

### **Rafiki Mpendwa,**

Uhali gani. Habari za tangu miezi miwili iliyopita ? Ni matumaini yetu kuwa umzima kabisa pamoja na familia yako pia.

Hakuna aliyesahau maafa yaliyotokea hapo Januari huko Haiti. Familia ambazo tukonazo hapa Port au Prince, mji mkuu wa Haiti zinaendelea kupambana.

Baadhi ya marafiki wa ATD waliwatumia barua za kuwatia moyo mwezi uliopita. Usisite kufanya kama wao, tunaweza kuzipeleka barua zenu na misaada yenu.

Katika kijarida hiki, tungependa kuangalia suala la uhusika binafsi katika kujitolea : Kwanini ni muhimu ? Kwanini ni vigumu ?

Kwa hali hiyo, tutaanza kushiriki pamoja nawe ushuhuda kuhusu mshikamano, ushuhuda ambao ulitolewa na Jules, rafiki kutoka Jamhuri ya kidemokrasia ya Kongo ambaye alikuwako hapa Dar e Salaam wiki chache zilizopita.

### **Dear friend,**

How have you been since our last Newsletter two months ago? We sincerely hope you are fine, and your family too.

Nobody has forgotten the disaster that occurred last January in Haiti. The families we are with in Port au Prince, the capital of Haiti, continue to resist. Some ATD friends sent them a letter of encouragement last month. Don't hesitate to do the same, we can transmit your messages and support.

In this Newsletter, we would like to reflect on the question of personal involvement: Why is it necessary? Why is it difficult?

However, we'll start by sharing with you a testimony of solidarity told by Jules, a Congolese friend who was in Dar es Salaam a few weeks ago.

### **Umoja waleta nguvu**

« Wakati nchi yetu ya Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo ina ndoto ya kuwa na amani na starehe, bado usalama mdogo unaripotiwa hapa na pale vijijini. Hali hiyo inawapelekea watu kuyakimbia makazi na vijiji vyao na kutafuta mahali penye amani.

Kijiji changu cha Bitale-Bunyakiri ni moja wa hivyo vijiji vinavyo sumbuliwa na wamiliki silaha kwa kuwatesa raia, kupora mali, kuwabaka mabinti na wa mama zetu, kuwauwa watu mmoja mmoja na hata wengine kupelekwa porini na majambazi hao.



### **Unity brings strength**

« Whilst our country, the Democratic Republic of Congo dreams of living in peace and harmony, insecurity is still reported from some villages. The situation makes people run away from their villages to find a safe place.

My village Bitale-Bunyakiri is one of the villages disturbed by those who own guns, who torture civilians, rob their properties, rape young girls and our mothers. People are killed one by one and others are taken to the forest by those armed robbers.

One of my relatives was a victim of that



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Jamaa yangu ni mmoja wa wahanga wa hali hiyo ya ujeuri. Tulipokimbia tulikaribishwa na babu mmoja aliye kuwa na nyumba ndogo sana. Baada ya kuchunguza hali hiyo ya msongamano katika nyumba hiyo ndogo, tuliamuwa kujenga nyumba nyingine. Kwa msaada wa watu wa moyo mwema, vijana kama mimi hata watoto, nyumba hiyo ilijengwa kwa muda wa siku chache. Kila mtu alitoa mchango wake kadiri awezavyo. Miongoni mwao walijitolea vifaa vya ujenzi kama vile miti, matete, kamba, nyasi... na wengine walishiriki kwa kujenga.

Mpaka sasa mimi na jamaa zangu tunaishi ukimbizini katika nyumba ambamo hakuna tena msongamano wa watu. Ijapokuwa ni maskini watu wa moyo mwema wanatualika shambani mwao kuvuna chakula. Baba yangu, baada ya kuguswa na kitendo hiki cha mapendo alisema *“kweli umoja kati ya watu huleta nguvu kwani tulikuwa bila makao kamili ila muda wa siku chache tumepata nyumba”*. »

### **Kujitolea kwa pamoja**

Tuna desturi ya kusema kuwa, kujitoa kwa kila mmoja ni muhimu kama kweli tunataka kuushinda umaskini uliokithiri. Tuna maana gani? Tuna maana kwamba mapambano dhidi ya umaskini uliokithiri si kazi ya wafanyakazi wa ustawi wa jamii, wasimamizi wa maendeleo au viongozi wa siasa pekee : ni kweli kuwa tunawahitaji, lakini tunahitaji wananchi wote kujitolea pia, wale ambao wanaishi katika hali nzuri kama wale walio na hali ngumu sana ya maisha.

