

## **Global Day of Action on Military Spending** *“Seek Peace and Pursue it”*

### **STATEMENT OF PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL**

*“If you wish to be brothers/sisters, let the arms fall from your hands.  
One cannot love while holding the offensive arms.”* Pope Pius VI

Pax Christi International joins the international community in its call for an immediate reduction in military spending in order to meet the needs of the human community and ensure sustainability.

It also calls on its members worldwide to remember, advocate and conduct actions in its areas of influence for the *Global Day of Action on Military Spending* on 17 April 2012.

We reaffirm the statement of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) that *“the current economic crisis has put pressure on the world’s governments to reduce spending on critical human needs: confronting climate change, battling deadly diseases and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But apart from a few courageous exceptions, national governments continue to waste enormous resources on the military. Figures from the 2011 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) annual report show that the world’s governments are spending more than ever on the military: \$1,630 billion per year – and rising. If spent differently, this money would go a long way to resolving the real challenges facing our planet”*.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that in 2010, 925 million people (about 13.6% of the global population) were hungry. Asia and the Pacific had the highest occurrence of hunger at 578 million people.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) most recent statistics on arms trade reveal that worldwide arms transfers increased by 24% from 2007-2011 over the previous four years: 2002-2006. Five Asian countries, India, South Korea, Pakistan, China and Singapore accounted for 44 percent of all global arms imports for the period covered. In the same report, SIPRI estimates that India is likely to spend more than \$100 billion on weapons in the next 15 years and China will increase its defence budget to about 106.41 billion US dollars in the coming year. The continent may now be called Amazingly Armed Asia.

We urge all member organizations of Pax Christi International to mobilize on **17 April 2012** in support of the call for an *Arms Reduction for Sustainable Development*.

*Let us join together for the 2nd Global Day of Action on Military Spending.*