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AFRICA

Jubilee Celebration of Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban

Retired (Emeritus) Bishop Paride Taban recently celebrated his 75th birthday at the Kuron Peace Village on the 26th of February 2012. More than 200 guests came from all over the world to join several hundred local people in this remote corner of South Sudan to pay their respects to a living legend. The recently published biography of the bishop, *Peace Deserves a Chance* by Alberto Eisman, went on sale. The Kuron Peace Village is a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in South Sudan. More information can be attained from John Ashworth at ashworth.john@gmail.com.

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

Cité Soleil Film Port-au-Prince

Cite Soleil: Sun, Dust, and Hope, Pax Christi USA's and Pax Christi Port-au-Prince's film, was selected for participation in the [5th Annual New York Peace Film Festival](#). Yumi Tanaka, the film festival's creator, invited Pax Christi USA to submit this short film, a documentary on the current conditions of Cite Soleil and Pax Christi Port-au-Prince's peace education work taking place there. The Peace Film Festival was held from the 10th to the 11th of March 2012. This year's festival theme was "Reconciliation Efforts throughout the World". Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi Port-au-Prince both feel that our film perfectly reflects this theme.

To read the press release and see more information on the festival, click [here](#).

ASIA & PACIFIC

Jeju International Peace Conference in South Korea

SPARK, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, organized an international peace

conference concerning the Naval Base Jeju. The conference was held from the 24th to the 26th of February 2012. Around 25 international peace activists visited Gangjeong village. More information about the international conference is available here: [http://www.savejejuisland.org/Save Jeju Island/Welcome.html](http://www.savejejuisland.org/Save_Jeju_Island/Welcome.html)

Protest against Construction of Naval Base in South Korea

The South Korean Government is clearly determined to continue the destruction on Jeju Island despite residents' strong resistance and scientific evidence of the irreversible impact of the naval base on the area. The protest has been going on since 2007. Protestors, including priests and residents, have been arrested. At this crucial moment, the anti-naval base group needs more support as they physically attempt to stop the blasting and construction. At the request of SPARK, a letter has been written to the governor of the province. It can be read at Ref.: [2012-0089-en-ap-HS](#).

Women's Day Celebrations in Prisons in Sri Lanka

There is an e-newsletter on Women's Day celebrations that were held at the women's ward of the Raja Veediya Prisons in Kandy. The event was organised by the Human Rights Office, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International. More information is available at Ref.: [2012-0103-en-ap-HR](#).

A Study Released: Life on the Margins in Pakistan

The National Commission for Justice and Peace, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Pakistan, is pleased to share *Life on the Margins*, a study on the situation of minority women in Pakistan. One thousand Hindu and Christian women from Punjab and Sindh were interviewed. This study is an initiative to highlight the situation of minority

women in Pakistan and courses of action for implementing the recommendations. The study was launched at Islamabad on the 28th of February 2012. Press releases are available [here](#) and at Ref.: [2012-0092-en-ap-HS](#).

Japanese Member's Website Language Update

The Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, has updated the English and Spanish language versions of their website: <http://www.jccjp.org/jccjp/English.html> and <http://www.jccjp.org/jccjp/sicsal.html>

Pax Christi Australia Call for Intervention in West Papua

On the 17th of March 2012, Pax Christi Australia sent a letter of concern to the Foreign Minister of Australia concerning the situation in West Papua. They requested that the minister use his growing relations with the Indonesian Government to urge that the recently arrested Papuan activists be unconditionally released. The letter is available at Ref.: [2012-0100-en-ap-AC](#).

Pax Christi USA on Peaceful Transitions in Afghanistan

In March 2012, Pax Christi USA advocated a peaceful transition in Afghanistan. It is hoped that the citizens of Afghanistan will respond peacefully and constructively to the violence against them; an undertaking in which they can expect support from Pax Christi USA and other nonviolent peace movements across the world. Pax Christi USA also requests that the United States act as a political mediator and pursue talks with all conflicting parties. Pax Christi USA believes that the governments of Iran, Pakistan, and India should be involved in the peace talks. More information on their recommendations are available at www.paxchristiusa.org

MIDDLE EAST

IKV Pax Christi Hosts Discussion on Transition and Involvement in Syria

IKV Pax Christi held a debate on the situation in Syria on the 14th of March 2012. The focus was on the chances for peaceful resistance in the country. Dutch politicians and delegates of the exiled Syrian nonviolent resistance movement spoke at the debate. They discussed the questions:

- What is the role of the opposition and in what ways are they united?
- How do we answer the call of the Syrian citizens and help protect them against the violence?
- What can be done by the Dutch government and the international community?

