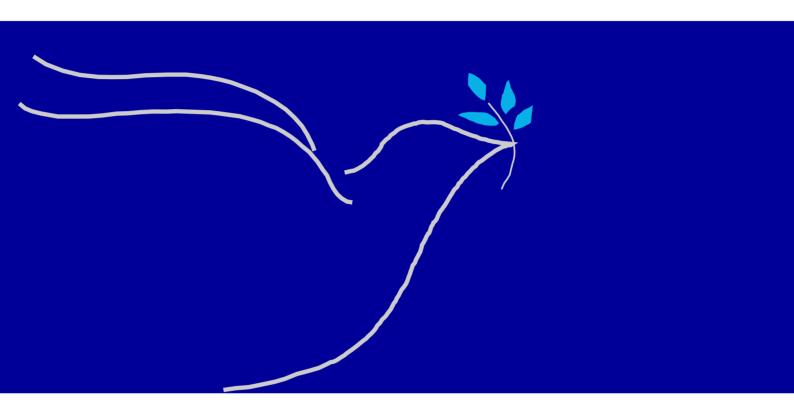
# Strengthening Bridges to Build Peace



Annual Report 2008



Dear Reader,

On behalf of the International Secretariat of Pax Christi International, I am happy to present our Annual Report for 2008. Although this report focuses mainly on the work realised by and carried from the International Secretariat, one should keep in mind that it is the fruit of collaborative efforts with our Member Organisations.

This Annual report has been written by the staff and interns of the International Secretariat on the basis of other reports received from our Member Organisations, reports from our field visits and also from notes taken during meetings, conferences, workshops and seminars. The lay out and editing of this report has been realised by one of our interns, Inka Dama.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all who made it possible.



Claudette Werleigh

## **VISION**

The work of Pax Christi International is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Pax Christi International believes that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence, in all its forms.

## Peace is Possible

## **MISSION**

Pax Christi International is committed to Non-violence and to Demilitarisation

and Disarmament, Human Security, Human Rights and the Rule of Law as the basis of peaceful societies. As a movement and a global network, Pax Christi International brings together people from many different backgrounds and cultures as they shape and act upon their shared vision of peace, reconciliation and justice for all.





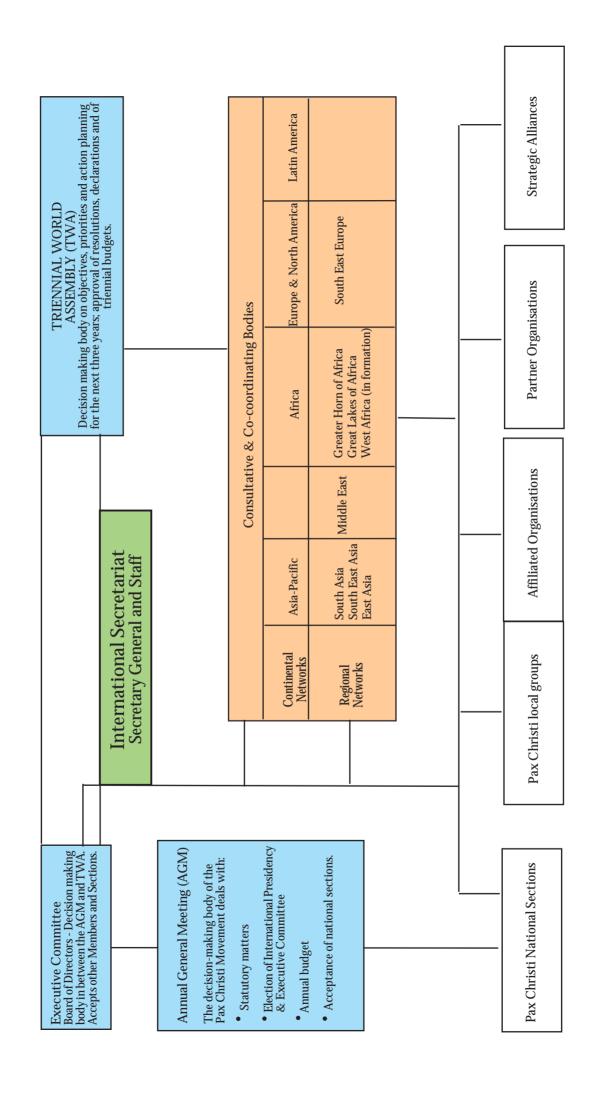
Vicious Cycles of Violence & Injustice can be Broken

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## INTRODUCTION

Pax Christi International is a *Catholic grassroots movement* of committed people, as well as a *global network of organisations* working for peace. There is great diversity in the movement in terms of the Member Organisations' strengths, areas of involvement and ways of working.



Pax Christi Member Organisations have a deep commitment to dealing with problems affecting many people in their countries and are recognised for their clear voices of protest against injustice. They also have broad social bases, allowing them to attack problems based on first-hand information from grassroots leaders with who they are in contact. These groups have developed positive relationships with many civil society sectors on both the national and international level.

Between Triennial World Assemblies, the Executive Committee monitors the whole movement to ensure that the Member Organisations abide by the Mission and Vision and that their activities are integrated into the Strategic Framework. Under the leadership of the Executive Committee, the International Secretariat that is based in Brussels carries out the following tasks:





- Providing Member Organisations with timely and appropriate information
- Ensuring that good communication and co-ordination exists among them
- Carrying out advocacy work on behalf of the Member Organisations
- Offering and facilitating appropriate training
- Creating bridges between its Members by encouraging joint activities
- Building partnerships with other organisations pursuing similar objectives

Periodical meetings of Member Organisations are conducted or convened by the International Secretariat. These meetings are usually developed around specific themes and issues, while following a regional approach at the same time.





## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Executive Summary presents a broad picture of the work carried by Pax Christi International during 2008. It offers a critical reflection of the achievements of the year by documenting:

- -The **services** that the International Secretariat offered its members (e.g. Communications)
- -The **strategies** deployed that are also relevant for all members (e.g. Advocacy)
- -And the **activities** carried out, and results achieved in different parts of the world.

The planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes are under the direct responsibility of the Continental or Regional Desk Officers for Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia-Pacific. Nevertheless, because we strongly believe that *local ownership* is an essential requirement to achieve lasting results, the methodology that we promote and apply is a highly *participatory* and *bottom-up approach*.

MONITORING is carried out predominantly by permanent staff and interns through the exchange of emails, phone calls, field visits, meetings and activity reports. The work of the International Secretariat is under the guidance and scrutiny of our Executive Committee.



