



# A S.T.A.N.D. UPDATE Be Informed

*Meetings Every Tuesday 20:30 G.K.G.3*

**The World Promised Never Again...So What About Right Now?**

## STAND AT JCU

STAND volunteers every Friday at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center. Join us!

We meet at the H Bus stop at 9:00 am in Piazza Belli.

Joel Nafuma Refugee Center  
Via Napoli 58  
00184 Roma, Italy

## RECONCILIATION IN MYANMAR



*Over the year, JCU STAND has continued to volunteer and donate to causes that further the mission of JCU STAND.*

**Joel Nafuma Refugee Center** € 1000 Donated ✓  
(<http://www.stpaulsrome.it/english/jnrc/jnrc.html>)

**Strathmore Scholarship Fund** \$ 450 Donated ✓  
Funds went to sponsor 3 Kenyan teachers in a continuing education program for classroom management skills.  
(<http://www.strathmore.edu/News.php?NewsID=707>)

**ACODO** € 300 Donated ✓  
Funds went to build new structure for housing at the Cambodian orphanage after major flood.  
([www.acodo.org](http://www.acodo.org)).

**Darfur Stoves Project** € 600 Donated ✓  
Funds to provide Darfur with low-cost efficient stoves.  
(<http://www.darfurstoves.org>)

**SELFSudan** TBD  
An organization that is building schools in South Sudan.  
(<http://www.selfsudan.org/>)

*We are able to donate to these organizations from the money we raise with our sale for school textbooks at the beginning of the semester, the donation box at Settimiano which we had at the end of Fall semester, and other projects throughout the year. April 10<sup>th</sup> STAND will be organizing an awareness and fundraising event entitled Traveling Feet II.*

In January the Myanmar government announced a ceasefire agreement with Karen rebels. The Myanmar government has given amnesty to over 6,000 Karen prisoners and reduced the sentences of 38,964 prisoners. The Karen, led predominantly by the Christian Karen National Union (KNU) along with other ethnic minorities have been oppressed since the establishment of the Buddhist Burman government in 1948. In Myanmar, formerly called Burma, the use of forced labor, forced recruitment of tens of thousands of child soldiers, sexual violence, unlawful killings, torture and the displacement of over a million Burmese people has been the ongoing conflict. The US cut off relations with Burma after the Buddhist's government's rejected their defeat in the 1990 elections (first election held in 30 years) and maintained martial law. The ceasefire includes an agreement that mandates open communication between the government and Karen rebels, as well as allowing safe passage for Karen rebels in the country. The Buddhist national government has agreed to enter peaceful negotiations with other ethnic minorities including the Chin, the Mon, the Kachin and the Kayah. *"The struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma is a struggle for life and dignity."* - Aung San Suu Kyi (opposition leader)  
<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org>  
<http://transitions.foreignpolicy.com>



# A S.T.A.N.D. STORY

He greeted me with a smile. Ali Murtaza is originally from Gzhani, Afghanistan. He had just gotten a new haircut and was showing it off to Afghani friends in the center. It was a good day for Ali because he was given the chance to apply for an Italian visa. In Italy, refugees rarely have the chance to receive any form of Italian identification. Ali told me, "Today is a better than yesterday in Rome."

Ali fled from Afghanistan due to political turmoil surfacing near his hometown of Gzhani. He managed to sneak onto produce trucks and fishing boats, just to make his way to Italy. His journey begins from Afghanistan. From there, he took a bus into Iran. When reaching Iran, he managed to sneak onto a produce truck headed to Turkey.

Once surviving the agonizing conditions of the truck ride, he made his way towards the ports of Turkey. He snuck onto a boat that was headed towards Greece. Once reaching Greece, he snuck onto another truck headed towards Bologna. Once arriving in Bologna, he slept in several train stations until finally sneaking onto a train headed towards Rome.

He has been in Rome for ten years now. He is unemployed and sleeps by Termini Station. He comes to the refugee center every Friday for a small breakfast and lunch. Ali sadly looked away and said, "Rome isn't my home. It will never be my home. My home will always be Afghanistan. But, I am happy to be alive."

LOOK OUT FOR *TRAVELING FEET* STANDS' NEW PUBLICATION WITH  
A COLLECTION OF STANDS' STORIES FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!

STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, envisions a world in which the international community protects civilians from genocidal violence and elected officials are held accountable for their actions, or inaction, in the face of genocide.

Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide wherever it may occur.

The mission of JCU STAND is to provide individuals and communities with a comprehensive understanding of the nature, limits and characteristics of genocide. We focus on community outreach and development and are particularly dedicated to providing aid to the refugees in Rome.

Email [Stand@johncabot.edu](mailto:Stand@johncabot.edu)

BOARD Baylen Campbell, Vanessa Landetta, Caroline Furuvald, Micayla Burrows.

**COUNTRIES ON GENOCIDE WATCH 2012:** South Sudan, Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Columbia, China, Iraq, Iran, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Algeria, Philippines, Lebanon, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, Israel/Palestine