the run-up to the Forum. Three separate missions were dispatched to Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. FIAN West Bengal was actively involved in organizing the fact-finding mission to Orissa. In addition, the section will be responsible for designing and carrying out a FIAN workshop at the forum.

FIAN Tamil Nadu is also consolidating. In August a two-day workshop on the right to food was organized by the section. Apart from FIAN Tamil Nadu members, a number of FIAN Karnataka members and others from various NGOs participated. As the first section in India, it received the necessary Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration and is thus eligible to receive foreign funding.



FIAN Karnataka was actively involved in the Right-to-Food-Campaign, focussing especially on the implementation of the Midday Meal Scheme for schools and food aid for senior citizens. Other topics covered were WTO issues and the ongoing farmers' suicides. On World Food Day, a big farmers' rally was organized by FIAN Karnataka.

After the return of its co-ordinator from abroad, FIAN Co-ordination Sri Lanka Co-ordination has got back to work. The co-ordination is organizing a right to food workshop for July 2004.

FIAN Co-ordination Bangladesh was founded in summer 2003. Its main activity since then has been organization of the fact-finding mission to Bangladesh in collaboration with FIAN International.

Joining Hands for the Right to Food - FIAN in the World

Moving on to Latin America

The year 2003 was marked by consolidation in the Americas. The sections in Brazil, Honduras and Mexico have increased their presence in the national arena, meanwhile FIAN activists in other countries on the continent (e.g. Argentina and the USA) have shown great interest in setting up national and local FIAN structures.

FIAN Brazil has continued its institutional consolidation with its national secretariat in the city of Goiania and two regular staff. Funding of the section has now been secured for the next four years. The number of members and groups is growing. In 2003, FIAN Brazil organized and conducted six regional workshops. In August 2003, the section organized a national training course attended by 30 participants. FIAN Brazil prepared the activities and presence of FIAN at the World Social Forum 2003 in Porto Alegre. FIAN Brazil is playing an important role in spearheading the issues of the right to food and water at the national level. Additionally, the section is collaborating with the national rapporteur on the right to food in monitoring violations of the right to food in Brazil. The section is currently drafting its report on the situation of the right to food in Brazil and conducting a study on the Zero Hunger Program to be published by FIAN in 2004.

Thanks to the improvement of its financial situation, the section of FIAN Honduras was able to strengthen its secretariat by employing two staff members from December 2002 onwards. The section has been involved in right to food education activities and has been supporting victims of violations of the right to food in various parts of the country through its case work. From September 21st – 24th, a regional workshop on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights was held in Honduras. The participants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Argentina and FIAN International drafted a resolution on the matter and developed a common agenda for Central America, which includes several activities on the right to food in the region for the upcoming years.

FIAN Mexico

The Mexican Section carried out several educational activities, workshops, seminars and panels in different regions of Mexico. One of the lobbying highlights of the year concentrated on the demand to include the human right to food into the national Constitution: On October 14th, FIAN Mexico presented a petition to the newly elected Parliament with 4000 signatures. Seven Members of Parliament of different parties agreed to work on a joint motion on that issue. The section also actively backed FIAN's participation at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancún.

"We have become more visible!"

"We have become more visible in 2003, so now we are often invited as co-organizers to different seminars and conferences!"

FIAN Philippines



"After a time of organization that has not been easy, we have now a good a base for the future."

FIAN Rhône-Alpes

Joining Hands for the Right to Food - FIAN in the World

Crossing to Africa

FIAN has an extensive network of members and partner organizations in the different sub-regions of Africa. The network is particularly strong in Southern and West Africa. FIAN was involved both in intervention work and lobbying work in South Africa. The first country to have set up a FIAN structure is FIAN Ghana. The focus of the co-ordination is on monitoring cases of violations of the right to feed oneself related to mining activities as well as hydro-electric projects causing the destruction of productive resources. In the course of the year, the activities of FIAN Ghana attracted much press attention in the country and a number of positive impacts in the struggle against right to food violations were achieved.



Ending the Tour with Europe

The year 2003 was a special year for most of the European sections and co-ordinations. The majority of them, that is Austria, Belgium, Rhône-Alpes, Norway and Sweden have taken a step towards professionalization, by switching from solely voluntary work towards the establishment of a secretarial structure, including regular staff and the setting-up of functioning offices. This development represents an advancement because the existence of regular staff gives an identity to the sections, ensures continuity and, together with the national boards, enables a better co-ordination of the voluntary work of FIAN members in each territory. The section of FIAN Switzerland and the co-ordinations of FIAN in South Tyrol and Italy are currently the only remaining structures relying uniquely on volunteers.

Achievement!

The way forward in North Karnataka, India

The Indian Supreme Court Order that forced state schools to continue providing the mid-day meal to school children as well as upholding the public distribution system has shown its effect in the North of Karnataka, the Indian federal state. Through the Public Distribution System, people below the poverty line were formerly provided only 5 kilograms of rice per month. After the supreme court direction, however, and after the local FIAN Coordination had pronounced itself publicly on the matter, this amount rose to 35 kilograms of rice in some districts.

Joining Hands for the Right to Food - FIAN in the World

Work in the sections has therefore expanded considerably, both in terms of their internal consolidation as well as with respect to the realization of a diverse set of activities along the main thematic issues. For instance, FIAN Austria has adopted work themes - water, gender and agrarian reform. The voluntary guidelines process on the right to adequate food of the FAO, (a major lobbying object of FIAN International) is a core issue of work for FIAN Belgium, FIAN Germany and FIAN Austria. Accompanying cases of violations of the right to feed oneself is the main task of the Northern sections. On Oct 16th, World Food Day, all European sections carried out specific activities, among which were seminars and public events with a delegation of representatives of victims of violations of the right to food in Colombia. Some sections, such the German one, were able to create outreach material specifically for the occasion.



For Justice and our Rights: We struggle for land

The European sections have taken up the issue of alerting the public to specific cases of violation. Therefore most sections have used their consolidation process to promote interventions against acute cases of violations of the right to food. Another focus is case work for which the tandem project of FIAN Norway and FIAN Uttar Pradesh offers a good background. Several Indian cases have been adopted and a fact-finding mission has been carried out.

For FIAN Germany, 2003 was also a year of organizational changes. A new Secretary General took up office. Organization building and the recruitment of members were prioritized while several specific themes were tackled (Agrarian Reform, WTO, Flowers, Gold).

Apart from producing eye-catching material for public relations purposes, informative web-sites have been installed or relaunched by most of the European sections – an indispensable tool for gaining visibility and the attention of newly interested persons.

The European sections meet regularly for training and the exchange of experience on all issues of relevance for their growth and stabilization, such as organization-building, lobbying and budgeting. The seminars proved to be a very useful learning experience and allowed the development of common evaluation and planning processes.

