



Bios of Participants in the SNAP/CCR Hague News Conference

Barbara Blaine, *President - SNAP*

Barbara Blaine is founder and president of SNAP, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. Since 1988, Blaine has reached out to help survivors, expose wrongdoers, and prevent clergy sex crimes and cover-ups. Previously, Blaine worked as a volunteer high school teacher in Jamaica and assisted street-children to locate family members, ran a shelter for homeless families in Chicago, and then represented abused and neglected children in juvenile court. Blaine holds graduate degrees in Law, Social Work, and Theology. Blaine works tirelessly to protect the innocence and safety of children and to help survivors and their loved-ones find healing, information and support. She is married and lives in Chicago. (English)

Wilfried Fesselmann, *SNAP member and abuse survivor*

Wilfried Fesselmann was abused as an 11-year-old in 1979 at a church-run vacation camp in Essen by Father Peter Hullermann, who was then transferred to Munich - with the consent of the Archbishop, Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI.). Till today these traumatic memories follow Wilfried, while his perpetrator is protected and continues to be paid by the church. Wilfried feels it is not correct that the offender gets his salary while he as survivor lives off social welfare. Since 2000 he is not able to work in his profession as business manager. In 2006 he nearly committed suicide. He not only started therapy, but also has been trying ever since to chase Father Hullermann, who was still in active ministry till 2010 when Wilfried's case became known worldwide. Due to higher media attention Wilfried fights for more education in order to protect other potential victims and to stop further crimes. Wilfried wrote a book about the cover-up "The Pope Affair". He lives in Gelsenkirchen, Germany and is married with three children.

Katherine Gallagher, *Human Rights Attorney – Center for Constitutional Rights*

Katherine Gallagher is a senior staff attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), where she focuses on holding individuals, including U.S. and foreign government officials and corporations, including private military contractors, accountable for serious human rights violations. Among the cases she has worked, or is working, on are international accountability efforts for U.S. officials involved in torture (Spain, Switzerland); *Arar v. Ashcroft*, *Corrie v. Caterpillar*, *Matar v. Dichter*, *Saleh v. Titan*, *Al-Quraishi v. Nakhla and L-3*, and *Estate of Atban v. Blackwater*. Prior to joining CCR, she worked at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia from 2001-2006. She has also worked as a legal advisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Kosovo and with the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown. During the negotiations to establish the International

Criminal Court, she worked as a member of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice in the International Criminal Court, to ensure that gender-based violence and discrimination are adequately addressed. Katherine currently serves as a Vice-President on the International Board of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), of which CCR has been a member since 2004. (For more information on FIDH, see www.fidh.org). She became a member of the Editorial Committee of the *Journal for International Criminal Justice* in 2011. Katherine received a joint M.A. in Journalism and Middle East Studies from New York University in 1995 and a J.D. from the City University of New York in 2000.

Lieve Halsberghe, Spokesperson and Director of SNAP, Belgium

Lieve Halsberghe is the niece of Godelieve Halsberghe, retired magistrate and former president of the Commission installed by the Belgian bishops in 2000 to deal with sexual abuse cases. Contrary to what the bishops had expected, she was an adamant defender of the victims and fought very hard to obtain justice. The cardinal and the bishops, all but one, boycotted her. In 2009, she resigned and made sure her valuable files were brought to safety in the National Archives. Lieve became involved in the fight against sexual abuse in the Church after talking to her aunt. She soon realized the time to act is now. We should no longer be silent but speak about the abuse in order to bring out the truth, and obtain healing and justice for the victims, who have been suffering in silence for far too long. Lieve has been lobbying with members of the parliament who have recently started an investigative commission in the national parliament of Belgium. (French, Dutch, English, Deutsch, Italiano)

Peter Isely, Midwest Director - SNAP

Peter Isely, a survivor of childhood sexual assault by a Wisconsin (USA) Roman Catholic priest, is one of the founding members of SNAP, The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, the world's oldest and largest self-help and advocacy organization of clergy abuse survivors and their families. Peter is also SNAP's first National Board Chair and longtime Midwest Director. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, he is a psychotherapist and trial consultant in private practice, having established in 1993 the world's only inpatient treatment program specifically for victims of clergy sexual trauma. Widely quoted in the major media and a frequent news expert and guest on the issue of clergy abuse, Peter is the recipient of the 2010 Equal Justice Medal of the Legal Aid Society.

