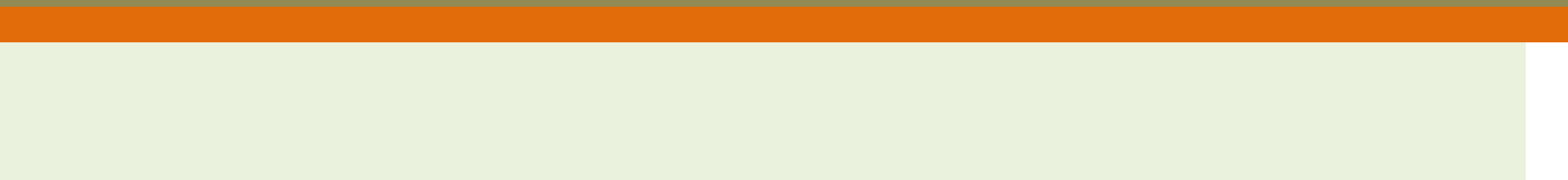




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Africa

Agreement reached for the Marikana mine, but more unrest in other mines is feared

Following the agreement reached on 18 September 2012, between the Lonmin company that operates the platinum mine in Marikana, South Africa and union representatives, Msgr. Kevin Dowling, Bishop of Rustenburg and Co-President of Pax Christi International, said "We have to wait and see what the workers' reaction will be from other mines in the area to understand if the agreement reached will bring peace".

Marikana in South Africa was the scene of the August 16th massacre when police killed 34 demonstrators. Mgr. Dowling also said "We really hope that the situation will calm down after so much suffering. These weeks have been terrible, nevertheless, this agreement sets a precedent for the other mines, and we must see if the companies operating them will be willing to make concessions on this scale". There is a risk that other miners will move ahead with similar requirements to those of the miners in the Marikana mine. And now there is no news in this regard, as reported by Mgr. Dowling: "I just heard on the radio that the police arrested the participants in an illegal protest in the Mine of the Anglo American Platinum, near Rustenburg. It is therefore to be expected that new tensions will happen."

Ex-combatants in the Great Lakes

On 24th September 2012, the staff of Pax Christi International met with Nadia Nsayi, Central Africa Coordinator for Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen and Athanase Barunsanze, Development Coordinator of the Diocese of Bujumbura- Burundi. Athanase Barunsanze who is in Belgium to participate in the Flemish Peace Week

"Responsibility to Protect," presented the positive results achieved so far by the ex-combatants project put in place by Pax Christi International with the collaboration of Pax Christi Flanders in the Great Lakes. The project accompanies ex-combatants as they transition back to civilian life through listening communities and welcoming committees in their villages.

Athanase raised some crucial aspects which need to be addressed for further implementation of the programme. Some of the main priorities in the programme are – Strengthening the network of local organisations working on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration related issues. The raising of awareness among local communities, political and religious leaders on the importance of welcoming back the ex-combatants in society and lobbying in the international arena on the need of a constant presence of international actors in the region.

Recent explosions of violence in the region represent a serious attraction for those who have recently handed over arms, putting in danger the process of demobilisation and reintegration of the ex-combatants. Pax Christi International is presently finalising a booklet containing a collection of ex-combatants stories and recommendations towards the international community.

World Vision Peace Prize 2012

Archbishop John Baptist Odama from the Gulu Archdiocese in Uganda is the winner of the World Vision International Peace Prize 2012 for peace building in Africa. The Award was presented on 21 September 2012 on the International Day of Peace. Martha Inés Romero, Latin America & Caribbean Coordinator of Pax Christi International is member of the Awards Committee. For more information, please read here

<http://www.wvi.org/wvi/wviweb.nsf/maindocs/AC6E33C8CE519993882574C50060CD3E?opendocument>

Americas & Caribbean

Negotiations on Peace in Colombia

The important news of September 2012 was the call from Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos about secret dialogues between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrilla to begin peace dialogue. In the past few months, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Colombia have been reflecting on what role the CSOs and other social movements play as well as being part of this dialogue to guarantee a more serious and sustainable peace solutions in negotiations. On 6 September 2012, a meeting at Cinep reflected this and Martha Inés Romero, Latin America and Caribbean Coordinator of Pax Christi International, as well as delegates of Redepaz, Member Organisation, participated in the meeting.

On the Situation in Colombia

On 14 September 2012, Fr. Rafael Martín Castillo Torres from the Diocese of Cartagena in Colombia visited the International Secretariat in Brussels and met with Fr. Paul Lansu. Fr. Rafael provided an analysis of the ongoing political situation in his country and the role of the Catholic Church.