Resolution of the European Parliament on Guatemala

After intensive lobbying by FIAN International, Guatemalan and other NGOs, the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France passed a resolution which was surprisingly direct in its criticism of the situation in Guatemala. The right to food was explicitly mentioned in connection with the forced evictions of indigenous Guatemalans, and the lack of security of land tenure and agrarian reform. The resolution of the European Parliament demanded that the European Union give priority to rural development and security of land tenure in its future development cooperation with Guatemala. The resolution came at a time when the meeting of Guatemalan donor organisations was approaching. It was therefore important in shedding light on the former Guatemalan government's lack of implementation of its obligations under the peace treaties.

Interventions for the Realization of the Right to Food

From the People for the People: Interventions for the Realization of the Right to Food

The realization of the right to adequate food is a complex task requiring the parallel use of different instruments. The centre-piece of FIAN's work targeted at highlighting violations of the right to feed oneself and holding state authorities accountable are the Urgent Actions, Hotlines and Emergency Network Actions. The latter being launched in the framework of the Agrarian Reform Campaign. These three are letter campaigns distributed via national and international distribution lists to the individual members of FIAN in acute cases of violations of the right to feed oneself.

A total of 30 widely disseminated interventions were launched during 2003. These interventions were all translated into English, Spanish, French, and German. Furthermore, many of them were also printed in the local languages of FIAN sections and co-ordinations (e.g. Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish, Tagalog and Tamil).

The geographical breakdown of interventions launched in 2003 is as follows: Asia 15; Central and South America 14; Africa 1.

Compared to 2002, there has been an increase in the number of interventions launched in 2003 in Asia as well as in Central and South America. However, the number of interventions decreased in Africa from 5 to 1, due to the lack of staff capacity.

Aside from such letter campaigns which are distributed to FIAN sections, individuals and other networks, FIAN also sends out "Special Interventions". Special interventions are single letters addressed to the authority responsible for a human rights violation. In some cases, for example, when the time constraint is particularly tight, when FIAN has already intervened in the past or when they are timed to fit within a dialogue or lobby process, these single letters can have a very effective impact.

58 of such Special Interventions were sent out during 2003 - quite an increase compared to numbers in previous years. Apparently the general demand for interventions on the part of the victims is increasing.

The following is a list of FIAN interventions in 2003.

Hotlines, Urgent Actions and Emergency Network Actions

0301UHND

Honduras: Women fight for their right to food, Atlantida. The women have reached a favorable resolution from the INA (Instituto Nacional Agrario).

0302UIND

India: Manual Scavengers are suffering hunger due to denial of their wages, Ghazipur. since August 2001, 16 manual scavengers (sweepers) working for the municipal corporation have been denied their monthly wage.

0304HIND

India: Brutal assault against Adivasis struggling for their right to feed themselves, Kerala. The non-implementation of an agreement of August 2001 between the government of Kerala and the Adivasis still remains.

0306HNIC

Nicaragua: Hunger strike for defence of agrarian reform in Chinandega. After the intervention a partial agreement was reached.

0307 UBRA

Brazil: Rural women workers struggle for their rights. Many demands were met by the authorities. The movement of peasant women came out strengthened and thanked FIAN for their intervention.

0308HGHA

Ghana: Gold mining threatens forest communities. After the intervention the government reduced the number of forest reserves targeted for destruction from 5 to 2.

0309HTHA

Thailand: The right to food of 5 million poor rice farmers is threatened by a US government funded project. The threats remain.

0310 HIND

India: Wildlife sanctuary puts more than 10,000 people under threat in Tamil Nadu. The government has still neither come up with a rehabilitation nor a compensation plan.

Interventions for the Realization of the Right to Food

0311 ACOL

Colombia: Agression campaign against reasants association with unjurements and destruction of premises
Their situation is still insecure.

0312 AARG

Argentina: brutal eviction and arrest of peasants
Peasants who had been detained are now free.
People are allowed to return to their land.

0313 HIND

India: Malfunctioning of rice distribution for poor workers
Thousands of landless agricultural workers are still waiting for their food-grain entitlements.

0314 HPHL

Philippines: Destruction of fishing grounds by industrial fishing
The main food and source of income for the people is still being destroyed.

0315 HBRA

Brazil: Destruction of productive resources in Maranhão. Crops are still being destroyed and water contaminated.

0316HBRA

Brazil: Harassment and invasions by landlords in Bahía, Brazil
The landowner has taken illegal control of land traditionally used as a communal farming area.

0317ABRA

Brazil: Landless peasants demand agrarian reform
The current government faces great pressure from forces connected to large estate owners who use of violence against the landless. Their demand formulated in a FIAN intervention that the government speed up the introduction of a National Plan for Agrarian Reform as been positively acknowledged by the authorities.

0318APHL

Philippines: Threats to agrarian reform by a bill pending in Congress
The Bill passed the Senate but is still pending in Congress.

0319HGTM

Guatemala: Theft of indigenous territory in Quiché
830 families do still not have enough land to fulfil their right to food, Quiché.



0320HIND

India: Forced eviction in Maharashtra, India
Families in dam construction area are still expecting fair and just relocation according to judgements.

0321HIND

India: Diversion of Water in Kerala, India
An amusement park will rob the irrigation water of around 46 villages and 20,000 farming families.

0322HPHL

Philippines: Landless tenants suffer harassment and hunger in San Narciso, Bondoc Peninsula
Peasant communities in the Municipality of San Narciso have been facing systematic harassment due to a land conflict between landless tenants and armed militia working for their land.

0323HPHL

Philippines: Eviction of indigenous tribe in Mindanao
Indigenous people's families were forcibly evicted and now living in temporarily shelters.

0324HIND

India: Arrests of Anti-Coca Cola Activists in Kerala
The coca cola plant depletes ground water. Activists against faced harassment.

Interventions for the Realization of the Right to Food



0325ABRA

Brazil: Armed landlords prevent realization of agrarian reform in Paraná
180 landless families are still camping on the border of the road in Paraná after they were harassed by armed military groups hired by land owners.

0326HIND

India: Evictions of Adivasis in Maharashtra
Houses and more than a thousand acres of their crops have been destroyed by a company with support from the police.

0327AHND

Honduras: Killing of peasants in agrarian conflicts in Yoro and La Paz
The perpetrators of the crime are known but not castigated.

0328APAK

Pakistan: Continuing repression and violation of land rights of tenants in Punjab
The peasants had achieved a success as paramilitary forces had to withdraw from the area after two months of sustained repression. The Provincial government is now being pressurized to transfer land to the Federal Ministry of Defence to the detriment of the peasants.

0329ABRA

Brazil: Peasants march for the fulfilment of agrarian reform, Goiania-Brasilia
The march was organized by the National Forum for agrarian Reform and rural justice, and met President Lula on November 18.

0330HIND

India: Brutal eviction of fisherfolk
3000 fisherfolk were severely beaten by the West Bengal police. They are affected by a ban on fishing activities enforced by the government.

0331UIND

INDIA : Threats to the right to food of indigenous peoples, Tamil Nadu
FIAN had launched an action in 2001 to support the indigenous peoples' resistance against their displacement. The new action supports the activists heard in court.

