



NEWSLETTER

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GENERAL

Vacancy for the Position of Secretary-General of Pax Christi International

Pax Christi International is searching for a new Secretary-General, who will be based at the Pax Christi International Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. The Secretary-General will inspire and lead Pax Christi as an international movement and ensure active engagement of the Member Organisations around the world. This will require vision and enthusiasm, strategic leadership, effective management and professionalism, as well as a personal commitment to Christian values at the heart of peace and reconciliation, social and ecological justice, nonviolence and participation. More information on the position is available at: http://archive.paxchristi.net/JOB_OPENINGS/S.G.pdf

AFRICA

Life and Peace Institute Releases Bulletin on Horn of Africa

The Life and Peace Institute, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, issued its first 2012 issue of the Horn of Africa bulletin. The bulletin contains three analytical articles. The first is on the factors leading to civil militarization in Somalia. The second assesses disarmament processes in the Kenya North Rift region and highlights the missteps in order to suggest a new model. The last one focuses on the use of information technology to control the production and supply of small arms and light weapons. The Bulletin is available here: [Horn of Africa Bulletin 2012](#).

A book on Bishop Paride Taban, a Sudanese Shepherd of Peace

Peace Deserves a Chance: Bishop Paride Taban, a Sudanese Shepherd is a book written by Alberto J. Eisman. For three weeks, the author

interviewed Bishop Paride at the Kuron Peace Village, which is a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in South Sudan. The book describes the bishop's daily struggles in his pursuance of just peace in the region. The book has been made possible thanks to the support of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands. More information is available at www.paulinesafrica.org.

Support Handover of General Ntaganda to ICC

In a press release on the 10th of February 2012, Pax Christi Flanders supported the Democratic Republic of Congo's handover of General Ntaganda to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Former guerrilla leader Ntaganda has a big impact on the situation in the northern region of Kivu. Pax Christi Flanders advocates that the European Union and the United Nations must support the Democratic Republic of Congo's government in expatriating the general to the International Criminal Court.

AMERICA'S & CARIBBEAN

Condemnation of a Massacre in Aguacate, Guatemala

On the 1st of February 2012, Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM), a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Guatemala, issued a press release condemning the massacre in Aguacate. This atrocity was committed by guerrilla forces. Their statement is available at Ref.: [2012-0037-sp-am-HS](#).

Violence in Metropolitan City Port-au-Prince

The Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Haiti, published its 41th report on violence in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. The report covers the period of October to December 2011. It is available in French and Créole at Ref.: [2012-0046-fr-am-HS](#).

ASIA & PACIFIC

Pax Christi International Executive Member Visits Taiwan

Sr. Filo Hirota, a member of the Executive Committee of Pax Christi International, met with the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) group in Taipei, Taiwan, during the last week of January 2012. The meeting was organized by Willy Ollevier, Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae (CICM), and the Secretary of JPIC of the Conference of Major Superiors. Though the group was small, they represented several congregations and many were interested in Pax Christi International.

Pax Christi Australia releases newsletter on Middle East

Pax Christi Australia issued its 37th newsletter *Disarming Times: The Journal of Pax Christi Australia*. This issue covers the months of February, March, and April and is the first issue of 2012. The main articles focus on the tensions of the international community with Iran and on how faith can inspire the new peaceful protests; very much like the Arab Spring. More details are available at Ref.: 2012-0043-en-ap-NT.

Pakistan NGO Support Group on Current Issues

The Pakistan NGO Support Group met in The Hague on the 27th of February 2012. The PSG is a platform of NGOs from Europe, North America, and Pakistan that work together with and in support of human rights organisations in Pakistan. Participants discussed

- The current political situation in Pakistan
- The floods and its aftermath
- Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan
- Elections in Pakistan
- Advocacy and lobbying

Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat attended.

Six Months Report released by IDEAS India

The Initiatives in Development Empowerment and Awareness Society (IDEAS), a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in India, issued its six months report for the period of June to November 2011. The report is available at Ref.: [2012-0055-en-ap-PB](#).