Tuliangalia kuhusu mada hii ya kujitolea na marafiki tulipokusanyika katika machimbo ya Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam katika tarehe 15 Mei (Siku ya kimataifa ya familia).

Baadhi ya washiriki walielezea kwa jinsi gani na kwanini wao binafsi wanajihusisha ili kubadilisha maisha yao ya baadaye na ya jamii yao.

Kisha tulisoma maelezo yaliyoandikwa na Joseph Wresinski ambaye ni muasisi wa Harakati za kimataifa za ATD Dunia ya Nne. Aliandika maelezo haya zaidi ya miaka 30 iliyopita ili kuiuliza jamii ya kifaransa kuhusu utayari wake katika kuutokomeza umasikini uliokithiri. Shauri lake, lilihutubiwa kwa wahusika mbalimbali wa jamii. Hapa chini ni hotuba isiyohusisha sehemu ya mwisho ya shauri alilokata, ilihutubiwa kwa familia ambazo hupigana kila siku dhidi ya umaskini.

terrible situation. When we ran away, we were welcomed by an old man who had a very small house. After realising, that we were overcrowding his house, we decided to build another house and with the help of very kind-hearted people, young people like me and even children, the house was built in just a few days. Each person contributed whatever they could. Some brought building materials like trees, a mallet, strings, grass... others participated in the building.

Until now, my relatives and I live as refugees in a house which has not many people. Even though we are poor, kind-hearted people invited us to their farms to harvest some food. My father was very touched by this loving action and said: *“It is true that unity between people brings strength because we were completely without shelter and in a few days we have a home.”* »

### **Committed together**

We have the habit of saying that commitment from everybody is necessary if we really want to overcome extreme poverty. What do we mean? We mean that the struggle against extreme poverty is not only the business of the social workers, development managers or political leaders: of course we need them, but we also need the commitment of all citizens, both those who are living in comfortable conditions as those who have a very tough life.

We reflected about this topic of commitment with the friends gathered in the quarry of Kunduchi, close to Dar es Salaam, last May 15<sup>th</sup> (International Day of Families).

Some participants explained how and why they are personally involved in order to change their future and the future of their community.

Then we read a text written by Joseph Wresinski, who is the founder of ATD Fourth World International Movement. He wrote this text more than 30 years ago in order to question the French society about its willingness to overcome extreme poverty. His appeal was addressed to different kinds of members of society. Below is an excerpt from the last part of his appeal, addressed to families struggling every day against poverty.

*« Ni kukataa kwenu kuishi bila matumaini, ni kukataa kwenu kudhaniwa kuwa ni wenye dhamana ya tabu mnazo zipata na pia kufanywa kama hamkuwahi kuwapo au kama msio na faida yoyote, ni kitu ambacho kimetia moyo harakati zetu. Harakati zetu si chochote kama si kuonyesha kwenu kuchukizwa na pia kiliochenu kuhitaji msaada.*

*Hata hivyo, mnajua kuwa hakuna mtu atakae wafanya muwehuru bila ya juhudi zenu. Mmekuwa mkiangushwa mara nyingi sana. Mnajua kuwa jamii nyingine hazina mawazo wala moyo wa kutaka kujua kama ninyi au hata kuwa na mipango kama yenu. Hii ndio maana ninyi ni wakwanza kuwajibika kwa mabadiliko ya maisha yenu, mtakuwa wa kwanza kubeba mzigo.*