The following are Special Interventions of the International Secretariat

s0301, Honduras: Department of Santa Bárbara. 29 families victims of forcible evictions. Follow-up on 0226.

s0302, Ecuador: Province of Sucumbíos. Authorisation of petrol and mining activities on indigenous territories.

s0303, Brazil: Vale do Jequitinhonha. 2000 victims. Dam construction threatens the livelihoods of rural communities.

s0304, India: East Parej, Jharkhand. Mining activities. Follow-up on 0001.

s0305, Brazil: Vão da Salina. 70 victims. Follow-up on 0315. Destruction of resources.

s0306, India: Wayanad, Kerala. 6000 victims. Follow-up on 0304HIND.

s0307, Honduras: Olancho. Members of a co-operative threatened and intimidated. Five persons injured.

s0308, Honduras: Shrimp company threatens livelihood for peasants and farmers in coast communities.

s0309, Mexico: German transnational tyre company Euzkadi-Continental plan to violently put an end to hunger strike carried out displaced employees.

s0310, Argentina: Province of Santiago del Estero. Five peasant families displaced. Have since been able to return to their land

Interventions for the Realization of the Right to Food

s0338, Nicaragua: Letter to the president demanding immediate aid to the starving coffee workers and land to feed themselves.

s0339 Nicaragua: Hunger in Northern Nicaragua. Letter to the Inter-American Court on Human Rights to rule on behalf of starving children of coffee workers. In a previous action important interim order was reached. Court responded.

s0340, Honduras: Los Puntales. Forcible eviction of peasants. Detailed response from government.

s0341, Honduras: EAC Fidel Cortés. Threat of eviction of peasants on agrarian reform land.

s0342, Paraguay: Mbuyapey. Peasants denied access to land. Manipulation of land distribution against landless.

s0343, India: East Parej, Jharkhand. 40 victims. Follow-up on s0334.

s0344, Thailand Program might lead to U.S. patent of jasmine rice and thus the starvation of five million Issan farmers. Follow-up on 0309HTHA.

s0345, Colombia: Criminalization, intimidation and detention of peasants.

s0346, Mexico: Peasant farmers are kept from participating in the protest against the WTO meeting.

s0347, India: Maharashtra. Peasant families forcibly evicted by the Maharashtra state Farming Corporation with the support from the police. Follow-up on 0326HIND.

s0348, Brazil: Engenho Prado, Pernambuco.. Threat of eviction. Follow up on 0329ABRA. On November, 26, 2003, president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed the decree for the agrarian reform. In Engenho Prado four (900 ha) out of five areas claimed by the land less are to be expropriated.

s0349, Guatemala: Municipality of Fraijanes. Threat of eviction of peasant families by the state.

s0350, Brazil: Engenho Prado, Pernambuco. 300 families victims. Threat of eviction. Follow-up on 0329ABRA and s0348



s0350, Bolivia: FIAN asks the OHCHR-UNOG to install a Commission in Bolivia to verify the current occurrences, prevent future massacres and to persuade the government to respect human rights.

s0351, Honduras: Atlántida, Tegucigalpa. Follow-up on 0301UHND.

s0352, Peru: District of Tambogrande, department of Piura. 1,500 families fall victim. Mining activities threatens the livelihoods of peasants.

s0353, Brazil: Engenho Prado. Follow up on 0329ABRA, s0348 and s0350. Four (900 ha) out of five areas claimed by the landless are to be expropriated.

s0354, Guatemala: Follow-up on s0349.

s0355, Mexico: Follow-up on s0309.

s0357, Guatemala: Follow-up on s0319.

s0358, Ecuador: Sarayacu. Violence against the indigenous community marching in protest of oil exploitation. Follow-up on 0305HECU.



Fact-finding Missions - FIAN Investigations on the Ground

Fact-finding missions are a still relatively new instrument for FIAN. They take place upon invitation from human rights organizations or other partners of FIAN in countries where violations of the right to feed themselves are occurring. FIAN launches such missions in order to investigate ongoing cases of violations and to obtain an objective perspective of the situation as well as document the case. Therefore, the investigation team is composed of FIAN activists as well as of people from other local or national CSOs and NGOs. During the mission, the team visits the area, conducts extensive interviews with the victims and support groups, as well as with the responsible authorities. This is another asset of the fact finding mission: In the course of it, the team tries to achieve dialogue with the official level and discuss the necessary measures to be taken so that the state implements the right to food according to its obligations under international or national law.

Through accompanying public relations and press work, fact finding missions also contribute to raising awareness with the general public about ongoing violations. This often leads to putting additional pressure on governments to fulfil their legal duty towards the victims.

Fact-finding missions have therefore become a well established instrument of analysis of violations of the right to food, which can eventually reach an effective improvement of the situation of the affected communities. In the course of the year, FIAN and partner organizations conducted fact-finding missions to Argentina, Guatemala and Bangladesh.

Impact of IMF and World Bank Policies on the Right to Food in Argentina

In January 2003, a fact-finding mission team composed of FIAN, eed (Church Development Service, Germany) and Ökumenische Werkstatt (Germany) was sent to Argentina in order to investigate whether the state is complying with its obligations under the



International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to fulfil the right to food of communities and social groups threatened by hunger and malnutrition. The team conducted numerous interviews and investigated alleged violations of the right to food. Additionally, the mission endeavoured to find out about the impact of the policies promoted by the IMF and the World Bank and whether these institutions (and by extension their member states) were responsible for violations of the right to food. The team found out that state financed support programmes for groups vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition are largely insufficient. The fact-finding mission report was submitted to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and received broad attention by the media in Argentina and other Spanish-speaking countries.

Fact-Finding Mission - Guatemala

From March 20th - April 10th, a fact-finding team composed of members of FIAN International, FIAN Honduras, FIAN Austria and CENIDH (Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights) visited sites of land conflicts and held meetings with the Guatemalan authorities and the press. The mission took a close look at the reported attacks on human rights defenders and the increased level of violence in rural areas, specifically against peasants leaders. Since FIAN had already conducted a mission to the country two years earlier, the fact-finding team also had the opportunity to assess

Fact Finding Missions - FIAN Investigations on the Ground

progress made in the implementation of those parts of the Peace Agreement that have an impact on the right to food. It was found that none of the land conflicts that had been monitored since 2001 had been effectively resolved. The mission also investigated the situation of women and found rampant discrimination with respect to access to productive resources. The mission also singled out specific cases where the rights of indigenous communities are not being respected. The results of the fact-finding missions were presented to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and were widely publicized in the national and international press.



FIAN fact-finding mission Uttar Pradesh

The joint project between FIAN Uttar Pradesh and FIAN Norway is running successfully with its first fact-finding mission having taken place in November 2003. The purpose of the fact-finding mission was to gather facts on violations of the right to food related to land problems, lack of implementation of the Supreme Court orders on the right to food and minimum income standards in four regions of Uttar Pradesh (Chitrakoot, Bahraich, Allahabad and Lucknow).

FIAN fact-finding mission in Bangladesh

A mission consisting of members from different countries visited Bangladesh from 9.9 – 5.10.03 in order to investigate right to food violations in certain areas and talk to the authorities on behalf of victims' groups. In the areas visited, land-grabbing was a serious problem. Many of the land-robbing land barons did not shun violence to intimidate peasants lawfully residing on their land. The FIAN fact-finding mission received a high press coverage during and after the visit. Through the mission, FIAN became more visible among certain circles involved in land rights and related issues. Many new contacts were made.