MIDDLE EAST

Pax Christi Flanders on Economic Sanctions and Iran

On the 10th of February 2012, Pax Christi Flanders published an editorial on the economic sanctions against Iran taken by the European Union and the United States: Iran is urged to renew its nuclear programme talks. An international military intervention in Iran needs to be prevented. Iran is urged to become a partner in the nuclear weapon free zone for the Middle East. The editorial is available in Dutch [here](#).

A Report on European Union – Israel Relations

APRODEV, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the MEDEA Institute, and the European Movement Belgium held a public presentation of the new APRODEV-EMHRN report titled “EU-Israel Relations: Promoting and Ensuring Respect for International Law at the Midi de la Méditerranée”. The report, which was released on the 14th of February 2012, analyses different avenues for the European Union to promote Israel’s compliance with its obligations as an occupying power, and to ensure that its contractual relations with Israel are in full compliance with its own obligations under international law. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat attended. A link to the report is available [here](#).

Meeting on Current Issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

The Quaker Council for European Affairs, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights held a meeting on the 17th of February 2012 in Brussels on the issue of "Strengthening Protection and Promoting Accountability in the Occupied Palestinian Territories." Participants discussed the current issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended.

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel

Pax Christi International and several of its Member Organisations are involved in the annual World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. New resources are available in advance of this year's World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, an initiative of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches, to be observed from the 28th of May to the 3rd of June 2012. The common focus of this year's initiative is "Displacement and Dispossession." These resources relate to this focus, are now online, and can be found at Ref.: [2012-0050-en-me-HS](#).

Seeking the Ways out of Violence in Syria

In its fifth Syria Alert policy brief, IKV Pax Christi recommends to focus on protecting civilians in Syria and on de-escalating the violence on the ground and in the region. The international community should specifically: (1) Provide technical, financial and moral support to the nonviolent forces that promote a democratic Syria for all its citizens; (2) Seek political engagement of all relevant actors, including China and Russia, in pressuring Damascus to allow entry to UN human rights observers and in promoting a political way out of the crisis; (3) Assess all possible non-military instruments to protect Syrian civilians and not

exclude the option to pragmatically use military instruments to protect civilians. The Alert is available in English at Ref.: [2012-0058-en-me-HS](#) and German at Ref.: [2012-0058-de-me-HS](#).

Join a music production next to the Wall in Bethlehem

From the 9th to the 16th of July 2012, Arab Educational Institute (AEI) will be in Bethlehem filming a production on the birth of Jesus. This production will be narrated and sung from a contemporary Palestinian viewpoint. The production will take place at the Wall Museum, which was developed by AEI's Sumud Story House in northern Bethlehem. The Wall Museum is large posters on stories of Palestinian women's resilience to restrictions and pressures in the Occupied Territories. In the course of the coming months, AEI will develop the details of the play in cooperation with creative international volunteers such as singers and instrumentalists. After editing, the film will be launched as a DVD in advance of Christmas 2012. For more information and to get involved please contact Toine van Teeffelen at tvant@p-ol.com with cc to info@aeicenter.org. AEI is a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Palestine.

EUROPE

Pax Christi Austria on Syria

On the 18th of February 2012, Pax Christi Austria issued a press release on the situation on Syria. The press release was published in a few major media outlets. Please see [link one](#), [link two](#), and [link three](#) for more information.

Remembering Anna Politkovskaja

On the 23rd of February 2012, Pax Christi Flanders and the Centre for Russian Studies at the KU-Leuven organised an evening to remember the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaja. A documentary film of Eric

Bergkraut “A Letter to Anna” was showed. The introduction was given by Annemarie Gielen, Secretary General of Pax Christi Flanders.

Discussion on Turkey’s Affairs and Accession into the European Union

The journalist, Ayşegül Doğan was invited by the European Union Visitors Programme to share her analysis of the situation in Turkey with civil society representatives. She also discussed a new constitution for Turkey, resolution of the conflict around the Kurdish population, and the role of media in conflict resolution and the peace process. The session was organized by EPLO, the European Peace Building Liaison Office, of which Pax Christi International is a member. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended.

DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION

Pax Christi UK: Ash Wednesday witness at the Ministry of Defence

The 22nd of February 2012 marks the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, a time when Christians join together to face their own sinfulness and need of repentance. It is a time to turn away from those things which deny life and to turn things that are life-giving. For the 30th consecutive year, Christians will gather at the Ministry of Defence in London to challenge the United Kingdom government’s on-going commitment to a nuclear defence policy. There are 22,000 nuclear weapons located on 111 sites in 14 countries. The United Kingdom alone has 225 nuclear weapons and the Royal Navy boasts a proud record of over 40 years of uninterrupted nuclear deterrence. At least one of the four Vanguard-class submarines is on patrol at all times. More information is available at www.paxchristi.org.uk. Photos are available at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/paxchristiuk/>.

Colloquium on Nuclear Disarmament in France

Pax Christi France, the Justice and Peace Commission, the Diocese of the Army, and the Faculté des Sciences Sociales et Économiques (FASSE) are planning a colloquium on nuclear disarmament at the Institut Catholique in Paris, from the 16th to the 17th of March 2012. Interventions will be made by experts, diplomats, military, politicians, and bishops. Speakers from Pax Christi International are Bishop Marc Stenger, Susi Snyder and Fr. Paul Lansu. On the 31st of January 2012, Pax Christi France issued an open letter on nuclear disarmament addressed to the candidates for the coming presidential elections and the French electorate. More information is available in French at Ref: 2012-0034-fr-gl-SD and Ref.: 2012-0041-fr-gl-SD.

PrepCom 2015 NPT Review Conference

The Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons takes place in Vienna from the 30th of April to the 11th of May 2012. A Pax Christi International delegation, including Fr. Paul Lansu, will be present. IKV Pax Christi is organizing several workshops. Side events will be organised in collaboration with the International Peace Bureau. The designated NGO Coordinator in connection with NGO participation in the Committee is Ms. Ray Acheson of Reaching Critical Will. She can be contacted by e-mail at ray@reachingcriticalwill.org. Susi Snyder is the coordinator of the Pax Christi International delegation (snyder@ikvpaxchristi.nl).

Ecumenical ATT Campaign Update

Pax Christi International is part of an ecumenical network on arms trade, which is working in favour of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The campaign’s website is www.armstreatynow.org. You also can follow

the campaign at @armstreatynow or [like](#) it on Facebook. If you would like to submit articles on work related to the ATT or your national efforts to promote the ATT, please send your submissions to: dap@wcc-coe.org

On Eve of 4th PrepCom, the Belgian Parliament states Unanimous Support for a strong ATT

A few days before the start of the 4th and final Arms Trade Treaty PrepCom, the Belgian federal parliament called out for a strong Arms Trade Treaty. In a unanimously approved resolution the members of parliament urged the Belgian government to strive for the strongest possible ATT and to convince other states to join this pro-ATT position.

Pax Christi reacted positively on the news of the resolution: "Belgium has a tradition in supporting international disarmament initiatives. We're hoping that this resolution will guarantee the commitment of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic services as facilitators of a strong Arms Trade Treaty."

MP Dirk Van der Maelen, together with Pax Christi Flanders the initiator of the resolution, explains why he's convinced we need a strong and robust ATT: "We must link arms deliveries to conditions that promote human rights and development. A strong and enforceable treaty must supervise all light and conventional weapons. With a strict Arms Trade Treaty, you will succeed in sustainable poverty reduction." More information is available at Ref.: [2012-0049-en-gl-SD](#).

Arms Trade Treaty and Asia

Beth Begley, the delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in New York, attended a workshop on Asia and Arms Trade Treaty on the 15th of February 2012. The event was organised by Binalakshmi Nepram from Control Arms Foundation India. A

representative of the Indian government, the Sri Lankan parliament, along with delegates from Norway, Germany, Australia, and many more countries missions attended.

Action Alert: Tell Congress to Maintain Military Spending Cuts

On the 3rd of February 2012, Pax Christi USA and the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns called their membership for an action alert on military spending in the United States. Last year Congress made a deal to cut the deficit. Half the cuts were to come from domestic programs and half from military. Unfortunately, members of Congress are promoting possible legislation that will renege on this decision, allowing domestic program cuts to go through but reversing the cuts to the Pentagon's budget. The alert is based on information circulated by the New Priorities Network, of which Pax Christi USA is a member.

Another Defence System for Europe

In January 2012, Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles issued a publication concerning possible alternatives for defence in Europe. They also are questioning the role of NATO in new strategic defence paradigm for Europe. More information is available in French [here](#).

