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RMS Refugee Resettlement News  
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Issue # 30 - March 2007

Akam Bul ta, Bite-Kinyarwanda, Gaw Ler a Gay, Hello, Kia ora, Nabad,  
Nihau, Mhoroi, Min ga la ba, Salaam, Salibonani, Shalom, Talofa lava,  
Vanakkam, Zdravo!

RMS News is a monthly electronic newsletter updating you about RMS  
Refugee Resettlement activities and refugee issues in NZ. If you've  
any comments about this newsletter, or suggestions about what you'd  
like to see included, please email us. Feel free to forward this email  
to anyone else who might be interested in the contents.

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1. Regional News  
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Upper Hutt: The Bakhita Training Centre was recently opened in Upper  
Hutt. The project is an initiative between McGirr Associates, St  
Josephs School and Robert Byer, Community Development Officer from the  
Sudanese community. The centre's main aim is to educate parents and  
help parents achieve NZQA basic computer skills and participate in the  
ESOL programme. Other skills offered will include customer service and  
business English. The centre is open to all ethnicities. The launch was  
attended by members of Government and non-Government organisations as  
well as many from the local community. Josephine Bakhita is the Patron  
Saint of Sudan. <http://www.catholic-forum.com/SAINTS/saintj84.htm>

Nelson: The Chin National Day was celebrated on February 20 in Nelson.  
The celebration took place at Victory School with the Chin community  
providing food, dance and music and an introduction to the public about  
the Chin culture. The community is doing really well with many at  
fulltime or part time work as well as those who are studying. A very  
proactive community supported by a caring community and the wonderful  
volunteer support workers.

Auckland: The annual Auckland International Cultural Festival was a  
huge success. With an increase in numbers over the last few years, a  
new location was needed and this year the event moved to the War  
Memorial Park in Mt Roskill. The larger venue meant new opportunities  
including a new Ethnic Soccer Tournament which took place with 32 teams  
representing their nationalities. The inaugural Ethnic Soccer Cup was  
won by a Thailand team in a penalty shoot out 2-1 over the Croatian  
team. The Festival included music and performances from many cultural

groups including the MIXIT Refugee Youth Arts Project, the popular Burundian drummers and traditional dance groups from Iran, Ethiopia, Greece, Assyria, Finland, the Congo and many other places. An estimated 30,000 people attended during the day.

Auckland has continued to welcome more Burmese Karen and Chin to the region, wonderful to see these small communities growing and the huge support that they give to each other. Many staff has had the opportunity to enjoy their wonderful musical talents and have enjoyed their participation in our social gatherings for the Burmese families and their volunteers.

Wellington: Changemakers Refugee Forum grows from strength to strength and welcomes you at their meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month, 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Multicultural Services Centre on Taranaki St. The Assyrian New Year takes place on April 1st and preparations are underway to celebrate the occasion.

2. News from Dev-Zone  
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Dev-Zone is calling for contributions of articles, opinion pieces, and book reviews for the June 2007 issue of Just Change: Borders. Possible topics for articles for this issue of Just Change include, but are not limited to:

1. Conflict and its impact on changing borders, including contested borders: Tibet and China, Palestine and Israel, West Papua etc.
2. Internally displaced and stateless people, environmental refugees, people who are stranded on borders, and other enforced states of limbo.
3. The human rights implications of movement across borders and shifting borders.
4. Socially and politically created borders: refugee camps, ghettos, shantytowns, squatter camps, and detention centres.
5. Territorialisation.
6. Migration and Refugee movement.
7. The creation of colonial borders: Africa, the Pacific, Australia and the USA etc.

Case studies of organisations, people and/or project related to any of the above topics. We welcome personal accounts.

