



# NEWSLETTER

September  
Issue #224

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## General 3

José Henríquez: New Secretary General of Pax Christi International

Pax Christi International Peace Laureate Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan to be honoured in Mechelen/Brussels, Belgium

## Africa 4

Message of Solidarity for the Democratic Republic of Congo

Belgian Government should condemn the role of Rwanda in East Congo

The Kuron Peace Village Initiative

EurAC urges EU Member States to suspend all budget support to Rwanda

## Americas & Caribbean 5

43rd Report on Violence in Metropolitan Zone of Port-au-Prince

Workshop on Nonviolence in Mexico

IV International Seminar on Nonviolence in Colombia

Pax Christi USA signs onto faith leaders' letter opposing cuts to refugee funding

## Asia & Pacific 6

Black Day in India: Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims are discriminated

Prophetic Witness of Catholic Institutions in India

Grand March for the Peace of Gangjeong

## Middle East 6

Nonviolence and Peace Education for Children and Youth

Humanitarian Conditions Residents Camps Ashraf and Liberty in Iraq

## Europe 7

Pax Christi UK September - October 2012

## Disarmament and Demilitarisation 7

Stop Drone Killings

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki 2012

Questioning German Minister for Defence

Help shifting the USA voting position on DU weapons at the UN this fall

No Arms Trade Treaty – YET!

## Human Rights 8

Pax Christi International and World Council of Churches on Status of Jerusalem

## Human Security 8

Eco Justice in France

## Non Violent Social Change 8

Pax Christi International: New Handbook to Non-Violence.

“Blessed are the Peacemakers!” International Pax Christi Peace Camp

## Peace Building 9

U Move 4 Peace: International Youth Trainings in Macedonia

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Flemish Peace Week on Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Peace Week in the Netherlands

## Representation 10

Council of Europe and Eradicating Poverty

Culture of Peace at United Nations

## Peace Spirituality 10

Prayers on Eradication Poverty

Prayer for Peace

International Day of Prayers for Peace: 21 September

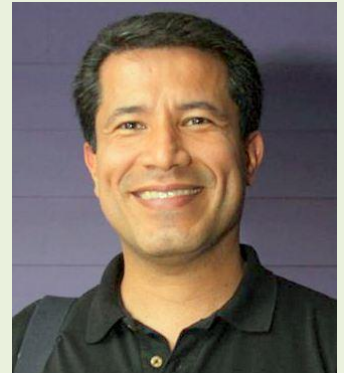
## International Calendar 11

## GENERAL

### **José Henríquez: New Secretary General of Pax Christi International**

The Executive Committee of Pax Christi International is pleased to announce the appointment of José Henríquez, from El Salvador, as the next Secretary General of Pax Christi International. José has been actively engaged with the international peace movement since he coordinated the first Pax Christi Latin America and Caribbean Consultation in 2007. He brings to Pax Christi International a deep personal commitment to peace and social justice.

Read in English [2012-0269-en-gl-IS](#); French [2012-0269-fr-gl-IS](#); Spanish [2012-0269-sp-gl-IS](#); German [2012-0269-de-gl-IS](#); Portuguese [2012-0269-pt-gl-IS](#)



### **Pax Christi International Peace Laureate Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan to be honoured in Mechelen/Brussels, Belgium**



His Grace Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan is to be honoured in Mechelen/Brussels on Wednesday 31 October 2012 with the 2012 Pax Christi International Peace Laureate for his efforts in promoting understanding between people of different faiths through dialogue in Africa, and particularly in his country, Nigeria. Since 1994, John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan has been the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja.

Read the announcement in English [2012-0312-en-af-IS](#), French [2012-0312-fr-af-IS](#), Spanish [2012-0312-es-af-IS](#)

## AFRICA

### Message of Solidarity for the Democratic Republic of Congo

On 15 August 2012, Marie Dennis, Co-President wrote a message of solidarity to Laurent Cardinal Monsengwo, Archbishop of Kinshasa for the “March for Peace and Hope” that took place earlier in the month in the DRC. Here is an excerpt of the message, “You and the long-suffering people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been in our thoughts and prayers in recent weeks as violence has again engulfed some areas of your country. On behalf of Bishop Kevin Dowling and myself as co-Presidents, the International Secretariat, and Pax Christi Member Organizations around the world, I want to express our deepest concern and solidarity”. Cardinal Monsengwo has been Co-President of Pax Christi International from 2007-2010.

