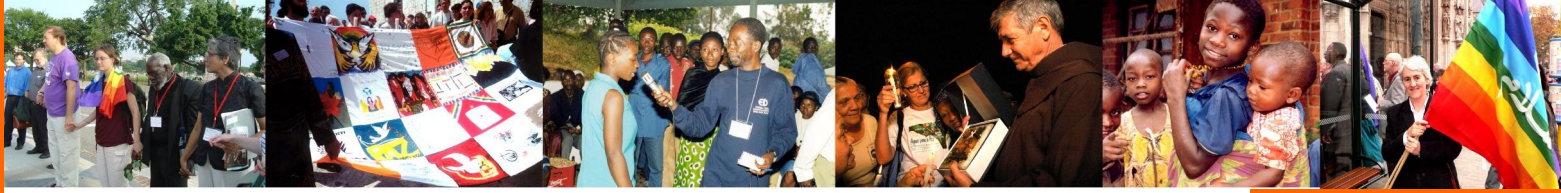


# Pax Christi International

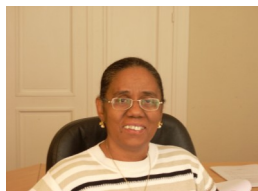


## Annual 09 Report

a  
global  
faith-  
based  
network  
for peace



## Letter from the Secretary-General



Message

From

Claudette

Werleigh

*Dear reader,*

*On behalf of Pax Christi International, I have the privilege to present to you our Annual Report for the year 2009.*

*The text starts with a quick presentation of Pax Christi International for those of you less familiar with our organisation.*

*The report covers mostly what has been done by, from and at the International Secretariat; but inevitably, we also touch upon some activities, projects and achievements of the Member Organisations that form an integral part of our international movement and global network.*

*The report conveys very well the dynamics at the International Secretariat where we deal everyday with important issues, concerns and strategies that we need to finely adjust to the specifics of different parts of the world. The report ends with the financial figures for 2009 together with the list of our sponsors and supporters.*

*Allow me to thank, first, the organisations that have provided the funds necessary to carry out all the work that has been done. We appreciate very much their moral and financial contribution to the cause of Peace.*

*Our gratitude goes also to all the religious congregations that we have visited during the year. Thanks a lot for the way you have welcomed and listened to us. Thank you also for your generosity.*

*Last but not least, allow me now to congratulate and thank the Pax Christi staff, all the volunteers and interns, together with a great number of anonymous people all over the world who have made our work for Peace in 2009 possible. Thank you to all of you.*

*Adelante!*

*Tenons-nous fermement la main!*

*Let's keep up the good spirit: Our work for Peace continues!*

Claudette Werleigh  
Secretary-General

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## ABOUT PAX CHRISTI

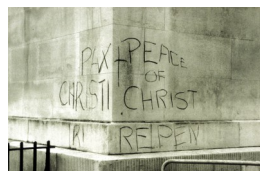
Pax Christi International is a *Catholic grassroots movement and global network of organizations* that works to help establish Peace, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation in areas of the world that are torn by conflict. It is grounded in the belief that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken.

### *Our 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.

### *Our Mission*

As a faith-based network, Pax Christi International seeks to transform a world shaken by violence, terrorism, deepening inequalities and global insecurity. Pax Christi International works to create a culture of peace and believes that religion should be an unequivocal force for peace and social justice. Pax Christi International is committed to non-violence and to demilitarization 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.



A  
Faith  
Based  
Network

## ABOUT PAX CHRISTI

*Pax Christi International seeks to develop initiatives that address our Five Major Concerns:*

1. Human Rights and Violent Conflict
2. Human Security and Violence
3. Disarmament and Demilitarisation
4. Just World Order
5. Religion and Violent Conflict

*Eight Strategies are used to address these concerns:*

**Conflict Transformation** : Pax Christi is involved in conflict transformation, including early warning systems, conflict prevention and resolution, and community-based demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants. It promotes alternative solutions to violent conflict by identifying, studying and addressing the root causes of violence and social injustice.

**Peace Building** : Pax Christi facilitates and supports reconciliation and peace building processes, which help communities to look at the past and develop a path towards lasting peace rooted in truth and justice (Just Peace). Pax Christi promotes peacemaking skills of dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution.

**Education and Youth Work for Peace** : Pax Christi contributes to a culture of peace by encouraging models of education that use, for example, youth exchanges, alternative peace service, voluntary peace work and peace weeks.

**Interfaith and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace** : Pax Christi creates opportunities for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation in order to promote peace and social justice with efforts towards Islam and Muslim communities.

**Nonviolent Social Change** : Pax Christi 's dedication to peace is translated into the countless nonviolent actions of its members around the world. This includes, for example, organizing conferences and debates, defending the rights of conscientious objectors, efforts to heal ethnic or religious divisions, solidarity delegations and missions to areas of conflict and public witness for peace.

**Developing Peace Spirituality & Theology** : By developing a spirituality and theology of peace, it wants to insert moral and ethical principles on issues of war and peace into the public and political arenas.

**Advocacy and Campaigning** : Through its representative status with international bodies such as the United Nations, UNESCO, the EU and the Council of Europe, Pax Christi brings the experiences and concerns of its members in the Global Network to the international arena. On a national level Pax Christi Member Organizations engage in advocacy appropriate to their own unique social and political context.

**Networking** : Pax Christi increases the capacity and effectiveness of the Pax Christi movement and global network. Frequent continental and regional gatherings play a key role in facilitating consultation and exchange among Pax Christi Member Organizations around the world.



Five  
Concerns  
&  
Eight  
Strategies

## ABOUT PAX CHRISTI



Global  
Network  
&  
Grassroots  
Movement

### *Our Member Organisations*

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 whom they are in contact. These groups have developed positive relationships with many civil society sectors on both the national and international level.

### *Organisational Structure*

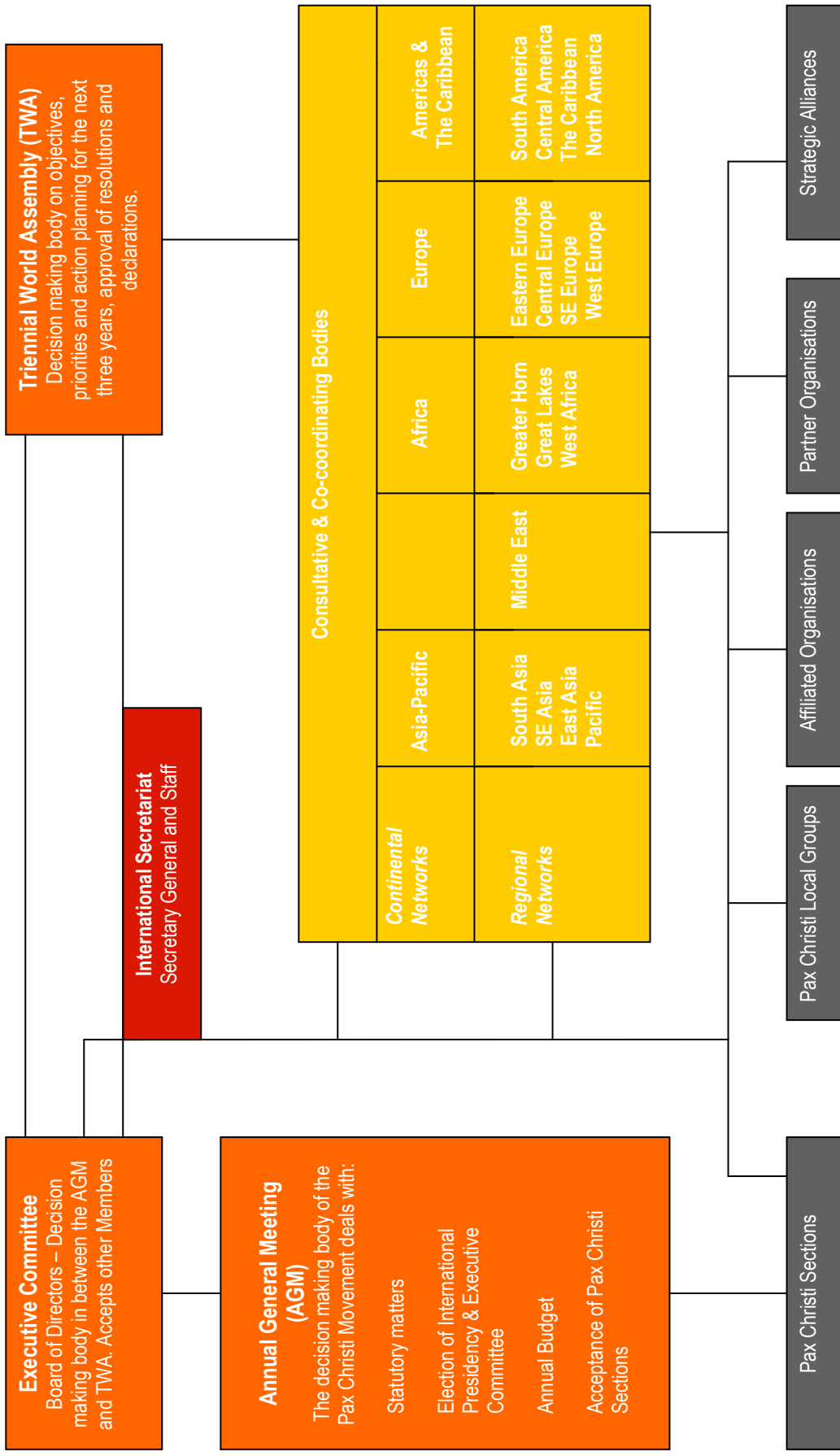
Between Triennial World Assemblies, the Executive Committee monitors the whole movement to ensure that the Member Organisations abide by the Mission and Vision and that their activities are integrated into the Strategic Framework. Under the leadership of the Executive Committee, the International Secretariat 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.



## Organisational Structure





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### Executive Summary

#### Example

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.

This Executive Summary presents a broad picture of the work carried by Pax Christi International during 2009. It offers a reflection on the achievements of the year by documenting:

- ✦ The **services** that the International Secretariat offered its members
- ✦ The **strategies** deployed that are also relevant for all members;
- ✦ 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, the Americas and the Caribbean, 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 United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe and UNESCO are generally 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 and institutions interested in and also able to influence peace processes ( civil society, community, church and government leaders ).

**Participation** : During our regional and continental consultations 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.

**Beneficiaries** : Direct and indirect beneficiaries from our interventions are our Member Organisations, men and women who are victims of violent conflicts and human rights abuses, and landless and marginalised people.

**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.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Some of our achievements for the year 2009 include:

- ✦ The creation of multiple advocacy packages for the use of our Member Organisations and civil society at large. These include packages on *Military Spending and Development Aid*, *Ban Cluster Munitions*, *The Missile Defence System in the Czech Republic*, *Nuclear Disarmament*, *Avenues for Advocacy in the UN Human Rights Council*.
- ✦ Participation in Weeks of Action and International Days such as International Women's Day and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The World Week for Peace in Israel-Palestine was a main focus. Pax Christi advocates the observance of these days by inviting all Member Organisations to participate.
- ✦ The International Secretariat has been active in its Advocacy in the UN Human Rights Council, submitting oral and written interventions alone or jointly with other NGOs at the 10th, 11th and 12th sessions.
- ✦ Informational reports and educational manuals including a peacebuilding manual to strengthen regional peacebuilding efforts in Africa, and a report on the climate refugees and the role of the EU were published. Pax Christi also produced reflection papers on the reforms brought about by the Lisbon Treaty, and on the possible impact of Turkey's integration into the EU on interfaith relations.
- ✦ Participation in international summits and seminars, for instance the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World. Also in 2009, an ecumenical delegation organised by the World Council of Churches, attended the "Third Review Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- ✦ Networking and joint-campaigns with Member Organisations and partners, such as International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons on topics like disarmament and non-proliferation.
- ✦ In March 2009 Pax Christi organised a cross-border meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Arua, Uganda, where activists from Uganda, Sudan and the DR Congo gathered to plot joint strategies and actions.
- ✦ The International Secretariat once again highlighted and promoted the accomplishments of a contemporary peacemaker by awarding Justine Masika Bihamba the 2009 Peace Award.
- ✦ The Pax Christi International icon made a tour in the United Kingdom to promote peace spirituality and theology.