To view our submission guidelines, go to <http://www.dev-zone.org/justchange/ContributetoJustChange>

Deadline for abstract submissions: April 5, 2007

3. The Peace Foundation's Babel Project - Wellington  
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Babel: Crossing Cultural Boundaries is a youth driven, creative arts exhibition for youth of all ethnicities between the ages of 15-30. It is a six month collaboration that examines the living realities of people on different sides of a current international crisis and how they can build bridges to transform the situation. This will build a base from which the participants will explore, elucidate, understand and link themes and common threads in our own multicultural community. For more information please contact Katrina Baylis: Katrina@world-net.co.nz or Tal Rogoff tal.rogoff@gmail.com or phone (04) 496 9629

4. Refugee Employment Programme

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The Auckland Regional Migrant Service begins a refugee employment programme on March 21st - it's not too late to join in or to find out more information! The first "React Now" programme will aim to help young refugee women who are currently looking for employment and will provide individualised support into work. As well as attending regular workshops to develop skills for job-seeking (i.e CV writing, interview skills, workplace culture etc) refugee job seekers will also be matched with a mentor to give them on-going support in their search for work. For more detailed information please contact Anna Fyfe-Rahal, Programme Coordinator, Auckland Regional Migrant Services. Ph:(09) 625 2440, ext 751 or email [annaf@arms-mrc.org.nz](mailto:annaf@arms-mrc.org.nz)

5. World Refugee Day 2007

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World Refugee Day will be on June 20 with many events being planned for that day or week of June 17 - June 23. If your group, organisation or school is keen to promote WRD this year, we encourage you to participate. Maybe you could host an event, show a film, arrange a music and poetry evening, bring people together from different backgrounds to share a meal, encourage children to learn about refugee issues and refugee resettlement. This year's theme is "The Voices of Young Refugees", for more information please visit our website [www.rms.org](http://www.rms.org) or [www.unhcr.org.au](http://www.unhcr.org.au) or contact [jude.walcott@rms.org.nz](mailto:jude.walcott@rms.org.nz)

6. International

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Refugee Council sleepout to highlight destitution. On the night of the 19 - 20th February, Refugee Council held a sleepout in Parliament Square to highlight to the public, politicians and the media the fact that destitute asylum seekers have no home - and that destitution is not working as a policy. We were joined by over 30 sleepers and many more volunteers, some of whom have experienced destitution themselves. By demonstrating right outside the House of Commons we got a message directly to MPs, many of whom came out to Parliament Square to find out about the Just.Fair. campaign. For more information: [http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/reviews/news\\_review.htm](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/reviews/news_review.htm)

Australia

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The decision to send 82 Sri Lankan asylum seekers to Nauru is yet another sorry chapter in the Australian Government's long record of turning its back on people in need of protection, the Refugee Council of Australia says. More information: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/>

7. Theatre/Books/Movies

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"Two Brothers" is a play by Australian playwright Hannie Rayson who wanted to explore the Australian Government's policies on asylum seekers. She had no idea she would polarise Australia or come in for such a personal mauling when she set out to write Two Brothers. The play tackles head on the Australian Government's policies on asylum seekers. It's about two brothers on opposite sides of the political spectrum and the refugee crisis that brings them into deadly conflict and has devastating consequences for their families. (The Dominion Post) It's currently on at Circa Theatre, Wellington until April 21st. Here's

part of the Dom Post review: "Two Brothers is as gripping as the BBC's "House of Cards" and as tense, a family melodrama, riddled with moral dilemmas, as Arthur Miller's "All My Sons".

Book - "A Long Way Home" by Ishmael Beah  
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The experiences of a child soldier in Sierra Leone now living in the United States. <http://www.bookwrapcentral.com/authors/ishmaelbeah.htm>

[http://www.bookbrowse.com/biographies/index.cfm?author\\_number=1411](http://www.bookbrowse.com/biographies/index.cfm?author_number=1411)

8. Recipes  
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If you have a recipe to share from your homeland, we'd love to hear from you. Here's one from Rwanda:

Fresh Peas and Green Bananas  
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1kg of green bananas  
1/2 kg green peas  
1 onion  
1 capsicum  
Parsley  
1 fresh chilli

Cook fresh peas in boiling water until tender. Peel green bananas. Heat oil or butter in a large saucepan and fry chopped onion until tender. Add peeled green bananas and stir for about 5 minutes. Add boiling water, cover and cook until tender. Meanwhile combine tomatoes, parsley and chilli in a food processor. Add the mixture to the bananas and stir for about 2 minutes. Add the green peas to the bananas and stir on medium to low heat for about 5 minutes. Serve hot.

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He aha te mea nui? He aha te mea nui o te ao?  
Maku e ki atu. He tangata he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing? What is the most important thing in the world?  
I will say to you. It is people, it is people, it is people.

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