Co-Presidents on Russian Federation and Syria

On the 12th of March 2012, Bishop Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis, Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International, wrote a letter addressed to Sergey Lavrov, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Russia, on the critical situation in Syria and the mediation role of the Russian Government. The letter is in support of:

- The mediation efforts of Mr. Kofi Annan,
- Humanitarian and medical teams urgently need to be granted safe access, and
- The discontinuation of Russian arms sales to Syria.

All Member Organisations of Pax Christi International are invited to write similar letters of concern to the Russian embassy in their

country. A copy of the letter can be accessed at Ref.: [2012-0081-en-me-AC](#).

Unite for Syria: Stop One Year of Bloodshed

On the 15th of March 2012, campaigners around the world marked one year of violence in Syria by calling on the Russian Government to back the United Nations Security Council's action to end the crisis. A coalition of non-government organisations, including Pax Christi International and several of its Member Organisations, have been demanding that the United Nations Security Council immediately unite and pass a resolution calling on the Syrian government to stop committing violations of international humanitarian law. More information can be accessed via Brussels2@crisisaction.org

Pax Christi International on One Year of Popular Uprising in Syria

A year after the start of the revolution, human rights violations and economic difficulties has reached unprecedented levels. At this moment, there is no alternative to a negotiated solution. Therefore, it is crucial that the international community, especially the governments of China and Russia, focus on achieving this. The international community must also increase its support to civil society actors, and take all possible measures to ensure that the ruling regime allows the necessary humanitarian aid into all parts of Syria.

For more information on Pax Christi International's stance, please read its statement, "One Year of Popular Uprising in Syria" on the 15th of March 2012. It is available in English at Ref.: [2012-0093-en-me-HS](#), and in French at Ref.: [2012-0093-fr-me-HS](#).

Syria Alert 6: Support the Non-violent Civilian Uprising in Syria

In this Syria Alert policy brief, IKV Pax Christi analyses who leads the Syrian popular uprising

and what challenges they face. It recommends that the international community address these challenges by: (1) Supporting the Syrian nonviolent uprising with bold diplomatic activism and practical support. (2) Mediate and facilitate between the different opposition actors to establish a definite plan for transition and the new Syria. (3) Support the Syrian National Council in strengthening its legitimacy.

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

We are happy to announce that World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel is now on Facebook! Visit the new group page by clicking on www.facebook.com/groups/335983429786866/. Every day, the latest information and news regarding the Week is posted on the group page:

- Resources to be used during the Week,
- Events being planned for the Week by partners worldwide,
- Messages from the Palestinian Christian community, and
- Links to relevant news stories.

Pax Christi International invites all its Member Organisations to join the World Week. New worship resources for World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, including the Jerusalem Prayer and a short worship liturgy written by Palestinian Christians, will be available. More information is available at www.worldweekforpeace.org and materials provided by Pax Christi UK are at Ref.: [2012-0084-en-me-PE](#).

Learn more about Library on Wheels in Palestine

Library on Wheels for Nonviolence and Peace is a Member Organization of Pax Christi International in Palestine. They have released a

video that features information on their organization at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9-oM3zQYKU>.

Promoting the Arab Peace Initiative

IKV Pax Christi has been involved in the organisation of an international meeting on the issue of “Promoting the Arab Peace Initiative as a Basis for a Comprehensive Middle Eastern Peace”. It took place in Istanbul, Turkey from the 29th to the 31st March 2012. The meeting aimed to address the problem of the absence of a clear peace process in the political and societal levels. Participants from the European Union, Israel, and Arabic countries came to the meeting. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat participated in a preparatory meeting taking place in Brussels on the 21st of March 2012.

EUROPE

Twenty Years of European Security Policies

From the 6th to the 8th of March 2012, a seminar was held in Brussels on 20 years of European security policies and the prospects of the German peace movement. The programme was initiated by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. Christine Hoffmann, Secretary General of Pax Christi Germany, and Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat made contributions to the seminar.

Kosovo’s path towards NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme

On the 15th of March 2012, at the invitation of the European Peace Building Liaison Office in Brussels, experts from the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies discussed the competence transfer from the Kosovo Force to the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Another issue is the revision of NATO’s approach towards Kosovo, as at this stage the local needs require more

capacity building efforts and less physical presence in the country. In addition, the meeting contributed in highlighting pro-arguments supporting the prospect of Kosovo signing the PfP. Astrid Schrama of IKV Pax Christi and Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended.

Solidarity as a Principle in the European Union

The bishops delegates of COMECE met for their Lenten meetings during the third week of March 2012 in Brussels. Michel Camdessus, former Director General of the International Monetary Fund, gave a lecture on “Solidarity as a Principle within the European Union.” A farewell reception was followed for Bishop Ad van Luyn as President of COMECE. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended the meeting and the reception following the 21st of March 2012.

DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION

Pax Christi and Partners on Nuclear Deterrence

On the 16th of March 2012, Pax Christi International issued a statement on nuclear disarmament. It was featured during the colloquium « Le désarmement nucléaire demain? », which was organized by Institut Catholique de Paris, Justice et Paix, and Pax Christi France. It was held in Paris from the 16th to the 17th of March 2012. Fr. Paul Lansu made a contribution at the colloquium on the topic of Christians and nuclear disarmament. It can be read in French at Ref.: [2012-0067-fr-gl-SD](#). Pax Christi International’s statement is available in English at Ref.: [2012-0068-en-gl-SD](#) and in French at Ref.: [2012-0068-fr-gl-SD](#).

International Campaign Nuclear Disarmament

On 17th of March 2012, Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand sent a letter to New Zealand Member of Parliament John Hayes concerning the international campaign abolishing nuclear disarmament. The letter is related to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on nuclear disarmament. Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand is represented by the Peace Movement Aotearoa, the working group which is the New Zealand base for ICAN. The letter can be read at Ref.: [2012-0102-en-ap-SD](#).

Maryknoll Calls for End to Nuclear Energy: Urges World Leaders to Address Grave Threats to Human Life

As the world prepares to mark the first anniversary of the tragic tsunami and nuclear accident in Japan, Maryknoll missionaries convey their continued sympathy for all those directly impacted by the disaster. Maryknoll has presented a new statement that expresses their deep reservations about the continued reliance on the use of nuclear power and the development of nuclear weapons. Maryknoll has produced a 16-page background document that provides an in-depth analysis, which is available on their website at www.maryknollogc.org. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns is a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in the United States.

Iran Non Proliferation Alert

On the 8th of March 2012, IKV Pax Christi issued an Iran Non Proliferation Alert. As the European Union High Representative is currently preparing for the next round of negotiations between the seven parties, IKV Pax Christi is taking this opportunity to circulate a brief note with recommendations and some background information for those discussions. It can be accessed at Ref.: [2012-0080-en-gl-SD](#).

Averting a War with Iran

On 13th of March 2012, Pax Christi UK issued a statement entitled, "Averting a War with Iran." A war with Iran, in which a military attack would inevitably cause, would put the entire world at risk. Pax Christi UK suggests that any government statements of a pre-emptive attack must be challenged as illegal and immoral. The statement is accessible at Ref.: [2012-0085-en-gl-SD](#). Pax Christi Montréal translated the statement into French and put it in a Canadian context: Ref.: [2012-0107-fr-am-SD](#).

Resolving the Dispute with Iran - Statement of Pax Christi International

On the 22nd of March 2012, Pax Christi International issued a statement on Iran in which the international peace movement and network clearly and unequivocally rejects the possibility of military action against Iran as immoral, highly dangerous and counter-productive:

Pax Christi International supports continued diplomatic efforts based on mutual respect and dignity. We encourage discussions to bring all states into compliance with their Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligations and we support including the Additional Protocol as the non-proliferation verification standard. All countries have a responsibility to encourage definitive movement toward a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East, as well as a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The full statement is at Ref.: [2012-0106-en-gl-SD](#).

Arms Control Coalition

Pax Christi International is a member of the Control Arms Coalition, which is about to launch a 100 day countdown to the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations. The Coalition will be introducing a new petition, as well as helpful resources for organizing public stunts, engaging the media, and reaching out to [religious leaders](#) and [parliamentarians](#) to sign declarations.

A Hundred Days of "Speaking Out" - a countdown to the ATT negotiations

On 27th of March 2012, Control Arms and Pax Christi International started the "100 Days of Speaking Out" - a countdown to the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, as part of its on-going "[Speak Out: Control Arms Now!](#)" campaign.

- A new petition is available for both online and offline signature collection. This new and simpler way to 'speak out' will be a critical tool for mobilizing support in these final months before negotiations.
- Guidelines are shared about how to use the petition, collect names and share that information back to the secretariat.
- An Action Alert is released that outlines key dates, messages and suggested actions for the countdown.
- Daily features are shown on www.controlarms.org to spotlight countdown activities, personal testimonies and reflections on the last several years of campaigning.

Member Organisations of Pax Christi International are urged to participate in the campaign.