**ADVOCACY** is carried out by our Member Organisations in their respective countries. Advocacy towards international bodies like the European Commission, the European Parliament, UNESCO and the UN are, as a rule in general, coordinated by the International Secretariat.



ACTORS AND **TARGET** GROUPS: The main actors of our work are our Member Organisations, and our target groups are people institutions interested in and also able to influence peace (civil processes society, community, church and government leaders).

Pax Christi International is involved in different levels of advocacy towards intergovernmental institutions, and has full official consultative status at the **United Nations** (New York, Geneva, and Vienna), the **Council of Europe** (Strasbourg) and **UNESCO** (Paris). The international movement has good working relationships with the **European Union** (Brussels/Strasbourg), both at the Parliamentary and Commission level, as well as the **Council of Ministers**.

**PARTICIPATION:** During our regional and continental consultations, or meetings of "antennas" (a smaller unit), the participants agree on themes and issues that they want to tackle together, as well as on strategies. The choice is based on a joint context analysis, common interests and by also taking into account their respective capacities.

A good example of how regional consultation topics are chosen can be seen in the case of the previous Great Lakes Consultations. Participants from Burundi, DR Congo and Rwanda chose to unite their efforts under the theme: "What Unites Us is Stronger than What Divides Us".

A good example of participation from the global network can be seen in the case of the various Weeks of Action throughout the year, where several Member Organisations develop their own type of actions in collaboration with churches, church-related organisations, religious communities or congregations, and with NGOs at the national and/or local level.

**BENEFICIARIES:** Direct and indirect beneficiaries from our interventions are our Member Organisations, men and women who are victims of violent conflicts (DR Congo, Sudan, Uganda), victims of torture (Lebanon) and of Human Rights abuses (Colombia, Haiti), landless and marginalised people (Dalits and Adivasis in India), and indigenous peoples in the Asia-Pacific region.



**STRATEGIES:** These include the following:

Education - workshops, seminars, conferences, cultural events.

**Reconciliation** by working with community leaders to stimulate exchanges and restore confidence between communities (e.g. the Lorma and Mandingo in Liberia)

Inter and intra-religious dialogue in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Africa

Advocacy towards specific governments and international bodies

**Information-sharing** sessions with civil society with the aim to find non-violent solutions to crisis (as in Guinea)

Networking and Building bridges to strengthen our work for peace

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION: By necessity, but also because we believe in the power of togetherness, we work in partnership and in coalition with a lot of organisations. Among them are: National and Regional Justice and Peace commissions, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), the Palestine Israeli Ecumenical Forum (PIEF), the National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE) in Nigeria, the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office in Cape Town, and the European Network on Central Africa (EurAC) to name just a few.

**ACTIVITIES:** In areas of Africa where our network is active, Pax Christi organised a number meetings, talking sessions for youth, sports events, musical presentations, theatre, prayer services, cultural events and conferences.



In the Middle East, we organised inter-faith peace pilgrimages in the Holy Land, vigils, seminars, concerts, festivals and public gatherings with our Member Organisations, as well as with Member Organisations in 40 other countries.

**OUTPUT:** Information gathered from context analysis, reports of activities, reports on human rights abuses etc. that are given to us by Member Organisations forms the basis of our advocacy work towards international organisations and governments.



**OUTCOME:** Change in behaviours, strengthened communal trust and social cohesion, better contacts with local government authorities and national NGOs, especially at the grassroots level.

**OUTREACH:** On global issues, the nature of our work makes it difficult to exactly pinpoint the scale of outreach. Through our advocacy on Cluster Munitions with the Cluster Munitions Coalition and our advocacy for an Arms Trade Treaty, our outreach is quite widespread. However, as an example of outreach at the grassroots level, over 50 church and government leaders, and in addition, people from civil society participated in the Regional Consultation in Entebbe, Uganda.

**INDICATORS:** These are measured by an increase in the number of member adherents, and whether there has been an increase in and a strengthening of their activities and new initiatives taken. Indicators also include the level of success in preventing and handling conflicts, and whether the community displays a positive attitude towards the organisations. Other indicators include whether or not the Member Organisations have built linkages with and among key actors of civil society.

MANAGEMENT OF UNFORESEEN EVENTS: Two members of the international staff have left the International Secretariat in a period of 6 months: one joined the Federal Government, the other the EU. Although not a total loss for us, as they can still be helpful in their new position, this has slowed down our activities during the first part of the year, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. A new staff member has been hired for the Middle East and Asia Pacific, while the work on Central and Eastern Europe has been taken over by an intern from Slovakia.

#### **IMPACT:**

- Willingness of people in conflicting communities to begin a dialogue on deeply rooted conflicts and issues.
- A visible increase in readiness to embrace non-violent solutions to conflicts.
- A visible increase in participation of community and religious leadership in the promotion of sustainable peace solutions in the region.
- Improved inter-communal relations.



#### **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Peace weeks carried out successfully in 12 locations in the Great Lakes region.
- Workshops on social analysis and capacity building in the Kenema district of Sierra Leone for the clergy and religious of the diocese.
- Meetings with politicians of both the Palestinian and Israeli authorities on the issue of the Church in the Holy Land, as part of the Episcopal Conferences.
- Participation of over 2,500 people in the ceremony to mark the Peace Award given by Pax Christi International to Dom Flavio Cappio, Bishop of Barra, Brazil, and the communities along the Sao Francisco river.
- Successful launching of the new Pax Christi International website in English,
   French and Spanish the three official languages of the movement. The new website is more interactive, and designed with the aim to address the needs of our Member Organisations.
- Clear improvement in the archiving of our documents and their availability to Member Organisations and the general public.
- In terms of collaboration and cooperation with other entities, we have maintained and strengthened a good collaboration with our partners and collaborated successfully with major Coalitions, leading for instance in particular to a successful outcome of the International Campaign on Cluster munitions.

**PARTIALLY ACHIEVED:** We continued to update and contextualise the Training Manual on Nonviolence. We are confident that the Manual will be fully complete in 2009.





#### CHANGES IN THE PROGRAMME:

- Although not originally foreseen, the International Secretariat coordinated the visit
  of a delegation of Christian Iraqis to Europe, an initiative by IKV/ Pax Christi
  Netherlands.
- The visit of the Lebanese delegation to the European Parliament that could not be organised in June took place in September instead.
- The conflict-sensitive monitoring of peacebuilding work in Sudan was postponed to the end of the year and was realised in November.
- It has not been possible to address the request of some of our Member Organisations to have part of our Website in Arabic. Unfortunately we do not foresee this taking place for a while.
- The planned seminar in Lebanon on Violent Radicalisation has been postponed to early 2009.