### Belgian Government should condemn the role of Rwanda in East Congo

Since May 2012, the conflict in the North of Kivu, DR Congo, has escalated. The two opposing parties are the Congolese army and the guerrilla group “Mouvement du 23 mars.” The guerrilla group is supported by Rwanda. In a letter and public statement, Broederlijk Delen and Pax Christi Vlaanderen are calling on the Belgian Foreign Minister to put pressure on Rwanda to end its support. Read the statement in Dutch at [2012-0328-nl-af-CT](#).  
Search for Volunteers in Ethiopia

Dr. Mulleta Hurisa, PhD, the Executive Director and Universal Peace Ambassador of the Research Center for Development and Education, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Ethiopia, is looking for volunteers who are skilled in good Grant /Proposal writing for at least 3 to 5 months. Dr. Mulleta is inviting Pax Christi International and its Member Organisations to look for volunteers. The Research Center is leading 130 CBOs and 12 NGOs and 1 Network. Marie Dennis, Co-President, and Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat visited the Center in January 2012. For more information e-mail [hmulletta@yahoo.com](mailto:hmulletta@yahoo.com)

### The Kuron Peace Village Initiative

Msgr. Paride Taban from South Sudan convinced IKV Pax Christi Netherlands of his vision on a future Peace Village in South Sudan. Although it was difficult IKV Pax Christi to imagine how the village would look like and how it would contribute to the peace in South Sudan, IKV Pax Christi believed that Msgr. Taban’s plan would be a positive start and one that would engage more people along the way. The Kuron Peace Village has now become an important conciliatory factor in the region. The Kuron Peace Village is a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International. Read more at [2012-0344-en-af-PB](#).

### EurAC urges EU Member States to suspend all budget support to Rwanda

Following the publication of a UN Security Council report of Rwanda's support to armed groups in the DR Congo, several EU member states have temporarily suspended their budget support to Rwanda. The European Network for Central Africa (EurAC) calls upon the EU and all EU member states to likewise withhold its budget support and to limit interventions to project support. However, ongoing support of civil society initiatives that will limit the impact of the sanctions on the Rwandan people is encouraged.

These measures, says EurAC, can help address the 'critical situation regarding democracy, good governance and respect for human rights' in Rwanda and help to bring about 'a revised relationship' with the country. Pax Christi International is a member of EurAC. To read the text of this statement, see [2012-0370-en-af-AC](#) in English or [2012-0370-fr-af-AC](#) in French.

## AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

### 43rd Report on Violence in Metropolitan Zone of Port-au-Prince

The Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Haiti, has published a new report about the level of violence in the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti. The report covers the period from April to June 2012. The report is in Creole and French and addresses the responsible authorities in the country. The report includes some recommendations and also raises questions on the political will to combat violence. Read in French/Creole at [2012-0301-fr-am-HS](#)

### Workshop on Nonviolence in Mexico

Pax Christi International held a workshop on Nonviolence and Transformation of Conflicts in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, México. The event was co-organised with the Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, and Servicio Internacional Para la Paz, SIPAZ, a candidate Member Organisation. The workshop was held on 13 and 14 August 2012. Participants were able to visit a few communities afterwards. Martha Inés Romero, LA Coordinator of the International Pax Christi Secretariat, participated in the SIPAZ Board meeting that took place from 16 – 21 August 2012.

### IV International Seminar on Nonviolence in Colombia

Pax Christi International is involved in the organisation of an international seminar on nonviolence in Bogota, Colombia from 25 – 28 September 2012. Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International is one of the main speakers. For more information on the event: <http://noviolenciacolombia.com.co/2012/08/nuestros-invitados/#more-967> and at [www.noviolenciacolombia.com.co](http://www.noviolenciacolombia.com.co)

