



**NEWSLETTER**

June 2012  
Issue 221

## Africa

Report by Two Belgian Organizations question Democracy in the DR Congo Following Flawed Elections

## America's & Caribbean

Tutela Legal at Hearing on El Mozote

Annual Peace Week in Colombia

Workshops on Nonviolence

Pax Christi Toronto Refocus Day

Regional Dialogues Pax Christi USA

## Asia & Pacific

Organisations work together on Peoples' Rights in Pakistan

## Middle East

Human Rights Dialogue between the EU and the Palestinian Authority

Meetings on Palestine at UNESCO

On French Multinational Veolia in Israel

Christians in the Arab World

Letter to the High Representative of the European Union on Syria

## Europe

World Peace Forum in Schengen

Pax Christi UK celebrates its Annual General Meeting

## Disarmament & Demilitarisation

NGO Committee in Vienna on NPT PrepCom

Pax Christi UK raises questions at British Aerospace AGM.

Stop Explosive Investments

Call to Participate in the June 27<sup>th</sup> Global Day of Action for the ATT

Pax Christi International Present at Diplomatic Conference on ATT

## Human Rights and Violent Conflict

Universal Periodic Review on Pakistan

Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change

Safeguard Family Life of Migrants and Refugees

## Human Security and Violence

Food and Health

Summer Campaign "The Earth and Us" organised by Pax Christi France

## Peace Building

Pax Christi UK on the Olympics

General Assembly EPLO

Seminar on Intermediation and Facilitation of Dialogue

## Education and Youth Work for Peace

Pax Christi International Youth Summer Camp

Volunteer Opportunities at the Pax Christi France Pavilion in Lourdes

Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles Starts New Youth Group

## Developing Peace Spirituality and Peace Theology

Commemorating World War I in 2014

## International Advocacy & Campaigning

Pax Christi International at UNESCO

## Networking

International Peace Bureau Board Meetings

Co-President of Pax Christi International visits Geneva

## International Calendar

## AFRICA

### Report by Two Belgian Organizations question Democracy in the DR Congo Following Flawed Elections

Pax Christi Vlaanderen and Broederlijk Delen, two organizations in Belgium have jointly published a report on the presidential and legislative elections that took place in the Democratic Republic of Congo in November 2011. The report raises important questions on the credibility of democracy in the Central African nation, considering widespread irregularities and violence during the elections.

To read the report in French please see Ref. [2012-0174-fr-af-JW](#)

## AMERICA'S & CARIBBEAN

### Tutela Legal at Hearing on El Mozote

On 23 April 2012, the legal team of Tutela Legal del Arzobispado, member organization of Pax Christi International in El Salvador, had a hearing with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, representing the victims of the massacre at El Mozote and the surrounding areas. At the hearing, they were seeking to have the State of El Salvador convicted of crimes against humanity because the lack of protection of these communities and the complicity of some army officials in the massacre.

### Annual Peace Week in Colombia

On 25 April, Martha Inés Romero, Coordinator of Pax Christi International for Latin America and the Caribbean, attended a preparatory

meeting in Bogota for the Annual Peace Week in Colombia. The Peace Week is a joint collaboration of Pastoral Social and Redepaz, a member organization of Pax Christi International in the country. The Peace Week will highlight the role of civil society in a potential peace process as well as focus on the restitution of land to victims according to the recently approved Law of Land Restitution and Reparation of Victims for the past 25 years in the on-going conflict in Colombia. The Peace Week will be launched on 9 September 2012.

### Workshops on Nonviolence

Martha Inés Romero, Coordinator of Pax Christi International for Latin America and the Caribbean, will convene workshops on non-violence. The aim of the workshops is to promote peace education and active non-violence; to strengthen a culture of peace and a common identity for peace building. The workshops will be conducted in an environment of violent conflicts and to encourage sharing of reflections on spirituality of peace. On 14 May 2012, Redepaz and The Comisión de Justicia, Solidaridad y Paz de la Conferencia de Religiosos Mayores de Colombia (CRC), a member organisation of Pax Christi International, held a workshop on Non-violence in Colombia. The workshop was attended by more than 30 people. The workshop on non-violence with the Pastoral land Commission, a member organisation in Brazil, will take place in June 2012.

