

CONTENTS

General

PCI Mourns the Death of Bishop Walter Sullivan 2

Africa

Women's Leadership for Peace and Security in the
Greater Horn of Africa 2

Horn of Africa Bulletin from the Life and Peace
Institute 2

Americas and the Caribbean

Pax Christi USA: Bishop Walter Sullivan dies at 84 3

PC USA Statement on Events in Newtown, CT 3

Pax Christi Port-au-Prince and the Global Fund for
Children 3

Asia-Pacific

Disarming Times 3

Minority Rights Day: Rise in Attacks on Places of
Worship 4

Middle East

Holy Land Coordination 2013 4

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2013 4

Human Security in Syria 4

Peace Pilgrimage to Iraq 5

Europe

Press Statements of Pax Christi Germany 5

Woman of Peace 2013 5

Disarmament/Demilitarisation

Statement of Pax Christi International on "Ensuring
Biosecurity" 5

Abolition 2000: Achieving a Global Treaty to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons 6

Inter-religious Conference on Nuclear Issues 6

The Middle East without WMDs 6

Human Rights

Human Rights Day Message from CBCI Office for
Justice, Peace and Development 6

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture 7

Human Security

Pax Christi International Endorses Position on Post
2015 Global Development Agenda 7

Peace Building

New Routes: Peace without Borders 7

Non Violent Social Change

Confucianism and Christianity:
Dialogue at the UN 8

Transform Now Ploughshares 8

50th Anniversary of Pacem in Terris: Peace Building
Conference, April 2013 8

International Calendar

International Calendar 8

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GENERAL

Pax Christi International Mourns the Death of Bishop Walter Sullivan

The death of the Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, Bishop emeritus of the diocese of Richmond, Virginia, who served as bishop-president of Pax Christi USA from 1991 through 2003, is a great loss to all who yearn for a more just and peaceful world. Pax Christi International knew Bishop Sullivan as a faithful friend and an inspiring leader. His deep commitment to peace made him an untiring advocate for the work of our movement – from nuclear disarmament to human rights in Haiti; from interfaith cooperation to racial justice. His warm and encouraging manner enabled Bishop Sullivan to cross borders of culture, race, religion, and class to create a beloved community of friends who are celebrating his life even as we mourn his death. May he rest in peace. Bishop Walter Sullivan – advocate for the peace of Christ – presente! This can also be read in [German](#). ■

AFRICA

Women's Leadership for Peace and Security in the Greater Horn of Africa

On 28 November 2012, the European Peace Building Liaison Office (EPLO), of which Pax Christi International is a member, organised a lunch discussion on "Women's Leadership for Peace and Security in the Greater Horn of Africa." Ms Kaltun Hassan of Somalia and Ms Selamawit Gebreyohannes of Eritrea introduced the G40 Regional Alliance specialized on Women, Peace, and Security; its work plan for 2013; as well as its conclusions and recommendations on gender-responsive peace and security. Elisa Gurreri of the Pax Christi International Secretariat attended. ■

Horn of Africa Bulletin from the Life and Peace Institute

In the latest issue of the Horn of Africa Bulletin published by the Life and Peace Institute, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Sweden, some of the latest developments in the region are covered. There are articles and analyses on the search for peace in the Horn, security and foreign policy in post-transitional Somalia, Al-Shabaab versus KDF and increased insecurity in Kenya, and state building in South Sudan. The full bulletin is available in [English](#). ■

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

[Pax Christi USA: Bishop Walter Sullivan dies at 84](#)

Bishop Walter Sullivan passed away on Tuesday, 11 December 2012 at age 84. He served as bishop-president of Pax Christi USA for twelve years, from 1991 through 2003. He was also a Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace, and he consistently encouraged the work for peace and justice. Pax Christi USA's press release can be read in full [here](#). ■

[Pax Christi USA Statement on Events in Newtown, CT](#)

On 19 December, Pax Christi USA issued a statement concerning the heart-breaking events that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut, USA on 14 December. On the tragic day, 27 people died, including 20 children, at an elementary school in Connecticut. The statement goes on to address the issue at hand in the United States: the right to bear arms. Pax Christi USA calls on people to begin a conversation on gun violence and how to finally address the need for gun legislation. The full statement is available [here](#). ■

[Pax Christi Port-au-Prince and the Global Fund for Children](#)