HUMAN RIGHTS AND VIOLENT CONFLICT

Right to Peace

Pax Christi International supported a written statement submitted to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee at its 8th session in February 2012. Experts were invited to consider further amendments to the text of "Right to Peace." These amendments include the recognition of minority groups and humankind as stakeholders of the right to peace. A statement is available at Ref.: [2012-0038-en-gl-HR](#).

Food and Health

Pax Christi International has joined Caritas International and other NGOs on an oral and written statement on “Food and Health: A Life-Saving Combination for Adults and Children Living with HIV.” The statement concerns item three of the 19th session of the Human Rights Council. It will take place in Geneva in March 2012. All people should enjoy access to systems that contribute to health and nutritional security. These systems should take into account the special dietary needs of adults and children affected by severe illnesses, in particular, those living with HIV. A statement is available at Ref.: [2012-0061-en-gl-HR](http://www.ohchr.org/ref/2012-0061-en-gl-HR).

HUMAN SECURITY AND VIOLENT CONFLICT

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 11th session

The 11th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held in New York from the 7th to 18th May 2012. More information is available [here](#).

Rio+20 Conference: 20-22 June 2012

Organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, the Conference will include heads of state and government to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges. More details on the event is available at: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK FOR PEACE

Pax Christi UK Peace Resources for Youth

Pax Christi UK has released a new resource for the youth. It is a collection of small workshops, activities, and reflections designed to introduce young people to key themes in Christian peacemaking. These activities are perfect for a confirmation programme, courses, and parish youth groups where young people are looking to explore and deepen their faith. The price is £2.00 per set. It can be downloaded from the Education for Peace page of Pax Christi UK's website: www.paxchristi.org.uk.

NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

Pax Christi USA accepting new team members for Anti-Racism Work

The Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team (PCART) continues the work of dismantling racism at all levels. The team is in critical need of workers to stop the violence that divides the human family along the lines of race. If you would like to be part of this work for peace and justice, PCART is accepting applications now through May 15, 2012.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the work of the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team.

Click [here](#) to see the application for joining the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team.

Handbook to Non-Violence

Pax Christi International has released a new publication entitled, *An Introductory Handbook to Non-violence from the Perspective of Conflict Transformation*. The publication is a contribution to the existing programs on non-violence and its relationship with the transformation of conflict and power. The text is written by Colombians Carlos H. Fernandez and Luisa Fernanda Trujillo. The intention of the

manual is to contribute to the processes of non-violent transformation in the Latin America region. The manual is available in Spanish in printed format and in English at Ref.: 2012-0048-en-am-PS. For more information, contact communications@paxchristi.net

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING

New Publication on Lobby and Advocacy Planning

Erik N.J. Laan of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands has written a manual, *Strategic Lobby & Advocacy Planning for Dummies: a seven step methodology for Strategic Lobby and Advocacy Planning*. This manual is intended to bring together and make available some of the insights, lessons learned, and best practices for other lobbyists and advocates in the non-profit sector. More information on the manual is available on www.ikvpaxchristi.nl/UK

REPRESENTATION

News on Representation

On the 3rd of February 2012, the Director General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to give Pax Christi International a consultative status which is the first NGO category. The second category is the Status of Association.

Colette Petit, delegate of Pax Christi International at UNESCO, participated in the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board, on the 28th of February 2012. The meeting was a new opportunity to improve the policy dialogue and to strengthen cooperation with NGOs.

Mussie Hailu is the permanent delegate of Pax Christi International at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions. The 19th session of the HRC takes place in Geneva, the 27th of February to the 23rd of March 2012. Paul had several contacts with delegates of different NGOs.

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Click here to view the International Calendar of upcoming events:

<http://storage.paxchristi.net/calendar.pdf>.

To unsubscribe from this list contact library@paxchristi.net or write to us at:

Pax Christi Newsletter
Pax Christi International
21 Vieux Marché aux Grains
B-1000 Brussels,
Belgium.

Pax Christi is the International Catholic Peace Movement with members worldwide

For more information visit our website: www.paxchristi.net

To make a donation to Pax Christi International please click [here](#).