

About the Speakers:

Eyad Burnat

Eyad Burnat is a Palestinian grassroots activist from the West Bank village of Bil'in. He is founder of the Friends of Freedom and Justice in Bil'in - one of the most highly respected and well known non-violent resistance movements in Palestine. Bil'in is a small village north of Jerusalem and is directly in the path of Israel's illegal land-grab wall. The residents of Bil'in are joined by many Israelis in a peaceful weekly Friday protest which has become synonymous with the non-violent movement against occupation in Palestine. In the course of the struggle for justice Eyad - along with many others, Palestinian, Israeli and International - has been attacked and injured many times by the Israeli Occupation Forces.

Njoki Njoroge Njehũ

A Kenyan by birth, Njoki Njoroge Njehũ is a long-term committed advocate for women's rights and socio-economic justice issues. Njoki is the Executive Director of the Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center. She has worked for many years in Kenya and the US, with the Greenbelt Movement and as Executive Director of 50 Years is Enough in Washington. Her areas of extensive social justice work have included struggle on environmental issues, the global debt crisis and the role of international financial institutions and women's rights. She is a member of the International Coordinating Committee of Jubilee South and Co-Coordinator of Africa Jubilee South.

Oscar Olivera

Oscar Olivera started his life as an activist in a shoe factory. Under the dictatorship of Garcia Meza (1980-82) he had to go underground as the lives of activists were under threat. He has since been a national and local leader of the industrial workers' trade union. In 1999, he helped form the Coordination in Defense of Water and Life, a grassroots organisation whose objective was to stop water privatization in his town and to defend the rights of the poor. He became the spokesperson in 2000 for the Water Wars, when the multinational water company Bechtel was expelled from their town, achieving the first crack in the neoliberal model in Bolivia.

Peadar Kirby

Peadar Kirby is Professor of International Politics and Public Policy at the University of Limerick. He has published extensively on globalisation and development, both in theoretical terms and specifically in relation to Ireland and to Latin America. His many publications include, *'Taming the Tiger: Social Exclusion in a Globalised Ireland'*, co-edited with David Jacobson and Deiric Ó Broin, *'Vulnerability and Violence: The Impact of Globalisation'*, and *'The Celtic Tiger in Distress: Growth with Inequality in Ireland'*. His latest book is entitled *'Contesting the State: Lessons from the Irish Case'*. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics.

Benedicta Attoh

Benedicta Attoh is currently the chairperson of the Africa Centre and a member of the Louth African Women's Support Group. Benedicta is not new to campaigns as she represented the NGO Alliance Against Racism who presented a report to CERD (Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination) in response to the Irish Government's first report at the UN in Geneva in March 2005. She is co-founder and the chairperson of the Women from Minorities Network.

Cathryn O'Reilly

Cathryn O'Reilly participated in the Dunnes Stores Strike against Apartheid for the full duration of the strike from the 19th July 1984 to 12th April 1987. She was one of the strikers to visit South Africa in 1985 at the invitation of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu when the group was refused entry by the old Apartheid regime. Cathryn is now a Counselor for recovering drug users.

Brendan Archbold

Brendan Archbold has been a trade union member since 1962. Brendan was a European Union observer at the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994 and a member of a British and Irish trade union delegation monitoring working and living conditions in and around the banana plantations of Ecuador in 2002. He was Chairperson of the Irish Congress of Trade Union's Solidarity Committee from 2001 to 2008 and continues to serve as an ordinary member of this committee. Brendan is also involved with Fairtrade Mark Ireland.

Claire O'Grady Walshe

Clare O'Grady Walshe is a graduate of UCC where she received a masters degree in sociology, specialising in social movements in Latin America. She was on the first Irish coffee brigade to Nicaragua in 1988. She is former director of Greenpeace in Ireland and has served on the Irish Aid Advisory Committee and the Heritage Council. She is co-ordinator of Afri's Development Education Programme.

Jean Somers

Jean Somers has been active in global justice struggles in Ireland for many years. She was the co-ordinator of Debt and Development Coalition Ireland for over a decade where she led campaigns in Ireland for debt cancellation in the Global South. She is currently researching the power of transnational civil society networks in influencing debt and adjustment in the Global South and works in the community and voluntary sector.

Gregor Kerr

Gregor Kerr is a long standing activist based in Dublin. He has been involved in many community and trade union campaigns in Ireland. These include many community campaigns such as the anti water charges campaign in the 1990s.

Eric Yao

Eric Yao is the Co-ordinator of the Africa Centre in Dublin. Eric's activism started when he was a student in Poland from 1989 to 1995 and was involved in campaigning on human rights issues affecting African students. He also worked with the Africa Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies in The Gambia from 1997 to 2000.