Rita Milla, SNAP Member and Abuse Survivor

Beginning at the age of sixteen, Rita was sexually abused by Father Santiago Tamayo. In 1980, the sexual violence escalated when Father Tamayo introduced her to six other priests with whom he forced her to have sex. Over the next two years, she had sex with each of the seven priests as often as once a week. When Rita was 20 years old, she became pregnant. As a result, Tamayo sent her to the Philippines, telling her parents she was studying there and admonishing her to complete silence and secrecy "to avoid scandal to the Church". When Rita returned she reported the priests to the archdiocese. Bishop Ward of the Roman Catholic Church in LA promised to investigate the matter, but after a year, he told her that although the priests admitted she told the truth there was nothing he could do. In March 1991, Tamayo confessed and apologized face-to-face to Rita, telling a news conference that he "had to go public and tell the whole truth. I knew that cheap absolution would not undo the evil of the past. I had her full trust and confidence, yet I got sexually involved with Rita. Weakened by the sense of my own sins, I failed as a pastor to rescue her from getting involved with the other priests." The Los Angeles Archdiocese had been paying Tamayo to remain in the Philippines for years after the baby was born. In 2003, a court-ordered paternity test determined that Jacqueline's father was Valetine Tugade, one of the seven priests that had

raped her mother. He was found in Fremont, CA living in a condo with a girlfriend. Tugade admits, "I do remember her. What happened was we had intercourse with her, a lot of us." But, he adds, "she wanted it, and so I don't have to apologize to her. I have repented a long time ago."

Megan Peterson, SNAP Member and Abuse Survivor

Megan Peterson is a 21 year old artist and college student from Minnesota. In May, she graduated from Northland Community College with an associate's degree in art. This spring, she will study child abuse prevention at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. Last week, she spoke publicly for the first time ever about the child sexual abuse she suffered at ages 14 and 15 at the hands of Fr. Joseph Jeyapaul, a priest who is from and has since returned to India. Most recently, he has been overseeing dozens of schools in the diocese of Ootacamund (Tamil Nadu). Prosecutors in Roseau County Minnesota are trying to have him extradited to face criminal charges.

Phil Saviano, SNAP Member and Abuse Survivor

Phil Saviano of Boston, Massachusetts is currently a Board Member of SNAP. He has been speaking out about clergy sexual abuse, and reaching out to victims since 1992. His lawsuit against the Diocese of Worcester, MA, filed in 1993, was the first such Catholic clergy abuse suit ever filed in Boston courts. In 1996, he was the first Massachusetts victim to settle a lawsuit with no confidentiality provisions. The next year, he put to good use his knowledge of the issue, and his freedom to speak about it, and established the first New England Chapter of SNAP. In 2003, The Boston Phoenix named him a "Local Hero" for his 20 years of work with victims and the news media and for helping to expose the depths of the abuse cover-up within the Archdiocese of Boston.

Pam Spees, Human Rights Attorney – Center for Constitutional Rights

Pam Spees is a senior staff attorney in the international human rights program at the Center for Constitutional Rights. She has a background in international criminal and human rights law with a gender focus, as well as criminal trial practice. Prior to joining CCR, she practiced criminal law in Louisiana, where she primarily represented indigent persons in state and federal courts. In addition, she has worked as a consultant in international law with a focus on women's human rights and previously served as Program Director of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, an international advocacy network dedicated to ensuring accountability for crimes of sexual and gender violence included in the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court. She now serves as an advisor to the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (formerly the Women's Caucus), which is now based in The Hague, to monitor the Court and continue the advocacy for accountability gender-based violence.

Bert Smeets, SNAP Member and Abuse Survivor

Bert Smeets is a SNAP member and the chairman of the first survivors group in the Netherlands, Mea Culpa United. MCU has been fighting for nearly two years for acknowledgement and justice for people abused by priests and nuns. Bert organized a festival fundraiser for children in Katmandu who were being abused. Bert is also a musician and filmmaker. He has written many songs about his school years, and, in 1985, during a visit with Pope John Paul II in The Netherlands, he cut an album called *Pop Against Pope*. He has also made a documentary, entitled *Between Kathmandu and Bleijerheide*.

Benjamin Kitobo, SNAP Member and Abuse Survivor

Benjamin Kitobo was born in Likasi, Zaire (now, the Democratic Republic of the Congo) on June 19, 1967. Before fleeing his war torn home, living in a refugee camp in Benin, and being resettled by the UNHCR in the United States, he was a student in a catholic seminary training to become a priest. While training in the seminary, Benjamin was abused repeatedly by a priest from Belgium. This priest was the very same priest who had earlier visited Benjamin and his parents in an effort to convince him to enroll in the seminary. When Benjamin was 17 and strong enough to confront his abuser, the abuse ended, but the officials that Benjamin told – including school officials at the seminary and those at the Diocese of Ghent, the home diocese of the predator – did nothing. Today that priest continues to have access to children while running an orphanage in Rwanda.