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AFRICA

DR Congo: A New Report on Security Sector Reform

The European Network for Central Africa (EurAc) and other international and Congolese civil society groups have released a major report advising that the international community and Congolese government must urgently agree upon a new deal to reform the Congolese military. The report highlights recent developments in Eastern Congo and the increased insecurity caused by the actions of Bosco Ntaganda.

The report cautions that the army not only fails to provide security but actively preys upon the population, being one of the major perpetrators of human rights violations in the country. It states that the main reason for the failure of army reform in DRC is a lack of political will from parts of the Congolese government – notably those elements which have benefited from endemic corruption.

The report contains an analysis on international aid to DRC, indicating that in 5 years, Western countries have invested more than \$14 billion into the DRC and that aid is now equivalent to nearly half of the DRC's annual budget. Also in the report - only one per cent of that aid - or \$140 million – has been spent on security sector reform.

The report appeals to the international community to increase the leverage of its relationship with Congo by expanding on benchmarks; placing UN sanctions on DRC army personnel that block reform and establishing a high-level forum on military reform to promote the necessary political will. Pax Christi International is member of EurAc. To read the full report, see Ref. [2012-0159-en-af-HS](#).

Broader Scrutiny of DRC Elections Confirms Deep Concerns

Following widely-disputed elections in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in November 2011, the country now faces increased pressure to reform and restructure the commission that oversees its elections. The final report of the European Union's observation mission has appealed for broader involvement by civil society in the field of civic education and local observation. Pax Christi International is a member of The European Network for Central Africa and welcomes the conclusions of the EU report and offers recommendations for strengthening the appeal. See Ref. [2012-0160-en-af-AC](#) for English and [2012-0160-fr-af-AC](#) for the French version.

Additionally, les Amis de Nelson Mandela (ANMDH) has reported serious human rights violations in the course of the DRC electoral period. ANMDH is a member of Pax Christi International and appeals for open dialogue and an independent enquiry into the irregularities and allegations of abuse by security forces. See [2010-0140-fr-af-HR](#) for this report.

Pax Christi in Mali Mobilises in Wake of Coup

The Initiative Malienne Pax Christi pour le Développement is working with other civil society organisations to help resolve the political crisis in Mali. On March 22nd, Separatist rebels staged a military coup d'état in the capital city of Bamako and now control northern parts of the West African country. Al Qaeda-linked Islamist fighters are among the occupying rebels in Mali.

Armand Dembele, coordinator of the Pax Christi group, reports that the humanitarian situation in rebel-occupied zones is alarming and could become worse. Despite promises to return the country to civilian rule, there are troubling reports of opposition leaders being arrested and military control hardening. 'Mali is living the

darkest page of its history,' says Demebele. 'We count on your prayers.'

Evaluation of Ex-combatants Project Takes Place in May

Organisers of a project helping to reintegrate former fighters in the DR Congo and Burundi will gather in May to evaluate final project results and plan next steps. Since 2010, Pax Christi International and Pax Christi Flanders have collaborated in supporting the formation of Listening Communities to accompany ex-combatants as they transition back into civilian life. Over this period, the project has engaged more than 100 men and women in 10 locations, often resulting in the creation of local ex-combatant associations and facilitating links to local community leaders. For more information on this project, contact africa@paxchristi.net.

Pax Christi Peace Prize Laureate Justine Masika Bihamba Flees the DR Congo

Justine Masika Bihamba has fled the DR Congo. She has gone into hiding after receiving threats to her security for comments made during an interview with BBC radio, where she spoke favourably of the ICC guilty verdict of Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga.

Ms. Masika was awarded the Pax Christi Peace Prize in 2009 for her work on victims of sexual violence in the DR Congo. She is the coordinator of Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles and Vice President of the Civil Society Association of North Kivu.