Alexandra Hiniker of IKV Pax Christi attended a Global Fund for Children reception in New York on 11 December 2012, where the featured speaker was [Daniel Tillias](#), the head of Pax Christi Port-au-Prince. They chatted briefly about the work of Pax Christi Haiti, which focuses on using sport for peace and they are doing impressive work in tough areas. Daniel spoke because Pax Christi Haiti received a grant from the Global Fund for Children, which was the winner of the Financial Times 2012 Seasonal Appeal. ■

ASIA - PACIFIC

[Disarming Times](#)

The latest issue of Disarming Times, published by Pax Christi Australia, discussed the Athens Dialogue that was held 14-16 November 2012 on establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This issue also includes an article on the Palestine – Israel conflict, a piece on US hydrogen bombs, and an article on Syria. The full issue is available [here](#). ■

Minority Rights Day: Rise in Attacks on Places of Worship

Nine places of worship have been damaged, destroyed, or vandalised in Pakistan in 2012. The National Commission of Justice and Peace collected data and determined that at least 27 places of worship of religious minorities have been vandalised in the past four years. Prosecution is often weak in Pakistan when places of worship of minorities are attacked. More information is available in an [article](#) published in the Express Tribune on 18 December 2012. ■

MIDDLE EAST

Holy Land Coordination 2013

“Suffering and vulnerable people in the Holy Land” is the title of the Holy Land Coordination taking place from the 5th through the 10th of January 2013. The HLC brings bishops from Europe and North America, in addition to delegates of international Catholic organisations, together for a series of visits and meetings in order to express solidarity with the suffering people in the Holy Land. Exposure visits will be organised to (1) Gaza for a pastoral visit to the Christians and other representatives of other religions; and to (2) Jordan to visit Syrian and Iraqi refugees. There will be meetings with H.B. Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch, and with H.E. Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, the Apostolic

Nuncio. Fr. Paul Lansu will represent Pax Christi International at the HLC. ■

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2013

The international working group of [World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel](#) (WWPPI) agreed upon a change of dates for the observance of the week from 2013 onwards. In 2013, World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel will be held during 22-28 September. The theme of the week in 2013 will be "Jerusalem, the city of justice and peace." Pax Christi International invites all its Member Organisations to participate in the Week. Worship liturgies, advocacy resources, and other educational materials in support of the week will be available on the [WWPPI website](#). ■

Human Security in Syria

Human security is of the utmost importance in Syria. As the conflict continues, the opposition has created a unified political front – the Syrian National Coalition – and a new united military command. At the same time, the number of refugees keeps increasing within the country and in neighbouring states. More information on human security in Syria today is available on the policy letter of IKV Pax Christi: [Syria Alert Issue X](#). ■

Peace Pilgrimage to Iraq

Pax Christi France, together with the Diocese of Troyes and l'Oeuvre d'Orient, are planning a peace pilgrimage to Iraq in order to meet with the Christian communities and others. The dates are 14 – 20 April 2013. More information is available by e-mailing [Lucie Nicolas](#). ■

EUROPE

Press Statements of Pax Christi Germany

In December 2012, Pax Christi Germany issued several press statements on different issues. On 4 December, a statement was published on the war in Goma, DR Congo. Two statements were issued on 5 December on policies of the European Union and the German government on asylum seekers, and on the Free Trade Agreements of the European Union with Peru and Colombia. On 7 December, two additional statements were released – one on the EU and the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 and one on the alternative Nobel Peace Prize. Bishop President Heinz Josef Algermissen issued a press statement on the role of Germany in Afghanistan on 10 December. On 12 December, Pax Christi Germany issued a press release on the Israeli plans to build more settlements in the Palestine Occupied Territories; and the following day, a press release was issued against possible Patriot missiles at the Turkish

Syrian border. More at can be found on their [website](#). ■

Woman of Peace 2013

Annemarie Gielen, Secretary General of Pax Christi Flanders, has been nominated by the Flemish Peace Council as Woman of Peace for 2013. Since 2002, Annemarie is the desk officer for international relations and civil society studies of the Russian Federation. The ceremony took place in the Belgian Senate in Brussels on 11 December in attendance of the Belgian Queen Paulu. ■

DISARMAMENT / DEMILITARISATION

Statement of Pax Christi International on “Ensuring Biosecurity”

The Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) invited NGOs to make statements. The Meeting took place in Geneva, 10 – 14 December 2012, and gave consideration to the three Standing Agenda Items: (1) on cooperation and assistance; (2) on developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention; and (3) on strengthening national implementation. On 10 December, Trevor Griffiths, representative of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in

Geneva, presented the statement titled “Ensuring Biosecurity.” Read the statement in [English](#) and [German](#). ■