### Pax Christi USA signs onto faith leaders' letter opposing cuts to refugee funding

Pax Christi USA has signed onto a "faith leaders' letter" urging the House of Representatives to oppose proposed cuts to the Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) account in the fiscal year 2013. Members of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee are urged to support the Senate mark and the President's request of \$805 million for The Refugee and Entrant Assistance. These funds are critical to work with local community organizations and faith civic groups which provide basic human needs and tools to the children and the more than 100,000 vulnerable migrants. [Click here to read the letter in PDF format.](#)

## ASIA & PACIFIC

### **Black Day in India: Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims are discriminated**

August 10th is observed as Black Day by the Churches in India for the past four years. The third paragraph of the Indian Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950, popularly known as Presidential Order which was signed by the then President on 10th August 1950, stipulates that “no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of Scheduled caste.” This was later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists in the Scheduled Caste net. This order violates the letter and spirit of many articles of the Constitution and against the secular nature of the Country. It is on the basis of the paragraph 3 of this order that Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims are discriminated.

In view of Black Day, the National Commission for Justice, Peace and Development, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in India, has sent urgent appeals to the President and the Prime Minister and to other authorities. Read in [2012-0316-en-ap-IC](#).

### **Prophetic Witness of Catholic Institutions in India**

Drawing its mandate from the Encyclical Populorum Progressio, the National Commission for Justice, Peace and Development, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in India, introduced the observance of Justice Sunday in India on the Sunday after the 15<sup>th</sup> of August every year. This year the Commission calls upon the Catholic faithful to observe Justice Sunday, on 19 August 2012, and to reflect on the theme: Prophetic Witness of Catholic Institutions. More at <http://thejusticeandpeace.org/PDF/justicesunday2012.pdf> Read the message in [2012-0325-en-ap-PS](#).

### **Grand March for the Peace of Gangjeong**

The Grand March for the Peace of Gangjeong throughout Jeju Island took place from 30 July – 4 August 2012. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August people met in Jeju City on the opposite side of the island from Gangjeong, and expressed their will to stop the Jeju Naval Base Project and recognize Jeju as a true Peace Island. The following message was forwarded: “Pax Christi International wishes to express our solidarity with the people of Jeju Island and our support for the Grand March for the Peace of Gangjeong. Our members around the world are grateful for your courageous efforts to draw attention to and to stop the human and ecological disaster now unfolding.”

## MIDDLE EAST

### **Nonviolence and Peace Education for Children and Youth**

Library on Wheels for Nonviolence and Peace, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Palestine, published its report for the period of 1 January – 30 June 2012. The project is entitled: Nonviolence and Peace Education for Children and Youth. Read the report in [2012-0319-en-me-PE](#).

### **Humanitarian Conditions Residents Camps Ashraf and Liberty in Iraq**

On 15 August 2012, Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, sent a letter of concern addressed to Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations concerning the

humanitarian conditions of the residents in Camps Ashraf and Liberty in Iraq. In the letter, The Secretary General is urged to exert his utmost efforts to prevent another massacre at Camp Ashraf in the near future. Read in [2012-0324-en-me-HS](#).

## EUROPE

### **Pax Christi UK September - October 2012**

On 16 August 2012, Pax Christi UK made its calendar public for the months September and October 2012 with upcoming events all around the country. Read at [2012-0326-en-eu-NV](#)

## DISARMAMENT AND DEMILITARISATION

### **Stop Drone Killings**

Drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) have become the new way of waging war in the 21st century; there is a need for faith-based leaders to speak out on the moral and ethical implications of waging war by remote control. Marie Dennis, Co President of Pax Christi International joined other faith-based leaders in “A Call from the Faith-Based Community to Stop Drone Killings.” Read the call in [2012-0290-en-am-SD](#).

### **Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki 2012**

On 2 August 2012, Msgr. Heinz Jozef Algermissen, Bishop of Fulda and Bishop President of Pax Christi Germany, issued a message urging all of us not to forget the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 – 9 August 1945. In silence and prayer we remember all victims of the nuclear bombings. The Bishop also pleaded for nuclear disarmament. Read the statement in German at [www.paxchristi.de](http://www.paxchristi.de)

On 3 August 2012, Pax Christi UK issued a statement and announced some events on 6 and 9 August in London and in other different parts of the country. Read more in [2012-0307-en-gl-SD](#). On 6 August 2012, Pax Christi France issued also a statement. Read in [2012-0317-fr-gl-SD](#).