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

Pax Christi USA immigration activist Ruben Garcia recipient of the 2012 Teacher of Peace award

Pax Christi USA has recognized the life and witness of Ruben Garcia, naming him the 2012 recipient of the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award. Garcia is one of the founders and

the current director of Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas. Read more at www.paxchristiusa.org

Ending Racial Profiling in America

Pax Christi USA was invited by Sen. Dick Durbin (IL) to submit testimony for a hearing on "Ending Racial Profiling in America" for the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights. The hearing was called to explore the different faces of racial profiling, including discriminatory law enforcement against African Americans, state immigration laws in Alabama and Arizona that subject Hispanic Americans to heightened scrutiny, and anti-terrorism efforts that target American Muslims. The hearing also examined proposed solutions to racial profiling, including the End Racial Profiling Act, closing loopholes in the U.S. Department of Justice's racial profiling guidance, and the Justice Department Civil Rights Division's enforcement of federal civil rights laws to prevent profiling by state and local law enforcement agencies. Pax Christi USA submitted the following testimony. Read at www.paxchristiusa.org

Analysis and Statistics about Violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

On 12 April 2012, the Commission Nationale Justice et Paix, member organization of Pax Christi International in Haiti, published its 3 month analysis with figures about the level of violence in the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The report covers the period from January to March 2012 and is the 42nd report in an on-going reporting on this issue. Read the report in French at

[2012-0154-fr-am-HS](#) and the figures in [2012-0155-fr-am-HS](#).

ASIA & PACIFIC

Study Own Religion in Pakistan

In a recent paper, The National Commission for Justice and Peace, a member organisation of Pax Christi International in Pakistan recommended changes to the school curricula so that minorities can study their own religions instead of Islamic studies or ethics. Read more at: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/358020/right-to-education-to-each-his-own-religion/>

Please-visit:

<http://safedafed.org/signatures/registration.php> and join the 'One Million Signature Campaign' which mandates 'Free and Compulsory Education' for all the children from 5-16 years. According to Article 25-A of the Constitution of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan: "The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be determined by law."

The Supreme Court of Pakistan urged to take stand on forced conversions

On 20 April 2012, representatives of the Catholic (National) Commission for Justice and Peace, Fr. Emmanuel Yousaf and Peter Jacob, urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take a comprehensive look on the issue of forced conversions and a firm stand upholding justice and human rights. They said in a statement that the court procedures have become an instrument of injustice when the principle of 'free consent' is applied loosely or selectively, and in disregard to social realities. Read the press release in [2012-0166-en-ap-HR](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0166-en-ap-HR).

Hotline Newsletter Bangladesh

Hotline Human Rights Bangladesh is a member organization of Pax Christi International. The organisation released an edition of the Hotline Newsletter, number 177 from February - March 2012. Read the newsletter here [2012-0164-en-ap-HR](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0164-en-ap-HR).

Nuclear Issue in Japan

The Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace a member organization of Pax Christi International has made available new web articles related to nuclear disarmament and nuclear energy. To read the articles, visit the following-website:

http://web.mac.com/jccjp/justice_and_peace/hikkoshi.html

MIDDLE EAST

A Just Jerusalem for All – Petition Handed to Downing Street

A petition supported by a range of faith organisations and campaign groups was handed to Mr David Cameron in Downing Street, London on Friday 30th March. It requested the UK Government to take action to prevent the destruction of Palestinian Life in Jerusalem. The organisations that supported the petition and gathered more than 5,000 signatures were – Pax Christi UK, the Amos Trust, Architects & Planners for Justice in Palestine, Friends of Al Aqsa, Friends of Sabeel, Jews for Justice for Palestinians and the Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights. Read more at [2012-0129-en-me-HS](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0129-en-me-HS).

Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum

Since 2007, the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) has developed strategic actions aimed at mobilizing churches, and through them, the international community. A renewed Core Group will meet for the first time in Bethlehem from May 2nd to the 6th, 2012. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat has been nominated by the World Council of Churches for a second mandate.