### Pax Christi Toronto Refocus Day

Pax Christi Toronto held a refocus day on 6 May 2012. Participants analysed the “signs of the time” and identified some key events in the history of Pax Christi International. The meeting

focussed on the agenda for the next 3 years and identified concrete strategies to move forward.

### **Regional Dialogues Pax Christi USA**

**Pax Christi USA announced the first scheduled regional dialogues for 2012-2013.** The dialogues are an opportunity for Pax Christi USA members and representatives of the national leadership to meet, dialogue, and share their hopes and dreams for the movement as it moves forward after a time of transition. The input from these dialogues will help set the national agenda for coming years and shape the 2013 National Conference.

[Click here to see the full schedule of locations, dates and contacts to find a regional dialogue happening near you.](#)

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

### **Organisations work together on Peoples' Rights in Pakistan**

On 30 April 2012, the National Commission for Justice and Peace together with 11 NGOs in the country issued a press release demanding protection of peoples' rights. The National Commission for Justice and Peace is a member organisation of Pax Christi International. The link below details the coverage in national newspapers: <http://dawn.com/2012/05/01/call-to-set-up-human-rights-institutions/>; <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-5-105822-Federal-provincial-govts-urged-to-fulfil-commitment-on-rights>

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Human Rights Dialogue between the EU and the Palestinian Authority**

On 26 April 2012, the European External Action Service (EEAS) invited NGOs to discuss and prepare a dialogue meeting of the EEAS with the Palestinian Authority. The meeting was on human rights and took place on 8 May 2012 in Brussels. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat attended this meeting.

### **Meetings on Palestine at UNESCO**

The United Nations Meeting of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace is convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The meeting is on 1 June 2012 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Colette Petit, the delegate of Pax Christi International at UNESCO in Paris will participate in this meeting. The theme is "*Civil society action towards ending the occupation: Harnessing the power of youth and women*". The meeting in June will be preceded by the United Nations International meeting on the question of Palestine. Pax Christi International is invited as an observer. This meeting will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2012 and the theme is "*The role of youth and women in the peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine*".

### **On French Multinational Veolia in Israel**

A Different Jewish Voice and United Civilians for Peace (Cordaid, ICCO, Oxfam Novib and IKV Pax Christi Netherlands) have compiled an extensive fact file and a legal opinion (only available in Dutch) on the activities of French multinational Veolia in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Veolia is one of the two organisations participating in a tender for the

public transport in the Dutch city of The Hague and its surroundings. Please find the fact file and attachments (map East Jerusalem, schematic map of planned routes of the light rail, map Tovlan landfill) here: in English: <http://eaig.nl/node/477> and in Dutch: <http://eaig.nl/node/79>

### **Christians in the Arab World**

A seminar titled “*Christians in the Arab World: One year after the Arab Spring*” was organized by COMECE at the European Parliament on 9 May 2012. Dr. Cornelius Hulsman, Editor of the Arab-West Report in Egypt was one of the speakers. Members of the Pax Christi International Executive Committee met with Mr. Hulsman on 19 April 2012 in Cairo. Jan Jaap Van Oosterzee of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands attended the seminar.

### **Letter to the High Representative of the European Union on Syria**

The European Council for Foreign Relations of the European Union met on 14 May 2012 in Brussels and discussed the situation in Syria. On 12 May 2012, Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling, Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International, forwarded a letter addressed to H.E. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy expressing the view that continued militarization of the conflict in Syria should be definitively avoided. The non-violent opposition movement deserves more support from the EU. Read a copy of the letter in English [2012-0182-en-me-CT](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0182-en-me-CT) and in German [2012-0182-de-me-CT](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0182-de-me-CT). Member organisations are invited to write similar letters to their national governments.