Achievement!

Dismissed workers of tyre producer Continental win over public opinion in Germany & Mexico

The workers of the Mexican factory of „Continental“, the German car-tyre producing multinational company won a partial success in their struggle for their jobs: „Continental“ has agreed to reopen negotiations with the workers. Without any warning the company had shut down overnight in December 2001 with the workers finding themselves jobless from one day to the other. Because the union of the workers had been protesting against plans of the company's management to drastically worsen working conditions. With the support of FIAN, representatives of the union visited Germany in May to enlighten the German public about „Continental's“ illegal acts in Mexico and confront the company's managers at this year's shareholder meeting in Hanover, Germany. The tour was widely reported on in the German and Mexican media. Eventually, the Mexican ambassador and the German Ministry of Economy and Labour mediated a meeting of the two sides, in which first negotiations about the reopening of the plant took place. The case is an encouraging example of how the struggle for the right to food can be led successfully on two fronts, in the violating state, (Mexico), but also in the country of origin (Germany) of the responsible party („continental“).

The Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform

Since its inception in 1999, the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform has been teaming up with peasants and their support groups all over the world in order to ensure secure access to land to peasants families. Three objectives of the Campaign are to assist existing national peasant movements in their struggle for land reform in their own country; to promote the exchange of experience on issues related to agrarian reform and to put agrarian reform high on the international agenda. FIAN and La Vía Campesina launched various activities in 2003, amongst which figured fact-finding missions (please refer to page X for more details), an International Workshop on Agrarian Reform and Gender in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and a Europe tour of Colombian peasant leaders. The Campaign also regularly launched international letter campaigns through the „Emergency Network“, in order to end violations of the right to food related to the lack of implementation of agrarian reform.

Women in the Struggle for Land

International Workshop on Agrarian Reform and Gender, Cochabamba, Bolivia

Gender was on the top of the agenda of the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform in 2003. It was envisaged to allocate gender questions their due importance in the conceptual work of the campaign as well as in its day-to-day functioning. Against this background, a workshop entitled “Gender and Agrarian Reform” was held from 4th to 8th June in Cochabamba, Bolivia. It was organised by FIAN, La Vía Campesina and two Bolivian organisations, Bartolina Sisa and CESA. 62 women delegates, representing peasant and indigenous organisations and human rights organisations from 24 countries attended the workshop. It was the first event ever to explicitly address women's rights to land in agrarian reform.



The presence of experienced female activists proved that women have long been organising themselves in their struggle for land. At the workshop, participants exchanged views about their experiences in the struggle for land and gender equality in the access to land. They debated and developed strategies that would be integrated into the work of the Campaign. One of the main questions that surfaced in the workshop was whether women needed systems of land tenure that would allow them to own or use land individually or within communal arrangements rather than as part of a family. Participants came to the conclusion that the right to food is an individual entitlement, which should allow individual access to land – notwithstanding the right of every community, society, culture or group to decide how such access should to be realised. Additionally, participants agreed on the importance of having a 50% female quota in the entire organisational set-up of any movement, organisation, event and activity. La Vía Campesina has already implemented this on the international level and will now motivate its member organisations to do the same.

The workshop had a great impact on the future work of the Campaign: FIAN will have to adopt new approaches in its case work, in order to deal with cases in which, for instance, women are denied access to land by their partners and husbands. Such an everyday occurrence in communities world-wide needs careful long-term work. Furthermore, FIAN will also develop a gender-sensitive fact-finding methodology.

The Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform



World Bank Policy Paper

A new paper on land policy published in 2003 by the World Bank accepts some of the critique that the Campaign has been expressing for several years. Particularly, it acknowledges the difficulties that the World Bank inspired market-based land reform programmes in Colombia and South Africa have run into. It recognizes that little attention has been paid to the application of comprehensive agrarian reforms with respect to access to credits, markets, technical assistance and infrastructure. Although it is a clear acknowledgement of what FIAN has been documenting over the last years, the paper however does not represent a deviation from the market-led approach.

The Campaign is currently working on a comprehensive analysis of the new land policy paper and the new rural development strategy of the World Bank. This analysis will provide the background document for future dialogue with the institution.

As an additional way of influencing World Bank Policy Development, the Campaign has started intensifying its lobbying at the country level with the three European governments Belgium, France, and

Germany. In a second step, a dialogue on land policy will be opened up in 2004 with EU governments, since the European Union is also in the process of developing a common set of guidelines on land policies for EU member states.

FIAN's contribution to the ECOSOC High-Level Segment Session

The 2003 High-level Segment meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council (the ECOSOC session where Ministers debate specific issues of relevance for their future policies) was devoted to rural development policies. The Campaign managed to influence the final statement of the NGO-Forum of the ECOSOC session stressing the importance of a human rights approach to poverty reduction and rural development and making a critical assessment of the new World Bank concept for rural development. At the ECOSOC high-level segment, it became clear that the Agrarian Reform Campaign of FIAN and La Vía Campesina is the most important civil society network worldwide challenging World Bank policies on land and rural development.

Colombian Peasant Delegation Tours Europe

Also within the Campaign, a delegation composed of representatives of Colombian peasant organisations was invited to tour six European countries between October 5th and November 15th. The tour was very successful since its main objectives were achieved: to expose the serious human rights situation faced by Colombian peasants. On the other hand, the delegation informed the public about the stalling of agrarian reform in the country and gained support for alternative agrarian policies in Colombia as put forward by a broad coalition of Colombian social movements. FIAN Belgium, FIAN Germany, FIAN Rhône-Alpes and FIAN Switzerland were actively involved in

The Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform

planning the tour of the delegation, which consisted of a wide range of public appearances, and also took part in the European Social Forum in Paris-St Denis, France.

European Social Forum

The Campaign organised the seminar „Land privatisation in the Global South: the role of European development policies“. The seminar aimed at informing the public about the process of developing a common set of guidelines on land policies for EU member states. Speakers from Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and South Africa commented the first draft of the guidelines from the perspective of Southern social movements. Since the seminar was the only event dealing with land issues, it was very well received and visited, in particular by European peasants who highlighted land privatisation and concentration of land ownership also in Europe. A European network to aiming at influencing the outcome of the drafting process of the EU guidelines was set up.



Regional seminar „The land struggle in Asia“, Chiang-Mai, Thailand

In order to deepen collective understanding and analysis of land and natural resource issues, and in order to strengthen collaborative strategies among social movements, researchers and civil society activists, the Asian component of the Land Research & Action Network LRAN organised a meeting in December with activists, researchers and representatives from social movements. The participants included people from Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Philippines and Thailand, and non-Asian countries. The seminar was a major step in intensifying the Campaign's work in Asia since many of the participants have now joined FIAN's network. Furthermore, the Campaign is planning to cooperate closely with LRAN on carrying out alternative research and capacity building on land issues.

FIAN in Action at the World Social Forum!