World Week for Peace in Palestine- Israel 2012

Pax Christi International is calling its international network of Member Organisations to participate in the annual World Week for

Peace in Palestine and Israel 2012. Thanks to the hard work of several excellent volunteer translators, Pax Christi International is now able to offer a number of the translated resources. Listed below are some of the translations:

Jerusalem Prayer (French, German, Spanish)

Worship Liturgy "Come and See," (French, German, Spanish)

An invitation to send a prayer to the Palestinian Christian community (French, German, Spanish)

Advocacy brochures produced by the UK WWPPPI working group (French) and the United Church in Canada (German)

To access these translations, please visit the [Resources](#) page of our website, www.worldweekforpeace.org. The site will be updated with new resources regularly along with additional translations.

Pax Christi International Board meets in Cairo, Egypt

The Board of Pax Christi International met in Cairo, Egypt from 20 – 22 April 2012. Members met with different Church leaders and representatives notably Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, the Apostolic Nuncio in Egypt and Bishop Kyrollos William of Asuit of the Coptic Catholic Patriarchate. On April 20th, a presentation was made by Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki, Director of the Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Services (CEOSS) on the topic of "Christians in the Middle East." CEOSS a member organisation of Pax Christi International in Egypt co-organised the programme of the Board meetings.

Syria Alert 7: Making the Annan plan succeed

Although it came much later than needed, the UN Security Council resolution 2042 signifies an important break-through. An important base

has been laid for concerted international diplomatic effort. The need for success now is to continue working on creating the conditions for this process in which the mission of Kofi Annan plays the leading role. IKV Pax Christi recommends that the international community and the EU take the following measures to support Annan's mission:

The UN monitoring mission has to be enabled to do its job. It should have between 1800 and 3000 observers, work independently and transparently, report publicly, have a "hot line" to be in contact with Syrian activists.

Continue diplomatic dialogue aimed at a detente with Iran, which is another condition for further progress on Syria.

Support the momentum of the Syrian nonviolent uprising with bold diplomatic activism and practical support; mediate and facilitate between the different parties on a concrete transitional "road map" that is supported by main opposition forces in and outside Syria.

Work on concrete plans for a UN role in the protection of Syrian civilians as part of a timetable for the Annan plan and subsequent steps.

Please find the full Syria Alert brief attached in English [2012-0163-en-me-HS](#) and German [2012-0163-de-me-HS](#).

EUROPE

Pax Christi International Visit to Poland

Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat visited Poland from March 23rd -31st, 2012 to renew and update different contacts and projects in the country. He was accompanied by Jacques Van der Meer from the Netherlands. Meetings took place in the following cities - Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow and Oswiecim/Auschwitz.

In Warsaw meetings were held with Kik Warsaw (member organization of Pax Christi International), the Dominicans, the Editor in chief of WIEZ, Halina Bortnowska (former member of the ExCom of Pax Christi International), with parishioners of the late Fr. Roman Indrzejczyk, with delegates of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue. In Lublin meetings took place at the Catholic University of Lublin and at the European House of Meetings; In Krakow a meeting took place with the Editor in chief of Znak. In Oświęcim /Auschwitz, Fr. Paul and Jacques met with Rev. Jan Novak (Director), Rev. Dr. Manfred Deselaers (Programme Coordinator) and Sr. Mary O'Sullivan (Education Department) of the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer. Stanislaw Latek and Anna Moskwa assisted in planning the programme.

At the Threshold of Auschwitz: Come and See Pilgrimage

The Centre for Dialogue and Prayer in Oświęcim/Auschwitz, Poland has cordially invited all member organisations and members of Pax Christi International to visit and participate in retreats, meetings, prayer, meditation and cooperation in dialogue. Please visit The Centre for Dialogue and Prayer website for more information (<http://www.cdim.pl/en>).

The Centre commemorates all victims of the concentration camp and contributes to creating mutual respect, reconciliation and peace in the world. Visiting the former concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Auschwitz is an encounter with history and is deeply moving. Read more in English at [2012-0132-en-gl-PS](#) and in German at [2012-0132-de-gl-PS](#).

DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION

Global Day of Action on Military Spending: Statement of Pax Christi International

Pax Christi International joins the international community in its call for an immediate

reduction in military spending in order to meet the needs of the human community and ensure sustainability. On 2 April 2012, Pax Christi International called on its members worldwide to remember, advocate and conduct actions in its areas of influence for the Global Day of Action on Military Spending on 17 April 2012. Read the statement in English [2012-0126-en-gl-SD](#), in French [2012-0126-fr-gl-SD](#) and German [2012-0126-de-gl-SD](#).

Recommendations to the NPT Preparatory Committee Meeting

IKV Pax Christi made recommendations to the 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee Meeting taking place in Vienna from 30 April – 11 May 2012. IKV Pax Christi is advocating for a balanced agenda that incorporates a full review of the treaty's operation, including an assessment of commitments made in the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. Read more at [2012-0123-en-gl-SD](#).

Canadian NGOs on NPT PrepCom

Pax Christi Montréal/Antennes de paix Montréal participated in a NGO Round Table in preparation for the NPT PrepCom meetings in Vienna. The meetings took place on 26 March 2012. The organisation published a joint statement dated 4 April 2012. Also, policy proposals have been formulated and offered by a group of Canadian civil society organizations linked to the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The policy urges for Canadian action in the current NPT review cycle. Read in French [2012-0147-fr-gl-SD](#) and in English [2012-0147-en-gl-SD](#).

Swallowing the Bullet - An Ethical Approach to an Arms Trade Treaty

Campaigners worldwide are calling for a strong Arms Trade Treaty as the final negotiations approach in July 2012. Pax Christi International is joining the global campaign with a new Paper on the Arms Trade Treaty. The main focus of the

paper is a faith and ethics based analysis of arms trade. The paper gives an overview of civil society recommendations for a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty.

It also offers a campaign guide with an overview of prominent campaigns and resources, which facilitates the spreading of the message that a strong Arms Trade Treaty is crucial. A letter to government representatives and decision-makers is included in the paper. Also provided are edited pastoral and liturgical suggestions for the religious services during the weekend of the 17th of June 2012. With help from members Pax Christi intends to bring the message of a strong Arms Trade Treaty to churches, civil society and diplomats around the world. To read the complete paper see [2012-0114-en-gl-SD](#).

Ecumenical Campaign for a Strong and Effective Arms Trade Treaty Meeting

The second International Working Group meeting with participation from active members of the Ecumenical ATT Campaign will take place from 29-31st May 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. This meeting will be co-hosted by The Economic Justice Network of South Africa and the World Council of Churches in collaboration with The South African Council of Churches. Pax Christi International is part of that WCC grouping on ATT.

The meeting will evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Ecumenical ATT Campaign; finalize advocacy strategies for the July UN ATT negotiation conference; the main talking points will be analysed and preparations for state capitol meetings in support of a strong and effective Arms Trade Treaty will be made. During the 3 day meeting, participants will engage with Parliamentarians and focus on connections between the ATT and Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and interact with local South African church leaders and academics. Fr. Paul Lansu of

the International Pax Christi Secretariat will attend the meeting.

Exit Strategies; the case for redefining NATO consensus on U.S. TNW

As NATO is currently undergoing the Defence and Deterrence Posture Review, IKV Pax Christi would like to contribute to the discussion on the future of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in Europe. The report, [Exit Strategies; The case for redefining NATO consensus on U.S. TNW](#), elaborates on the reality that a large proportion of the Alliance does not explicitly favour the continued deployment of U.S. nuclear bombs in Europe.

The IKV Pax Christi [Withdrawal Issues](#) report of 2011, found that a majority of NATO member states would prefer to see the U.S. nuclear weapons removed from Europe, albeit under varying conditions. This new report reflects the fact that there is no consensus on keeping the weapons in Europe and reframes the debate. Instead of defaulting to an old policy that can no longer count on agreement, the report suggests NATO recognizes that a new consensus is emerging, one that requires a change in current nuclear deployments.