*Na ili kuweza kuwajibika, kwanza utaendelea na mafunzo, kujifunza na kukusanyika kwa ajili ya kufikiri kuhusu hali mliyonayo (...) Tatalenga (...) kufuta ujinga, kuboresha mahudhurio shuleni na kuwahakikishia mafanikio ya watoto shuleni. »*

Hassan Abeid, mfanyakazi katika Soko la Samaki la Magogoni (Dar es Salaam), alikuwa ni wa kwanza kutoa hisia zake baada ya kusomwa kwa maelezo haya, alituaambia :

*« Kwa mimi, ujumbe uliosomwa ni changamoto ya kuendeleza juhudi zetu katika maisha magumu tunayo kwenda nayo.*

*Kitu cha kwanza muhimu ni kwamba hali ngumu za maisha zitambuliwe na hao ambao wana uwezo zaidi. Tunahitaji kufanya juhudi kwa ajili ya kuwaeleza kuwa hatuikubali hali yetu ngumu ya maisha. Kupitia uzoefu wetu katika maisha, tunaweza kubadilisha fikra na dhana za hao ambao wana maisha bora, kuwaonyesha jinsi tunavyo pambana na umasikini uliokithiri. Nafikiri kwamba, tunatakiwa kushiriki na kushirikiana na wajumbe wa ATD, kusimama na kutetea haki zetu kama ; elimu bora kwa watoto wetu, huduma bora za afya n.k. Tunataka utu wetu utambuliwe, tunataka kuheshimiwa kama wanadamu, tunataka kupata haki sawa bila kuhukumu muonekano wetu. Yote haya yanawezekana.*

*Kitu cha pili muhimu, katika*

*« It is your refusal to live without hope, your refusal to be considered responsible for your suffering, and your refusal to be treated as if you didn't exist or as if you were useless, that has inspired our Movement. Indeed, what is that Movement if not the expression of your revolt, and also your cry for help.*

*However, you know that nobody will set you free without your effort. You have been let down so many times. You know that the other society has neither the same interests, nor the same ideas, or the same plans as you. That is why you are the first to be responsible for the change in your lives; you will be the first to shoulder the burden.*

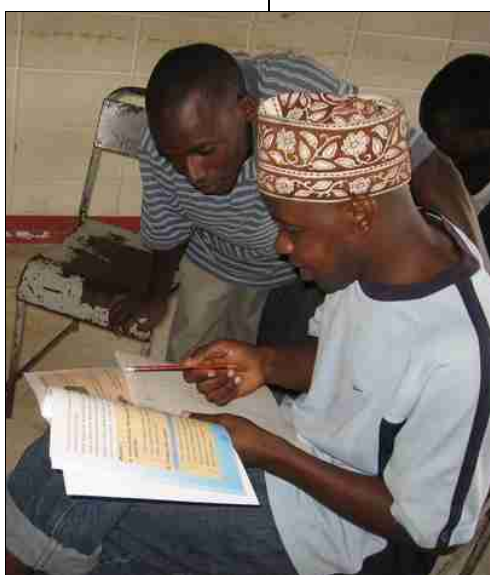
*And for you to be responsible will first mean continued training and learning, and gathering in order to think about your situation. (...) We will aim (...) to wipe out illiteracy, improve school attendance and guarantee success for children at school. »*

Hassan Abeid, worker at the Fishmarket of Magogoni (Dar es Salaam), was the first one to react after the reading of this text, telling us:

*« For me the message which has been read is a challenge to continue our efforts in the difficult life we lead.*

*The first important thing is that our hard living conditions are recognised by those who are more advantaged. We must make an effort to explain that we do not accept our difficult living conditions. Through our experience of life, we can change the ideas and convictions of those who have a better life, showing them how we fight to overcome extreme poverty. I think we have to participate and cooperate with the ATD members, to stand up and to campaign for our rights such as better education for our children, better health care, etc. We want our dignity to be recognised, we want to be respected as human beings, we want to get the same rights, without being judged by our appearance. All these things are possible.*

*A second important thing in the message that was read is that we also have to be*



*« Ninajaribu kuwasaidia wenzangu wanaojifunza kusoma na kuandika Kiswahili.»*

*“ I try to help my fellows who are learning how to read and write in Swahili.”*

ujumbe huu uliosomwa ni kwamba tunatakiwa pia kuwa tayari kubadili fikra zetu, mawazo yetu. Uzoefu wetu unatokana na mazingira tunamoishi, lakini tunatakiwa kuwa tayari kusongambele kuyaelekea maisha bora ya baadaye.

