**Congo Action Now**

**August 26, 2012**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Anna, Pat, Suzanne

Anna – Minutes

Pat - Facilitator

1. Check In
2. Follow-up items from previous meetings
   1. Kelley sent letters of support for H3982 from supporting organizations to be put up on the website, however, we decided that was unnecessary as we already have a list of supporters featured on the website and people have copies of the letters.
   2. Pat sent out suggested action steps to take before next legislative session – did not hear any feedback about ideas.
   3. Pat scheduled and had meeting with Senator Kerry’s Staff.
   4. Pat contacted Northeastern and UMass about interns – we need to contact other schools.
   5. Pat sent email to CAN list about contacting SEC and Sen. Brown about Section 1502 rules.
3. Meetings/Contacts (updates from Pat except where noted)
   1. New director (Joanne Muhti) of Women’s Caucus is really wonderful, Kelley and Pat and others met with her at the State House. She would like WC to do an event next session about the bill.
   2. Pat met Executive Director of Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and has left him messages to arrange a meeting.
   3. The advocacy day was really wonderful.
      1. The Lynn Congolese Congregation group actively participated.
      2. Many meetings were held with people who are interested in the bill. People were very responsive to letters from their constituents.
      3. Great meeting in the governor’s office. They were very interested in the legislation.
      4. Good meeting with Senator Chandler, she thought the bill could have gone through this session – word did not get to her that we’d contacted her office earlier. She suggested an organized national effort to try and get states to pass this legislation. Pat emailed Jana at Global Witness with names of two women’s legislative networks Sen. Chandler suggested be contacted.
   4. Senator Kerry – meeting was held with policy analyst to talk about conflict minerals (Pat, Martin, Eric, Laurie, and Jeremy attended). Had excellent telephone conference with Africa specialist on Senate Foreign Relations Committee – discussed Section 1502 regulations as well as foreign intervention in the DRC. Martin and Eric gave compelling information. Sen. Kerry is already pursuing everything we requested. The group requested a meeting with Sen. Kerry but was later told his schedule wouldn’t allow it now - we can try again for after the election. Staff thinks the senator will support the MA bill – they can call legislators. Pat asked if he would sign on as a supporter.
   5. Senator Brown – Pat and Martin met briefly with his aide about 1502 rules, who said nothing would happen until after the election.
   6. Advocates for Human Rights (Anna) – An attorney that works with AHR is looking for Congolese organizations they can provide pro-bono legal assistance to. Anna connected her with Samba for VICO and told her about Shalupe Foundation and various other Congolese organizations.
   7. Orphee Dossou ( Anna) – Africans in Boston, wanted to connect us with another organization in Boston area that does Congo Advocacy and also possibly publish a “non political” article on their website. I have responded to him but he has not gotten back to me.
4. New Rules for Section 1502
   1. We have rules now! We are awaiting the deeper analysis of the rules from Global Witness. Even though the rules are not as strong as we would like, this is a victory.
   2. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has a report on guidelines for due diligence – Pat has a copy. The rules require compliance with internationally sanctioned guidelines such as OECD.
5. Next Steps for H.3982
   1. We should contact our co-sponsors and our supporting organizations to thank them for their support and to let them know what the status of the bill is now and how things are looking for next session.
      1. Maybe we can get organizations contact info to one person. Anna will set up a google document so we can centrally store organizations contact info. People will send their contact information to her.
      2. We can divide up the co-sponsors. Pat and Suzanne divided them up. Pat will draft a letter for the co-sponsors and send it to Suzanne.
   2. Continue to get letters signed by constituents
      1. When the bill is re-filed in January, it will have a new number, so we need to decide whether to include the bill # on correspondence or not. Pat has asked Sen. DiDomenico’s aide for advice.
      2. Unitarian Universalist ministers in Massachusetts could be a good contact. UU Social Action groups could collect letters.
      3. We could see if there are other Congolese church groups
      4. STAND and conflict-free campus initiatives could be good contacts. Student interns could be a good help to organize campuses. Anna will contact media related students at Boston College.
      5. We may want to have another vigil in Harvard Sq to get info to people, get letters signed and petition signed
      6. Get more organizational supporters and organizations of color
      7. Doesn’t make sense to meet with legislators right now until after the elections (around Dec)
      8. Kelley has been working with Sylvia (intern) on list of legislators contacted – have recent contacts been added?
      9. How can we recruit more active CAN members? Maybe plan orientation for new members at September meeting.
6. Boston City Council Resolution
   * 1. Ayanna Presley – first African American woman on Boston City Council. Wants to do a resolution in Boston. Pat will be in contact with her and work on that.
7. MailChimp vs Email
   * 1. We decided to exclusively use Mail Chimp to send out mass emails to the entire list! This will allow us to have a streamlined process and not have to maintain two email lists. Ana will reconcile Pat’s email lists with MailChimp
8. CAN Website
   * 1. Anna has been working on the website and will change to a new look soon. It’s looking very professional.
9. Wellesley Presentation
   * 1. Pat has been put in touch with the Agora Society at Wellesley to discuss a presentation or other collaboration with CAN. She had contacted Sen. Chandler’s intern who was a Wellesley student.

1. Next Meeting
   * 1. Will be at 3:00 on Sunday, September 23, at Suzanne’s house. Suzanne will facilitate.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Anna :**

* **Will cross-check Mail Chimp with email list**
* **Will continue updating/re-designing website**
* **Will create google document for organization contacts**

**Suzanne:**

* **Will contact half of co-sponsors**

**Kelley:**

* **Will update legislators contacted list from Sylvia**

**Pat:**

* **Will send Anna email lists**
* **Will draft emails to supporting organizations and bill co-sponsors**
* **Will contact supporting organizations and half of co-sponsors**
* **Will try to get list of UU ministers in MA**
* **Will get back in touch with people who’ve expressed interest in past in being active in CAN**

**Everybody:**

**- Will send contact information for supporting organizations to Anna**