

## CONTENTS

### Africa

- Peace Award for Bishop Paride Taban, South Sudan 2  
Mary Robinson named UN envoy for Congo region 2

### Americas and the Caribbean

- Haiti: Our Sister of the North - Gisèle Turcot 2  
Elections in Haiti have reached a deadlock 2  
Pax Christi Montréal & Centre Justice et Foi on Vatican's  
'Motu Proprio' 3  
Commemorations of Msgr. Oscar Romero 3  
40th Anniversary Pax Christi Sections 3

### Asia-Pacific

- No arms, no nuclear power, the Constitution cannot be  
changed 3  
Catholic Social Teaching for a Just Odisha, India 4  
Government and police are the perpetrators of violence  
against Christians 4

### Middle East

- Paolo Dall'Oglio on Syria 4  
Letter to President Obama on Settlements and Wall in  
Israel/Palestine 5  
Jerusalem, the City of Justice and Peace 5  
Ecumenical Consultation on Churches in the Middle East 5

### Disarmament/Demilitarisation

- Expectations for the Arms Trade Treaty 5  
Letter to President Obama for a Strong and Robust ATT 5  
Nobel Peace Laureates press Obama on ATT 6  
Letter to Foreign Minister of Haiti on ATT 6  
Nuclear Weapons and Free Zones 6  
DU: In a State of Uncertainty in Iraq 6  
The Ottawa Convention 7  
United Nations Disarmament Week 7

### Human Security

- 40th Anniversary of Trocaire 7  
Responsibility to Protect: The Role of Civil Society and  
Member States 7  
On the Links between Peace and Sustainability 7  
The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded 7

### Active Nonviolence

- Relevance of Gandhi in the 21st Century 8  
Pax Christi International Mourns Pass Away of Franziska  
Jägerstätter aged 100 8

### Peace Spirituality and Theology

- 50th Anniversary Pacem in Terris 9  
Pax Christi International on Peace Spirituality 9

### International Calendar

- International Calendar 9

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## AFRICA

### Peace Award for Bishop Paride Taban, South Sudan

In August 2013, it will be 10 years since the attack on the UN Building in Baghdad took the lives of 22 humanitarian workers, among them Sergio Vieira de Mello. To mark this sad anniversary, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, gave a Lecture in Geneva on 1 March. The Secretary General gave the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize to Bishop Paride Taban from South Sudan. Bishop Taban created the Kuron Peace Village, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International. The bishop is a member of the Advisory Board of Pax Christi International. In 2004, Sergio Vieira de Mello received the Pax Christi International Peace Award posthumously. Sergio has been the Brazilian UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Representative in Iraq. He received the Award for being a champion of peace and human dignity worldwide and for giving his life to his work.

Freek Landmeter, Director of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands, wrote an article, "Bishop Paride Taban: A True Peace Warrior amidst his people," which is available in [English](#). ■

### Mary Robinson named UN envoy for Congo region

On 18 March 2013, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Mary Robinson to oversee the implementation of a peace deal to stabilize the troubled central African country of Congo. Robinson was Ireland's first female president and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In a statement of 19 March 2013, Pax Christi Flanders is calling the Belgian government to support Mary Robinson in her task to implement the peace accord of Addis Ababa. Read in [Dutch](#). ■

## AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

### Haiti: Our Sister of the North - Gisèle Turcot

The Weekly Bulletin of The National Center of the Haitian Apostolate extended early March 2013 to Canada, in a Radio Solidarité interview with Sister Gisèle Turcot, coordinator of Pax Christi Montréal. Sr. Gisèle gave insights in her own spirituality. Read in [English and French](#). ■

### Elections in Haiti have reached a deadlock

Three Haitian Organizations for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights have expressed their concern regarding the coming elections in the country. One of the organisations is the Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix d'Haiti, Member organisation of Pax Christi

International. Read the recommendations of 5 March 2013 in [French](#). ■

### **Pax Christi Montréal & Centre Justice et Foi on Vatican 's 'Motu Proprio'**

Believing that the 'Motu Proprio' released by the Vatican in late 2012 needed further interpretation and reflection for the sake of other organisations which could be impacted, Pax Christi Montreal organized an evening in partnership with Centre justice et foi. The renowned Canon Lawyer Fr. Francis Morrissey, O.M.I. and the highly respected theologian, Professor Gregory Baum presented at this this event on 27 February, 2013. In summary, the document will need more details from the Vatican before it can be used by bishops with true understanding since the document does not appear to support the Social Gospel and justice teachings of the Church. The full texts of the presenters are available in French at Pax Christi Montreal, [antennesdepaix@gmail.com](mailto:antennesdepaix@gmail.com). ■

### **Commemorations of Msgr. Oscar Romero**

Several Member Organisations have been commemorating the XXXIII anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero. The Office for Justice, Peace and Development, Member Organisation in India, screened a film "*Monsignor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero*". The showing of the film was followed by a Mass in memory of Archbishop Romero who was martyred for the cause of justice on 24 March 1980.