Toxic Remnants of War Project Launched

The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) and IKV Pax Christi have launched a research project seeking to assess the health and environmental impact of toxic substances released during military activities. The publication was issued on 11 April 2012. Pax Christi International is a member of the ICBUW. Read in [2012-0149-en-gl-SD](#).

HUMAN SECURITY AND VIOLENT CONFLICT

Human Rights, Security and Extractive Industries in Colombia

IKV Pax Christi held a meeting for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and human rights and security in relation to extractive industries. The meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium on 24 April 2012. IKV Pax Christi invited Mr. Francisco Ramirez Cuellar, a human rights lawyer from Colombia, who represents victims of violence within the area of influence of the Drummond coal mining project, to present Colombia as a case study to European policy and decision makers as a means to push for EU policies that will stop human rights abuse and prevent conflict in the extractive industry. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat attended the meeting.

Crisis Action

Crisis Action held a reception on 26 April 2012 in Brussels to mark and celebrate the 5th founding anniversary of the Crisis Action Brussels office and the collective efforts with their partners. Mr. Nick Grono, Chair of Crisis Action made opening remarks. He is the Deputy President & Chief Operating Officer of the International Crisis Group. Pax Christi International works with the Crisis Action Brussels Office. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat attended the meeting.

PEACE BUILDING

Building Bridges, Building Peace: The Life and Work of Claudette Werleigh of Haiti

Bijoyeta Das, a peace writer has authored a book on the former Secretary General of Pax Christi International, Claudette Werleigh. The book is a publication in the series of 2011 Women Peace Makers Program of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, USA.

From literacy education in rural Haiti, to her post as Haiti's first female prime minister and on to Secretary General of Pax Christi International, Claudette has witnessed conflict and is a

peacemaker at all levels. She has strived and worked for peace with people from every strata of society and in all corners of the world. For more information, please visit this link: www.peace.sandiego.edu

Pax Christi International Statement on Indigenous Peoples

Bishop Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis, Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International issued a statement on Indigenous Peoples on 10 April 2012. The statement is a response to the Statement of the World Council of Churches on "The doctrine of discovery and its enduring impact on Indigenous Peoples" which was published in February 2012 by the WCC Executive Committee. Read the statement in 2012-0144-en-gl-PB.

EPLO General Assembly, Belgrade, Serbia

The EPLO General Assembly will take place in Belgrade, Serbia on 30th and 31st May 2012. Most of the General Assembly will take place at the Majestic Hotel in the centre of Belgrade. There will be elections for two places on the EPLO Steering Committee during the General Assembly. Astrid Schrama of IKV Pax Christi will be representing Pax Christi International at the meeting.

Pax Christi International Nominated a Candidate for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize

In a letter dated 28 March 2012, the Norwegian Nobel Committee confirmed that "Pax Christi International" has been nominated as a candidate for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. This year there are 231 candidates and the name of the prize recipient for 2012 will be announced on 12 October 2012.

DEVELOPING PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY

60 Years of the Peace Cross in Bühl, Germany

Pax Christi Germany (Freiburg) is planning a Jubilee Event on the 60th anniversary of the Peace Cross in Bühl, Baden. This Friedenzkreuz is a symbol of reconciliation and the heart of peace. The event will take place on 12 May 2012. First, there will be a panel debate followed by a pilgrimage to the Cross followed by an ecumenical liturgy. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat will welcome guests and preside over the liturgy. Read his message in [2012-0139-en-gl-PS](#).

International Golden Rule Day 2012

The Regional Director of United Religions Initiative for Africa and Board Chairman of Interfaith Peace-building Initiative (Member Organization of Pax Christi International in Ethiopia), Ambassador Mussie Hailu, wrote a message for the occasion of the International Golden Rule Day, 5 April 2012. The initiative started in 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2007 and aims to bring people together with the shared goal of creating a peaceful world for all to live in. Read the message at [2012-0141-en-gl-PS](#). In April 2012, Pax Christi International also released a message on this occasion. See [2012-0146-en-gl-GE](#)

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Click here to view the International Calendar of upcoming events:

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

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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](#).