12:30 pm Jane Weru

“Kenya at the Crossroads”

Do we have an option but to make real the Jubilee? Or will be like the rebellious children of Israel?

Kenya is rich in natural resources but when we exploit and remove these resources from the lands, what happens to the typical Kenyan? 5th most unequal country in the world.

Kenya today:

* 40 million people
* 40% unemployment
* 2009 census, increased urbanization: 39.7% urban and by 2030 50% will be living in urban areas

Will we urbanize into slums? Or can we make a difference?

Nairobi:

* 2.65 million are slum dwellers (out of just over 3 million or 65%)
* Low wage laborers
* 65% of the population living on 1.62% land area
* Living:
  + 10% of slums on uncontested government land
  + 40% on riparian and utility reserves
  + 50% sit on private land that was initially public land
* Density:
  + 318 households per acre or 1,176 people per acre
  + Compared to Runda where 2 households occupy 1 acre
* Eviction notices because people have no rights to their own land: some private corporations that own land in Makuru slum – 100 acres called Orbit Chemicals owns some land and wants it back. Have given eviction orders to 30,000 households. 40 acres Embakasi have given eviction orders to 12,000 households to take back land and make profit out of it. Sepum (?) 3,000 households/10 acres. The stories go on. Part that we don’t know who owns the land, but subdivided into individual owners. Imminent threat of eviction. Will this city survive with this kind of threat before us? Will there be peace? Therefore, do we have a choice about the Jubilee?

Kenyan new constitution re: land –

* Land shall be held, used and managed equitably, productively, sustainably. Equitable access to land. Security of land rights. Sustainable management of resources.
* How should it be handled when people are squatting on private lands?

Questions?  
How do these people come about living on illegal land?

If you pay your housegirl 5,000 a month, can they afford to rent an appropriate house? Can you afford to take a bus? No. So you have no options and you squat. Also, there is a lot of land that has been sitting vacant for many years that is privately owned, and then the squatters come. Haven’t seen a notice of any kind after living there for 20 or 30 years then they come suddenly in the middle of the night with an eviction notice. Born there, brought up there. Negotiation is key.

Are you (presenters) discussing these issues with the people in power?