Ecumenical Network on Arms Trade Treaty

Pax Christi International invites all Member Organisations to promote peace, ecumenical, and human rights movements' efforts in creating a just Arms Trade Treaty by:

- Contributing to the "Human Scope of an Arms Trade Treaty" project and providing signatures needed for the Arms Trade Treaty Interfaith Declaration: [http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/justice-and-accountability/arms-trade-treaty-campaign/get-involved.html)

[peace/justice-and-accountability/arms-trade-treaty-campaign/get-involved.html](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/justice-and-accountability/arms-trade-treaty-campaign/get-involved.html);

- Joining the campaign efforts on Facebook and like its page at <http://www.facebook.com/armstreatynow>;
- Joining the campaign efforts and learning more online at www.armstreatynow.org
- Following them on Twitter: @armstreatynow

The International Working Group for the Ecumenical ATT Campaign met and agreed to work collaboratively with the Control Arms Campaign's 100 Days of Action (27th of March – 1st of July 2012). Stijn Van Bever of the International Pax Christi Secretariat is the contact person.

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 the 18th of May 2012. Delegates of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in New York will attend. Read more [here](#).

Rio+20 Conference

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.

Rio + 20 takes place from the 20th to the 22nd of June 2012. Pax Christi International will be represented. More at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Disarmament for Sustainable Development Rio + 20

Pax Christi International Co-Presidents Bishop Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis signed an international appeal on “2012: Rio plus 20 – Disarmament for Sustainable Development.” The signatories of the appeal demand that the governments of the world seriously address the neglected issue of disarmament for development, and agree on a global plan for disarmament at the Rio Summit in June 2012. The initiative is headed by the International Peace Bureau of which Pax Christi International is a member. The contact person is Reiner Braun of the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), e-mail: hr.braun@gmx.net

Second Global Day of Action on Military Spending - April 17

The current economic crisis has put pressure on the world’s governments to reduce spending on critical human needs, such as confronting climate change, battling deadly diseases, achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But apart from a few courageous exceptions, national governments continue to waste enormous resources on the military. Figures from the 2011 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) annual report show that the world’s governments are spending more than ever on the military: US\$1.63 trillion per year – and rising. If spent differently, this money

would go a long way to resolving the real challenges facing our planet.

Last year nearly 100 events were organised by endorsing groups on every continent including Pax Christi International. We are making a special link this time to the Rio + 20 Earth Summit, where governments and civil society will be discussing how to generate more resources for sustainable development: see: <http://demilitarize.org/category/newsletter/>

Briefing with NGOs on Status of Women

The Holy See Mission at the United Nations in New York hosted a briefing concerning the work being conducted during the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (27th of February to the 9th of March 2012). The briefing was held at the offices of the Holy See Mission on the 7th of March 2012. Beth Begley, a delegate of Pax Christi International, attended as an observer.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK FOR PEACE

Annual Peace Week in the Netherlands

IKV Pax Christi is planning its Annual Peace Week 2012. The main topic of the week is “Powered by Peace” and focusses on sources and conflicts. Case studies will be on Colombia, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. An introductory day will take place on the 10th of May 2012 in Utrecht. More information is available on their website at www.ikvpaxchristi.nl

Round Table on Sports: A School of Peace?

There is an English version of the report on the Round Table, which was organised and held by Pax Christi Montréal on the 12th of March 2012. The theme of the Round Table was “Sports: A School of Peace?” and invited two guests to explain their perspectives on the work they have done over the years. Pierre Prudhomme, of

Carrefour Foi et Spiritualité, spoke from the perspective of a former sports trainer and pointed out the many challenges in introducing young people into sports. The full report is available at Ref.: [2012-0101-en-am-PE](#).

PEACE BUILDING

Art Exhibition of the Peace Movement at European Parliament

The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and some members of the European Parliament recently accomplished a goal to increase awareness of the history of the German marches for peace, the "Ostermarsch". A vernissage of the Ostermarsch was presented at the European Parliament on the 6th of March 2012. Christine Hoffmann, Secretary General of Pax Christi Germany made a contribution.

DEVELOPING PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY

New Resource: Module on Justice-based Peacemaking

There is a new 12-session module for small groups. It was made in collaboration between many peace advocates and members of the Pax Christi global networks. The 12-session program explores the challenges and promises of justice-based peacemaking.

This module is broadly ecumenical and asks each and every participant to reflect deeply and to act locally, or, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you want to see in the world." For a full description of the module, click [here](#).

Condolences sent to Egypt on the passing of Pope Shenouda III

On 19th of March 2012, Pax Christi International sent a message of condolences to the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), a Member Organisation of Pax Christi

International in Egypt, on the death of Pope Shenouda III:

"Pax Christi International sends our prayers and deepest condolences to the people of Egypt who are mourning the death of Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria. Pope Shenouda III, who was a beloved leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church for more than 40 years, gave voice to Egypt's yearning for peace and will be remembered for his promotion of national unity and religious cooperation. Pax Christi International is grateful for his life and witness."

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](#).