Kila mara hukaa pamoja, hutengeneza mazingira mazuri kwa ajili ya kupanua mawazo yetu, kushirikishana uzoefu wetu na kwa kugundua njia mpya za kupambana na umasikini uliokithiri. Sasa ni muda wetu kukumbushana kuwa bila juhudi zetu, bila ya kujitolea kwetu, maisha bora hayatakuja kwa muujiza.

Tunatakiwa kuwa tayari kujifunza na kusaidiana katika kujifunza kusoma na kuandika. Kwa hiyo ninajaribu kutumia muda wa mapumziko kwa ajili ya kuwasaidia wenzangu wanaojifunza kusoma na kuandika Kiswahili kwa sasa.

Kitu cha tatu muhimu katika ujumbe huu uliosomwa ni kwamba sisi ambao tunaishi katika hali ngumu, tunatakiwa kuwa katika mshikamano kwa ajili ya kuunda umoja katika maeneo tunayoishi na maeneo ya kazi.

Katika Soko la samaki, ikiwa mmoja wa wenzetu anapopata tatizo ambalo ni zito sana kujiokoa nalo kama ugonjwa kwa mfano, tunachangia kwa kumpa msaada na wakati mwingine tunampeleka hospitali kupata matibabu. Tunasaidiana bila kujali dini au muonekano.

Hatufurahii kuishi katika mazingira magumu sana. Tunapokuwa katika umoja, tunaweza kuwafanya watu kuwa na maisha bora.

Ningependa nimalizie kwa ushauri : Mabibi na Mabwana, kila mmoja anatakiwa ajisikie wa kwanza kutoa hisia zake kutokana na maelezo haya na kuzionyesha kwa kuchukua hatua. »

ready to change our ideas, our thoughts. Our experiences come from the tough situation we live in, but we must be ready to step forwards towards a better future.

Every time we come together, we create an opportunity to broaden our ideas, share our experiences and discover new ways to fight extreme poverty. Now is the time for us to remind ourselves that only through our own efforts, our own commitment, will we have a better life: it won't come by a miracle.

We have to be ready to learn and to help one another to learn. Personally I got the chance to learn how to read and write. So I try to use my free time in order to help my fellows who are learning at the moment how to read and write in Swahili.

A third important thing in the text which was read is that those of us who are living in difficult conditions must show solidarity with one another to create unity in our living places and in our work-places. At the Fishmarket, when one of our fellows has a problem too serious for him to solve himself, an illness for example, we contribute, we make a donation and sometimes we bring him to hospital to get treatment. We help one another without considering religion or appearance.

We are not happy living in very hard conditions. When we show solidarity, we can make people have a better life.

I would like to finish with some advice: ladies and gentlemen, everybody should want to be the first one to react to this text, and to react by taking action. »

Inawezekana wewe binafsi unahusika katika mapambano haya dhidi ya umaskini uliokithiri pamoja na baadhi ya watu wanao kuzunguka. Je unatumia muda nyakati fulani kwa ajili ya kujadili kuhusu kujitoka kwako ? Kama unakubali kushiriki pamoja nasi kubadilishana mawazo kuhusiana na ni nini kinatiamoyo kwako, kitu gani ni kigumu, unafanyaje katika kupeana nguvu unayoihitaji siku hadi siku... tutafurahishwa sana !

Baki salama.

Wako, Timu ya ATD Dunia ya Nne  
ya Dar es salaam.

Probably you are personally involved in the struggle against extreme poverty and so are some people around you. Do you sometimes take a moment to reflect together about your commitment? If you agree to share with us your exchanges concerning what is encouraging for you, what is difficult, what you do to give each other the strength you need day after day... we'd be very interested !

Take care of yourself.

Your ATD Fourth World Team  
in Dar es Salaam