#### LESSONS LEARNT FROM ALL OUR PROGRAMMES:

- The Regional meetings are important opportunities to strengthen the network. This is especially true for regions like Africa and the Middle East, where conditions of war or basic communication infrastructure are not conducive to holding meetings via teleconferences or the internet. The regional meetings then take on a more significant role, as it provides an opportunity for Member Organisations to meet with one another and with representatives of the International Secretariat, and encourages the sharing of information
- There is a need for flexibility in programme planning. Given the nature of the work and the areas of operation, variable external factors like war and changing political situations require flexibility in the planning of programmes. Very often, situations change between the planning and implementation stages. As a result, flexibility allows for the programme to be adequately adapted to enable a smooth implementation.



- We have also realised that our Objectives were too broad. In the future, we should make them more focussed. This will allow us to measure to what degree or percentage they were reached.
- The International Secretariat is severely under-staffed. At present, there are only two permanent desk officers, which has led to a greater dependence on interns and volunteers. However, since interns are only involved over a short period of time (from 3 to 18 months), the International Secretariat faces a bigger problem with continuity of work, especially when there is no permanent Desk Officer to oversee the handover of work.





## **PART I**

## I. SOLIDARITY WORK, ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS

Pax Christi International is a part of a wide range of international coalitions, campaigns and networks. In order to engage in effective advocacy work and to share and exchange information, it links up with other civil society actors and coordinates initiatives.

#### **DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2008, delegates from over 100 countries and civil society organisations including Pax Christi International, assembled in Oslo to sign the most significant disarmament and humanitarian treaty of the decade, a treaty that bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling



of cluster munitions that are responsible for maiming and killing thousands of civilians. This treaty is a victory for the Cluster Munitions Coalition – an international coalition of about 300 civil society organisations working to protect civilians from the effects of cluster munitions. Pax Christi Member Organisations worldwide have actively participated in a number of the Coalition's activities such as the Global Day and Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Munitions. Pax Christi International is a co-founding member of the Coalition.

Achieving the complete and irreversible elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction is one of the chief aims of Pax Christi International. The international movement constantly provides Member Organisations with advocacy material which they use in their own political realities. In a statement addressed to the G8 Summitthat took place in July 2008 in Hokkaido, Japan, Pax Christi International urged for the inclusion of nuclear non-proliferation issues on the G8 Summit Agenda. With regard to biological weapons, the movement made recommendations towards the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) at the United Nations. For Pax Christi International, a key principle



for determining effective action is the concept of **collective responsibility**. In particular, States Parties must not limit themselves to promoting voluntary codes of conduct and other measures to be taken by the academic and industrial community. States remain primarily responsible for keeping the world safe from biohazards – both natural as well as man-made.

Pax Christi International is an active member of the International Action Network against Small Arms (IANSA). Member Organisations are very active at the local level by joining activities for advocacy and awareness-raising. Delegates from Canada and Philippines joined Pax Christi International at the 2008 Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms at the UN in New York.



To improve advocacy efforts towards the Arms Trade Treaty, the International Secretariat developed and widely distributed an Advocacy Package with information about the arms trade and the Control Arms Campaign. As it was put on Pax Christi International's website, it reached a global audience. The package complemented the Member Organisations' active participation in the Week of Action for an Arms Trade Treaty.



## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

In 2008, Pax Christi International highlighted the following concerns: On the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Pax International joined 30 other NGOs in stressing the importance of reaffirming the universal character of all human rights.

- The promotion and protection of the dignity and rights of children, especially those who have been exploited at work and those in conflict with the law.
- The Right to Education on Peace and Human Rights.
- The systematic violation of human rights of Islamic Activists in the Middle East and Northern Africa with particular attention to the double standards the international community applies when it comes to violations of the civil rights and the human rights of Islamic Activists.
- The rights of indigenous peoples to social justice and equity, non-discrimination and gender equality, respect of all human rights, empathy, cultural diversity, linguistic rights, solidarity, peace and friendly relations among all nations, races, ethnicities or religions.

The Member Organisations in Europe have a strong commitment to work on issues of immigration on the European level. They closely follow developments in relation to the Schengen Border Agreement and the Treaty of Lisbon with particular focus on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers.

Pax Christi International regularly addresses the Human Rights Council to express concern about human rights violations, either on its own or in close cooperation with other International Catholic NGOs.



Pax Christi International has launched a process of developing a Theology of Peace, based on the experience of our Member Organisations and that of people working for peace in regions where there is or has been violent conflict. The process includes the involvement of scholars, peace practitioners and theologians from the South who will be invited to reflect on the living spirituality and theology of peace in the Pax Christi Global Network of today.



In response to several alarming pleas and calls from different partners concerning the dramatic humanitarian crisis in the east and northeast of DR Congo. Pax Christi International addressed a letter to Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General. The letter stated that "The international community must take its responsibility to protect the innocent civilians of this conflict. The Security Counsel's decision of 20 November 2008 to increase the number of UN troops in the country is a positive step, but the increase must be accompanied by greater effectiveness on the ground. As a stabilization force, MONUC should be more involved in the consequences but also in the causes of the conflict".

Pax Christi International joined other faith-based organisations in calling for Responsible Stewardship of all Creation in particular World Food Security and Challenges of Climate Change and Bio energy. The statement was submitted at the Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bio energy.



## II. COMMUNICATIONS

The Pax Christi Internal website serves as a platform to exchange information and best practices, especially on the issue of violence in schools, which is one of the priority issues within the Pax Christi Movement.

Pax Christi International launched its renewed website in May 2008. The new layout and design is aimed at providing visitors with easy access to information about the Pax Christi Global Network. The current website features two main components:

- The Public Website (www.paxchristi.net) is accessible to all visitors, and provides information on the organisation and an extended database of news archives, as well as a focus section. When the war in Gaza took place, the focus section of the website provided timely information about the numerous activities of our Member organisations and partners.
- The Member Organisation Internal Site is designed to create an exclusive forum to facilitate communication among Member Organisations, the International Secretariat and the Executive Committee.

## MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Pax Christi's monthly publication is now available through our website in three languages: The Newsletter in English, Le Courrier in French and El Materials on "Environment and Conflict" are being collected and shared among Member Organisations via the internal website.

Boletin in Spanish. In spite of the interest manifested by some Member Organisations, it has not yet been possible for the publication to be translated into Arabic.