The  
Year's  
Achievements  
And  
Highlights



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The  
Year's  
Achievements  
And  
Highlights



- ✦ Pax Christi conducted a workshop for the 31st meeting of European Youth organised by the Taizé community in Brussels.
- ✦ The International Secretariat updated and improved its technical capacity for communication by establishing a data-secure information exchange platform for Member Organisations. Staff were trained to use the software and manuals were prepared and translated.
- ✦ In September 2009 a Pax Christi delegation visited Iraq to express solidarity with the Iraqi people, gain a better understanding of Iraq ' s complex reality, and to propose concrete actions that support efforts for peace and reconciliation. A series of recommendations were made by the delegation.
- ✦ In April of 2009 the fifth regional consultation of the Great Lakes Region of Africa took place bringing together representatives of 40 MOs. The result was the formation of the 2010-2012 programme on community-based reintegration of ex-combatants.
- ✦ The organisation worked hard to create joint statements and campaigns during the Gaza conflict. An example is the highly successful “ Prayers and Wishes for Bethlehem ” project.
- ✦ Pax Christi International participated in a monitoring team to evaluate the Sudan Integrated Peacebuilding Programme. Also, the Sudan Domestic Election Monitoring and Observation Project was established to train Sudanese monitors for the upcoming election.
- ✦ Pax Christi in partnership with DEN-L, accompanied a process of dialogue and trust -building between the Lorma and Mandingo communities in Liberia. This resulted in greater cooperation and readiness to resolve conflicts, increased inter-marriages and increased security for travellers.
- ✦ Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International participated in an emergency ecumenical delegation to Honduras in August 2009. The delegation provided an international presence and witness to events on the ground.
- ✦ Preparations for the Fifth Asia-Pacific Consultation began in 2009. It was decided that the event will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on March 9<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. The theme will focus on religious and cultural differences throughout the region.
- ✦ Vice President, Bishop Kevin Dowling attended a series of consultation on setting up a Truth Commission in Croatia.
- ✦ A seminar was held in Lebanon on preventing and dealing with violent radicalisation in cooperation with partner organisation LACR.

## DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION



### Ban Cluster Munitions

#### I. Ban Cluster Munitions

##### *Advocacy Package - Ban Cluster Munitions*

The 30th of May 2009 marked the first Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This also coincided with the Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Munitions, which called on countries to ratify the Treaty to bring it into force, and to ask non signatory states to sign without delay.

Pax Christi International participated in the Week of Action by mobilising its membership worldwide to campaign in favour of a Treaty. Additionally, Pax Christi International created an advocacy package on the subject. It features an introduction to the situation, made a call for action under the “*30 Signatures Can Save The World*” and the “*Week of Action*” sections and provided a link to resources that could be used by Member Organisations.

Whilst the negotiation and adoption of this Convention is a great achievement, much of the real work remains. For it to have a meaningful impact, governments must sign, ratify and implement the treaty.



The work done by Pax Christi International to ban cluster munitions is complimented by the activities of some of its Member Organisations. For example, IKV Pax Christi in the Netherlands monitored an event on the Convention on Cluster Munitions hosted by the UN. The International Secretariat contributed by sending correspondence advocating for support of the Convention to specific governments.

Netwerk Vlaanderen and IKV Pax Christi released a report on disinvestment and cluster munitions, which related to the disinvestment campaign “*Stop Explosive Investments*” of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) which took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. Pax Christi International is a member of the Cluster Munitions Coalition.

## DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION



Mines

### II. Mines

The 1st of March 2009 marked ten years since the Mine Ban Treaty was enforced in 1999. Pax Christi members took part in the Action Alert events which were organised with the aim of relaunching a successful road to the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World, which took place at the end of 2009 and the 2nd Review Conference, and eventually to a Mine Free-World. Pax Christi International was among the more than 1,000 participants from across the world, including ministers and heads of states who attended the Summit. This was a milestone event where states and the mine-ban community reviewed the status of the Mine Ban Treaty and set out steps that need to be taken to create a mine-free world.

### III. Ban Uranium Weapons

Pax Christi International works together with the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) in several campaigns to call on governments, civil society and international agencies to take urgent action on uranium weapons. For instance, on the 6th of November Pax Christi International promoted their domestic campaign and the international campaign through a wide variety of events at the occasion of the UN International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict..

An important momentum was Belgium's domestic ban on uranium weapons and armour. On June 21<sup>st</sup> 2009, the Belgian Parliament voted unanimously for the ban. To mark this event, Pax Christi International urged all its members to take action to help raise awareness about this important step forward.

IKV Pax Christi published the report "Time for Clarity" in which they appealed to the Dutch government to implement a moratorium on uranium weapons, and promote extended field and laboratory research on the effects of depleted uranium on human health and the environment.

In response to growing international concern over the impact that these weapons have on civilians and service personnel, leading United Kingdom NGOs and faith groups, including Pax Christi UK, have now joined forces for the creation of a UK Network.

Ban  
Uranium  
Weapons



## DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION



### The Missile Defence System

#### IV. The Missile Defence System

Pax Christi International and its Member Organisations have been supporting NGOs in the Czech Republic in their non-violent but persistent struggle against the installation of a US radar base in their country.

On the 18th of February 2009, about 40 mayors from the region in the Czech Republic where the US radar base is to be built, Czech representatives of the non-violent movement against the radar, and peace activists from all over Europe gathered in front of the European Parliament in Brussels. Protestors wore white overalls and masks to symbolise the 'invisible' 70% of Czech society that is being ignored by a government that keeps pushing for the installation of the US radar base in the Czech village of Brdy. A public hearing with the Czech mayors and Members of the European Parliament followed the protest. Pax Christi International was among the numerous peace organisations that supported the event.

This 2009 event spurred the International Secretariat's decision to shift its involvement from moral support to active advocacy. This was manifested through a practical tool for Member Organisations' active advocacy—an Advocacy Package on the Missile Defence System in the Czech Republic.

The package contains an overview of the history of the Missile Defence System and detailed information about the situation in the Czech Republic. It also explains reasons for the involvement of Pax Christi International and provides plenty of concrete tips for advocacy work.

One Member Organisation in Canada, Antennes de Paix, sent the letter included in the package to all the members of the Czech parliament regarding the radar base, and received one positive response from a parliamentarian. They also wrote to the Czech ambassador in Canada.

"Creation of the MDS will have striking consequences on bilateral and multilateral disarmament initiatives. It will undermine confidence among states that is crucial for disarmament, freeze progress in arms reduction, jeopardise future arms control agreements, set the nuclear disarmament agenda back by decades, lead to the weaponisation of space and further fuel the arms race. More and more weapons will not make our world more secure. The means of security will in turn become the threat to security itself".

– Excerpt from Antennes de Paix's letter to Czech Ambassador Žebrakovský

#### Outcome:

In September 2009, President Obama's administration abandoned plans to install a US missile defence system in Eastern Europe, including the US radar base in the Czech Republic. While, this major policy reversal cannot be solely attributed to Pax Christi International's advocacy efforts, certainly, these efforts had some effect even if on a minor scale.

## DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION

### V. Abolish Nuclear Weapons

#### *Encouraging Steps towards Nuclear Disarmament*

On the 6th of July 2009, Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev reached an agreement on nuclear disarmament. The United States' and Russia's public commitment to cut back their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons is an encouraging initiative and a step forward on the difficult but essential journey that the world must take to free itself from the spectre of self-destruction.



Abolish

Nuclear

Weapons

“This is an exciting moment, a new moment in the long struggle to bring fundamental change to US nuclear weapons policies and an important first step.” – *Pax Christi USA*

Pax Christi International and its Member Organisations worked hard in 2009 advocating for nuclear disarmament and supporting steps taken by nations to pursue this goal.

Upon observing a new momentum on the international scene, where diplomats, parliamentarians or security and army experts are sharing our vision and joining our call for a “zero solution”, the International Secretariat of Pax Christi International decided to provide its Member Organisations with an advocacy package. The *Advocacy Package on Nuclear Disarmament* briefly sheds light on the current situation, identifying a list of “nuclear states” and explaining the nuclear sharing problem. It clarifies the reasons for a new momentum for nuclear disarmament and provides concrete tips for advocacy work, as well as a list of useful websites and template letters.

## DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION

Abolish

Nuclear

Weapons



### *Activities of the International Secretariat and Member Organisations*

- A new position statement on nuclear disarmament entitled *"Towards Global Zero of Nuclear Weapons Now. An Appeal to the USA: Make Use of the Momentum! Yes, you can!"* was presented by Claudette Werleigh, Secretary General, during the National Congress of Pax Christi USA.

- Pax Christi Flanders issued an analysis of the agreement between the US and Russia to cut back on nuclear stockpiles.

- Pax Christi Australia forwarded a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of the Australian parliament, to be included in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. Pax Christi Australia encouraged the Australian government to take the lead with other concerned nations in promoting a Nuclear Weapons Conventions as the only way to remove the threat of the annihilation of the human race and of the planet.

- IKV Pax Christi Netherlands compiled a report on nuclear disarmament as part of their preparations for an anti-nuclear campaign. An appeal is an integral part of the report and will form the basis for the political lobby.

- Delegates of Pax Christi from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy met in Rome to discuss the removal of all tactical nuclear weapons from European countries. A "Call for Governments to Show Progress before the NPT Review Conference" was adopted and signed by the Pax Christi sections represented at this meeting.

### *Campaigning and Advocacy together with Churches*

- A delegation of Pax Christi International led by Msgr. Laurent Monsengwo and Marie Dennis, Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International, met at the Secretariat of State in the Vatican on the 29th of October 2009 to discuss the role of the Catholic Church and of Pax Christi International in order to strengthen the international momentum needed for a world free of nuclear weapons.

- The Commission of the Bishops Conferences of the European Community, COMECE, discussed the issue of nuclear disarmament, the new opportunities and challenges in 2010 and the years to come. The discussion focused on the importance of the next Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010 and on the USA Tactical Nuclear Weapons to be removed from European soil. The aim is to come to a Europe free of nuclear weapons by 2015.

- Pax Christi International, as part of an ecumenical delegation and programme organised by the World Council of Churches, attended in 2009 the "Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons," which was convened at the UN Headquarters in New York.



## DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION



Actions  
Against  
Small  
Arms

control arms

### VI. Small Arms

#### *IANSA: The International Voice Against Gun Violence*

Pax Christi International invited all its Member Organisations and partners to participate in the IANSA Global Week of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. This week of action highlighted the international campaign to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms. Each year activists around the world use the Global Week to raise awareness, campaign for better gun laws and push for stronger regulation of the global arms trade.

The International Secretariat encouraged Member Organisations to join the IANSA Women's Network in their international campaign to disarm domestic violence. The campaign seeks to address one of the most serious, but least-known, aspects of violence against women – the deaths, injuries and fear caused by guns in the home. IANSA members have a key role to play, to gather data, and use it to bring about change.

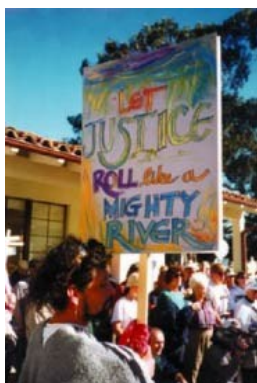
#### *Cross Border Meeting on Small Arms*

In the first week of March 2009, Pax Christi International organised a cross-border meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Arua, Uganda, where activists from Uganda, Sudan and the DR Congo gathered to plan joint strategies and actions.