Human Rights Award by the King of Spain

Redepaz a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Colombia has been nominated as a candidate for the Human Rights Award by the King of Spain. On 19 September 2012, the Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International sent a letter of support to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Award. Redepaz works on peace building activities in Colombia for more than 20 years. A similar nomination was given to Frayba, a Member organisation of Pax Christi International in Mexico.

Visit of Pax Christi International Co-President to Colombia

Pax Christi International has been 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 was one of the main speakers. Prior to the Seminar, Marie had several meetings with key people of the network of Pax Christi International in Colombia. On 24 September she met with Msgr. Hector Fabio Henao, Director of Pastoral Social and with Luis Emil and the leadership of Redepaz, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International. A field visit with Justice, Solidarity and Peace Commission-CRC in a poor neighbourhood in Bogota took place on 25 September (CRC is Member Organisation of Pax Christi International). The seminar took place at the Universidad Minuto de Dios. A meeting with Archbishop Ruben Salazar, the President of the Colombian Bishop's Conference was also scheduled.

Pax Christi International in Puerto Rico

Martha Inés Romero, Latin America & Caribbean Coordinator of Pax Christi International visited Puerto Rico from 17 – 21 September 2012 for a workshop on Nonviolence. This meeting renewed contact with Pax Christi Puerto Rico members and meetings with the Social Ministry Team, the Casa Project (an Archdiocese social work project), Caritas, Justitia et Pax took place. Also a small workshop with religious congregations and interviews with the media were organized.

On Death Penalty in Puerto Rico

of the Pax Christi International network to support their resistance against the death penalty. There is a debate about a case that is currently in the Federal Court - in opposition to the Puerto Rican Constitution that abolishes death penalty. On 18 September 2012 there was a demonstration in front of the Court. Martha Inés Romero, Latin America & Caribbean Coordinator of Pax Christi International spoke against Death Penalty, following earlier positions of Pax Christi International, the Catholic Church and others. We request your support in signing this

petition: <http://www.change.org/petitions/no-a-la-pena-de-muerte-en-puerto-rico>

Obtain your resource package to aid in abolishing the Death Penalty

Pax Christi USA has developed a resource package to aid in abolishing the death penalty - sharing a message loud and clear that these are *still children of God*. Please check out the Prayer, Study and Action resource [Breaking the Cycle of Violence](#) that includes a copy of a hand-out called [Sentenced to Die, Still Children of God](#) which can be used as an informational outreach tool on the death penalty. It's a tri-fold brochure that can be included in correspondence or handed out in person. The package also includes stories from death row inmates and those who work with them, along with action suggestions for your consideration. In addition, a beautiful prayer card by Sr. Helen Prejean [a Prayer to Abolish the Death Penalty: Jesus Was A Victim of the Death Penalty](#) is also included.

Asia & Pacific

Equal in Dignity of all Persons

The Human Rights Office in Kandy a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Sri Lanka, held a human rights workshop on "Equal in Dignity of all Persons" that took place from 30 July – 2 August 2012. More than 30 priests and religious from north and south of the country attended. The workshop also included exposure visits. The next workshop is scheduled from the 4th to the 7th of February 2013 in Madhu.

SPARK was raided again in South Korea

The government of South Korea is planning a naval base at Jeju Island. Both national as well as international activists protest against this project. The total numbers of arrested activities and currently in jail is now [seven](#). For more information, visit this link - <http://savejejunow.org/reports-human-rights-environmental-destruction-naval-base/>. The recent assault on the peace unification group, SPARK on 20 September is a part of a series of the Lee Myung-Bak government oppression on the opposition

movement against the Jeju naval base project. SPARK has been one of the leading groups in the opposition movement against the project. SPARK is a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International. There will be a nationwide march from 5 October to 3 November to cut all the National Assembly budgets on the naval base project and to revoke it.

Campaign against investment in a Mine in West Papua

For many years, a coalition of groups, including Pax Christi Aotearoa/New Zealand, has been lobbying for the Crown Financial Institutes (CFIs) to withdraw investment from questionable multi-national corporations. CFIs are government-funded organisations linked to social goods like superannuation, accident compensation and health provision. A long campaign against investment in the Freeport McMoran mine in West Papua has at last received a positive response. This is particularly good news because the divestment also acknowledges the involvement in the mining in this (and no doubt other) occupied indigenous territories of an oppressive and significant military presence. It is another small step in the campaign to demilitarise issues like the West Papuan situation and bring people to the negotiation table. Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand is also linked with the Indonesian Human Rights Committee for this campaign.