FIAN International and FIAN Brazil participated in this year's World Social Forum in Porto Alegre which united 100,000 activists from the four corners of the globe under the slogan „Another World is Possible“. In Porto Alegre, FIAN's strategy of mobilising informal networks, drawing people in personally and counting on the initiative of involved individuals proved to be very successful: the small FIAN team managed to stage six events which were all very well visited and triggered lively debates. FIAN organised events on the following topics: (1) the results of the January fact-finding to Argentina; (2) voluntary guidelines on the right to food; (3) the Agrarian Reform Campaign; (4) the right to food in Brazil; and (5) the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights. As a major highlight, FIAN and the world-wide peasant network „La Via Campesina“ signed and sealed the project of the first ever international conference on Gender and the Right to Food, which is to take place in Bolivia in June 2003.

During the many side events, FIAN activists managed to link up with activists from other organisations and plan common activities. In particular, a meeting with Brazilian NGOs focussed on the parallel report on socio-economic rights which is to be presented to the UN Commission on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in May by Brazilian civil society organisations including FIAN Brazil. All in all, FIAN's presence at the Forum was very important for giving the right to food the exposure it deserves. In fact, recent developments in Brazil after the elections have been very positive for the right to food, which is in no small part due to FIAN Brazil's high level of activism. The government has created a national council on ESCR rights which is made up of 6 rapporteurs who report to the government on the situation of ESCR rights but are selected by civil society and an outspoken supporter of the FIAN cause has been chosen as the rapporteur on the right to food.

Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food – FIAN's activities in 2003

Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food – FIAN's activities in 2003

Some history

Since 1995, FIAN has been working towards the development and adoption of new international legal instruments by the Food System of the United Nations for the implementation of the right to adequate food. Such activity is aimed at mainstreaming a rights based approach to food and nutrition issues within the UN-specialised agencies working in that field (FAO, WFP, IFAD). FIAN is the key organisation organising the international lobby work for the issue since 1995.

The right to food received additional support by the World Food Summit (WFS) Declaration of 1996, which started with a reinforcement of the right by all states present. Moreover the WFS demanded from the FAO and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to clarify the content of state obligations related to the right to food as well as to develop guidelines for its implementation.

As part of the follow-up of WFS, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations drafted General Comment No. 12 in 1999. The drafting process of legal interpretation of the right to food was continuously influenced by FIAN. Lobbying at the World Food Summit in June 2002 resulted in the decision to set up an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) to "elaborate a set of voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food". Since its inception in March 2003, FIAN has been organising the input of civil society organisations into the process and has prepared background material with the concerns and proposals of civil society organisations.



Although the guidelines will not be a binding instrument, they would give a stronger official character to the interpretation of the right to adequate food. The guidelines would help mainstream the right to food in operations of the FAO and among their members states.

FIAN's activities

The drafting process of the voluntary guidelines is to be finalised in two years (2005). FIAN has been facilitating the was scheduled to take process and enabling the broadest possible participation of NGOs/CSOs in the guidelines process. FIAN organised a workshop on the guidelines in 2002, to which more than 50 organisations were invited, representing different sectors of civil society in the North and South. Several documents with proposals for the guidelines by international civil society came out of the process. Together with the World Alliance on Nutrition and Human Rights (WANHR), the International Institute Jacques Maritain and the French NGO CFSI (Comité

Achievement!

Brutal assault of Adivasi struggling for the right to food in Wayanad, India

In February 2003 it was reported to the FIAN International Secretariat that many Adivasi (indigenous people) were suspected dead and or injured after police had opened fire on a camp of protesting Adivasi families in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala on February 19th, 2003. These Adivasi had been camping in front of the Chief Minister's residence since August 2001, demanding the return of land taken away from them. In the sequel to FIAN's letter campaign launched in February 2003, the government of India agreed to transfer over 7000 hectares of forestland for redistribution among landless Adivasi in Kerala.

Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food – FIAN's activities in 2003

Français pour la Solidarité Internationale). FIAN was elected with three other NGOs to represent the NGOs and civil society organisations in the negotiation group. FIAN has also been co-ordinating the NGO/CSO participation in the sessions of the IGWG to which member states and other stakeholders are invited to discuss the structure and content of the guidelines.

**Where do we stand today?**

The first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) focussed on the possible structure and content of the guidelines, while participants in the second session (late October 2003) debated a first draft prepared by the Bureau of the IGWG. Negotiations continue throughout the first half of 2004 until the IGWG's final meeting in July 2004 and final approval of the guidelines by the FAO Committee on Food Security which will meet in September 2004.

Resistance against strong guidelines comes from several countries, in particular those that do not support economic, social and cultural rights. The stakes are high because the development of the guidelines is the first process in the history of the United Nations, in which an economic, social or cultural right is discussed in detail among governments. However, FIAN is hoping to gain support from developing countries to which strong guidelines are of an immediate interest, while keeping up a dialogue with unsupportive governments.

Lobbying for the right to food**Optional Protocol**

Due to the historic division into two sets of human rights, existing instruments for enforcing economic, social and cultural rights are fewer and weaker than those for civil and political rights.

FIAN has therefore been supporting the adoption of an Optional Protocol for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights since 1991. Such a protocol would allow individuals or groups access to a complaints procedure within the UN system when one of their Covenant rights has been violated. FIAN already had an input into a first draft of such a protocol written by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural in 1996. In 2002, the Human Rights Commission of the UN finally formally opened up the process of elaboration of such guidelines. A working group will take up its work in early 2004.

Achievement!**Manual scavengers win in wages case, Ghazipur, India**

FIAN launched an intervention in February when 16 manual scavengers – street and sewage cleaners - had been denied their monthly wages for 18 months by the municipality. News reached FIAN International Secretariat in June 2003 that pressure exerted on the local authorities finally led to the upgrading of the wages of the manual scavengers and the payment of arrears.

Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food – FIAN's activities in 2003



FIAN has reacted by stepping up its activities in the course of 2003. FIAN's input was asked for in an expert seminar on the Optional Protocol organised by the German Institute for Human Rights. The results were subsequently divulged among the delegations of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. FIAN also initiated a lobbying alliance for the Optional Protocol with other international Human Rights Organisations. A "Joint Statement" of civil society organisations (CSOs) was written which defined elements that CSOs wanted to have included in an eventual Optional Protocol. It was supported by virtually all international human rights organisations and is now a strong lobbying tool in the ongoing process.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Every year, FIAN supports the presentation of violations of the right to feed oneself to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. FIAN compiles cases in so-called parallel reports, gives oral presentations or facilitates the process for national civil society organisations. In 2003, this was done for Brazil, the Russian Federation and Guatemala. The latter country presentation was accompanied by an extensive round trip of human rights activists from Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. For Brazil, FIAN and the Franciscans International organised the presence of a large civil society delegation to the Committee. FIAN has also published a guide for NGOs on how to produce parallel reports. In the first session of the Committee, FIAN also presented results of the fact finding mission to Argentina.

Furthermore, FIAN participated in the Day of General Discussion on the issue of the right to water.