## III. YOUTH

Pax Christi International's European Member Organisations have traditionally had strong and vibrant youth departments. In other regions like Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa, youth work is effectively being carried out through the Member Organisations.

Given Pax Christi International's historical success with youth and aided by modern means of communication, the potential to use the Pax Christi International network to build a global youth movement is tremendous.



The International Secretariat is in a position to create a sustainable space for young peace workers in the following ways:

- Create a Common Platform for Knowledge Sharing: As the network centre, Pax Christi International has expertise in facilitating the sharing of knowledge, best practises and training.
- Provide a common online network space: Pax Christi International's internal website is an ideal online space that is used to connect and network with youth from across the world. This virtual space offers a chat function, message boards for discussions, Member Organisation profile pages and easy file sharing among groups.



- Provide Representation at International Youth Programmes: Pax Christi has an Observer Status within the European Youth Forum. A member of the International Secretariat attends the bi-annual Council of Members meeting, where decisions on policy, campaigns, new members and advocacy work with European Union institutions are made.
- Expertise in Inter-faith and Inter-Religious Dialogue: Pax Christi International is a founding member of the European Youth Forum's Faith-Based Expert Group (FBEG). The aim of the group is to develop an understanding of the role of religion and Inter-Religious Dialogue, to contribute to current and future activities of international institutions and to develop actions related to this topic.

The youth coordinator at the International Secretariat was given the opportunity to attend the Asia-Europe Training for Trainers in Predeal, Romania. The theme of the training was Intercultural Learning, Methods and Techniques in Asia-Europe Youth Projects. The project was co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Romania



Youth Council (CTR), in close partnership with the Romanian National Agency for Supporting Youth Initiatives (ANSIT).



## **PART II**

## I. AFRICA

Pax Christi International organises its primary work on Africa along the following geographic lines: the Great Lakes Region, the Greater Horn Region and West Africa.

# CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE-BUILDING

### **GREATER HORN OF AFRICA**

Pax Christi International is engaged in a multiyear Sudan Integrated Peace-building Programme (SIPP). Programme staff members



were oriented in Nairobi in July 2008, while the International Secretariat organised a monitoring mission. An international delegation visited Khartoum, Juba and other locations in Sudan where various initiatives for disarmament and peace building are being implemented. The group met with the Dutch Embassy personnel, some Sudanese government officials, NGO leaders, UN personnel and traditional leaders. Pax Christi International will continue to coordinate the SIPP and to organise advocacy work within the country (e.g. local communities and NGOs), within the EU (European Commission, European Parliament) and other international settings (e.g. UN)

Following the post-election violence in Kenya, Pax Christi partners helped to create spaces for dialogue and cooperation between community-based organisations of differing ethnic backgrounds. Kenyan partners attending the Pax Christi Regional Consultation in



October used the occasion to plan how to broaden their outreach and how their actions could have a greater impact, especially in the Mount Elgon region.

Pax Christi's International Secretariat published a statement entitled, 'Peace and Solidarity with the People of Kenya,' calling for an end to the violence and 'a speedy and peaceful resolution to the crisis.'



#### THE GREAT LAKES REGION

The annual Pax Christi Peace Week Commemorations were observed by Pax Christi Member Organisations in over 12 locations in the Great Lakes region, including the DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. The theme, 'What Unites Us is Stronger than What Divides Us,' was the rallying point for numerous local activities, such as sports events, musical presentations, theatre, prayer services, cultural events and conferences. Member Organisations were given a small subsidy in support of these activities for popular peace education.



#### **WEST AFRICA**

In *Sierra Leone* Pax Christi International facilitated a series of workshops on social analysis and the organisation of justice and peace groups in collaboration with the newly-reorganised Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. Many church institutions were disbanded during the prolonged war in Sierra Leone. Training and support was given by the International Secretariat staff towards the re-organisation of the Commission in three dioceses. In November 2008, Pax Christi International also supported workshops held in Kenema for the clergy and religious of the diocese.

The **Development Education Network of Liberia (DEN-L),** in partnership with Pax Christi International, initiated a process of sustained dialogue and reconciliation between the Lorma and Mandingo communities in Lofa County. These groups are experiencing increased tensions over long-standing land issues. DEN-L and Pax Christi International are working with community leaders to stimulate dialogue between the two communities. In 2008 the Africa coordinator travelled to Liberia to take part in the initial orientation of monitors for this process. The process will continue into 2009 in coordination with the Africa coordinator.

In Côte d'Ivoire young people have been widely implicated in much of the country's violence, often manipulated by leaders exploiting religious, cultural or ethnic differences. Pax Christi International has worked with the Centre de recherche et d'action pour la paix (CERAP) to organise youth seminars and to publish a series of booklets on religious, political and ethnic tolerance. Pax Christi International also facilitated travel and living expenses for CERAP Interns who visited other West African countries as part of a research programme on youth tolerance.

Pax Christi International has also collaborated with CERAP on a conflict-mapping project in *Guinea*, where the political situation continues to be very volatile following the death of President Conté. This exercise has resulted in plans, in collaboration with CERAP, for a comprehensive training for civil society on non-violent social action and transformation in 2009.

The collection of articles and the editing of texts for the training manual on non-violence and conflict transformation have continued. The manual is written in both French and English and is to be distributed throughout Africa.



## **ADVOCACY**

Pax Christi International continues to advocate for greater transparency and accountability for oil companies and other extractive industries operating in countries like **Sudan**. Early steps were taken with other relevant actors, like the **National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE)**, to initiate research on the impact of mining operations in local communities in Sierra Leone. Pax Christi International intends to collaborate with **NACE** and other local organisations in advocacy initiatives aimed at the Sierra Leone Parliament, in favour of greater transparency in the industry and for a more just distribution of the country's natural wealth. Diamond smuggling and other trafficking of natural resources have played a major role in fuelling civil war in that country.

In *South Africa*, the International Secretariat staff worked in collaboration with the **Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office in Cape Town**, to provide training on how to effectively influence country legislation in Africa on issues addressed by Catholic Social Teaching. Several additional Pax Christi partners will participate in the 2009 training, including delegates from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia.

Pax Christi International has continued to participate in advocacy coalitions, such as the **European Network on Central Africa (EurAC)** and the **Ecumenical Network on Zimbabwe**. International staff members also visited Addis Ababa to continue efforts to establish a consultative status in African Union institutions.