#### *Advocating towards Arms Trade Treaty*

A team of campaigners and advocates attended the opening session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which discusses peace and international security. In order to promote the ATT and small arms control the team participated in lobby activities together with Secours Catholique France and the Justice and Peace Commission, a Member Organisation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## HUMAN RIGHTS



### Avenues For Advocacy



### I. Avenues for Advocacy in the UN Human Rights Council

The International Secretariat of Pax Christi International compiled a packet, “**Avenues for Advocacy in the UN Human Rights Council**”. This packet details the different mechanisms available to NGOs wishing to do advocacy work in the UN Human Rights Council and brings the material together concisely and in a single document, offering human rights advocates a place to easily compare the many forums available for their work.

Pax Christi International has been very active at the 10th, 11th and 12th sessions of the Human Rights Council. Its consultative status allows Pax Christi International to address the Council by means of written or oral interventions, submitted alone or in conjunction with other NGO 's.

At the 10th session, Pax Christi International endorsed a written statement entitled “**Human Right to Peace Versus Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Forms of Discrimination**”. It addresses the concepts of tolerance, dialogue among cultures and culture of peace in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and international law. Pax Christi International also submitted a joint statement on *human rights education*. The co-signed organisations support human rights education as a vital strategy for addressing the root causes of human rights violations and conflict.

At the 11th session a joint written intervention addressed the *human right to peace and migration*.

Representatives of Pax Christi International networked with its partners during the 12th session of the Council and co-signed a written intervention on the *link between human rights, peace and disarmament for development*. Another joint statement was submitted concerning *the gross and the systematic human rights violations due to the existence, application and abuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan*.

## HUMAN RIGHTS



Sexual  
Violence  
Against  
Women



### II. Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict

Pax Christi International is a member of the Brussels Working Group on Violence Against Women in Conflict. The group includes representatives from various NGOs and NGO networks. They coordinate with UN Agencies and act as observers in various meetings. The focus is on addressing sexual and gender-based violence as a priority and on the lack of consistent political action and reliable funding to address the needs of women in conflict.

#### *2009 Pax Christi International Peace Award*

The 2009 Pax Christi International Peace Award was given to Justine Masika Bihamba, from Goma in the North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For many years, Justine Masika has worked to improve the lives of rural women, defend human rights and assist victims of war, especially women who have been targeted by acts of sexual violence. Since 2003, she has been the coordinator of *Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles* or Women's Synergy for Victims of Sexual Violence (SFVS). SFVS is a collective of 35 women's organisations in the DR Congo that defends the dignity of women and girls who have been raped or otherwise traumatised by war-related sexual violence.

SFVS assists these women to find critical health care, legal services and psycho-social help. It also works to educate the wider community on the effects of sexual violence -- through conferences, radio transmissions and publications -- and addresses policy decisions on matters that affect women and their families. Twenty *maisons d'écoute* have also been established by SFVS in the sub-region; these safe houses are places where women can come and tell their stories in confidence.

Justine Masika has been a leader in the mediation of conflicts, human rights education and assistance to sufferers of war-related trauma. An outspoken advocate for rape victims in her native Congo and in other parts of the world, she has been called upon by numerous agencies to present her work -- Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and International Alert among them -- and to be an advisor to UN agencies and the International Criminal Court. These activities have drawn threats and intimidations from military and local officials in North Kivu.

## HUMAN RIGHTS



Pax  
Christi  
International  
Peace  
Award  
2009



An excerpt from the speech of Msgr. Laurent Monsengwo, Co-President of Pax Christi International and Archbishop of Kinshasa, DRC

*The prevalence of rape and other forms of sexual violence in Eastern Congo has evoked grave concern the world over. Armed groups and various criminal elements have preyed on the civilian population for years. As has often been the case in times of war and unrest, women and girls have been particularly vulnerable.*

*Many thousands of rapes have been reported – and countless others have gone unreported. Violence and rape at the hands of armed men has become a far too common phenomenon in eastern Congo. The Pax Christi movement worldwide laments this tragic situation and urges more decisive action to stop this violence.*

*Dear Justine, you are one who has done just that. Your coordination of Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles, your commitment to conflict mediation and human rights education and your advocacy on behalf of rape victims have done much to forward a just peace in the Congo and beyond. Your work to conceptualise and to combat rape as a weapon of war exemplifies the passion our world so badly needs to address these grave injustices.*

*Again we call for an end to the cycle of violence that has resulted in thousands of rape victims in the DR Congo and especially to halt violence against women as a weapon of war. Our Christian faith condemns violence, whatever its origin, because it participates in the evil of those things that directly provoke death.*

*Violence against women contradicts the original harmony desired by God for man and woman. Violence against women is considered a way to inflict death on an entire community. It is a way to strike the very heart of a community. The cycle of rape is particularly opposed to the African culture. This violence denotes a barbarity that is foreign to the Christian vision and African wisdom.*

The Pax Christi International Peace Award highlights the accomplishments of women and men throughout the world who are making a tangible impact to curtail violence and injustice in the spirit of Pax Christi. While society gives much attention to historical peacemakers, this award is designed to promote the work of contemporary peacemakers who often operate on the grassroots level with too little recognition.

## HUMAN RIGHTS



Advocating  
Women's  
Rights



### *International Women's Day (8 March) and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November)*

Member Organisations take part in a variety of activities related to these days. In Belgium for instance, NGOs including Pax Christi Flanders and Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles took the opportunity to show solidarity with the women in the DR Congo, who are facing innumerable hardships. The organisations all participated in a large public manifestation which took place in Brussels, in an effort to call attention to the problems being faced by womankind in the DR Congo.

“ Dynamic Women ” was the title of a special session organised by IKV Pax Christi in the context of International Women ' s Day. Dynamic women spoke about emancipation, integration and participation of Turkish women in the Netherlands, about Musicians without Borders, and on the role of women in post-conflict areas.

On the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Pax Christi International addressed the condition of women, particularly in relation to the current economic crisis. Pax Christi International identifies poverty, oppression, and inequality as a form of violence. The economic crisis has only exacerbated the already present divide, leaving the women, already on average earning less, poorer, and experiencing greater difficulties than men, even further behind. All Member Organisations of Pax Christi International were invited to take part in the international days.

### Women at the Heart of Society

On the 21st of March 2009, Claudette Werleigh, Secretary General of Pax Christi International addressed the National Congress of Pax Christi France. The theme selected for this year's event was “Women, Actors of Peace”, with focus particularly on the situation and the role played by women in the Middle East. Women from Israel, Palestine and Lebanon gave witness about their situation and the role of women in these societies.

## HUMAN RIGHTS



Rights  
Of  
Children



### III. Rights of Children

Pax Christi International addresses the issues of undocumented children and child soldiers by working with relevant coalitions such as the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

#### *Undocumented Children in Europe*

The PICUM announced the launch of its publication “**Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions**”. This report aims to investigate the particular vulnerability that characterises the reality of undocumented children and analyse their specific needs and problems encountered in various European countries. The report is specifically focused on the discrimination that these children might face in accessing their basic social rights in the areas of education, healthcare and housing.

#### *Red Hand Day*

The goal of *Red Hand Day* is to raise global awareness of the plight of child soldiers through public protests, demonstrations and other activities. The Red Hand symbol has been used all over the world by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers to say ‘ No ’ to the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Member Organisations set up activities to attract media attention, as well as the attention of decision makers and opinion leaders.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### IV. Torture

Member Organisations of Pax Christi each work on a multitude of themes in different ways; Pax Christi USA for instance focuses on torture.

Pax Christi USA mobilised its membership to call and thank President Obama for his executive orders to shut down Guantanamo and the CIA “black sites”, and to end the “enhanced interrogation techniques”. Members also asked President Obama to launch a Department of Justice investigation into previous use of extraordinary rendition; to call on Congress to repeal the Military Commissions Act, eliminate military tribunals and enable detainees access to the U.S. court system; close the School of the Americas and the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation; and to establish a formal commission to investigate the origins and evolution of the Bush Administration’s detention policies and hold architects of this system accountable, including through prosecution.

Pax Christi USA also completed a 10-day fast as part of the 100 Days Campaign organised by Witness Against Torture and co-sponsored by Pax Christi USA.

Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International and Director of the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns joined other religious leaders at the White House as part of a public witness against torture, and met with members of President Obama’s Administration to address the issue.



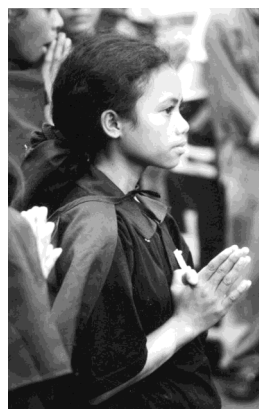
Actions  
Against  
Torture



## PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY



Our  
Common  
Journey  
Towards  
Peace



### *Developing a Spirituality and Theology of a Journey Towards Peace*

We have launched in January 2009 a process that should lead us to develop a **spirituality and theology of peace as a source of inspiration on our common journey towards peace.**

We expect that developing a resource based on the experiences of individuals and communities will:

- ✦ Assist Pax Christi members and other peace communities and organizations, including the Church, in their work for peace through reflection, analysis, education, spirituality, advocacy and campaigning
- ✦ Lay the foundation for a spiritual and moral basis of our advocacy work at local, national and international levels
- ✦ Inspire religious and political leaders in different regions/ countries to do similar reflection for peace
- ✦ Set a spiritual, ethical and theological framework for Pax Christi 's broader reflection on active nonviolence and its implications, facilitated by theologians from South and North.

When it comes to the methodology, we have decided to make it an *open process* wherein we first listen to and capture the *lived experiences* of Pax Christi individuals and groups from diverse situations of war, violence and conflicts.

Bringing together the human stories of grassroots people – individuals and communities – we aim at giving space for the expression of experiences of both, hope and despair, joy and suffering, light and darkness - experiences that often change with each changing situation. We aim to capture the complexity of human experiences which take place in a complex world of war, conflict and violence but also hope, peace and reconciliation. In addition to the specific situation and the inner experience thereof, we want to know how people have acted in the situation as well as their attitudes towards the use of violence and the option of employing methods of active nonviolence in that situation.



## PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY

### Christ is Our Reconciliation

The icon of Pax Christi International made a tour in the United Kingdom. The icon was used a number of times over the summer and is fully booked through to Easter 2010. Some of the venues in the tour include Coventry Cathedral, Nottingham Cathedral, and Southampton.



Symbols  
For  
Peace

The icon for Pax Christi International, made in the monastery of St John in the Desert, near Jerusalem, was dedicated to the movement on the 1st of July 1999 in the Holy City of Jerusalem. It depicts Christ as the source of reconciliation, the source of liberation and peace. It is an icon symbolising in itself the living connection between Eastern and Western traditions in expressing the peace of Christ. It is used for seminars on peace reconciliation within different Member Organisations.



## Youth

### *Advocacy Package - Military Spending versus Development Aid*

In 2009 Pax Christi International created an advocacy package on *Military Spending and Development Aid*. This package aims to present the case of military spending and defence budgets, and compare these figures and expenditures with those spent on development aid, with special reference to the UN Millennium Development Goals. More specifically this package seeks to involve youth in dialogue on the topic.

The first chapter presents facts and statistics about poverty, hunger and other crises faced by the world today, and explains why the UN adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and set the Millennium Development Goals. It invites youth to reflect upon such a reality; to discuss the fact with other Pax Christi members, friends, and schoolmates; to investigate and report if hunger exists in their city and/or their country.

Chapter two discusses this declaration and the development goals along with estimates of their costs and how they are proposed to be financed. Youth are invited to find out if their country provides or receives development aid. If their country provides aid they are asked to examine the what the conditions are for this aid. If their country receives aid they are asked to examine how this aid is used.