FIAN International at the 59th session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva

FIAN intensified its presence at the Human Rights Commission (HR-Com) in 2003 and work with the HR-Com will be developed further in the coming years. In 2003, FIAN was at the UN Human Rights Commission from March, 30th to April, 2nd for three major issues:

- FIAN co-ordinated the presence of La Via Campesina at the Commission. A press conference and a side event to the HR-Com took place during which Via Campesina, FIAN and CETIM (Europe - Third World Centre) presented the specific vulnerability of small peasants to human rights violations. FIAN and Via Campesina presented an oral intervention in the Commission on violations of small farmers' human rights and the right to food.
- Lobbying for the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR also took place. The 59th session of the Commission was the occasion for a new and larger coalition of NGOs to ask for progress in the process of adoption of such a Protocol.
- FIAN, FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) and the Franciscans International, organised a meeting between the international Special Rapporteurs for ESC-rights within the UN-System and the Brazilian national rapporteurs for ESC-rights. FIAN had been asked during the last World Social Forum in 2003 in Porto Alegre to help to set up such a meeting. All four international rapporteurs participated (Hunt, Kothari, Tomsevski, Ziegler) and the meeting proved to be a great success.

Throughout the year, FIAN had a continuous and fruitful co-operation with Jean Ziegler, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food. In particular, FIAN information on specific or systematic violations of the right to food was used by the Rapporteur in his dialogue with responsible governments.

Gender work with FIAN, 2003

2003 was the year, in which FIAN changed its way of tackling the gender issue in its activities. The last International Council meeting in Rome (2002) had decided on a gender strategy, which had been subsequently adopted by the International Executive Committee in November 2003. The main purpose of the strategy is to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed within all activities of the organisation and are reflected in its structure. A centre-piece of the gender strategy was the creation of a gender group, whose role would be assessing work done so far, engaging in gender specific networking by identifying groups with overlapping areas of work and identifying core aspects of women's right to food, such as property rights, the social construction of gender roles, and women's relation to land. In the course of the year, the first phase of implementation took place. A strategy was planned, research took place, communication and training activities were launched and the gender issue was integrated into the campaign and lobby activities of the organisation.



In chronological order, the first event of the year was the organisation of a seminar in El Salvador in March, together with the Böll Foundation Central America and the Foundation for Rights Implementation (FES-PAD) and the National Institute of Women in which the questions of land, women, and economic, social and cultural rights were intensely discussed.

Achievement

Land for the Gatherers of the Babaçu Nut in Brazil

In the Amazonian natural reserve of Ciriaco, Brazil, the resistance of 160 families and the activities of FIAN and Brazilian organisations eventually led to a success: the encroachment of the natural reserve, currently inhabited by communities practising sustainable agriculture, by large land-owners and logging companies was stopped. Following several FIAN interventions and lobbying activities, the rural workers and their families have been given 20 hectares each. The Brazilian government has also removed the greatest obstacle to the respect of the reserve: it has spent more than 3 million Reais (approx. 1,3 million USD) in compensating former large land owners. The families that benefitted from this happy turn of events praised FIAN's support of their cause. In the words of one of the beneficiaries: „FIAN's method of directly engaging the authorities has shown us that it is possible to negotiate with the Ministry for Environment and „harass“ those responsible with our demands until they return the land to us. Finally our dream has come true.“

Gender work with FIAN, 2003

Soon thereafter, the long awaited opportunity to formally put FIAN gender work on track became reality at the seminar on Gender and Agrarian Reform in Cochabamba, Bolivia (please refer to page 17 for more details). The „Permanent Working Group on Gender“ composed of 5 members representing the world regions, in which FIAN is present, had its first meeting at the seminar. The Group was formed in order to ensure that gender sensitivity is taken seriously within FIAN. The Permanent Working Group is also represented within the FIAN International Secretariat.

Mainstreaming gender implies for FIAN that all members of the international secretariat are involved in the discussions process – this is essential for coherence. The researchers of the organisation are now asked to devote special attention to gender, both in their intervention work, as well as with respect to parallel reporting activities. The year 2003 was also marked by a number of training sessions within the international secretariat devoted to adding a gender perspective to selected aspects of FIAN's work.

In terms of publications, fact sheet series of the Campaign for Agrarian Reform was enhanced with a new fact sheet focussing on the topic. Furthermore, general and specific publications are now regularly reviewed so as to reach gender consistency. Adding a gender perspective to the work of FIAN also means extending and tightening contacts with organisations dedicated to gender equality.



Seminars on the right to food

FIAN carried out a wide range of seminars with victims of right to food violations, with support groups, as well as human rights and legal practitioners. Seminar also took place in academic and with state institutions in order to train jurists, economists and decision-makers on the issue of economic, social and cultural rights. In 2003, seminars were carried out in virtually all countries with FIAN sections and co-ordinations. Furthermore, training units also took place at universities such as Harvard (USA) and within the European Master Programme for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice (Italy). FIAN's seminar series on a Framework Law on the Right to Food in three countries is illustrative of these education activities:

A Framework Law as a Tool for the Implementation of the Right to Food - Mobilising Civil Society Support in South Africa, India and Honduras.

The human right to adequate food entails the obligation of states parties to enact legislation in order to progressively realise this right, for example through a framework law on the right to food. The need for a framework law in individual countries was strongly emphasised in 1999 by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its General Comment no. 12 on the Right to Food. Therefore, FIAN International organised seminars in South Africa, India and Honduras, to which representatives of civil society organisations active on right to food and land related issues were invited. Participants from relevant ministries, the Human Rights Commissions and the judiciary were also present. The aim was to explore the idea of a framework law, link up national campaigns with efforts by international civil society to generate a stronger commitment to the right to food and set the stage for a long-term lobbying effort towards the adoption of framework laws in these countries.

The three countries were chosen because the seminars tallied well with existing civil society efforts aimed at a better implementation of the right to food



and because FIAN has a strong network of partner organisations in them.

South Africa

The South African Constitution is one of the few in the world that entrenches the right to food and socio-economic rights have been the object of a judgment by the Constitutional Court. However, in spite of the constitutional obligation, the process of implementation has not yet come far and hunger is a growing problem for the African majority population. In the proposed workshop, South African experts and stakeholders explored the possibility of a framework law as a plan of action for the implementation of the right to food. As a result of the two days of intensive exchange six representatives of the most important South African civil society organisations involved in land and food issues and FIAN International formed the steering group of „Right to Food Campaign“ with the objective of mobilising large-scale support for laws and policies that impact on the right to food such as social assistance, land reform, and the call for a Basic Income Grant. One of the first achievements of the campaign so far is that one of its member institutions has been asked by Government to comment

Seminars on the right to food

on a draft bill with important implications for the right to food.

India

Three seminars on framework legislation on the right to adequate food were conducted in Lucknow (U.P.), Chennai and New Delhi, India. The aim of these three seminars was to come up with an initial effort to put forward a comprehensive framework law on the right to food in the country. In India, the human right to food is still in the phase of mainstreaming. Speakers from different sections of society reported about their experiences in form of case studies focussing on achievements and problems related to the realisation of the right to food.