Ways to Peace in Afghanistan

Pax Christi Germany is actively involved in the seminar "End the War - Ways to Peace in Afghanistan" that will take place in Bonn on the 13 – 14 October 2012. The event is supported by different Afghan related organisations and civil society from Europe. Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler, Vice President of Pax Christi is the moderator on the workshop on Geostrategic Developments. For more information on this Seminar, please visit this website: www.paxchristi.de

Middle East

On Christian Minorities in the Arabic Region

A meeting on the situation of Christians in the Middle East will be held in Brussels on October 25, 2012. The meeting will be with Prof. Herman Teule who is Director of the Institute for Eastern Christianity at Radboud University, and Professor of Syrian Language and Church History at the Catholic University of Leuven. The event is organised on the occasion of the Arabic Spring and its consequences for Christian minorities. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat will attend this meeting.

Witness from Syria

Pax Christi Wallonia – Bruxelles held a meeting on the situation in Syria on 19 September 2012 in Brussels. The main speaker was Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio, an Italian Jesuit priest working for more than 30 years in Syria. Fr. Paolo has been working for dialogue and nonviolent resistance in the country. The event was co-organised by Pax Christi Flanders.

Europe

Rabbi of Jewish Community in Berlin attacked

The Board of Pax Christi Germany has strongly condemned the attack against the Rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin on 28 August 2012. Racist violence in public and on the street has to be stopped and no anti-Semitism can be tolerated. For more information, please visit: www.paxchristi.de

European Union as a Peace Project

The European Peace building Liaison Office (EPLO) of which Pax Christi International is a member, held a round-table meeting on the "European Union as a Peace Project: defending, learning from and applying our history" that took place on 11 September at the Quaker House in Brussels. The aim of this round-table was to explore how the EU's history as a peace project can better inform contemporary policy work: Are the experiences and the idea of the EU as a peace

project useful in practice? Astrid Schrama of IKV Pax Christi and Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended this meeting.

Human Security

Time to take action for food justice!

Join millions of Christians around the world to promote food justice during the Churches' Week of Action on Food from 14-21 October 2012. Pax Christi International supports this Week of Action. Churches' Week of Action on Food is a time to reveal why almost a billion people around the world are hungry or malnourished. The week of action incorporates the International Day for Rural Women (October 15), World Food Day (October 16) and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17). You can organise a vigil during the week using the prepared liturgy available at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/2012-churches-week-of-action-on-food/>

Peace Building

GPPAC Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, GPPAC and IKV Pax Christi Netherlands, took place on 25 September 2012 in The Hague. Common strategic priorities and potential joint agenda for different liaison offices have been discussed. The aim is also to have some common campaigns. Fr. Paul Lansu of

the International Secretariat is member of the Steering Committee and attended the meeting.

Culture of Nonviolence and Peace

The General Assembly of the International Network for a Culture of Nonviolence and Peace will take place in Paris on 19 October 2012. Pax Christi International is a member and is represented by Colette Petit. More at www.nvpdecade.org

PeaceNet Meeting

The PeaceNet meeting will take place in Geneva on the 4th and 5th December 2012. The initiator of PeaceNet is the Life and Peace Institute, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Sweden, and ACT Alliance is the co-host. The main theme is “mediation, dialogue and the role of leadership in peace building” with a special role of faith leaders. Other agenda items include the Horn of Africa and more. José Henriquez and Fr. Paul Lansu will represent Pax Christi International.

Peace Education

Pax Christi Youth March for Peace

The Youth Section of Pax Christi France is planning a peace march from Ghyvelde to Dunkerque (France – Belgium) on 11 November 2012. About 200

young people are expected to participate. For more information on the march for peace, please read here: <http://www.facebook.com/RoutedelaPaix2012>

Identity and collective trauma in multicultural societies

Each summer U Move 4 Peace (UM4P), the youth section of Pax Christi Flanders reinforces its work by organising an international training together with its longstanding partners from Israel/Palestine, Chechnya and the Netherlands. This year they had the privilege to work together with Hector Aristizabal from Imagination. Hector has over 25 years of experience working with youth at risk in different settings – from prisons to youth centres and in different countries, from China to Spain. Through a set of diverse creative methods participants explored concepts like identity, oppression, collective trauma and rituals. By using forms of theatre of the oppressed, dance, music and story telling their creative self was awoken to deal with stories from the past, to build a better and stronger future. The event took place from 18 till 28 July 2012 in the eastern part of Belgium. For more information, read here: <http://www.paxchristi.be/2012/09/training-identity-and-collective-trauma-in-multicultural-societies-with-hector-aristizabal-photo-report/>

Annual Peace Week on Raw Materials and Conflict

Raw materials and conflict has been the topic of the Annual Peace Week in the Netherlands. The Annual Peace Week was organised by IKV Pax Christi and took place from 16 till 23 September with one Night for Peace with young people on 21 September. The conflict focussed on Colombia, DR Congo and South Sudan. The Night of Peace was programmed with Checkpoint Cinema XL and a Network Café. For more information visit: www.ikvpaxchristi.nl