Chapter three focuses on military expenditure, bringing the themes of development and military spending together. In addition to the surprising numbers, the chapter also provides some examples of the UN involvement in the issue of disarmament and development and some interesting initiatives of non-governmental organisations. In relation to this, youth are invited to find out the amount of military spending and what percentage it is of their country 's budget. This amount should be compared to the amount spent on education, health and social programmes.

Chapter four makes the link with security and introduces the notion of Human Security. Youth are invited to reflect on Human Security and how it affects youth.

Finally, chapter five offers concrete tips for campaigning and advocacy, as well as a list of interesting websites. Youth are invited to take action: to look for information; to spread the information via mail, internet, and organised lectures/debates; write a letter or petition; ask for a meeting with government representatives; organise a demonstration, march, street theatre; and to network.

Ultimately it is hoped that this package will allow Pax Christi youth to prepare and create a statement or declaration they can present to the EU Parliament during the TWA Youth Seminar in Strasbourg in 2010.



Youth  
Work  
For  
Peace



## YOUTH



Youth  
Work  
For  
Peace



### ***Young People Gathered in Brussels for the Taizé Meeting***

The 31st meeting of European Youth was organised by the Taizé community in Brussels from the 29th of December 2008 to the 2nd of January 2009. More than 40,000 young people from all corners of Europe gathered here to share, pray, sing and reflect together on *'how to build the Europe of trust'*.

Pax Christi International used this opportunity to organise a workshop for youth entitled *'Responding to the Situations of War or Social Conflict, Creating Peace in the World and in Us'*. Two young members of the Pax Christi International Secretariat offered the participants a reflection on how we perceive conflicts, to what degree we are influenced by the way conflicts are dealt with on the global scale and what is the role of the media in this connection. A student focus was the situation in Kashmir.

### ***U Move 4 Peace***

Delegates of the youth section of Pax Christi Flanders, "U Move 4 Peace" co-organised with partner organisations in Armenia programmes in peace building and conflict prevention.

U Move 4 Peace participated in an international exchange programme with youth in Nalchik in the Russian Federation in August 2009. In the exchange project, called MasterPeaces, participants met with youth from Israel, both Jewish and Palestinian and from Chechnya. A lot of youth referred to it as *'an interesting emotional rollercoaster'*. U Move 4 Peace initiated a *'songs of resistance'* workshop.

The youth section also organised an encounter between youngsters from Central Europe and the Belgian police. The aim was to learn from one another about how to live in a diverse society. The youngsters learned about how to work together with police in a democratic society.

## YOUTH



### *Pax Christi France*

The Pax Christi France Youth Section trained young people to become messengers of peace through a two day programme which included workshops, prayers, and games.

### *Bring Young Serbs and Albanians together!*

Six Dutch musicians held a festival during a summer camp in Skopje, Macedonia, in August 2009. The initiative brought together 32 young people from the ethnically divided city of Mitrovica in Kosovo. IKV Pax Christi and other NGOs in the Netherlands supported young Serbs and Albanians who came together through the summer camp. Mitrovica is known to be a conflict hotspot in Kosovo.



Youth  
Work  
For  
Peace

### *Peace Week*

IKV Pax Christi and several of our Member Organisations organised Peace Weeks in collaboration with other NGOs. The theme was working towards a more peaceful climate in our society and in the world.

### *6th Edition of Peace Contest Launched by Pax Christi France*

Pax Christi Jeunes – the youth section of Pax Christi France – launched the 6th edition of its annual peace contest. The theme for 2009 was “Solidarity”. The peace contest encouraged groups of high school students to join a peace or solidarity project and (on the basis of their experience) create a short TV spot to advertise it. The winning team will have the chance to take part in a peace trip organised by Pax Christi France in 2010.



The Pax Christi Youth Forum has a deep history, and in past years has played an important role building and sustaining the movement. From Europe we hope to support a 're-launch' and 're-activation' of youth from our sections and Member Organisations around the world, as we move forward in 2010 and 2011.

## COMMUNICATIONS



Improving  
Networking  
For  
Member  
Organisations

### *Networking*

One of the projects of Pax Christi International was developing specialised software to improve communication within the International Secretariat and among its Member Organisations.

***PaxRef Database:*** collects and makes easily available up-to-date information and resources on conflict transformation produced by Pax Christi Member Organisations, the Pax Christi International Secretariat, experts associated with Pax Christi and others in the field;

***PaxAct Database:*** manages and makes available information about member organisations, resource people and experts on conflict transformation who are active in the network, as well as the coalitions dealing with different dimensions of conflict transformation in which Pax Christi participates ;

***The PaxWebSite with focus on internal site:*** provides extensive information on conflict transformation to members through a variety of portals, accessible only to members of the Pax Christi network.

The International Secretariat also keeps Member Organisations informed of each other's activities via its Website ([www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)) and through the monthly publication: The Newsletter in English, Le Courier in French and El Boletín in Spanish.



In 2008 and end of 2009, the office focused on establishing a data-secure information exchange platform meant for use by all Member Organisations for communication and file sharing options within their own groups, with other Member Organisations and with the International Secretariat.

The specialised software was installed and tested. Trainings were given and manuals prepared and translated.

After the initial setup and introduction to Pax Christi 's Member Organisations in 2008, the Internal Site was reconstructed to provide better levels of communication in 2009.

## AFRICA

### I. Great Lakes of Africa



Throughout 2009 Pax Christi Member Organisations (MOs) in the Great Lakes region of Africa carried out numerous actions for building peace, resolving conflict and educating for non-violence and human dignity. Some MOs focused more on human rights education and monitoring. Others' activities were more closely linked to security, disarmament and efforts toward ending illegal arms trafficking. Still others placed greater emphasis on reconciliation and the spirituality of non-violence. Each of these organisations worked to carry out its own mission and mandate. Together they formed a Pax Christi network to enhance their effectiveness and have wider impact in the region.

#### *Regional Consultation*

About 40 representatives of Pax Christi MOs from Rwanda, Burundi, the DR Congo and Europe met 27-30 April 2009 at the Amani Centre in Bukavu (DR Congo) on the theme 'Human Security and DDR in the Great Lakes Region'. Pax Christi members regularly meet in Regional Consultations for networking, training, strategising, planning and evaluating actions. The Bukavu event marks the fifth such consultation since 2003. These gatherings are also important opportunities for Pax Christi partners to develop common positions on policies that impact peace and reconciliation in the region.

The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegrating (DDR) efforts in the region have been widely criticised, particularly the programme's effectiveness in reintegrating former fighters into local communities. The result has often been a vicious cycle of ex-combatants returning to armed groups for their livelihoods. Since many Pax Christi MOs have strong connections in local communities, the network decided in their 2007 action plan to focus their energies on community-based solutions to the reintegration dimension of the DDR process.

The Regional Consultation therefore concentrated on analysing the current state of DDR in the region, calling on experts in the field, examining good practices and formulating joint actions that can contribute to effective reintegration efforts. Participants concluded that a failed DDR posed a threat to the inhabitants of the region and contributed to other serious challenges to security, such as the circulation of small arms and light weapons.

The chief result of the 2009 Great Lakes consultation is Pax Christi International's 2010-2012 programme on community-based reintegration of ex-combatants, formulated in partnership with Pax Christi MOs in the region. This programme will include the formation of 'listening communities' of ex-combatants, facilitated by Pax Christi partners, and a series of cross-border meetings and educational events.

Great  
Lakes  
Of  
Africa



**AFRICA**

Great  
Lakes  
Of  
Africa



**Peace Week 2009**

Another outcome of the Regional Consultation in Bukavu was the choice of the 2009 Peace Week theme “**Désarmons Nos Cœurs pour une Paix Durable**” (Let Us Disarm our Hearts for a Sustainable Peace ). This theme made reference to a session on peace spirituality that took place at the consultation itself.

Since 2003, members of the Pax Christi network have successfully organised an annual Peace Week, designed to create a space where themes of peace and reconciliation are explored and deepened, especially among youth. Typically Peace Week activities, organised for the first week of October, have included musical concerts, street theatre, sports matches, public forums, peace marches, radio and TV transmissions and many other such actions.

*“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”  
~ Mother Teresa*

For example, Réseau des Jeunes dans le monde pour la paix (Youth Network for Peace or the RJMP ) in Kananga ( Kasai, DRC ) focused its Peace Week actions in volatile areas where land conflicts have been particularly prevalent. Using the theme **Désarmons nos coeurs**, RJMP addressed matters of violent conflict from the perspective of human dignity, community identity and reconciliation.

In Kisangani (Eastern Province, DRC ), members organised peace education sessions in the city ’s secondary schools. Over three hundred students participated in these events. The use of church services, street theatre, radio and television further multiplied the number of people reached to more than 300,000.



## AFRICA



Great  
Lakes  
Of  
Africa



### *Networking and Advocacy*

Pax Christi International places great importance on the creation of collaborative networks for greater effectiveness and resource-sharing. This involves regular communications with partners via visits to the field, email and telephone, as well as hosting members who pass through Brussels on various missions. This also means making information available to Pax Christi networks in the North in order to spur greater advocacy in Europe and the USA.

For example, an informational session on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Pax Christi Northern Consultation in Antwerp, Belgium, highlighted current challenges to securing peace in the Great Lakes and ways to advocate toward national governments in favour of more positive policies toward the region. From 15-20 December 2009, Secretary-General Claudette Werleigh visited Rwanda, Burundi and the DR Congo, meeting with MOs and mapping the current conflict situation in view of wider advocacy.

Pax Christi International is an active member of the **European Network for Central Africa** (EurAC). This coalition of 50 Europe-based organisations provides a critical vehicle through which Pax Christi can raise issues of importance to the people of the Great Lakes region. EurAC's three primary tasks of advocacy, information-sharing and networking between its members are exceptionally well-suited to complement Pax Christi's work in the region. In 2009, Pax Christi International staff participated in EurAC's twice-yearly General Assembly (the first in Stockholm 25-27 May and the second in Brussels 27-28 November) and worked closely with EurAC on initiatives throughout the remainder of the year.



## AFRICA



### Greater Horn Of Africa

## II. Greater Horn of Africa

The Pax Christi Greater Horn of Africa Network is a coalition of organisations that was formed in 2006 to address the challenges to sustainable peace in the region. The network's Regional Secretariat is based in Nairobi, which coordinates joint activities for member and partner organisations in Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

### *Sudan*

The Pax Christi movement has had a long commitment to ending the prolonged civil war in Sudan, which finally ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. Elections in 2009 and the landmark 2011 referendum mark a turning point for the region as the southern part of the country could choose to secede from Khartoum and become Africa's newest state.

Pax Christi International has collaborated with IKV Pax Christi in the Netherlands since 2006 on the *Sudan Integrated Peacebuilding Programme* (SIPP), which consolidates Pax Christi's efforts to build peace, mediate conflicts and promote disarmament in Sudan's extremely volatile post-war environment. Pax Christi also uses the SIPP's on-ground experience to carry out advocacy towards international decision-makers regarding policies on Sudan. Every year the SIPP is evaluated for effectiveness by an on-site international monitoring team; in 2009 this team included International Co-president Marie Dennis and Mark Barwick of the International Secretariat.

Also in 2009, the Pax Christi regional network established the **Sudan Domestic Election Monitoring and Observation Project** (SUDEMOP), which trained Sudanese monitors in basic civic education and skills needed for monitoring and observation of the upcoming elections and the 2011 referendum. In cooperation with the Southern Sudan Action Network on Small Arms, SUDEMOP workers also joined in inaugurating a campaign for 'No Guns during the Elections and Referendum,' advocating for a gun-violence-free Sudan during this critical period.