The first two workshops in Lucknow and Chennai had an introductory purpose. At the third workshop, the participants summarised the main areas where violations on the right to food occur in India, identified major problems in implementing the right to food, and identified the instruments still needed and stakeholders to be involved in future. A draft proposal of a framework law for India was discussed. The participants stressed the necessity to involve marginalised communities in the process. A steering committee was formed to network with persons, groups and organisations involved in food rights, to promote participation of neglected stakeholders and to carry out lobby work with authorities.

Honduras

In Honduras, a joint Seminar was held by the Supreme Court of Honduras, FIAN International and the Honduran peasant coalition COCOCH on „The Human Right to Food as a Challenge for Justice“. The majority of Supreme Court judges joined the workshop, among them the President of the Court, as well as 40 judges from all over the country. It was the first workshop where judges and peasant leaders had the opportunity for a direct and open dialogue in a joint seminar, and it was seen as particularly helpful to have as a common ground the human rights approach on the right to food.



Several contributions of participants evidenced the lack of proper implementation of economic, social and cultural rights by judges, for instance in cases of land conflicts and forced evictions. The Supreme Court took notice of that lack of information about international human rights law within the judicial power, aiming on follow-up workshops with FIAN. At the same time, the workshop participants and the President of the Supreme Court welcomed the proposal to introduce a specific national legislation on the right to food, in order to establish a precise and explicit framework of state's obligations towards this rights, which also would be an important reference for lawyers and judges. As one of the follow-up measures, FIAN met in September with several Members of the Honduran Congress. The President of the Human Rights Committee announced that together with other stakeholders and conceptual support from FIAN, he would convene a Congressional Forum on the Right to Food as a Challenge for National Legislation in Honduras in 2004.

Regional Training Workshop on the Right to Food

From 27. - 30. October, 2003, FIAN International co-organised with FIAN Philippines the Regional Training Workshop on the Right to Food in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was targeted at regional partners of the following four funding agencies - Misereor (Germany), Diakonisches Werk of the Evangelical Church in German (DWEKD (Germany), eed (Germany) and 11.11.11 (The Belgian Coalition of the North-South Movement).

A total of 42 participants from 9 countries participated in the workshop. Represented countries from South East Asia were Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, while Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka represented South Asian countries. It was a first of a kind in the history of FIAN as it involved two major regions of the world in which violations of the right to food are witnessed everyday.

The foreseen aims of the workshop were identified as: 1) to strengthen knowledge and skills of the workshop participants in promoting and defending the right to food at the national, regional and international levels and 2) to intensify networking of organisations who can jointly work toward promoting the right to food, through future collaboration with FIAN International and FIAN Philippines with regard to monitoring the right to food in respective countries/regions. During the four-day workshop, the participants gained knowledge on the right to food and how this right can be promoted at different levels. Possible areas of future collaboration in combating violations of the right to food were also identified. The workshop sessions were facilitated by three trainers from FIAN International who drew from FIAN's training materials on the right to food. Diverse working backgrounds and foci of the workshop participants enabled broad and lively discussions on the one hand, while contributing to wide spectrum of possible future collaboration on the other hand. Chandrakasem Declaration was drafted at the end of the workshop and shall provide workshop participants as a guidance for future collaboration with FIAN.

Combating Hunger through a Basic Income Grant

FIAN meets in Manila

From 14th to 16th November 2003, the FIAN Philippines section hosted the biennial FIAN conference (BIC) entitled „Minimum Income, Minimum Wage“ in the Philippines. The idea of the BIC, which takes place every two years, is to provide ample space for debate on important topics. The topic of the BIC 2003 was the basic income grant (BIG) and the

objective was to find out whether and how such a programme could be made part of the FIAN strategy to realize the right to food.

A BIC for the BIG

In this sense it was a BIC for the BIG. The basic income grant is a universal cash transfer to each person in order to guarantee a minimum food income. This topic is a new field for FIAN. Therefore, FIAN had invited external experts from Brazil and South Africa to provide food for thought.

Expertise from Brazil was most enlightning since it is the first country in the world to have passed a basic income law. The South African Basic Income Grant Campaign introduced the main arguments why a broad coalition of South African civil society has come out strongly in favour of a basic income. Guests from the ILO and a South African civil society gender group also gave their views on the issue.

Working hard at the BIC

Equipped with much background information on many aspects of the basic income grant, including gender, five parallel working groups investigated the possible role of income transfers in realising the right to food and whether the BIG could become a strategic programme for FIAN in any future work on income redistribution - similar to agrarian reform in the field of resource redistribution. The BIC provided ample space for exchange between the delegates, sections and co-ordinations. The impression remaining after three days in working groups and plenary sessions, in bilateral talks and side-events (including a solidarity visit to a severe rural conflict) is that the strength of FIAN is growing. A consensus emerged from all working groups that the basic food income grant should be an issue for FIAN in future.

Communicating the right to food

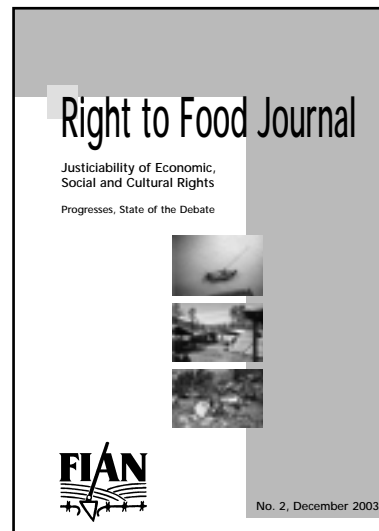
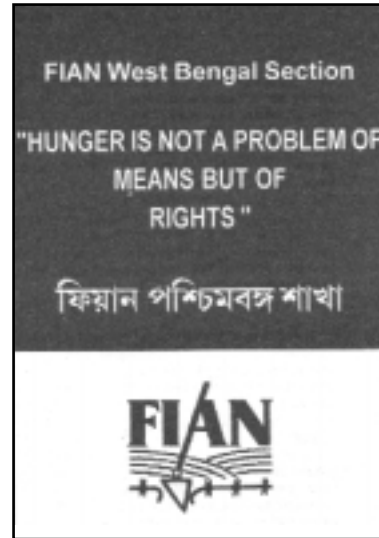
Communicating the right to food

At the beginning of 2003, FIAN set out on the challenging task of dynamising its membership and enhancing communication within the network, as well as reaching out to the general public. Giving a new face to FIAN's external and internal communication was largely taken over by the Information and Communication Department (ICD).

In the first half of the year, the ICD had largely implemented this new strategy: the Newsflash, an ad hoc electronic publication serves as a direct link to FIAN sections and coordinations. Important events, successes or conflicts, in which FIAN activists are at risk are sent out by email in English and Spanish and distributed further to members. The website was completely overhauled. It was given a new design, enabling easy navigation and expanded to include downloadable FIAN publications and public relations materials. Most importantly, the website was turned into an interactive platform. A members' area with a discussion forum has been set up, which is being used by members in order to directly exchange experience, information and materials developed by individual chapters of FIAN. Equally, the FIAN members' newsletter "Hungry for Justice", which appears in English, Spanish and French was given a face-lift. The number of editions were stepped up from two to four annually, the number of pages were doubled. Separate columns were created that are directly tuned to the interests of grass-roots members.