Marie Dennis, co-president, assisted in monitoring *Zimbabwe's* historic national elections in March 2008. Marie Dennis worked closely with the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission to observe the polling process and to advocate for a fair and transparent electoral process. New organisational contacts for Pax Christi have resulted through these actions.

Pax Christi also facilitated a research project on the political situation in Rwanda. The results of this research will be used to work with national governments in Europe and in America to advocate for greater democratisation in Rwanda.



## **NETWORKING**



The Greater Horn Network works with partners in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and the lively Sudan. It also maintains with related engagement concerns Somalia and Eritrea. The Regional Coordinating Committee meets twice yearly and holds regular teleconference meetings. It met four times via conference call and in person.

The Greater Horn of Africa Pax Christi Regional Consultation took place in October 2008 in Entebbe, Uganda. Over fifty church and government leaders, people from civil society and representatives from Pax Christi Member Organisations came together from Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Europe and America. Delegates discussed the importance of 'Identity in Leadership and Peacebuilding.' The 2008-2010 Action Plan for the Greater Horn was also reviewed.

Pax Christi International's network for the *Great Lakes Region* of Africa is comprised of Member Organisations and other partners from Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. For overall coordination of Pax Christi's work in the region, the International Secretariat convenes a Great Lakes Working Group, drawn from European Pax Christi Sections, and has a regional coordinating body (a committee of 'Antennes'). The Working Group met in September 2008 in Brussels.



The Antennes met in November 2008 in Entebbe, Uganda, where initial planning was done for the 2009 Regional Consultation and the Great Lakes action plan for 2008-2010 was reviewed.



A *West Africa Network* is still in development, as Pax Christi International worked actively with partners in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to initiate small-scale collaborative projects on the ground in view of organising a more formal network at a later occasion.

Finally, steps were taken to begin to create a Southern African Pax Christi Network under the leadership of the **Dennis Hurley Peace Institute**, a South Africa-based Member Organisation. Discussions were held in Pretoria to identify potential partners in the region, including, for example those in Zimbabwe with whom Pax Christi International has had an active engagement during the recent political crisis in that country.

## REFLECTIONS AND LESSIONS LEARNT

Pax Christi International's engagement in Africa has strong potential for making a positive contribution toward conflict transformation and building peace on the continent. However, it obviously cannot do this alone, and linking with other organisations remains a key strategy. It is also important that Pax Christi International stays focused on its core activities, such as resourcing, networking and advocacy, in order to work within the limitations of its available staff.

Pax Christi Regional Consultations remain an important opportunity to strengthen the networks. However, there is a great deal of effort to maintain contact with partners in these networks between consultation gatherings. This is critical to strengthening links across borders and internationally. Relationships are at the heart of building peace; facilitating opportunities for people to meet and to understand one another is central to this process.

The Pax Christi movement has always had post-conflict reconciliation at the heart of its mandate. In Africa it would do well to focus its resources on the areas of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation. It should also make full use of its rich spiritual heritage to promote a clearly articulated spirituality of non-violence that is appropriate to the African context.



## II. MIDDLE EAST

Peace Building and Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue are integral to the work of Pax Christi International. Special focus is given to the continued promotion and sharing of Pax Christi International's models of interfaith and intercultural exchange and dialogue, support for educational work with an interfaith perspective and advocacy work to protect the rights of religious freedom.

#### CONFLICT TRANFORMATION AND PEACE-BUILDING



Pax Christi International contributes to building peace in **Israel and Palestine** through the implementation of specific awareness actions developed in the field and through advocacy on the national, regional and international level.

The war in Gaza at the end of December 2008 led to numerous initiatives of advocacy and solidarity

across the Pax Christi network. These included letters to the United Nations, Governments and Church authorities; press statements; opinion articles; appeals for prayers and

messages of solidarity. The Pax Christi International website has proven to be an excellent tool in providing timely and accurate information that Member Organisations could use in their own advocacy work.



A major effort in 2008 was the planning of a seminar on "Preventing and Dealing with Violent Radicalisation," which is scheduled to take place in Beirut, Lebanon in March 2009. The seminar will bring together the expertise of our partner organisations in the region, as well as of other experts and organisations with regard to the role of civil society in preventing and dealing with violent radicalisation. Its aim is to understand the dynamics of violent radicalisation and to share good practices.



### **ADVOCACY**

Pax Christi International accompanied a lobby visit of a **Lebanese delegation** to the European Parliament in Brussels and to the UN in Geneva. The delegation worked with the head of the European Parliament on drafting a letter to the Ministry of Interior regarding the creation of a Human Rights Department at the Internal Security Forces. In addition, the delegation addressed the issue of torture in Lebanon to the Lebanese parliamentarians. At the UN level, they succeeded in putting Lebanon on the schedule of the meeting of the Commission of the Convention Against Torture to remind the Government of Lebanon of its obligation under UNCAT to submit its reports.

Pax Christi International regularly sends advocacy letters to various national and international institutions, such as the letter addressed to President Michel Suleiman and Prime Minister Fouad Siniora in Lebanon, to ensure the protection of victims and witnesses of crimes and of human rights defenders in Palestinian refugee camps on Lebanese territory.

As an active member of the Palestine Israeli Ecumenical Forum (PIEF), Pax Christi International works with others in catalysing and coordinating new and existing church advocacy for peace.

Member Organisations actively joined the annual Week of Action, which is an advocacy initiative by the **International Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel.** Activities such as peace vigils, seminars, concerts and festivals were held in Israel, in Palestine and in about 40 other countries.



#### **NETWORKING**

Representatives from our partners in Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine attended the Middle East Regional Consultation that took place in Larnaca, Cyprus in May 2008. Brainstorming sessions on factors contributing to conflict and peace in the region led to the identification of joint initiatives and the formulation of expectations towards the International Secretariat. New possibilities for networking through Pax Christi's new website were explored. The Members committed to share their materials meant for public use, as well as documents on projects for internal use. The International Secretariat committed to respond to queries on the internal website, to mediate discussions and to look for possibilities for an Arabic translation for at least parts of the website.

The International Movement identified the following areas as important in its work related to the Middle East

- Linking & Learning Advocacy and campaign training, developing brochures
  on best practices in peace building and dialogue in Lebanon and
  Israel/Palestine.
- Inter-faith Dialogue Drafting, facilitating and coordinating a regional project on inter- and intra-religious dialogue.
- **Joint Advocacy** Proposing an advocacy strategy, submitting it to an e-mail consultation and committing to undertake its implementation within its possibilities.