### *Result:*

Monitors learnt aspects of observing patterns of general turn-out, accessibility of registration centres, conduct of electoral officials, media participation, security issues, noting irregularities and more. SUDEMOP coordinators also engaged in discussions with local authorities in various locations on assuring smooth and transparent operations during the elections.

## AFRICA

### Somalia

The prolonged crisis in Somalia likewise poses serious threats to regional stability. In the absence of a central government in 2009, the country's Transitional Federal Government continued to struggle against a possible takeover of southern and central Somalia by the transnational revolutionary Islamist movement, Harakat-al-Shabaab Mujaahideen. Peace talks have been ineffectual, particularly due to the fact that those with the most guns have refused to come to the table.

Pax Christi International has initiated contacts with leaders of Somali civil society organisations for purposes of advocacy and expressing solidarity with the people of Somalia. In December 2009 Pax Christi organised a 2-day consultative meeting of about thirty Somali leaders, held outside of Nairobi, under the theme *'Towards Sustainable Peace in Somalia: The Role of Civil Society.'*

Participants conducted an analysis of the Somali conflict, exploring the various factors that sustain it as well as those that can contribute to peace efforts, including their role as civil society organisations. Sessions included presentations on advocacy, gender, the use of the media and the experiences of Kenyan civil society in assuring peace during and after the 2007 post-election violence. There was general consensus at the meeting that civil society organisations in Somalia should work more closely with one another to have the most meaningful impact. This led to the formation of the *Lukenya Action Group* and a *Front Line Advocacy Committee* to spearhead advocacy efforts. A communiqué highlighted the pertinent issues that need addressing and committed participants to working together to strengthen civil society in Somalia.



Greater  
Horn  
Of  
Africa



## AFRICA

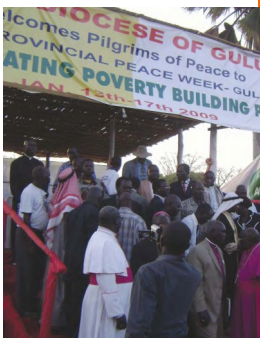
### *Kenya, Uganda and Eritrea*



Greater  
Horn  
Of  
Africa

Apart from the critical situations in Sudan and Somalia, the Pax Christi Greater Horn of Africa Network provided leadership in 2009 to peace processes in other countries in the region. In *Kenya*, Pax Christi MOs and other partners held five coordination meetings throughout the year, hosted by members on a rotational basis. These gatherings provided a forum for members to give updates, share information on upcoming activities and generally encourage each other in their work for peace. Secretary-General Claudette Werleigh attended the May 2009 meeting and shared information from the world-wide Pax Christi movement.

Following the example of Pax Christi members in the Great Lakes, the Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Gulu, a Pax Christi MO in *Uganda*, organised Peace Week activities in 2009. Other network members of the network also participated in these events. The Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative, another Pax Christi MO, carried out dialogue sessions with traditional elders across the Sudan border. Life Concern, a part of the Peace Tree Network, established peace clubs in schools, organised peace camps for youth and carried out trainings on a wide variety of issues such as alternatives to violence and community dialogues.



Finally, the Greater Horn Network explored ways to establish collaborative links within *Eritrea*, where the political climate remains hardened and closed too much of the outside world. In February 2009 an international delegation met with visiting Eritrean religious leaders in Nairobi to discuss how the network can build greater solidarity with the people of Eritrea. Network members have since begun to engage Eritreans living in Kenya in these efforts.

## AFRICA

### III. West Africa

#### *Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding*

In 2009 Pax Christi International collaborated with the *Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix* (CERAP) in Ivory Coast and *Dialogue Islamo-Chrétien* in Guinea to build ethnic and religious tolerance in the Guinean capital city. Guinea's internal political situation poses the most serious threat to regional stability. Long-standing President Lansana Conté died in 2009 and was replaced by a military junta that must now transition to civilian rule, as promised, or risk Guinea becoming a 'failed state' in the region. Widespread mistrust and popular discontent persist.

CERAP, a Pax Christi International MO, worked with Dialogue Islamo-Chrétien throughout 2009 to build a *culture of peace through mutual respect of ethnic and religious differences*. The organisations identified a diverse group of 42 young people in Conakry, chosen for their professional, religious and ethnic affiliations to create a representative microcosm of Guinean society. The group was accompanied by a council of elders, religious leaders and public officials, as they committed themselves to a round of seminars, debates and study days on the culture of peace they wished to build in their country.

The youth studied the roots of religious and ethnic intolerance in Guinea, including the economic and political factors that contribute to the situation, as well as the consequences of intolerant attitudes and policies for the future of Guinea. Six reflection groups of mixed identities were formed to map aggravating risk factors and to develop joint actions. These included cultural events, sports activities, radio programming and public conferences.

A final workshop was held on 26 November 2009, bringing together all of the groups and council of elders along with NGOs, the media and government representatives. This workshop was an occasion to expand and deepen public commitment to tolerance education and to mobilise public resources for the future.

In recent years partnerships have also been established in West Africa to establish a Pax Christi network in that region. Since the end of the colonial period West Africa has been the arena for widespread violence, inter-communal tension and political instability. The wars that engulfed the Mano River countries during the 1990s claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and forced many more to be displaced from their home communities. Peace efforts in the region have already seen marked progress; however, recovery processes in several countries remain exceptionally fragile.



West  
Africa



## AFRICA

### *Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding*

In partnership with the **Development Education Network of Liberia** (DEN-L), Pax Christi International also accompanied in 2009 a process of *dialogue and trust-building* between the Lorma and Mandingo communities in Lofa County, Liberia. These groups have experienced increased tensions over long-standing issues that were especially exasperated by the war. Using a methodology called Sustained Dialogue, a systematic process that focuses on strengthening community relationships, DEN-L and Pax Christi International have noted considerable success in rebuilding relations between Lorma and Mandingo communities where they worked.



Formal dialogue began in 2005, when representatives of Lorma and Mandingo towns agreed to work together on projects of mutual interest, laying the foundation for the Sustained Dialogue that would begin in 2008.

Sustained Dialogue focuses on the multi-dimensional process of strengthening community relationships rather than on solving actual problems. For instance, tensions have existed between the two communities, in part because the Mandingo, who are primarily Muslim, and the Lorma, predominantly Christian and adherents of traditional African religions, have misunderstood one another's beliefs and practices. The Sustained Dialogue process creates a mechanism for listening to one another and for re-establishing trust.

In late 2008 Pax Christi International and DEN-L formed a dialogue group, composed of 14 diverse women and men from both communities, who agreed to meet together on a regular basis throughout 2009 and to seek common ground with one another. Two moderators, a Mandingo woman and a Lorma man, were trained and accompanied by Pax Christi International staff.

The moderators also convened monthly joint town meetings, meeting in each town on a rotational basis, where town leaders and other community members could hear reports on the progress of the dialogue and discuss business.

#### **Resources and Publications**

In 2009 Pax Christi worked to *strengthen regional peacebuilding efforts* through the publication of a peacebuilding manual. The resource includes training materials on conflict management, the practice and spirituality of non-violence and practical tools for education on peace. It also features examples of Pax Christi's work drawn from many parts of Africa and beyond.

The first edition was released in 2009 with a view toward testing and refining the text in various African settings. Distribution and systematic evaluation of this resource, done primarily through Pax Christi network members and other relevant bodies, will take place in 2010.

West  
Africa



#### *Result:*

Over the course of 2009, moderators and DEN-L staff noted signs of improved relations between the Mandingo and Lorma, including greater cooperation and readiness to resolve conflicts (on such matters as road maintenance and land use), more inter-marriages and increased security for those passing through towns and villages of the other ethnicity.

## THE AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN



The  
Americas  
&  
The  
Caribbean

In this report, we concentrate on Latin America and the Caribbean but the Advocacy work and other activities of our Member Organisations from Canada and USA: Antennes de Paix, Catholics for Peace, Congrégation Notre Dame, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and Pax Christi USA are referred to in several sections of the report.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with enormous vitality and the commitment of many organisations working in human rights, reconciliation and peace related issues. Nevertheless, this work can be inherently fragile due to the fact that the different initiatives are not weaved together. Therefore, the purpose of Pax Christi International is *to strengthen the Member Organisations and help them have a greater impact on the global agenda.*

The International Secretariat identified two major problems apparent in several countries in the region that *call for human rights advocacy work:*

- ✦ Forced migration due to land eviction which is often linked to concessions given to multi-lateral firms involved in mining;
- ✦ Kidnapping linked to drug trafficking.

*Issues to be followed closely* were also identified:

- ✦ New democracies in Latin America;
- ✦ The misuse or over use of natural resources, particularly in the Amazon region;
- ✦ The mobilisation of indigenous people.

### **Strengthening the Regional Network**

The Pax Christi network has the benefit of many committed and highly qualified organisations who work on the grassroots level in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the beginning of the year, Pax Christi International identified the need to create more opportunities for collaboration between the Member Organisations in Latin America.

Thus, the work in 2009 has focused on maintaining communication with Member Organisations and continuing to disseminate information and promoting their activities. Member Organisations themselves continue to dedicate themselves and to be active within their own geographical spheres.

Throughout the year, the International Secretariat focused on preparing a 3-year programme, 2010 – 2012. The programme has been based on the analysis made by our Member Organisations. Our programme will include regional visits, Regional Consultations and trainings in order to follow up the work of the Member Organisations and create a truly regional network.

Additionally, Jose Henriquez, on behalf of the International Secretariat, visited Pax Christi Lima and participated in the monitoring of elections in El Salvador with representatives of Pax Christi Germany and Pax Christi Italy.

## THE AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN



The  
Americas  
&  
The  
Caribbean

### *Religious Delegation to Honduras*

Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, participated in an emergency ecumenical delegation to Honduras which took place in August 2009. The visit was a response to requests from religious partners and social movements in Honduras and following reports of serious human rights violations against activists, journalists and other social leaders expressing opposition to the coup. One of the objectives was “to lend protection and help safeguard human rights violations by providing an international presence and witness to events on the ground”. Delegation members learned about the social, economic, religious and political realities in Honduras through meetings with various sectors of civil society, including Church leaders, and through listening to first-hand accounts of victims of the post-coup violence. Upon their return the delegation advocated for the restoration of constitutional order and the protection of human and civil rights.

### *Some of the Activities of our Regional Member Organisations*

**Pax Christi Port-au-Prince** has continued to work through their sports program in Cite Soleil. In the beginning of 2009, their participants represented 75% of the neighbourhoods in Cite Soleil. The program, which targets youth, promotes and develops a culture of peace through football, ping pong, chess and other competitions.

**Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT)** took part in the 9<sup>th</sup> World Social Forum, held in Belem, Brazil in January of 2009. CPT's involvement included expositions, workshops, dialogues and seminars. CPT was also active in its advocacy against the Reform Act which further diminishes the right to land for those who need it. A statement condemning the government's land reform policies was released in June 2009.

The **Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix d' Haiti** monitored and studied the spring elections of Haiti. They issued statements concerning the elections and reports which reviewed electoral turnout. The Commission has also released reports concerning the situation and conditions of prisoners and those detained in Haiti. Their reports have also included a review of the judicial system in Haiti, focusing on the lack of legal representation for prisoners.

The **Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM)** in Guatemala has been reviewing the expenditures of the Guatemalan government especially focusing on the amount of spending in government publicity, issuing several reports and statements condemning the amount of expenditure for publicity. GAM also issued a monthly report concerning human rights abuses and acts of violence in Guatemala.

The **Red Nacional de Iniciativas Ciudadanas por la Paz y contra la Guerra (REDEPAZ)** is involved in dialogue with the FARC in Colombia and released a message received in April, concerning the possible release of a kidnapped individual who had been held for over eleven years. Also, REDEPAZ held three workshops in June of 2009 that focused on the installing and strengthening of constitutional processes in Colombia.