In addition, Marie Dennis, the Co-President of Pax Christi International, had a speaking tour organised by Pax Christi UK on the martyrdom of Msgr. Romero and the meaning of that for the work of Pax Christi International. ■

### **40th Anniversary Pax Christi Sections**

Pax Christi USA is planning its National Conference 14 – 16 June 2013 in Atlanta. The conference is entitled "Remembering the Past with Gratitude. Living the Present with Enthusiasm. Embracing the Future with Confidence and Hope" and will observe the 40th anniversary of Pax Christi USA.

On 20 May 2013, Pax Christi Flanders in Belgium is also planning its 40th anniversary event. ■

## **ASIA - PACIFIC**

### **No arms, no nuclear power, the Constitution cannot be changed**

It is necessary to safeguard article 9 of Japan's Constitution which declares "explicit and absolute renunciation of war" on the part of the government. A clear "no" must be pronounced regarding rearmament and the use of nuclear energy for civilian or military purposes. In a statement issued in February 2013, signed by Bishop Marcellino Dajji Tani, head of the Justice and Peace Commission, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Japan, it is stated "We believe that peace can never be

reached with military force. We believe that solely through patient dialogue, open to diversity, it is possible to build justice, equality and reciprocal respect between peoples and between nations". "Any change in article 9 of our Constitution would entail the risk of increasing military tension in Asia, particularly with China and North Korea, and a consequent race for militarisation". "The government of the United States played an important role in the drafting of Japan's present Constitution, centred on the value of peace". Today, they explain, "the majority of the people in this country supports and shares a non-violent Constitution."

On 22 February 2013, a vigil on this subject was held by Pax Christi USA. Read more in [English](#) ■.

### **Catholic Social Teaching for a Just Odisha, India**

The National Commission for Justice, Peace and Development, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in India, held a workshop in February 2013 in Bhubaneswar in order to educate the priests and nuns on Catholic Social Teaching and to join hands with other civil society groups to promote just peace in Odisha. This was the second of a series of workshops.

More info via [jpdcommission@gmail.com](mailto:jpdcommission@gmail.com)

### **Government and police are the perpetrators of violence against Christians**

"Government and police are the perpetrators of violence against Christians": This is what the Commission "Justice and Peace" of Catholic Pakistani Bishops, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, strongly said on 11 March 2013 after the serious attack against the "Joseph Colony " in Lahore where 178 Christian homes were destroyed.

The Commission urges the Government of Punjab "to adopt long-term measures to control abuse of the blasphemy law." The provincial government is responsible because it "ignored the situation of minorities and the growing religious intolerance fomented by extremist groups." The Commission calls for "a credible and impartial investigation", "punishment of the guilty" and "adequate compensation to about 200 families affected." ■.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Paolo Dall'Oglio on Syria**

On 21 March 2013, Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles held a meeting on the situation in Syria with Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio, an Italian Jesuit who has been working for several decades in Syria. Paolo has been calling for dialogue and solidarity with all Syrians. José Henriquez Secretary General of Pax

Christi International attended the meeting. ■

### **Letter to President Obama on Settlements and Wall in Israel/Palestine**

Pax Christi International and Member Organisations worldwide have addressed President Barack Obama with a letter concerning his planned visit to Israel & Palestine in March 2013. The focus is on two main concerns: the settlements and the separation wall. President Obama has been called upon to raise these two issues with Israeli leadership. Read the letter of 13 March in [English](#) 2013; in [German](#). ■

### **Jerusalem, the City of Justice and Peace**

The World Week for Peace in Palestine/Israel invites WCC member churches and civil society organizations working for justice such as Pax Christi International to join a week of prayer, education and advocacy for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and a just end to the conflict. The theme of this year's event is "Jerusalem, the city of justice and peace." The dates of the World Week are 22 – 28 September 2013. To access resources visit [www.worldweekforpeace.org](http://www.worldweekforpeace.org). You are also welcome to join [Facebook group page](#). ■