Peace Spirituality

Peace Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Pax Christi Flanders has organised a peace pilgrimage to Israel & Palestine from 26 October till 5 November 2012. For more information, contact Brigitte-Herremans

Brigitte.Herremans@broederlijkdelen.be

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands is planning a peace pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 18 – 27 December 2012. Participants stay with Palestinians families and have meetings with Israelis families, peace activists, former soldiers, politicians, refugees and settlers. For more information, please e-mail: bethlehem@ikvpaxchristi.nl

International Catholic Parish in The Hague

The Church of Our Saviour parish in The Hague, the Netherlands, invited Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat, to give a homily during the two Sunday Masses on 16 September 2012. A door collection for Pax Christi International was held after both Masses. That same day, an adult formation was held at the Parish in which the work and mission of Pax Christi International has been further explained. The event took place during the Annual Peace Week of IKV Pax Christi in the Netherlands.

Reconciliation Icon of Pax Christi International

“Christ is our Reconciliation” is the Icon of Pax Christi International. Several workshops have been organised in the United Kingdom from 21 – 28 September 2012 in Woolwich, 28 September – 5 October in Beckenham, 5 – 12 October in Purley, 12 – 19 October in Tolworth and 19 – 27 October in Southwark. For more information on the Icon, visit this link:

<http://www.paxchristi.net/international/eng/showsymbols.php?wat=showsym1>

Non-violent Social Change

2 October: Celebration of International Day of Nonviolence

Pax Christi UK together with friends at St Ethelburga's will celebrate the International Day of Nonviolence on 2 October 2012. The event will take place at Bishopsgate, London at 6 pm. This event will be followed at 7.30 by the London premier of 'Globalised Soul: Stories from the Tipping Point to a New Humanity'.

Why not organise your own event? Resources on nonviolence can be found here <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/pubs1.php#nonviolence>

Networking

Strategic Dialogue Faith Based Civil Society

Beth Begley, delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in New York, and Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International participated in the “Strategic Dialogues with Faith-Based Civil Society: Diplomacy for Peace and Prosperity,” a high-level meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. The event took place on 28 September 2012 at the Religions for Peace Headquarters in New York. The meeting was convened due to the fact that there is growing interest on the side of governments and also on the side of religiously related civil society organizations about “state-religious community partnerships” for the common good.

NewsNotes

NewsNotes is the bi-monthly e-bulletin of Maryknoll Global Concerns office, a Member organisation of Pax Christi International in the USA but active worldwide. The September – October 2012 issue contains several interesting articles related to the Arms Trade Treaty, Central America, Syria, Peru, women and peacemaking and much more. More at <http://maryknollogc.org/>

Council of the International Peace Bureau

The Board and Council meetings of the International peace Bureau takes place in Dublin, Ireland, from 16 till 18 November 2012. The main theme of the gathering is “Joining the Dots: Disarmament, Development and Democracy.” As our globalised world gets smaller, so are the burning issues we are confronted with seem to overlap to a great extent. How to solve the challenge of poverty without re-allocating some of the huge sums devoted to militarism? How to redeem the promise of a new democratic order in the Middle East and North Africa without ensuring true gender justice? Participants will meet with H.E. Michael D. Higgins, the Irish President. José Henriquez, Secretary General of Pax Christi International will attend the meeting. Pax Christi International is a member of IPB. For more information visit www.ipb.org

Church and Peace

Church and Peace, the ecumenical peace church network in Europe, has appointed Davorka Lovrekovic from Hamburg to be the new General Secretary. Davorka comes from a religious Croatian family who moved to Germany in 1966. Marie-Noëlle von der Recke will hand over her post to Davorka Lovrekovic after decades of involvement as General Secretary and earlier Chair of the association. A letter of congratulations has been sent by José Henriquez, Secretary General of Pax Christi International. More at www.church-and-peace.org

Symphony to Religious Freedom

Enrique Sierra, delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in Geneva, attended the concert A Symphony to Religious Freedom that took place at the Palais des Nations on 25th September 2012.

Representatives at United Nations in New York

The delegates of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in New York will meet for their

coordination on 9 November 2012. The 5 volunteers are coordinated by Beth Begley, main representative. Marie Dennis, Co-President, will also attend this meeting. Delegates will attend meetings on topics such as “Strengthening the Role of Women in Political Life, Conflict Resolution and Peace building” and the Commission on Sustainable Development. She will also attend the Abolition 2000 Strategy session to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention on 10 October 2012.