## **EUROPE**

### **World Peace Forum in Schengen**

The World Peace Forum took place in Schengen, Luxembourg from 5 – 12 May 2012. David Foka, Secretary General of Pax Christi Luxembourg participated in this event. The aim of the meeting was to connect peacemakers with one another. Read more at -

<http://www.worldpeaceforum.org/en-us/events/wpf2012programandregistration.aspx>

### **Pax Christi UK celebrates its Annual General Meeting**

The *two words* that described the work and health of Pax Christi UK at its AGM in Bristol on 19 May 2012 were – Confident and Stable. Over 70 members, guests and the national president, Bishop Malcolm McMahon, gathered at the St Nicholas of Tolentino Parish to learn more about the work of the past year and celebrate the on-going peace-work of staff and members around the country. Read the press release of Pax Christi UK’s AGM at [2012-0196-en-eu-PE](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0196-en-eu-PE).

## **DISARMAMENT & DEMILITARISATION**

### **NGO Committee in Vienna on NPT PrepCom**

The First PrepCom Meeting for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons took place in Vienna on May 2012. Pax Christi International co-signed the NGO statement. This initiative was taken by the NGO Committee on Peace in Vienna. Felix Bertram was the Pax Christi International delegate. Read the statement in [2012-0173-en-gl-SD](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0173-en-gl-SD).

On 2 May 2012, the NGO community at the NPT made interventions at the Plenary.

Susi Snyder of IKV Pax Christi made some recommendations. Read the [Recommendations](#) here:

### **Pax Christi UK raises questions at British Aerospace AGM.**

For more information on the two brief reports of Pax Christi UK at British Aerospace AGM meeting, please visit the link <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/press1.php>.

Pat Gaffney was able to make an 'early ' question/ comment at what was a very controlled meeting.

### **The World Council of Churches and Pax Christi International urge NATO not to further delay withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Europe**

The World Council of Churches and Pax Christi International appealed to NATO to not delay the withdrawal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons from Europe. The statement follows three previous calls by four Ecumenical Councils together with 200 member churches in Europe and North America. The statement urges NATO to end 'nuclear sharing' with five non-nuclear NATO allies in Europe where U.S. nuclear weapons are stored after two decades after the Cold War. The five European countries are Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Turkey.

In the 20-21 May 2012 summit in Chicago, NATO must make decisions about their future. However, NATO remains divided and is likely to postpone decisions again making urgently needed steps dependent on Russian reciprocity. In the new WCC statement, supported by Pax Christi International, the churches call this "a recipe for deadlock."

See: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/churches-regret-nato-dela.html>.

For more details about the four Councils arguments, see the joint letter dated 11 March 2011:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/wider-ecumenical-movement-incl-wcc/follow-up-on-the-adoption-of-natos-strategic-concept.html> .

### **Stop Explosive Investments**

On 14 June 2012 the CMC will hold a Global Day of Action to *Stop Explosive Investments*. On this day CMC members – IKV Pax Christi and FairFin (formerly Netwerk Vlaanderen) will launch the third update of their report "Worldwide investments in cluster munitions: a shared responsibility" in Berlin, Germany. Pax Christi International requests members to take part in this action day by lobbying government and parliamentarians, putting pressure on financial institutions, reaching out to media, and promoting the divestment online campaign by connecting with CMC's social media networks. For updates and information on the new research and investments in your country, you can contact the authors of the report –Ms. Roos Boer (IKV Pax Christi) [boer@ikvpaxchristi.nl](mailto:boer@ikvpaxchristi.nl), and Mr. Stijn Suijs (FairFin) [stijn.suijs@fairfin.be](mailto:stijn.suijs@fairfin.be).

### **Call to Participate in the June 27<sup>th</sup> Global Day of Action for the ATT**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, people from all over the world will promote the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in events with political, religious and other leaders, media and encouraging activists to take action in many diverse ways. This day will also be the culmination of the Speak Out! Action

(<http://www.controlarms.org/speak-out>). Please ensure that people in your country sign up and Speak Out! As negotiations begin, this will be a great way to enhance the profile of the ATT. For more information on actions and events being organised visit [www.controlarms.org](http://www.controlarms.org).