## ASIA PACIFIC

### *Humanitarian Aspects of Climate Change*

In December 2009, world leaders met in Copenhagen to discuss climate change and agree on measures to be taken to alleviate this problem and its effects. As a movement dedicated to peace and justice for people everywhere, Pax Christi International is particularly attentive to the effect that climate change has on those in need. Because of this, we wish to echo the statement of Cardinal O'Brien, Archbishop of Edinburgh, in anticipation of the September UN conference on climate change:



Humanitarian  
Aspects  
Of  
Climate  
Change

*Whilst the issue of global warming and its effects influence all our lives, it is the poor, those who have done least to cause the problem, who are already suffering its consequences and will be hit the hardest [...] The scale of global poverty and the way it is being exacerbated by climate change requires an urgent global response from governments. The Church has a moral duty to speak out on behalf of the poor to those who have the means and opportunity to bring about change”.*

*-Cardinal Patrick O'Brien, Archbishop of Edinburgh*

As a movement, Pax Christi has been very attentive to the humanitarian aspects of climate change, with particular attention paid to Asia and the Pacific region. In the strategic action plan and proposal formed at the 2006 Asia-Pacific consultation, it was proposed that Pax Christi attempt to develop a role in confronting the issue of climate change and its impact on human security. Several resources recently released by Pax Christi organisations show the new attention given to this issue by Member Organisations and help to provide valuable perspectives to the topic.



Jesuit Refugee Service published an article in its publication *Servir* entitled “Islands at Risk: Climate Change in the Pacific”. The article looks at the small Pacific island nations of Kiribati and Tuvalu and the impacts of rising water levels and other climate changes. The article provides an important personal dimension to the issue, discussing the attitudes and responses of the islands’ residents to climate change.

Pax Christi International released a report on those displaced by climate change. Entitled “*The Humanitarian Outcome of Climate Change: Climate Refugees and the Role of the European Union*”, the report discusses those displaced by climate conditions. In addition to Tuvalu and Kiribati, the report discusses climate changes in the Carteret Islands, the Himalayas, Tonga, and Fiji. It also discusses what the EU is currently doing to aid in the alleviation of these problems and what it can do in the future.





## ASIA PACIFIC

### *Humanitarian Crisis Following Natural Disasters*

Natural disasters have been an ever present phenomenon in the world in which we live. Too often we hear of the devastation and destruction produced by an event such as an earthquake, tsunami, drought, flood, hurricane or typhoon.

Asia and the Pacific have been particularly affected in recent years. Almost all forms of natural disasters have come to negatively affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of people throughout the region and have acted to disrupt the everyday life of numerous communities. The humanitarian crises which have followed many of these disasters have been horrific and on a large scale.

Unprecedented numbers of people have been left dead, have lost a loved one, or been left homeless and in need of shelter. Aid and assistance is needed when these natural catastrophes present themselves. Pax Christi International and its Member Organisations in Asia and the Pacific are and have been in a position to help in these times of need.

Work done by the Jesuit Refugee Service was deeply involved in the relief effort following the 2004 tsunami which devastated much of the Asia-Pacific region. They were directly involved in the reconstruction of many structures such as houses, mosques, schools and churches and helped in the rehabilitation efforts in Aceh, Indonesia.

Another Member Organisation, Initiatives in Development, Empowerment and Awareness **Society** (IDEAS ) appealed for aid and support for the flood victims in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. After heavy rains, the river Krishna left over 170 villages underwater, killed many and left thousands displaced in October of 2009. Aid in the form of monetary donations, medicine, blankets and clothing was requested in order to assist those worst affected by the flooding. These are only two examples of the past and present work done by Member Organisations in the region but act as examples of the humanitarian needs we all strive to meet.



## ASIA PACIFIC

### ***Advocating for Peace With International and Regional Institutions***

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Pax Christi International expressed its deep concern over the tragic situation in Sri Lanka. Claudette Werleigh, urged the UN Secretary General and the Security Council to use their combined influence to press both, the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), to cease the attacks and offensive actions that violate international humanitarian law.

Pax Christi International addressed the UN regarding the current political situation in Pakistan, the Talibanisation and security situation, and the human rights issues in the country, in collaboration with the Pakistani NGO Support group and IKV Pax Christi in Geneva.

Pax Christi International co-sponsored a briefing on "Communal Violence and its Effects on Religious Minorities: The Case of Orissa (India) and Gojra (Pakistan)" during the Human Rights Council on the 18th of September 2009 in Geneva.

Pax Christi International endorsed a joint-NGO report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The report explores the human rights situation of ethnic, linguistic, religious minorities, Hindu castes and various indigenous peoples in Pakistan.

A delegation from the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), a Member Organisation in Pakistan, visited various European cities as part of their lobby and speaking tour in November 2009. The Pax Christi International Secretariat facilitated the programme in Brussels in close collaboration with the NGO Christian Solidarity Worldwide. The delegation met with officials from the EU, the Church and the press. NCJP provides its services in the advocacy field of human rights beyond religious and other discriminations.

### ***Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence in the Philippines***

Pax Christi Philippines actively participated in the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence. The event was held from the 15th to the 19th of June 2009. The group, in collaboration with the Philippine Action Network on Small Arms (PhilANSA) organised three education sessions on the issue of gun proliferation and violence, and the need for an Arms Trade Treaty. The Pax Christi group at Miriam College also put up an exhibit in Miriam College on the same issue. On the 23rd of June 2009, members of the organisation joined PhilANSA in a public action at the Commission on Elections to call for a strict implementation of the gun ban policy for the 2010 elections. Elections in the Philippines are usually marred by violence, with over a hundred people killed in the last elections with the aid of guns. The Philippines ranks 10th in the list of countries across the globe with the highest amount of gun-related violence.

### ***Japan's Article 9***

Pax Christi International continued to campaign for Japan's Article 9 to be preserved in its Constitution by sending a letter to President Obama urging the next US government to stop pressuring the government of Japan to revise Article 9 of the Constitution, and instead, adopt a new multilateral policy that would guarantee peace and stability in East Asia and enable Japan's disarmament and the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces. Article 9 states that Japan renounces war and the use of force to resolve international disputes, and prohibits Japan from maintaining armed

International

Advocacy

And

Action



## ASIA PACIFIC



### *Commemorating Franz Jägerstätter*

Franz Jägerstätter was an Austrian farmer who was beheaded in Brandenburg, Germany, on the 9th of August 1943, for refusing to fight in Hitler's army. He received beatification in 2007. His story is now part of a book written by Loreta Castro, which is being used in some schools in the Philippines in social studies classes for grade 7 students. Jägerstätter's story is included in a chapter on Peace Heroes which includes Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Aung Sang Suu Kyi, Mother Teresa and Wangari Maathai. The book is in Filipino and titled, *Tungo sa Isang Mapayapang Mundo* ( Toward a Peaceful World) .

### Remembering

The Past  
&

Looking

Towards

The Future



### *Planning for the Fifth Asia-Pacific Consultation*

The venue and dates of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Consultation of Pax Christi International have been decided. The event will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on March 9th-14th, 2011. The theme of the gathering will focus on reconciling religious and cultural differences throughout the region. This is an issue which has long plagued much of Asia and the entire globe. The Consultation will also involve youth in the discussion and ways in which they can help in the cause of peace.

We will also address the issue of human rights throughout much of Asia and the Pacific. The problems stemming from religious, cultural and regional differences continue to affect the populations of much of the area and have created an environment in which the freedom and security of many are at stake. In the nations of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Sri Lanka senseless violence continues to spread. The victims of these conflicts are not only those who are fighting but the unseen casualties such as women, children, and displaced families. We hope that the leaders within these regions can work toward a constructive dialogue which will create an environment of non-violence, thereby lessening abuses of human rights throughout the region.

In the Asia-Pacific Region Pax Christi International has member organisations in Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The International Pax Christi Secretariat regularly issues the Asia-Pacific Newsletter entitled "E-news from Asia-Pacific". It is hoped that through this initiative, a greater sharing of region-specific information among the partners and members in the Asia-Pacific region can be encouraged.

## EUROPE

### I. The Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe

#### *Truth Commissions in the Balkans*



As Vice President of Pax Christi International, Bishop Kevin Dowling was invited to a series of consultations in Croatia. Bishop Dowling had four media interviews as well as two long consultations in Zagreb and Osijek on the civil society project to set up a Truth Commission to establish the facts about war crimes and other major atrocities which have not been dealt with by the International Criminal Court and the other courts in the former Yugoslavia. He also attended a consultation regarding a project to locate mass graves and to find out facts about the hundreds of “disappeared”. On the 18th of October 2009, Bishop Dowling took part in commemorations at the site of a massacre and another at the uncovering of a mass grave. He also had meetings with the Mayor of Vukovar who defended the town and was taken to a concentration camp in Serbia, as well as, two bishops – one the head of the Justice and Peace Commission and the other with the President of the Bishops’ Conference. Bishop Dowling was invited back for a major consultation involving civil society groups and politicians from all the states in the former Yugoslavia. He also received requests to address groups such as the “Women in Black” in Serbia who opposed the Serbian onslaught on Vukovar.

The  
Balkans  
Central  
And  
Eastern  
Europe

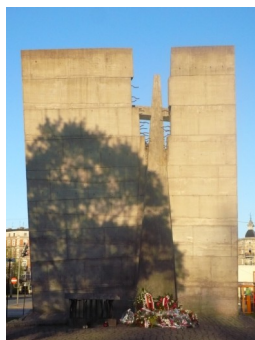
#### *Activities of Our Member Organisations*

In June 2009 **IKV Pax Christi** held a debate in Utrecht on how to deal with the past of war and conflict in the Balkans and the criteria for these countries to become members of the EU. A present and a former Dutch member of the European Parliament as well as a member of the Dutch Parliament participated in the debate.

**IKV Pax Christi** held a meeting in the Netherlands with ten students from Skopje, Macedonia. Five of them were Slavic Macedonians and the other half were Albanese Muslims. The topic of the meeting was “Macedonia: Building Bridges through Interreligious Dialogue.”

The European Policy Centre (EPC), in cooperation with **IKV Pax Christi** Netherlands, held a meeting on *The Future of Multiethnic Kosovo* in Brussels in January 2009. Policy experts and civil society representatives from both Albanian and Serbian communities in Kosovo, as well as the EU representatives, were brought together to reflect on the prospects for a multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, taking into account both the international environment regarding the status of Kosovo and the realities on the ground.

**Pax Christi Germany** held two peace retreats: (1) a Pilgrimage to Auschwitz and Krakau; and (2) a Pilgrimage on the Spirituality of Edith Stein between Breslau and Auschwitz. The first pilgrimage took place from the 19th to the 25th of September 2009 and the second from the 15th to the 21st of October 2009.



## EUROPE

## II. European Integration

*Our Future – European Integration* (OFEI) is an exchange programme and network of young people from Kosovo, Serbia and the Netherlands. OFEI aims to contribute to peaceful relations between young Serbs and Albanians through open and self-critical dialogue regarding the past and the future. OFEI wishes to spread knowledge of the European integration process and the political situation in Kosovo and Serbia, and to stimulate more active involvement of youth regarding these issues within their own societies. IKV Pax Christi accepted 15 new participants—five from each country. Three study visits took place: Kosovo in May; Serbia in July; and the Netherlands and Brussels in October 2009.

European  
Integration

In February 2009 the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), of which Pax Christi International is a member, and SOLIDAR released a joint statement as a reaction to the EU Parliament vote on the Employer Sanctions' Directive. This Directive aims at introducing sanctions for employers of illegally staying third country nationals. The joint statement underlines the organisations' disappointment on the compromise reached by the EU Council and the MEPs since this compromise retains the focus on the status of the migrant, rather than the exploitation by the employer. Furthermore, the NGOs are concerned that the Directive does not recognise the fact that undocumented workers have labour rights and that the priority must be to ensure such rights are enforced. MEPs voted a package of amendments to the directive, but postponed the final vote in order to formalise their position until the next plenary session.