An important part of the networking strategy across the region is the **Peace Pilgrimages to Israel-Palestine** by Member Organisations. These Peace Pilgrimages combine both biblical and historical dimensions and include meetings with Church leaders, other religious representatives, politicians, analysts and peace and human rights promoters. Pax Christi International consistently promotes these initiatives through its newsletters and other channels.



Against the background of the continuing violence in Iraq, Pax Christi International has observed a very disturbing trend of targeted violence against minorities, which have been politically exploited and are increasingly discriminated against. There has been a significant increase in the targeted threats and attacks against the Christian community.

In 2009, Pax Christi International will coordinate the visit of an international delegation to Iraq to build solidarity with minorities and refugees, in particular the Christian communities. Emphasis will be put on interfaith cooperation and advocacy and lobbying afterwards. Furthermore, relationships will be developed with the growing non-violence movements in Iraq.

The Pax Christi International Secretariat facilitated the visit of a *delegation from Iraq* to several cities in Europe from the 20<sup>th</sup> of June to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2008. The main aim was to bring the voice of Iraqi Christians to different actors and decision-makers in Europe. The visit was prepared in coordination with IKV/Pax Christi Netherlands.



Pax Christi International Secretariat staff participated in the Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church of the Holy Land and the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, which met in Jerusalem and Rome in January 2008. Pastoral visits were also made to Ramallah, Beit Sahour, Taybeh, Beit Jala and Bethlehem. Meetings with politicians of both the Palestinian and Israeli authorities also took place in January 2008.



## INTERFAITH AND INTERCULTURAL CO-OPERATION



Pax Christi International's coordinator for the Middle East Programme attended the Third Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace. It was also an opportunity for Pax Christi International to network with other organisations working in the field of Inter-faith cooperation and a means by which to learn and share best practises.

Pax Christi Member Organisations continued to take part in the *Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)* in order to organise interfaith peace pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to be involved in the 'Bridges – Not Walls' campaign.

### REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Working in coalitions with partners in the Middle East region is a very important element of our work. Given the current political situations and frequent outbreaks of war, collaborating with on-the-ground partners is essential.

The Week of Action in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land will be repeated. It not only helped convey a message of solidarity to a population that is quite isolated from the rest of the world, but also helped to keep the issue foremost in the minds of decision makers and supporters.

The collaboration with the World Council of Churches is an essential part of advocacy initiatives related to Israel/Palestine. WCC initiatives are extremely effective.



The International Secretariat devoted quite some energy in receiving the delegation from Iraq and in facilitating coordination, as several Pax Christi Member Organisations were involved. The effort was greatly appreciated by the delegation who had the opportunity to directly address decision-makers.

The ideas and activities that emerged from the Middle East Consultation marked the start of a new period of reinforced engagement. The outcome shows that a lot is expected from the International Secretariat. However, more human and financial resources are needed in order for the International Secretariat to be able to meet these expectations and develop its work in the region in a more comprehensive way within a longer-term perspective.





## III. CENTRAL, EASTERN AND SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Pax Christi International has traditionally had excellent contacts in Central and Eastern Europe, which has led to numerous successful projects initiated by Member Organisations.

In spite of Pax Christi's excellent working relationship with partners in Central and Eastern Europe, the number of activities in the last year has been limited. This is due to some obstacles faced by Member Organisations in the region and, in part, by the lack of resources at the International Secretariat.

In a major advocacy effort, Pax Christi International condemned the establishment of a **US military radar base** in the Czech Republic. When the US Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice visited Prague to sign the treaty between the two countries, Marie Dennis, co-president, addressed an open letter to Ms. Rice, condemning this treaty



as a grave threat to world peace. Pax Christi International also supported Jan Tamas, who is the leading figure of the opposition against the US missile defence system in the Czech Republic.

Within the framework of its work on advocating a ban of cluster munitions, Pax Christi International addressed a letter to Jan Kubis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, in which the Slovakian government was urged to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Slovakia is a cluster bombs producer and stockpiler.

Experts from our partners in the Czech republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia contributed towards the publication entitled 'In transit', the result of an ongoing effort by Pax Christi International to link societies in transition, to offer a space for linking and learning to those people who in their own communities are engaged in projects promoting



human rights, transforming armed conflict, overcoming faith-inspired violence and building human and community security. The project aimed at exploring what civil society in the Arab countries could learn from the transition processes in Central Europe and to present the work of civil society organisations in the Arab world to their counterparts from Central Europe.

During a weeklong visit to Russia, Pax Christi International's staff conducted a seminar on non-violence, which was attended by a group of women from Grozny, Chechnya, and facilitated meetings with representatives of Pax Christi Member Organisations in the region to discuss possible joint projects for future work in this region.



Talks took place with the Russian Orthodox Church to explore options for further development of peace building actions with the Russian Orthodox Church. Pax Christi International shares a privileged relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church. For many years there have been historic dialogue processes on peace related issues which will continue to take place in coming years.

In order to revitalise our movement in the region, Pax Christi will renew contacts within the region and will also look for new contacts that share Pax Christi International's vision.



## IV. LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

The Pax Christi International network in Latin America and the Caribbean is characterised by its unity amidst diversity. Formed by Member Organisations focusing on different social issues, the network is engaged in peace building within the social dynamics of the continent.

Throughout 2008, Pax Christi International focused on strengthening communications with the Latin America Member Organisations following the Latin America Consultation in Peru in 2007. Staff from the International Secretariat travelled to different countries in the region in August 2008 in order to open dialogue and communication among different civil society organisations, to foster a closer network and to explore possibilities for new collaborative efforts. The updated **Action Plan 2008-2010** was reviewed. Some of the countries visited included Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

### CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE-BUILDING



Pax Christi International was honoured to present the 2008 Peace Award to Bishop Luiz Flávio Cappio of Barra, Brazil. Bishop Cappio was felicitated for his non-violent actions protesting a project to divert the Sao Francisco River that would have dire consequences for numerous fishing villages and river inhabitants. For over 30 years, Bishop Cappio has been working with the villages located along the River.

The award ceremony was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October in Sobradinho, Brazil, during the "Waters for Peace" rally, a

yearly pilgrimage celebrating the life that water gives to the people, organised by the Brazilian bishops' Pastoral Land Commission a Member Organisation in Brazil.



This Feast of Peace was attended by nearly 2,500 people. Laura Vargas presented the Award and handed over a plate with the wording 'Blessed are the Peace Keepers, they will see the Kingdom of Heaven'.