Abolition 2000: Achieving a Global Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

On 11 October, disarmament experts, NGOs, parliamentary representatives, ambassadors to the UN, media, and other nuclear abolition advocates, met at the Bahá’í International Community UN Office in New York for a session on achieving a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. The session was organised by the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, with which IKV Pax Christi is involved. The session considered a range of strategies and approaches for moving governments to start work on a treaty to achieve global nuclear disarmament. The full report is available [here](#). ■

Inter-religious Conference on Nuclear Issues

From the 4th to the 7th of December, an Inter-religious Conference on Nuclear Issues was held in Aizuwakamatsu, Japan – a western city of Fukushima. The conference was attended by 87 participants from Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Germany, the USA, amongst other countries. Sr. Filo Hirota, Board Member of Pax Christi International, attended. Mr Nicolas Mele of Pax Christi USA shared a story on “People of Faith and Nuclear Issues.” Asia Pacific Ecumenical News

(APENews) released a [news article](#) as well as the conference’s [statement](#). ■

The Middle East without WMDs

Susi Snyder, of IKV Pax Christi, participated in “The Middle East without Weapons of Mass Destruction, the Way Forward – Civil Society Input” conference in Helsinki from the 14th to the 16th of December 2012. It was announced by the conveners of the official governmental conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that the conference will not be convened in 2012, which outraged participants in the Helsinki Conference, who believe that the Conference is vitally important and would be of historical significance for the future of the region. A statement from the Helsinki conference with recommendations to those involved in the governmental conference process is available [here](#). ■

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Day Message from CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development

The Rev Dr Charles Irudayam, from the CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development, issued a message on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2012. The message served as a reminder that respect for human rights is the secret to

achieving true peace. Rev Irudayam reminded all of Pope John Paul II's message that "citizens have not only the right but also the responsibility to participate," which was the theme of this year's Human Rights Day. The full message can be found [here](#). ■

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture

On 27 November, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) organised a delegation of 22 religious leaders and staff in a meeting with White House staff to discuss the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Pax Christi USA is involved in this campaign. NRCAT is encouraging President Obama to sign the protocol, which aims to develop oversight bodies and international monitors to prevent torture and abuse. A brief overview of the meeting is available [here](#) and more information on the Optional Protocol can be found on [NRCAT's website](#). ■

HUMAN SECURITY

Pax Christi International Endorses Position on Post-2015 Global Development Agenda

The New York Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication issued a position statement in September 2012 on the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. This statement urges that special attention be paid to the following areas: the

social pillar, including poverty eradication, full employment, and social integration; the sustainable pillar, such as global economic architecture, aid for development effectiveness, and additional resources for developing countries; and measuring and monitoring, including development and mutual accountability. The full position statement is available in [English](#). ■

PEACE BUILDING

New Routes: Peace without Borders

The Life and Peace Institute, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Sweden, has published another issue of New Routes called "Peace without Borders." The publication addresses the emphasis that is placed on regional peace-building, and focuses on both the challenges and rewards of regional peace-building. Wars do not respect political or territorial boundaries, and often result in issues that cross borders, such as refugee flows, armed groups, and criminal networks. Read the full [issue](#) for further information. ■

NON VIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

Confucianism and Christianity: Dialogue at the UN

Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, participated in a dialogue sponsored by the China Energy Forum at the United Nations on 11 November 2012. The discussion was between Confucianism and Christianity and focused on whether or not a global ethic is necessary. In her speech, Marie pointed out that an ethic of nonviolence has become a more central position in Catholic moral thinking towards war and peace. The full speech can be viewed [here](#). ■

Transform Now Ploughshares

Three peace activists, Sister Megan Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed, and Michael Walli are facing a maximum of 65 years in prison for non-violent peace action taken in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA. The three called their action "Transform Now Ploughshares" and were peacefully opposing an unconstitutional facility that holds enough weapons-grade uranium to make 10,000 nuclear weapons. Further information can be found on the Pax Christi USA [blog](#), which also has a petition asking the US Attorney General to refuse charging these admirable activists with additional charges. ■

50th Anniversary of *Pacem in Terris*: Peace Building Conference, April 2013

The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. will be hosting a peace building conference 9-10 April 2013, sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, to honour the 50th anniversary of the encyclical *Pacem in Terris*. The conference is meant to contribute to animating peace building as a priority for Catholics in the US. International Co-President Marie Dennis will be participating in, and speaking at, this event. More information is available [here](#). ■

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Click [here](#) to view the International Calendar of upcoming events.

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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](#). ■