**Lisbon Treaty Reflection**

In light of the passing of the Lisbon Treaty of the EU and its implementation on the 1st of December 2009, Pax Christi International has published a brief reflection paper on the reforms brought about by the treaty. The reflection discusses changes related to the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the possibility of a common defence policy. It also discusses the treaty's institutional reforms, namely the creation of a permanent President of the European Council, a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and a European External Action Service. The International Secretariat invited Member Organisations, particularly those located in EU member states, to discuss this reflection in order to further the discussion and understanding of the EU within the Pax Christi movement.

The EPP-ED Group of the European Parliament organised a Conference on "Our Shared Values for Europe" in February 2009, which was attended by NGO representatives, politicians, academics and religious leaders. The International Secretariat contributed with a presentation on the need to develop an insightful, consistent and pro-active EU policy to engage religions' potential for peace building.

**Turkey and its Possible Membership in the EU**

The International Secretariat released a brief reflection paper on Turkey and its possible membership in the EU. The reflection discusses reforms that have already occurred in Turkey, reforms that are still needed, and the impact that Turkish integration into the EU could have on interfaith relations. Member Organisations were invited to discuss the reflection and contribute to Pax Christi's discussion on the issue.

## EUROPE

### III. Russia and Chechnya

#### *Solidarity with Human Rights Defenders*

“ Russian society becomes more and more uninhabitable ” was the reaction of Pax Christi Flanders in a press release from January 2009, following the murder of Stanislas Markelov, a lawyer and human rights defender, in Moscow. Corruption, exaction, torture and homicide press their impact on the Russian society and the victims cannot tell the truth.

On the 15th of July 2009, Natalja Estemirova, one of the strongest defenders of human rights in the war-torn republic of Chechnya was abducted and murdered. Pax Christi Flanders, who had worked closely with Natalja on several occasions, sent a message of solidarity and prayers to her colleagues at Memorial, the Russian human rights organisation she was working with.

Nearly a month after her murder, the bodies of her husband Alik Dzjabrailov and another human rights defender, Zarema Sadoelajeva, were found. Sadoelajeva was working for an NGO called “ Save the Generation ”, which cares for children who are victims of war. Pax Christi Flanders issued a message stating, “ These new murders seem to introduce a sinister era of extinguishing people of goodwill in Chechnya ”. They also demanded immediate action from the Chechen and the Russian governments, as well as from governments worldwide to prevent these dreadful acts.

“ We got to know Natalja at a seminar in Saint-Petersburg in 2003. She had her 9-year old daughter Lana with her. She impressed us with her tranquillity, perseverance, and feeling for justice and truth. At the end of September 2004, Natalja joined us for the Flemish Peace Week as one of the most impressive guest speakers addressing the concept, “ Women as force for peace ”. It was a very intensive week in Belgium; one which we will never forget.

She wanted to continue her dangerous job of pursuing truth and justice at any cost. Thanks to her never-ending energy, she collected fact after fact, story after story, and picture after picture, in order to compile huge reports on the deplorable human rights situation in her home country. Our organisation used these reports with a great appreciation of her work.”

*~ Excerpt from the Letter of Pax Christi Flanders*



Russia  
And  
Chechnya

## The Middle East

### I. Combating Violent Radicalisation



One of our focuses this year was deepening understanding and raising awareness about the causes and dynamics of violent radicalisation, including various manifestations of radicalisation taking place in different countries and communities. The purpose of this programme which will continue in 2010 is to develop practical approaches to prevent and deal with radicalisation in a nonviolent way.



An important activity was the Pax Christi International seminar in Lebanon on **“Preventing and Dealing with Violent Radicalisation”** in cooperation with its partner organisation, the Lebanese Association for Civil Rights (LACR). The seminar was attended by 30 representatives of civil society, mainly from partner organisations in the Middle East, and civil society actors from Eastern Europe.

The focus and actions for follow up were decided upon, including the development of a resource kit on **“Preventing and Dealing with Violent Radicalisation”** for people and organisations in the field, as well as the development of a pro-active approach towards “extremist” and “radical” groups and individuals. A core group has been established to further develop these ideas and practices.

***Some of the recommendations generated include:***

- ✦ Reach out to radical groups—hold local activities and get involved in dialogue, meet and work on joint projects, create confidence-building relationships;
- ✦ Work on political leadership and grassroots levels;
- ✦ Increase our understanding of radicalisation by specifying characteristics of radicalisation, do studies to further understand their vocabulary, mindset and discourse;
- ✦ Develop a resource kit and curriculum on how to involve radicals;
- ✦ Confront radicalisation through lobbying, changing political discourse, and engaging radical groups;
- ✦ Hold discussion sessions with Hezbollah and other similar groups;
- ✦ Raise awareness amongst general population and especially youth, both on the individual and international level;
- ✦ Develop a model and best practices.

Combating  
Violent  
Radicalisation



## The Middle East

### II. Advocacy and Campaigning on Iraq

In September 2009 an international Pax Christi delegation visited Iraq with the generous welcome and assistance of many religious leaders and representatives of civil society groups in northern Iraq.

The delegation included Marie Dennis, International Co-President; Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Pax Christi USA; Christine Hoffmann, General Secretary of Pax Christi Germany; Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler, Chairperson of the Middle East Commission of Pax Christi Germany; Don Renato Sacco, Pax Christi Italy; Bishop Marc Stenger, President of Pax Christi France; and Katrien Hertog of Pax Christi International in Brussels. They went to the governorates of Kirkuk, Mosul, Erbil and Dohuk. A planned visit to Bagdad could not be realised. The delegation encountered many good examples of work for peace. The extraordinary efforts among religious leaders in the oil city of Kirkuk made it possible for them to visit Sunni and Shiite mosques and to interact with Muslim leaders. In Dohuk they learned about the program of Bishop Rabban's coeducational and interreligious International School which brings together Muslims, Christians, Yezidie and Turkman to provide a base of human values and an introduction to human rights. They learned from the Dominican Sisters of Mosul about their commitment to peace education at a primary level and met dedicated health care professionals in Kirkuk who serve Muslims and Christians alike. In Erbil the delegation met with Iraqi Non-Violence group, LaOnf, an Iraqi nongovernmental organisation building a network on nonviolence.

Pax Christi's organisational commitment to reconciliation and nonviolence made these and other similar efforts particularly interesting to the delegation, which also experienced enormous tensions in the country. There were two major bombings while they were there and they encountered among people they visited a great fear of being kidnapped. Of the areas the delegation was able to visit, the level of security in the Kurdish provinces in the north of the country was much better than in the so-called disputed provinces, Mosul and Kirkuk. But even in the Kurdish provinces, the sense of long-term physical and economic security was lacking and UN representatives described the human rights situation, particularly against political prisoners and women as unsatisfactory. Some 100,000 refugees and internally displaced persons remain in the same area.

Christians and other minority groups continue to feel threatened in Iraq and continue to leave the country. This fact is of deep concern to many people the delegation met who believe that reconciliation is the way forward and that the loss to Iraq of the Christian community, which was established there in the second century, would be a great tragedy. At the same time, the delegation was told that the conflict in Iraq is political rather than religious, with violence erupting over the balance of power. Minority groups are faced with the choices to join the struggle for power, to remain neutral or to work for a society where everybody has a place.

Finally, they heard from many people about the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure during the first Gulf War that had still not been repaired and about the impact of the harsh, long-lasting sanctions that punished ordinary people. They were told that the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 destroyed security and created many new problems for the Iraqi people. The delegation agreed with the Iraqi nonviolence network's opinion that refusing occupation and war is a way to build democracy and establish rule of law, even when war is presented as the only possible option.



Advocacy

And

Campaigning

On

Iraq





## The Middle East



Advocacy  
And  
Campaigning  
On  
Iraq

### Recommendations Made by the Delegation to Iraq

#### Pax Christi International will:

- ✦ inform the international community about the situation in Iraq and its minorities, as well as about the work for peace and reconciliation of the Iraqi Church, including the testimonies of the martyrs, Bishop Paulos Faraj Rahho, Father Rajeed and others;
- ✦ build partnerships between Pax Christi Member Organisations and Iraqi groups;
- ✦ explore the possibility of sharing Pax Christi expertise and resources on active nonviolence, conflict resolution, peace building and responses to violent radicalisation to interested institutions and communities in Iraq;
- ✦ promote interreligious understanding in our own countries, if possible by inviting Sunni, Shiite and Christian leaders from Iraq;
- ✦ advocate with our own governments to support reconstruction efforts.

#### We urge our churches to:

- ✦ strengthen the church's role as a builder of bridges;
- ✦ send official delegations from Bishops conferences in other countries to Iraq to better understand the reality of the situation;
- ✦ promote reconciliation between the different Iraqi Christian churches;
- ✦ support work for peace and reconciliation in Iraq;
- ✦ prevent and counter the growth of Christian extremism.

#### We urge the international community to:

- ✦ support the reconstruction of Iraq;
- ✦ to investigate and prosecute past and present war crimes and severe human rights violations on all sides;
- ✦ re-build trust in the international community and re-establish international law;
- ✦ work together to develop a regional system of security and cooperation in the Middle East.

Pax Christi International is enormously grateful to the Christian bishops and communities as well as the civil society for their warm welcome and excellent hospitality. The International Secretariat remains committed to the original goals of this important delegation to Iraq: to express solidarity with all Iraqi people; to gain a better understanding of Iraq's complex reality; and to propose concrete actions that support the ongoing efforts of Iraqi people for peace and reconciliation in their country.



## The Middle East

### III. Iranian Refugees at Ashraf

In 2009, the escalating Ashraf crisis became a growing concern for Pax Christi International. Situated in Iraq, Camp Ashraf has been the residence of 3,400 members of the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI) for over 23 years. Although recognised as "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention, the residents of Ashraf have become the target of an increasingly violent campaign organised by the Iraqi authorities, which aims to expel them from their homes.

Pax Christi campaigned on behalf of the people of Ashraf in an effort to halt the atrocities committed against them. In February 2009, Pax Christi Australia sent two letters urging the governments of Iraq and the US to protest against the unlawful and damaging threats against the residents of Camp Ashraf. They also strongly requested the intervention of each government to stop these repressive actions.

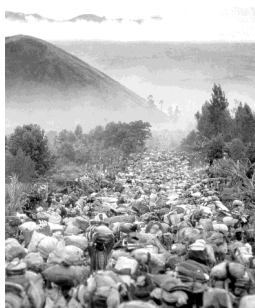
This appeal was endorsed by Pax Christi International through an open letter, on the 16th of November 2009 as the repression against the Ashraf refugees worsened. Once again the Prime Minister of Iraq was urged to reconsider any kind of displacement and to intervene personally in order to prevent a further deterioration of an already catastrophic situation.

*" We are worried about the security and wellbeing of the residents of Ashraf; in particular, the presence of 1000 women in the Camp extremely increases our concerns. The residents of Ashraf have lived in Iraq as refugees for the past twenty three years. The way the Iraqi government has treated them is not compatible with any humanitarian principles and citizenship rights " .*

~ Excerpt from PCI 's Open Letter Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki



Iranian  
Refugees  
At  
Ashraf



## The Middle East



### Advocacy On Israel Palestine



## IV. Advocacy and Campaigning on Israel/Palestine

### Gaza

During the Gaza conflict in the early months of 2009, Pax Christi International collaborated intensely with Pax Christi sections and local Member Organisations to create joint statements and campaigns. Pax Christi created a focus on its website dedicated to the violence in Gaza with a detailed account of various initiatives carried out by Member Organisations such as the “Talk to Hamas” campaign of IKV Pax Christi.