Haiti was one of the focus areas of 2008. One of our local Member

Organisations, **Pax Christi Port-au-Prince**, began a programme in **Cite Soleil** involving neighbourhood children in sports programmes in order to promote a culture of peace with youth. In the past few years this neighbourhood has seen extreme gang activity and violence. This programme expanded greatly this year and now involves about 75% of the children in this poor neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince.

#### **ADVOCACY**

Haiti was also the focus of several advocacy initiatives. In collaboration with others, such as Caritas International, recommendations were produced on progress towards peace, development and human security. The ECOSOC Committee on Haiti in New York as well as several advocacy meetings in Brussels, together with European NGOs working on Haiti, provided valuable opportunities to bring to the agenda issues such as the rising price of food and the situation of debt in Haiti. First hand information was given by two members from the Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix, which is a Pax Christi International Member Organisation in Haiti. They met with members of the European Commission and several NGOs during a visit to Europe in October 2008.



#### REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

After a successful Latin America Consultation in 2007, the International Secretariat has been working on creating a programme for the coming years. The major challenge is encouraging the Member Organisations of the region to function as a network.

Communications with other partners have been limited. However, Pax Christi has used the turmoil caused by the food crisis in El Salvador and Haiti as a possible discussion issue to reconnect with those who participated in the 2007 Continental Consultation.

In December 2008, during an Executive Committee meeting, there was a specific meeting on the Action Plan, in order to analyse the current situation in Latin America, as well as to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the regional network and the Member Organisations. The revised Action Plan for 2008-2010 includes visits from Executive Committee members and the Secretary General to the region.

Member Organisations are very active in their own regions, which is evident from their various websites, communiqués and feedback sent to Pax Christi International. However, cooperative activities have been limited due to shortages of staff and resources at the International Secretariat. Pax Christi realises the need for a permanent desk officer to further promote communication and cooperation within the network.



## V. ASIA PACIFIC

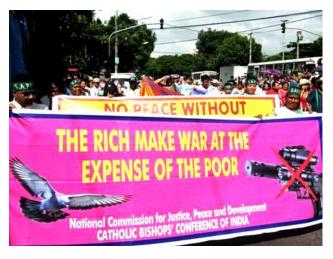
Claudette Werleigh, Secretary-General of Pax Christi International, visited the member Organisations in the Asia-Pacific region during the latter half of 2008. The purpose of the visit was to identify new projects for the International Network that could be spearheaded by partners in the region.

#### CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE-BUILDING

Under the guidance of the Catholic Council for Justice and Peace (JCCJP) Pax Christi International and its Member Organisations campaigned very strongly on keeping the existing Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution. The article states that Japan renounces war and the use of force to resolve international disputes, and prohibits Japan from



maintaining armed forces. Member Organisations from all over the world have joined in numerous advocacy, lobbying and campaigning efforts on both national as international levels.



In order to build synergy with Member Organisations and with like-minded partners in the region, Pax Christi was present in several regional encounters. A representative of Pax Christi Philippines/International attended the **Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation Program** (PSCTP) that was co-organised by the Asian Muslim Network (AMAN) and the Institute for Religion,

Culture and Peace of Payap University in Changmai, Thailand. She also facilitated a meeting of Pax Christi Member Organisations on the occasion of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Justice and Peace Workers (JPW) Meeting in June. The theme of the meeting was



"Responding to Marginalisation in Asia through Justice and Peace" and included topics like the marginalization of the earth (focused on the mining issue and mining's adverse effects), the marginalization of the poor (focused on the plight of the poor forcing them to become migrant workers who are often exploited), and the marginalization of peace (focused on the stalled peace processes in the Philippines and the need to return to the peace table).

#### **ADVOCACY**



Pax Christi addressed Indian authorities at various occasions to express concern and ask for concrete measures for instance when violence erupted between the Christian and Hindu communities in the Kandhamal district of Orissa in August 2008. Also the long struggle of landless and marginalised Dalits and Adivasis in Chengara in the state of Kerala was addressed. These landless people have been struggling for land rights promised by successive governments.

During the Olympic Games 2008 Pax Christi International issued a statement regarding the situation in Tibet to the Chinese Authorities. "The Olympic Games are a symbol of solidarity and peace, transcending borders through fair competition and cooperation in sports. It is the expressed hope of Pax Christi International that, without delay, the dialogue with the Dalai Lama will create an opportunity to come to a mutually agreeable solution to the crisis in Tibet. Only a formal and true dialogue will lead to a solution to the impasse over Tibet."



Pax Christi Philippines made an appeal for Truth-Telling and Reconciliation in Mindanao. As violence was escalating in several parts of Mindanao, Pax Christi demanded that the parties involved in the conflict go back to the negotiating table to reach a peaceful solution.



The National Commission for Justice and Peace in Pakistan

conducted an evaluation of the then upcoming elections in the country and **campaigned** for free and fair elections. Along with Pax Christi International, Member Organisations and others, they produced a statement for the Human Rights Council in Geneva criticising the Pakistani government for continuing to deny the abuse of rights.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, Pax Christi Aotearoa/New Zealand marked the beginning of a Global Week of Action Against Cluster Munitions with the launch of an advertising campaign calling on all governments to ban the weapon and help prevent civilian casualties. The Aotearoa/New Zealand Cluster Munitions Coalition (ANZCMC), which includes Pax Christi Aoteoroa/ New Zealand, displayed posters at locations in Auckland and Wellington. As part of the Week of Action, the ANZCMC also wrote to Wellington-based diplomatic representatives of states that had not yet decided if they would sign the Convention, including Brazil, Malaysia, Poland, Thailand, and Vietnam.



#### **NETWORKING**



Claudette Werleigh's visit to Asia-Pacific began in the Philippines where she met with members of Pax Christi Philippines and was introduced to the Pax Christi Club of Miriam College that functions as a "Zone of Peace".

A Zone of Peace is a site with sacred, religious, historic, educational, cultural, geographical and/or environmental importance, protected and preserved by its own community and officially recognised by a governmental authority. It is not merely a "Demilitarised Zone", but a sanctuary that operates within ethical principles of non-violence, free from weapons, acts of violence, injustice and environmental degradation.

In Japan, Claudette Werleigh met with the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace (JCCJP) and with the staff of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Centre and Museum. The Centre has been organising a Hiroshima - Nagasaki Exhibition in over 100 cities in the U.S. with the support of Pax Christi USA. Claudette Werleigh also led a workshop at the Justice and Peace annual gathering in Osaka after which she talked about Pax Christi International to the participants the



Cathedral before the closing mass. The JCCJP was able to raise more than € 3000 for the victims of hurricane in Haiti; a meaningful experience of solidarity.