At the same time, a second track communication channel was opened up by cutting the well established FIAN "Right to Food Journal" to size to suit a specialised readership that is primarily interested in the politico-legal dimension of the right to food - a readership, which is also serviced through this year's FIAN fact-finding reports.

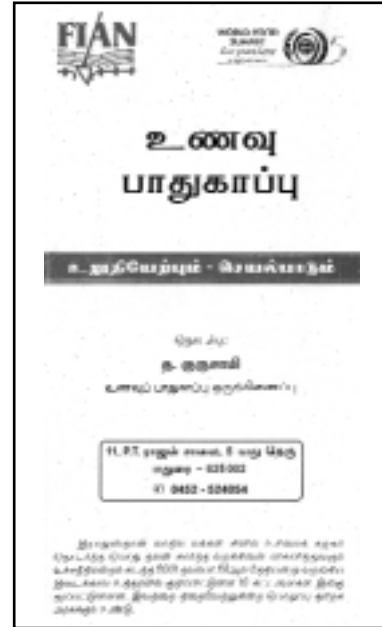
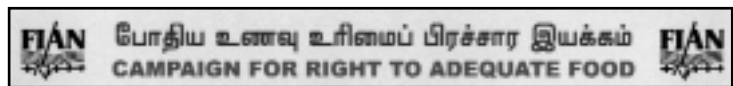
External communication - public relations and press work - is the second task of the ICD. In this respect the main aims are making the right to food known, publicising both violations of the right to food as well as successes in the world-wide struggle against such violations. A major concern is to make FIAN International, being the only organisation wholly dedicated to the promotion of the right to food, more visible to the general public. This is important for two reasons. Experience has shown that an exposure of FIAN and its work attracts people who are willing to dedicate themselves to the struggle against hunger but are so far uncertain about how to do so. Spreading FIAN's





renown can also offer FIAN members, right to food and land activists protection from repressive measures by state authorities or private interests. In fulfilment of this multiple challenge, FIAN significantly widened its press work in 2003. The ICD has built up a data base of global press contacts and increased the number of press releases. Due to this proactive press work, the national press in countries, in which FIAN intervened, such as Ghana, Honduras, Mexico, Brazil, India, South Africa, or the Philippines gave coverage to FIAN activities. Likewise, a number of radio and programmes featuring FIAN activists or FIAN's work were broadcast on national and international radio and TV stations.

FIAN's efforts at implementing an integrated communication strategy culminated in the first "International Action Highlight" on World Food Day, October 16th 2003. For the first time, the entire international FIAN network joined in a string of coordinated activities with the aim of intervening world-wide for two communities victimised by a violation of their right to food, one in Colombia, the other in India. A campaign newspaper and press kit, as well as T-shirts and publicity and background materials were produced and provided to the FIAN network. Sections and Coordinations organised activities in their respective countries and cities that generated public awareness about the cases and motivated participation by the public in the protest letter and publicity campaign aimed at pressuring the authorities of the two states concerned. The event met with enthusiastic response from participants and drew in large numbers of newly interested people.



Rural women workers struggle for their rights in Brazil

In March 2003, rural women of Brazil mobilised throughout the whole country and demanded the implementation of agrarian reform from the newly elected government. FIAN supported these actions through a letter campaign in April. Later in the year, FIAN received news that some of the demands had been met by the authorities: for example, a portion of governmental credit given to small farmers will be reserved specifically for rural women, resulting in a 25% increase of the total credit volume. FIAN has been invited to attend the first congress of rural women to be held in March 2004.

*Financial Statement***Financial Statement****The Financial Picture**

The financial picture is an extract of information from the statutory accounts audited by an independent chartered accountant (RWS - Riedl, Appel & Hornig GmbH). The unqualified audit report was signed in January, 2004. The budget of the FIAN sections and coordinations is not part of this financial picture. The accounts are in Euros (€).

Sources of income	2003 (in €)	2002 (in €)
Membership dues	46,291.06	44,982.49
Donations	8,150.16	8,542.26
Transfers from sections	8,306.40	1,489.07
Sales	2,357.60	1,194.19
Projects	1,276,568.01	708,327.02
Other income	24,688.03	14,370.41
Total income	1,366,361.26	778,905.44
Expenditures	2003 (in €)	2002 (in €)
Rent	29,822.65	27,366.76
Personnel expenses	462,393.08	392,362.93
Office expenses	46,804.78	36,915.76
Costs for consultation/accounting	3,810.37	14,709.98
Publications	41,104.01	29,743.67
Travel expenses	87,020.97	58,162.90
Seminars/conferences/meetings	66,566.88	62,075.92
International Executive Committee	18,591.08	18,762.04
Transfers to sections	547,737.42	77,985.22
Expenses for FIAN Solidarity Fund	8,428.90	7,310.08
Miscellaneous	11,034.71	3,025.33
Depreciation	8,243.82	5,659.75
Total expenditure	1,331,558.67	734,080.34
Flow into/from working capital reserves	34,586.43	44,700.00
Result	216.16	125.10

The financial result of 2003 was in accordance with the budgetary planning. The significant increase in transfers to sections was mainly due to a co-financing grant of the European Union and will not continue at such a high level in 2004 and beyond. If this single factor is excluded, FIAN is nonetheless on the path of steady growth. To further increase the still too small working capital reserves remain a major task.

To successfully combat the root causes of hunger, FIAN depends on a broad public support of global citizenship.



FoodFirst Information and Action Network

FoodFirst

promotes the fundamental human right to food. This human right is enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations.

Information

FIAN informs victims about their right to feed themselves and alerts the general public about violations of this right.

Action

This is the centre piece of FIAN's work. Through its activities, FIAN supports the struggle of victims' groups against violations of their right to feed themselves and a lot of interventions were successful. With the help of FIAN, the victims' situation got better.

Network

FIAN is a network of members, sections and co-ordinations in more than 60 countries of the world joining hands for the realisation of the right to feed oneself.



FIAN: The international Human Rights Organisation working internationally for the realisation of the right to feed oneself



FIAN: Independent of governments, political parties, ideologies and without religious affiliation.



FIAN: Has consultative status with the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the African Commission of Human Rights



FIAN: Is active in all continents against hunger and malnutrition. Its work is unique

Help FIAN so that FIAN can help others !!!

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FIAN's success depends on your participation

You can become a member, participate in our activities and contribute to FIAN's evolution

You can also make a donation and help us carrying on actions to implement the human right to feed oneself

Please send back the tag below duely filled. You can also ask for our publication list and order selected items.

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BLZ No. 500 100 60



- I want to become a FIAN member**
Annual fee for individual members
€ 30 (North) € (South),
according to your financial situation
Annual fee for institutions
€ 70 (North) € 10 (South)

Payment:

- Banknotes enclosed
- Cheque enclosed
- Money order



- I want to support FIAN**
My annual contribution is
 € 20 € 50
 € 100 €

- I want to receive the Right to Food Journal**
Annual fee € 9

Name: _____

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