The “Prayers and Wishes for Bethlehem” is an extremely successful initiative, coordinated by Pax Christi international. The 2009 war made this initiative all the more important as it was framed in a global Pax Christi campaign on Gaza. For example, to compliment this campaign, Pax Christi France invited its membership to also send wishes to the Gaza region. Pax Christi International responded to this appeal by sending a letter of solidarity to Fr. Manuel Musallam, the parish priest of Gaza City.

Pax Christi International joined other leading humanitarian, human rights and development agencies to spotlight the devastating situation in Gaza by supporting various statements and participating in several campaigns within the framework of a strategic coalition.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war several letters of concern were sent to the UN and the EU calling for an immediate ceasefire of hostilities. Pax Christi International co-signed a letter with other NGOs to all EU ministers of foreign affairs, calling upon EU leaders to link the upgrading of its relations with Israel’s obligations under international law and progress in the Middle East Peace Process.

A group of fifteen European and international humanitarian, development, human rights and peace organisations with operations or partners in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, including Pax Christi International, issued a paper on nine inconsistencies in the policies of the EU. It stated that in order for the EU to play a genuinely constructive and impartial role in the Middle East Peace Process, the EU and its Member States must correct the inconsistencies detailed in the paper.

## The Middle East

### *The Kairos Palestine Document*

A group of Palestinian Christians issued an animated and prayerful call for an end to occupation of Palestine by Israel. The call, referred to as "The Kairos Palestine Document" comes at a time when many Palestinians believe they have reached a dead end. The authors of the Kairos Palestine Document have raised the challenge of the urgency for peace with justice to religious and political leaders in Palestinian and the Israeli society, the international community, and to "our Christian brothers and sisters in the churches" around the world. One of the authors of the document is Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, who is also the former President of Pax Christi International.

### *Supporting Local Initiatives to Raise Awareness*

Although the campaigning on the Israeli-Palestinian question was particularly intense during the first 2 months, Pax Christi International didn't refrain from collaborating with other Member Organisations throughout the rest of the year. The campaigns coinciding with Pope Benedict's visit to Palestine in May 2009 are only a few of the many initiatives Pax Christi International supported. Others include:

- ✦ a visit of a Pax Christi UK delegation in February 2009;
- ✦ the visit of an international delegation to Palestine, organised by Pax Christi Italy in March 2009;
- ✦ a visit of a Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles delegation in April 2009;
- ✦ a Code of Conduct for tourism in the Holy Land was formulated by the Palestinian initiative for Responsible Tourism of which the Arab Educational Institute ( AEI ) is also a member;
- ✦ AEI also launched a cultural tourism program entitled "The Spirit of Sumud", which challenged the oppression faced by the inhabitants of Bethlehem and in Palestine and brought out a message of peace;
- ✦ the project "Living in the Holy Land: Respecting Differences" sponsored by the AEI went into its 12<sup>th</sup> year.

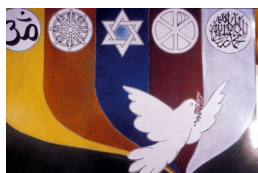
Advocacy  
On  
Israel  
Palestine



## The Middle East



Advocacy  
On  
Israel  
Palestine



Human  
Rights  
&  
Peace  
Education



### *The World Week for Peace in Palestine-Israel*

The most important event of June 2009 was the World Week for Peace in Palestine-Israel from the 4th until the 10th, convened by the World Council of Churches and supported by Pax Christi International. This was the fourth time that the Week of Ecumenical Advocacy for a Just and Sustainable Peace in Palestine and Israel was organised. Each year, the event has gained strength thanks to the combined efforts of more and more participants. With each passing year, it becomes clearer that churches committed to Israel-Palestine peace must do more of their advocacy work together. The week is anchored in the Palestinian Christian community and built by participants around the world.

As part of the preparations, the Arab Educational Institute collected youth prayers and wishes from different areas of Palestine. Churches, communities and organisations all over the world planned education, advocacy and prayer initiatives. A lot of creativity was generated worldwide. People and parishes around the world were invited to send their prayers for peace to Bethlehem. Thanks to the Pax Christi network, around forty countries responded last year. Local and international prayers were projected on the Wall at a vigil the first night of World Week. The prayers and wishes were read aloud locally in places marked by conflict: near settlements, house demolition sites, checkpoints, the Wall surrounding Bethlehem, refugee camps including the one visited by Pope Benedict, Palestinian parishes and schools in the West Bank and Gaza.

### **V. Human Rights & Peace Education**

The Lebanese Association for Civil Rights (LACR), a Member Organisation in Lebanon has started the **Arab University for Non-Violence (AUNV)**, the first of its kind in the region. It is a year academic professional program that secures professionals and specialists in non-violence and human rights culture and non-religious discrimination. It will work on the empowerment of societies through the empowerment of individuals who will work in schools, universities, associations, political campaigns, etc.

Claudette Werleigh, Secretary General of Pax Christi International was nominated as a member of the Board of Trustees. The first courses began in August 2009.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2009

### Balance Sheet 2009

<b>Assets</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>USD</b>
Equipment, Furniture, Software	\$ 11,210.06	Own Reserves	\$ 49,779.64
Guarantees	\$ 7,779.39	Provision Donations	\$ 66,072.79
Current Stocks	\$ 1,018.59	Outstanding Debts within One Year	\$ 167,487.30
Committed Grants Receivable	\$ 366,272.07	Accrued Charges	\$ 5,014.69
Cash & Bank	\$ 206,847.12	Approved Grants for Following Year	\$ 364,796.44
Accrued Income & Deferred Charges	\$ 60,023.63		
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 653,150.86</b>	<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$ 653,150.86</b>

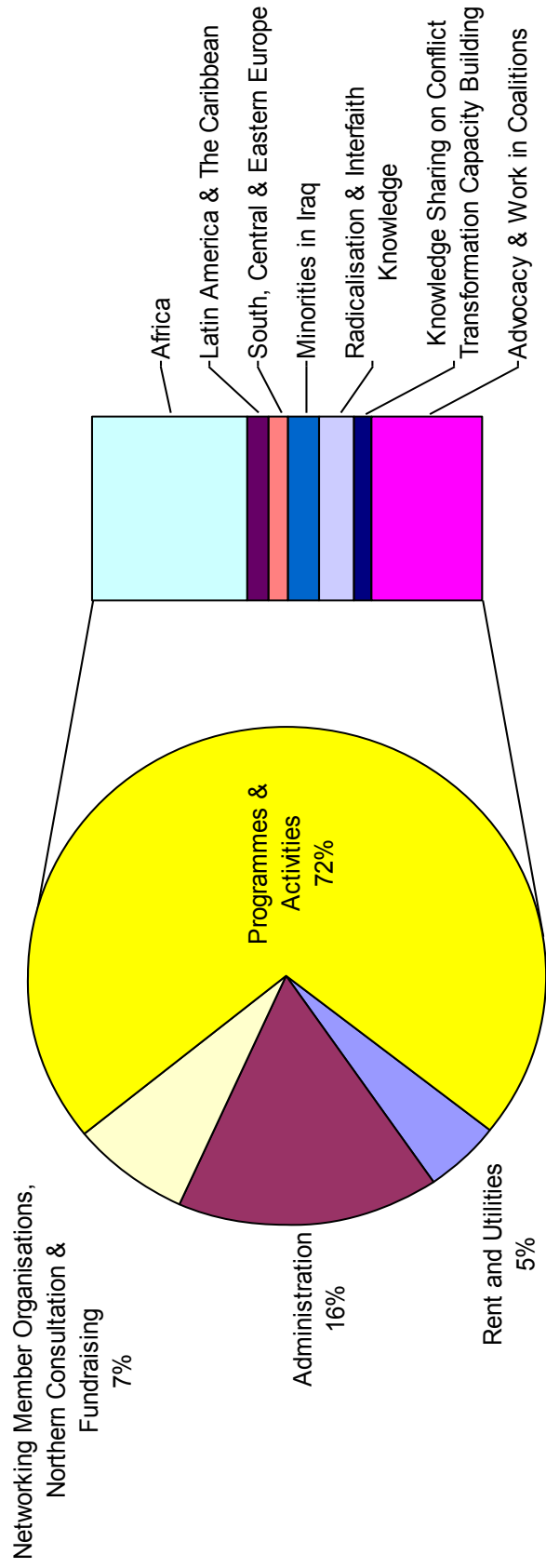
Balance  
Sheet  
For  
2009

### Income and Expenditure 2009

<b>Income</b>	<b>USD</b>
Membership Fees, Contributions Member Organisations & Donations	\$ 602,224.25
Contribution Government	\$ 48,521.21
Grants	\$ 368,480.04
Recuperations of Costs	\$ 12,909.87
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,032,135.37</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>USD</b>
Rent and Utilities	\$ 47,836.31
Administration	\$ 169,372.73
Networking Member Organisations, Northern Consultation & Fundraising	\$ 78,206.35
<u>Programmes and Activities :</u>	
Africa	\$ 295,769.46
Latin America & Caribbean	\$ 37,528.85
South, Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 36,777.85
Minorities in Iraq	\$ 57,867.84
Radicalisation & Interfaith Knowledge	\$ 67,335.70
Knowledge Sharing on Conflict Transformation Capacity Building	\$ 33,193.56
Advocacy & Work in Coalitions	\$ 204,983.24
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,871.89</b>

**Result for the Year 2009 \$ 3,263.48**

## Expenditures for 2009



## DONATE



Peace  
Is  
Possible

Pax Christi International 's activities continue to increase 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 you can contribute to helping to 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: <http://www.paxchristi.net/international/eng/donate.php>

You can also transfer your donation to the following bank account:

Name :	Pax Christi International
Address :	21 Rue du Vieux Marché aux Graines—1000 Brussels, Belgium
Bank Name :	BNP PARIBAS FORTIS
Bank Address :	2 Place de la Bourse—1000 Brussels, Belgium
BIC:	GEBABEBB
Account N° :	001-0666092-69
IBAN :	BE71 0010 6660 9269

BIC = Bank Identification Code  
IBAN = International Bank Account Number



## OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

### Acknowledgements of Our Sponsors and Supporters

Broederlijk Delen, Belgium

Comité Catholique contre la Faim  
et pour le Développement, France

Development and Peace, Canada

Trocaire, Ireland

Government of the Netherlands

World Council of Churches

CAFOD, UK

CORDAID, Netherlands

Misereor, Germany

Pontificio Consiglio Giustizia e Pace

Congrégation de Notre Dame, Canada

Antennes de Paix Montréal, Canada

Life and Peace Institute, Sweden

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, USA

Catholics for Peace, Canada

Denis Hurley Peace Institute, South Africa

#### **Pax Christi Member Organisations**

#### **Pax Christi Sections**

#### ***International Religious Congregations in Canada, Rome, France, Belgium and The Netherlands***

Sœurs de Sainte-Croix

Ursulines de Jésus

Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane

School Sisters of Notre Dame

Petites Sœurs de l'Assomption

Missionary Sisters

Suore di San Giuseppe di Chambéry

Istituto Missioni Consolata

Société du Sacré-Cœur

Zusters Heilige Familie

Sœurs de Notre Dame de Namur

Curia Generalizia Agostiana

Zusters van de Heilige Vincentius

Sisters of Saint Felix of Cantalice

Caritas Cisteriensis

Petites Sœurs de Jésus

Zusters van Liefde

Soeurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie

Suore Belin Presentazione Maria

Mercedaria Missionaire di Berriz

Stichting Congregatie FIC

Suore Missionaire del Cuore Immacolato di Maria

Society of the Sacred Heart

Communauté des Xavières

Brasilian Fathers of Toronto

Congrégation des Filles de Jésus

Comboni Missionary Sisters

Brothers of Charity

Fraters van OLV Tilburg

Missionari Saveriani

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Council of Europe

European Youth Forum

UNESCO

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