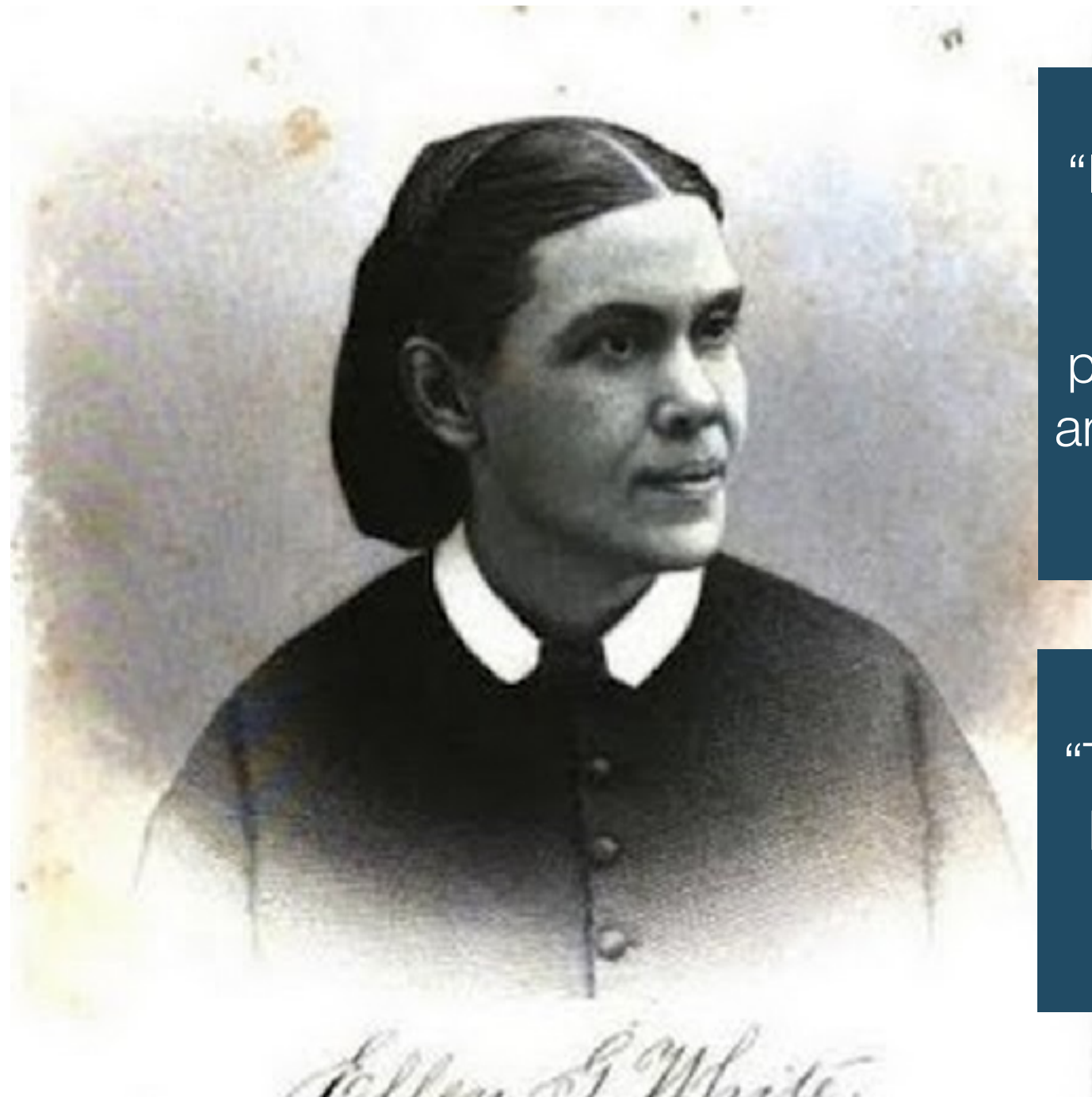




Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
WORLD HEADQUARTERS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY





“It requires much wisdom to reach ... men of influence. But why should they be neglected as they have been by our people? Should there not be deeper study and much more prayer for wisdom, that we may learn how to reach these classes?”

*EVANGELISM, 562.*

“The men in high positions of trust should be educated in the school of Christ. Do not shun these influential men.”

*REVIEW AND HERALD, AUG. 21, 1900*





PARL works to position the church to a standing of **visibility**, **credibility**, **trust**, and **relevance** in the public space.



- Events and symposia.
- Building relationships with public officials.
- Liaisons to the United Nations and US government.
- Engagement with academia.
- Inter-faith relations.
- Publications and communication.



# UNITED NATIONS

- Fourth Annual Symposium at the United Nations on religion and faith-based organizations in international affairs
- Theme: migrants and refugees.
- ADRA invited as a co-sponsor.
- Some 300 attendees from the UN and NGO communities.
- A fifth symposium currently being planned.





# VISITS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

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(From left) Tamas Ócsai, president of the Adventist in Hungary; Ganoune Diop, PARL director; Miklós Soltész, Hungary's State Secretary for Ethnicity and Civil Society Relations.