Pax Christi Aotearoa/New Zealand hosted two Hibakusha (survivors of the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on a speaking tour; in Austria, members of Pax Christi held vigils in Vienna on 6th & 9th August and in the USA Pax Christi Metro New York organised a seminar on the theme " Nuclear lies, nuclear truths" which was followed by a procession and public witness.

### **Questioning German Minister for Defence**

In a press release issued on 8 August 2012, Pax Christi Germany is questioning the policies of the German Minister for Defence de Mazière about the arms exports policies. Germany exports arms to 48 different countries which have questionable human rights records. Read the press release as well as the speech of Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler, Vice President, at [www.paxchristi.de](http://www.paxchristi.de)



## Help shifting the USA voting position on DU weapons at the UN this fall

The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) is campaigning at the United Nations. Pax Christi International is a member of ICBUW. This autumn a fourth resolution on depleted uranium weapons will be tabled at the United Nations. It won't ban the weapons but with good support it will get us closer to that goal. Right now, just four states are voting against ICBUW resolutions: the USA, UK, France and Israel. Of these, the US is by far the largest user of DU weapons.

This year we'd like the US to hear the voices of those who oppose these chemically toxic, radioactive and unacceptable weapons. The Coalition has launched a petition on Change.org with a letter addressed to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Please take a few moments to visit: <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/change-the-us-un-vote-on-depleted-uranium-weapons-this-fall> and add your signature to this important call. More at <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org>

## No Arms Trade Treaty – YET!

From July 2 to July 27, 2012 members of 120 missions to the UN met at the UN in New York to negotiate a final draft of the Arms Trade Treaty. This will regulate international arms trade. At present there is no international treaty of any kind regulating trade in conventional weapons. Beth Begley, delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in NY wrote a brief evaluation. Read in [2012-0351-en-gl-SD](#)

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### Pax Christi International and World Council of Churches on Status of Jerusalem

Pax Christi International and the World Council of Churches submitted a joint written intervention before the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council taking place at the United Nations in Geneva from 10 – 28 September 2012. Pax Christi International and the World Council of Churches call for an urgent resolution to the issues destabilising Jerusalem, and applauds the Human Rights Council's attention for the numerous and disastrous violations of human rights in Jerusalem. Jerusalem has special status, given its pluralistic and religious importance. The on-going violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the city threaten its peaceful future, and due to its special status, violations in the city do not only affect its residents but the global community at large. Read the submission in English [2012-0243-en-me-HR](#), in German [2012-0243-de-me-HR](#).

## HUMAN SECURITY

### Eco Justice in France

Pax Christi France is holding a two day seminar on ecological justice. The event takes place in Paris on 27 – 28 October 2012. For more information visit the Pax Christi France website at [www.paxchristi.cef.fr](http://www.paxchristi.cef.fr).



## NON VIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

### **Pax Christi International: New 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 English [2012-0048-en-am-PS](#)

### **“Blessed are the Peacemakers!” International Pax Christi Peace Camp**

15 young people from Europe and the USA gathered in Florence peace house from 9 – 13 July 2012. In the mornings, participants helped working around the house and the garden (they started a “peace path” outside the house, where a tree from Nagasaki had been planted). In the afternoons, they had the great “Florence, art and peace” tour. Participants also met the Muslim community of Florence, and had workshops on conflict resolution. There was a time to share, to pray and to party!!

Youngsters between 18 – 30 years came from the UK, the USA, France, Austria and Italy. The atmosphere was amazing! A big thank you to Pax Christi Italy who welcomed the group so well! They experienced a great moment of peace and brotherhood. Now what’s next? The organisers would be so happy to keep up with international Pax Christi youth meetings. This year, the camp was organised by the British and the French Pax Christi sections. They dream that next time more sections can join the meeting! Let us know if you are interested and if you have ideas!