### **Ecumenical Consultation on Churches in the Middle East**

The World Council of Churches and the Middle East Council of Churches are planning an ecumenical consultation from 21 till 25 May 2013 in Beirut, Lebanon. The aim is to provide a common space to reflect and to appropriate action for the many who see the value of vital Christian churches in the region of the Middle East where Christianity has its deepest roots. Participants will reflect together with Christian leaders from different parts of the world on the challenges that Christians are facing in the region. Pax Christi International is represented by Marie Dennis, Co-President, and José Henriquez, Secretary General. ■

## **DISARMAMENT / DEMILITARISATION**

### **Expectations for the Arms Trade Treaty**

Beth Begley and Alexandra Hiniker, delegates of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in New York, attended the Briefing on "The Arms Trade: expectations for the endgame" on 6 March 2013. The event was organised by the DPI/NGO Relations in cooperation with Office for Disarmament Affairs. ■

## **Letter to President Obama for a Strong and Robust ATT**

In March 2013, Pax Christi International co-signed a Faith Letter addressed to President Barack Obama concerning the role of the USA in getting an Arms Trade Treaty. The U.S. has the opportunity to lead the world in addressing this epidemic by supporting a strong international ATT. Read the letter in [English](#). ■

## **Nobel Peace Laureates press Obama on Arms Trade Treaty**

A group of 18 Nobel Peace Prize winners stated in an open letter delivered to their fellow laureate at the White House that the US President, Barack Obama, must lead his country in securing a strong global Arms Trade Treaty. Among the Nobel signatories there are institutions and individual leaders on human rights, humanitarian and disarmament issues from Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa.

The letter, actively supported by Pax Christi International, was delivered ahead of the talks starting on 18 March at the UN in New York to conclude the negotiations on an historic treaty aimed at bringing the poorly regulated global arms trade under control. Read the letter in [English](#). ■

## **Letter to Foreign Minister of Haiti on ATT**

On 11 March 2013, the Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Haiti, sent a letter addressed to the Haitian Foreign Minister,

H.E. Pierre Richard Casimir, concerning the Final Diplomatic Conference for an Arms Trade Treaty taking place at the United Nations in New York, 18 – 28 March 2013. The letter explains the importance for a strong and robust ATT and its implementation in Haiti. Read in [French](#). On 21 March, the Commission sent another reminder about the Conference. Read in [French](#). ■

## **Letters on Final Diplomatic Conference on ATT**

During the last week of March 2013, several Member Organisations have been writing urgent letter addressed to their Foreign Ministers requesting urgent action on the Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations in New York. Msgr. Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis, Co-Presidents, have been writing a letter addressed to John Kerry, Secretary of State of the USA, on behalf of Pax Christi International and as member of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Campaign for a Strong and Effective Arms Trade Treaty. Read the letter at [2013-0130-en-gl-SD](#). Member Organisations from India, Haiti and Belgium have been approaching their Foreign Ministry. ■

## **Nuclear Weapons and Free Zones**

The International Secretariat of Pax Christi issued a paper on "Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and the Need for Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. The paper is available in [English](#). ■

## [DU: In a State of Uncertainty in Iraq](#)

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands has published its latest paper on depleted uranium. It is about the impact and implications of the use of depleted uranium in Iraq. Read it [here](#). [Read](#) also the media coverage in the Guardian. ■

## [The Ottawa Convention](#)

On 1 June 2013 all European Union member states will be bound by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or Ottawa Convention, which entered into force on 1 March 1999. The Convention pursues four core aims striving for the universal acceptance of a ban on anti-personnel mines, the destruction of those stockpiled, the clearance of mined areas and providing aid to victims. On 28 March 2013, a Colloquium was held at the Royal Higher Institute for Defence in Brussels at which the first steps towards humanitarian disarmament have been discussed. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended. ■

## [United Nations Disarmament Week](#)

The annual observance of Disarmament Week, which begins on 24 October 2013, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, was called for in the Final Document of the General Assembly's 1978 special session on disarmament. All Member States and civil society organizations including Pax Christi International are invited to highlight the danger of the arms race, propagate the need for its cessation and increase public

understanding of the urgent tasks of disarmament. [Read more](#). ■

## HUMAN SECURITY

### [40th Anniversary of Trocaire](#)

Trocaire, the Catholic Development Organisation in Ireland, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On 21 and 22 March 2013, Msgr. Kevin Dowling, Co-President of Pax Christi International, was a special guest and speaker at different meetings on the role of Christians in development aid. ■