## HUNGARY

- Met with Miklós Soltész, State Secretary for Ethnicity and Civil Society Relations to discuss the status of religious minorities in Hungary.



# VISITS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

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## COLOMBIA

- Met with Colombia's Minister of the Interior, Guillermo Rivera Flórez to discuss relations between the government and religious groups in the country.





# ADVOCACY EFFORTS

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## Angolan Pastors

- Met with government and diplomatic leaders in Angola following the illegal imprisonment and subsequent release of two Seventh-day Adventist pastors, Pastor Hachalinga, from Zimbabwe, and Pastor Sibanda, from Zambia.



# ADVOCACY EFFORTS

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Bruno Amah, Togo

- Continuing to advocate on behalf of Bruno Amah, a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in Lomé, Togo, serving a life sentence after being falsely accused of murder.
- Amah was sentenced to life in prison in 2014. In the same court ruling, fellow Adventist Church member, Pastor Antonio Monteiro, was acquitted.



(Above) Bruno Amah with his legal counsel. (Below) The prison in Lomé, Togo, where Amah is serving his life sentence.





# EVENTS—RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DINNER

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This year's Religious Liberty Dinner, May 22, will mark the 16<sup>th</sup> time PARL has co-organized a gala in Washington, D.C. for political leaders, the diplomatic corps, religious leaders, and NGOs. For the first time, it will be held at the Organization of American States headquarters on Constitution Ave (right).



# CONSULTATIONS WITH DIVISIONS

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- TED President Pastor Raafat Kamal hosted a PARL consultation with all union presidents in the division.
- Shared challenges and strategized ways to raise public profile of the church in the region.

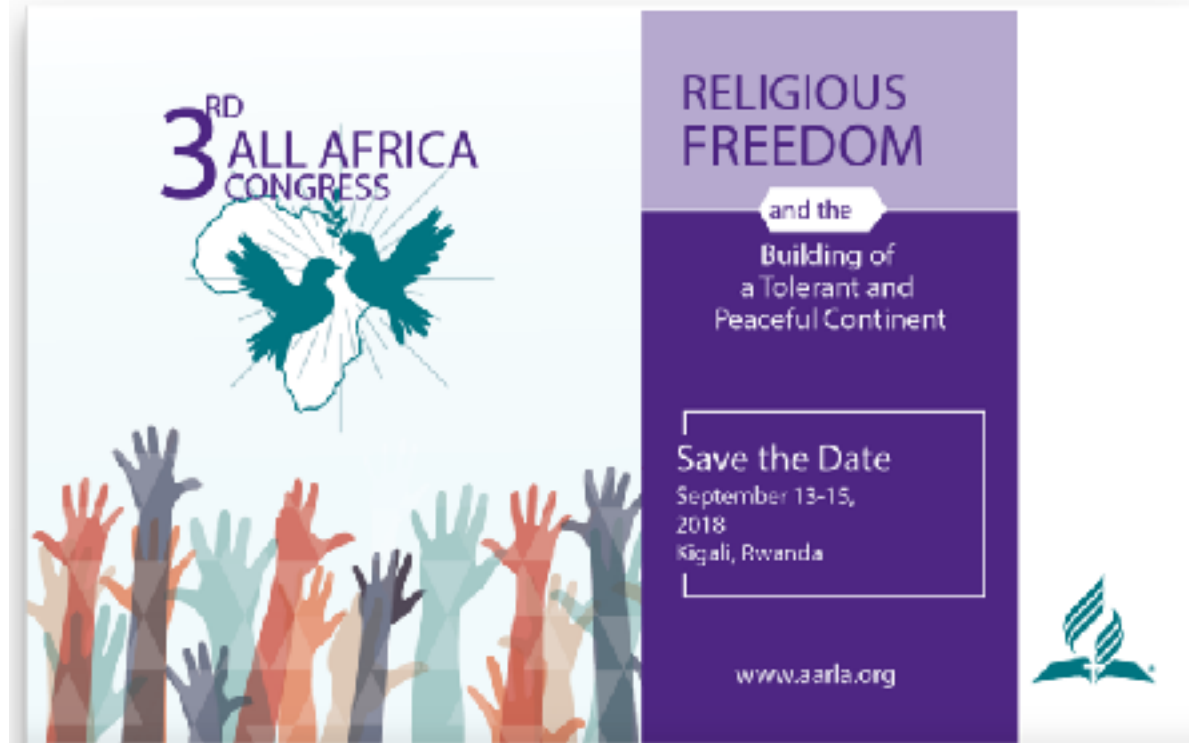




# SUPPORTING DIVISION EVENTS



- PARL leaders in SAD are organizing a three-day series of events this year in commemoration of Religious Freedom Day in the State of São Paulo, May 25. Events will be held at the state parliament (above, right).



- In September, ECD leaders are planning a continent-wide religious freedom congress in Kigali, Rwanda, followed by a mass rally in support of religious freedom.