Pax Christi International is petitioning all parishes and religious communities to prepare for the ATT and make use of the special liturgy provided for the weekend of 16 – 17 June 2012 which commemorates the end of the Global Week of Action against Gun Violence. For more information on this topic read here <http://www.paxchristi.net/international/foci/ATT/main.php>

### **Pax Christi International Present at Diplomatic Conference on ATT**

A Pax Christi International delegation of eight individuals will be active during the Diplomatic Conference for a Strong and Effective Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in New York taking place from July 2-27, 2012. The delegation includes Marie Dennis, Co-President, Beth Begley, delegate at the United Nations, and Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat amongst others.

Pax Christi International is active within the Ecumenical Campaign and within Control Arms together with many NGOs for the ATT to be realised. The delegates will visit and meet with diplomatic missions, organise public and side events and will also deliver different petitions collected by many organisations around world, such as the “interfaith declaration” and the parliamentary declaration.” For more information visit [www.controlarms.org](http://www.controlarms.org).

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND VIOLENT CONFLICT**

### **Universal Periodic Review on Pakistan**

Pax Christi International has endorsed the report for the second Universal Periodic Review on Pakistan before the Human Rights Council in Geneva dated April 2012. The report has been written by national civil society organisations including the Pakistan Ecumenical Network. The coordination has been done by the Pakistan Support Group of which Pax Christi International is a member. Read the report at [2012-0180-en-ap-HR](http://www.paxchristi.net/international/foci/ATT/main.php).

### **Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change**

Pax Christi International and many NGOs supported the urgent call for a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change. This call was made as the last few years have shown the dramatic effects that climate change has on human rights. During the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council a resolution was adopted on Human Rights and the Environment. The 20<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC and the Rio +20 Conference take place at the same time. The call is urging for a special connection to be made between human rights and climate change.

### **Safeguard Family Life of Migrants and Refugees**

Celebrating the International Day of Families on 15 May, 2012, Pax Christi International and 20 NGOs called the EU Member States and the European Commission to safeguard family life of migrants and refugees. For more information on the topic read the common statement at [2012-0188-en-eu-HR](http://www.paxchristi.net/international/foci/ATT/main.php)

## HUMAN SECURITY AND VIOLENCE

### Food and Health

Pax Christi International has joined a written intervention initiated by Caritas International on the issue of “Food and Health: A Life-Saving Combination for Adults and Children Living with HIV.” All persons should enjoy access to systems that contribute to food and nutritional security and to healthy life and that take into account the special dietary needs of adults and children affected by severe illnesses and, in particular, of those living with HIV. Read the intervention at [2012-0179-en-gl-HS](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0179-en-gl-HS).

### Summer Campaign “The Earth and Us” organised by Pax Christi France

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012, Pax Christi France announced its Summer Campaign titled “The Earth and Us”. This campaign aims to create an awareness among people on their daily way of living with nature and natural resources. Pax Christi France takes the lead in a coalition of about 20 more French NGOs active nationwide. Read in French at [2012-0197-fr-eu-NV](http://www.paxchristi.org/2012-0197-fr-eu-NV).

## PEACE BUILDING

### Pax Christi UK on the Olympics

Pax Christi UK has developed material to reflect on the upcoming Olympic Games in London. For more information on the materials visit <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/events1.php> and <http://issuu.com/releasepeace/docs/releasepeacebook?mode=window&backgroundColor=%23222222> and <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/press1.php>

### General Assembly EPLO

The European Peace Building Liaison Office in Brussels (EPLO) is having its Annual General Assembly on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2012 in Belgrade, Serbia. Elections to the EPLO Steering Committee will take place and participants will discuss the strategic planning for the near future. Pax Christi International is a member of the EPLO and is represented at the General Assembly by Astrid Schrama from IKV Pax Christi. For more information on the EPLO visit <http://www.eplo.org/>

### Seminar on Intermediation and Facilitation of Dialogue

IKV Pax Christi is planning a seminar on concepts and practice of intermediation and facilitation of dialogue in the work of strategic partner organisations. The four-day seminar is taking place in Pristina, Kosovo from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2012. The seminar brings together staff members of organisations from around the world who have a background in working on processes of intermediation and facilitation of dialogue as instruments of peace building and conflict prevention. Participants will come from the Balkan, the Caucasus, the Middle East, Northern Africa and from Sudan, Uganda and the DR Congo. For more information e-mail [Agbaba@ikvpaxchristi.nl](mailto:Agbaba@ikvpaxchristi.nl)