Contact: Fleur Brochard, Pax Christi France: [paxchristi\\_jeunes@yahoo.fr](mailto:paxchristi_jeunes@yahoo.fr) and Matt Jeziorski, Pax Christi UK: [education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk) - Watch the pictures at <http://www.facebook.com/paxchristijeunes>

## PEACE BUILDING

### **U Move 4 Peace: International Youth Trainings in Macedonia**

Each summer, U Move 4 Peace (UM4P), the youth movement of Pax Christi Flanders, organises and participates with their volunteers in international trainings to build its peace building capacity. Participants met at Rehearsal for Life, in Macedonia, from 3 until 12 August 2012 and the event was organized by the Centre for Regional Sustainable Development. There were delegates from 12 different countries: Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Romania, Germany, Italy, Latvia, and Macedonia. Read more at [2012-0349-en-gl-PE](#). Look at the logos and pictures at <http://www.paxchristi.be/2012/08/training-rehearsal-for-life-photo-report/>

### **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Flemish Peace Week on Responsibility to Protect (R2P)**

From the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, International Day of Peace, until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012, International day of Non-Violence, Pax Christi Vlaanderen together with several partner organisations will organize a nation-wide campaign called the “Peace Week”. This year the Peace Week is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year. Read more at [2012-0350-en-gl-PB](http://www.paxchristi.nl/2012-0350-en-gl-PB)

### **Peace Week in the Netherlands**

The Annual Peace Week of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands takes place 15 – 23 September 2012. Jörgen Raymann is nominated as the new Minister for Peace and Merlijn Twaalfhoven as the new Secretary of State for Peace. They are supported by many Embassies all over the country. Look at the website: <http://www.ministerievanvrede.nl/ministerie-van-vrede>. The Kenyan Ambrose Ongwen, President of Seeds of Peace Africa is a witness in the context of the Peace & Sports Programme during the Peace Week. Look at [http://www.ikvpaxchristi.nl/wat\\_wij\\_doen\\_afrika\\_peace\\_sports\\_programme.htm](http://www.ikvpaxchristi.nl/wat_wij_doen_afrika_peace_sports_programme.htm)

## **REPRESENTATION**

### **Council of Europe and Eradicating Poverty**

The Council of Europe is committed to eradicating poverty – the legal instruments exist. The INGO Conference is organising on 17 October 2012 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – a conference at the Council of Europe: "Building Europe through Human Rights: Acting Together against Extreme Poverty." The aim of the conference is to build on the European and international achievements and to translate them into practical lines of action. Together with all the stakeholders concerned: people living in poverty, representatives of public authorities and representatives of organised civil society. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat will attend the conference and will participate in panel 3 on extreme poverty and violence.

### **Culture of Peace at United Nations**

Beth Begley and other delegates of Pax Christi International in New York will attend the United Nations High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace organized by the President of the General Assembly on 14 September 2012. This day-long, first-ever General Assembly Forum is intended to be an opportunity for the UN member states, UN system entities, civil society including NGOs, media, private sector and all others interested in discussing the ways and means to promote the Culture of Peace. A special focus will be on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Culture of Peace adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999.

## **PEACE SPIRITUALITY**

### **Prayers on Eradication Poverty**

**Prayer Resources for the International Day for Eradication of Poverty (17 October)** from the Economic Justice Working Group of the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (USG-UISG) in Rome is available in different languages. This initiative is

supported and further distributed by Pax Christi International: see [http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN\\_17Oct](http://jpicformation.wikispaces.com/EN_17Oct)

## Prayer for Peace

The Prayer for Peace began to circulate in 1981 in England. Its source is not clearly known, and it has no ties with any single denomination or faith. The Prayer for Peace is available in more than forty languages is said each day at noon around the world. Pax Christi International supports the further use of the prayer in the different Member Organisations. You are invited to join in. It can be found at <http://peaceprayer.gn.apc.org/>

## International Day of Prayers for Peace: 21 September

The World Council of Churches and Pax Christi International calls on the churches and congregations around the world to observe an International Day of Prayer for Peace on **21 September 2012**. The day coincides with the International Day of Peace initiated by the United Nations. The participants are especially invited to pray and act together for a just peace in communities, nations and the world. Madeline Labriola, Delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in New York, wrote an article about this Day. Read it at [2012-0382-en-gl-ACMore](http://www.overcomingviolence.org/IDPP) information:  
[www.overcomingviolence.org/IDPP](http://www.overcomingviolence.org/IDPP)

## 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](#).