After this, Claudette Werleigh travelled to Australia where she met with the various branches of Pax Christi Australia and conducted talks with Human Rights and Peace activists, women's groups, university students and academics in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart. She shared life stories about trauma healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, women's empowerment and peace building



in countries ridden by violent conflicts. She also shared her experiences about working across socio-economic, ethnic, political and religious divides.

Claudette Werleigh was the keynote speaker at the launching of the Pastoral Letter of the Australian Episcopal Conference about poverty.



This was followed by a short trip to Wellington, Auckland and several smaller cities in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Pax where Christi Aotearoa/New Zealand had arranged for Claudette Werleigh to meet with members ofthe Aotearoa/New Zealand section, as well as church leaders, politicians and indigenous groups.

Both Pax Christi Australia and Pax Christi Aotearoa/New Zealand are strongly engaged in advocating for the improvement of the situation of indigenous people in the region. This is done in close collaboration with the Forum of Human Rights Institutions in Kuala Lumpur and of the Civil Society Organisations Pacific Island Forum in Auckland.





Claudette's visit then continued on to Jakarta, Indonesia where she met with Abdurrahman Wahid, the former President of the Indonesian Republic.

Preparations have started for the 5<sup>th</sup> Pax Christi Asia-Pacific Continental Consultation, scheduled to take place at the beginning of 2011 in Indonesia.

From 2009 onwards, the International Secretariat will offer to its Asia Pacific members a new publication 'E-news from Asia-Pacific'. This publication will provide information about relevant and region-specific activities carried out by our Member Organisations. We hope that through this initiative, we can encourage a greater sharing of region-specific information among our partners and members in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

In the second half of 2008, Pax Christi International's work in Asia-Pacific has been primarily carried out locally by its partners.

With the visit of the Secretary General, some flagging relationships with Member Organisations were revived. The visit has provided the International Secretariat with the chance to consolidate its ties with several of its Member Organisations.

Advocacy efforts by individual Member Organisations have risen with the support of the International Secretariat. The Asia-Pacific Member Organisations are also members of other networks in the region, which allows for a more cohesive working relationship. By participating together in programmes of other networks, the Member Organisations are able to consolidate their cooperation.



The Regional Working Group met in November 2008 to discuss a number of issues including a new Chinese Member Organisation, the outcome of the Secretary General's visit, the launching of a bi-monthly regional newsletter and the next Continental Consultation.

Pax Christi has also participated in a number of conferences in the region. This strengthens its ties with its Member Organisations and with other organisations such as the Justice and Peace Workers meeting and the Asia-Pacific Forum of Human Rights Institutions.



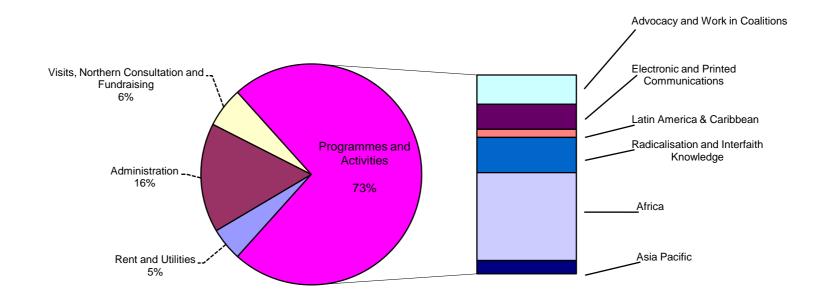
### **BALANCE SHEET 2008 (in USD)**

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Equipment, Furniture, Software	\$ 20,991.68	Own Reserves	\$ 45,156.62
Guarantees	\$ 7,552.02	Provision Donations	\$ 57,183.17
Current Stocks	\$ 2,851.44	Outstanding Debts within One Year	\$ 70,569.73
Committed Grants receivable	\$ 277,468.45	Accrued Charges	\$ 12,669.65
Cash and Bank	\$ 265,847.20	Approved Grants for Following Year	\$ 468,150.80
Accrued Income and Deferred Charges	\$ 79,019.18		
Total Assets:	\$ 653,729.97	Total Liabilities:	\$ 653,729.97

#### **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2008**

INCOME		USD
Contribution Member Organisations and Donations		\$ 605,334.69
Contribution Government		\$ 91,992.07
Grants		\$ 265,939.51
Recuperations of costs		\$ 18,446.45
Miscellaneous income		\$ 7,168.79
	Total:	\$ 988,881.51
EXPENSES		LICD
EXPENSES		USD
Rent and Utilities		\$ 47,717.27
Administration		\$ 157,531.46
Visits, Northern Consultation and Fundraising		\$ 57,725.96
<u>Programmes and Activities :</u>		
Advocacy and Work in Coalitions		\$ 106,063.64
Electronic and Printed Communications		\$ 90,968.77
Latin America & Caribbean		\$ 29,532.51
Radicalisation and Interfaith Knowledge		\$ 127,965.23
Africa		\$ 319,020.84
Asia - Pacific		\$ 48,045.95
	Total:	\$ 984,571.64

RESULT OF THE YEAR 2008 (in USD) 4,309.87 USD



# **DONATE**

Pax Christi International's activities are increasing every year. As our activities expand, so does our need for financial support. We are strongly resolved to do everything we can to connect peace-minded people and groups around the world to the Pax Christi International Network and to truly support the immense efforts of those crying out for peace and justice.

A financial contribution to support our work is truly appreciated and is a concrete way in which you can contribute to help create a culture of peace and non-violence. It also helps us more effectively respond to arising conflict and unforeseen emergencies.

We accept online donations: <a href="http://www.paxchristi.net/international/eng/donate.php">http://www.paxchristi.net/international/eng/donate.php</a>

You can also transfer your donation to the following bank account

1. Name: Pax Christi International

2. Address: 21 rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains – 1000 Brussels – Belgium

3. Bank Name: KBC Bank

4. Bank Address: KBC Agency Dansaert-Bruxelles, 9 rue du Vieux Marché aux

Grains – 1000 Brussels – Belgium

5. BIC: KREDBEBB 6. Account N°: 433-1147801-25 7. IBAN: BE70 4331 1478 0125

BIC = Bank Identification Code

IBAN = International Bank Account Number



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Government of the Netherlands Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane

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Zusters Heilige Familie

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Antennes de Paix Montréal, Canada Zusters van Liefde

Denis Hurley Peace Institute, South Africa Soeurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie

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