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK FOR PEACE

### Pax Christi International Youth Summer Camp

The Pax Christi International Youth Summer Camp is taking place from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012 at Casa per la Pace in Florence. The organisers want this to be a truly international event with young representatives from as many



Pax Christi sections as possible. Please encourage the youth in your organisations to attend this event. For more information on this event or to book places please contact Fleur at Pax Christi France [paxchristi\\_jeunes@yahoo.fr](mailto:paxchristi_jeunes@yahoo.fr) or Matt at Pax Christi UK: ([education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk)). For more details in English read [2012-0169-en-gl-PE](#), and in French at [2012-0169-fr-gl-PE](#).

### **Volunteer Opportunities at the Pax Christi France Pavilion in Lourdes**

From 11 July till 29 August 2012, members of Pax Christi International are invited to volunteer in Lourdes, France. The Pax Christi Pavilion is in the boulevard Rémi Sempé and volunteers are needed to greet people and inform them about Pax Christi's work. Volunteers will be requested to cover their own travel costs but accommodation and food will be provided. For more information on this volunteer opportunity, contact – Françoise Boneu, Les Rocailles, 65710 CAMPAN, e-mail: [boneu@orange.fr](mailto:boneu@orange.fr) and more web information visit [www.paxchristi.cef.fr](http://www.paxchristi.cef.fr)

### **Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles Starts New Youth Group**

Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles and the Francophone Justice and Peace Commission in Belgium are inviting youth between 18 and 30 years to join a new project on dialogue, diversity and multimedia. The first meeting will take place in Brussels on 30 May 2012. For more info e-mail [info@paxchristiwb.be](mailto:info@paxchristiwb.be)

## **DEVELOPING PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND PEACE THEOLOGY**

### **Commemorating World War I in 2014**

Pax Christi International and several member organisations are planning events to commemorate the beginning of World War I (WWI) in 2014.

Pax Christi Flanders has already set up several activities related to WWI. The activities include a 2x 7.5 km walking tour in Heuvelland based upon the inspiration of Saint-Francis of Assisi; a series of peace vigils in Langemark combined with an important guest or speaker, and two events that have yet to be confirmed: a bicycle tour from Passendale (cemetery of allied forces) to Vladslo (cemetery of German forces) and a Peace Day in Ypres (Ieper) together with the "tourist wing" of the Christian Labour Union.

## **INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING**

### **Pax Christi International at UNESCO**

Pax Christi International has consultative status as partner with UNESCO. Colette Petit and Alain Thellier de Poncheville are the two delegates of Pax Christi International. They participate in different NGO groupings such as (1) poverty, (2) dialogue among the different cultures for peace and (3) ethics and environment

## NETWORKING

### International Peace Bureau Board Meetings

The Board meeting of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) was held at the Cardinal Frans König Haus on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, April 2012 in Vienna. Fr. Paul Lansu from Pax Christi International is a member and attended the meetings. The main agenda items were the projects on Disarmament for Development, DfD, the Rio + 20 on Sustainable Development and nuclear disarmament. The Board met prior to the opening of the NPT PrepCom meetings that took place in Vienna from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. IPB together with other NGO coalitions organised several briefings on topics related to the PrepCom. Pax Christi International is a member of the International Peace Bureau.

### Co-President of Pax Christi International visits Geneva

Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International will visit the United Nations and its Palais des Nations at the World Council of Churches in Geneva from 31 May – 2 June 2012. Marie Dennis will meet Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, Secretary General of the World Council of Churches and also with Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Apostolic Nuncio in Geneva. The objective of the visit is to understand the main challenges for the United Nations on human rights and disarmament and how the role of Pax Christi International at the United Nations could be strengthened. Marie will speak with the delegates of Pax Christi International and key individuals of NGOs Pax Christi International works with.

## INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Click here to view the International Calendar of upcoming events:

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

To unsubscribe from this list contact [library@paxchristi.net](mailto: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](http://www.paxchristi.net)

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