### [Responsibility to Protect: The Role of Civil Society and Member States](#)

The DPI/NGO Forum at the United Nations held a session on "the responsibility to protect" on 14 March 2013. R2P is the international security and human rights norm to address the international community's failure to prevent and to stop genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This norm was created after the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Beth Begley, delegate of Pax Christi International at the UN, attended. ■

### [On the Links between Peace and Sustainability](#)

At the request of Pax Christi USA, Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat has written an article on "Change needed in global environmental and climate protection; call for action against military spending." The article makes the link



between environment, development and military spending. The Global Day of Action Against Military Spending takes place on 15 April 2013. Read in [English](#). ■

### **The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded**

Is the title of the Triennial Gathering of the International Peace Bureau, IPB, of which Pax Christi International is a member. Every three years IPB holds a special gathering to bring together their members and supporters and to discuss the challenges facing the peace movements in an unstable and over-militarized world. This year we will explore the inter-relationships between military interventions and the economy of war. The event takes place in Stockholm, Sweden, 13 – 15 September 2013. More [here](#). ■

## **ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE**

### **Relevance of Gandhi in the 21st Century**

On 22 February 2013, Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat, presented a “Reflection on the relevance of Gandhi and nonviolence/peace building in the 21<sup>st</sup> century” at the meeting of the Press Club and Peace Coalitions in Indore, India. The reflection goes deeper in the meaning of nonviolence in the context of the Arab Awakening. Read the paper in [English](#). ■

### **Pax Christi International Mourns Pass Away of Franziska Jägerstätter aged 100**

Just two weeks after celebrating her 100 birthday Franziska Jägerstätter died peacefully, surrounded by her family in St Radegund, Austria. Pax Christi heard that, though weak and in bed, Franziska had much enjoyed the birthday greetings and cards. She received congratulations from the Austrian President and from Cardinal Christoph Schönborn.

On 3rd March 2013 a Holy Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of Linz in honour of Franziska Jägerstätter. On her 100th Birthday, 4 March, Msgr. Ludwig Schwarz, President of Pax Christi Austria, celebrated a Holy Mass in St. Radegund. Different members of Pax Christi have sent messages of congratulations to the widow of Franz Jägerstätter, the conscientious objector during the Nazi regime in Austria. Franz declared on 28 February 1943 his refusal to serve the Nazi army. Franz was honoured at the barracks in Enns where he had announced his refusal 70 years ago. A memorial tablet was blessed by Christian Werner, the Military Bishop. Members of Pax Christi Austria commented that it was evident that the governor of Upper Austria, Josef Pühringer, and the commanders of the barracks were not only fully aware of Franz's decision but also declared their complete agreement with any objection and refusal to comply with inhuman orders or commands, even in the army of a democratic state.

Pax Christi members worldwide are so grateful for the lives of Franz and Franziska;



their example will continue to influence us and many others. The 21 May is the feast day of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter. Read more about Franziska [here](#).

## PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY

### 50th Anniversary Pacem in Terris

The Pontifical Council Justitia et Pax is planning a colloquium on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the promulgation of the Encyclical Pacem in Terris of Blessed John XXIII, scheduled 2 – 4 October 2013 in Rome. Pacem in Terris is the Magna Charta of Pax Christi International. Bishop Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis, Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International are invited to attend.

### Pax Christi International on Peace Spirituality

Since the beginning, Pax Christi has sustained attention to the spirituality that nourishes our movement and has an impact on the priorities and effectiveness of our work for peace. This spirituality, with roots in, for example, the dignity of every person, active nonviolence, reconciliation and the gift of diversity is richly influenced by the Catholic tradition in which our movement has been nourished. Almost every Member Organization of Pax Christi International produces culturally and contextually appropriate resources for personal and communal prayer and integrates prayer, reflection and sacramental expression into their programs on a regular basis. On 17 March

2013, Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat gave an introduction at the Assembly of Diocesan Delegates of Pax Christi Germany in Stuttgart. Read in [German](#) or in [English](#). ■

## INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

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

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Pax Christi Newsletter  
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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](#). ■