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International Secretariat

Rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains, 21
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. +32 2 502 55 50 - Fax +32 2 502 46 26
www.paxchristi.net

AFRICA

African Europe Faith and Justice Network celebrates 25 years

The Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN) is celebrating its 25th anniversary with numerous activities organised by the national antennas, in both the European as African continent, and by the European office in Belgium. AEFJN promotes equity and economic justice in relations between Africa and Europe and lobbies the EU to support African efforts towards justice and sustainable development of a better future.

AEFJN organised on 24 April 2013 in Brussels, Belgium, a public debate on 'Africa and Europe: Challenges for the Future', with contributions focusing on the livelihoods of Africans under threat of economic expansion, trade policies and globalisation. Participants exchanged experiences and analysis with the head of the Agriculture and Rural Development Unit of the European Commission. Pax Christi International attended and congratulated AEFJN with its achievements over the past 25 years. For more information about their work, visit [here](#). ■

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

Action for Peace in Colombia

Redepaz, Member organisation of Pax Christi International in Colombia, held its national march for peace on 9 April 2013. The National Congress of Redepaz took place 19 – 21 April 2013. The Annual Peace Week of Redepaz and Pastoral Social takes place from 8 till 15 September 2013. To read more, click [here](#). ■

Workshop Nonviolence and Transformation

Martha Inés Romero, Coordinator of Pax Christi International for Latin America and the Caribbean, led a workshop on Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation from 14 till 18 April 2013. The workshop took place in Santiago de Chile with about 70 participants from Serpaj, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Chile. She led also a Teach-Inn on Security Council Resolution 1325 and had other meetings with partners. ■

Pax Christi Statement on Marathon Bombings

On 20 April 2013, Pax Christi USA (Massachusetts) issued a statement on the Marathon Bombings. The statement was created following the horrific events in Boston on 15 April. Members of Pax Christi are bearing witness and expressing sorrow for all the near misses of friends and family who were in proximity to the bombings,

and for the deaths too, of the men alleged to be perpetrator and accomplice. Pax Christi is grateful that the youngest was taken alive. Perhaps we will learn something from him. We pray for all – victims, families, and perpetrators – and know you are with us in this spirit. Read the statement [here](#). ■

ASIA - PACIFIC

Education versus Fanatic Literacy Pakistan

“Education versus Fanatic Literacy” is a study on the hate content in the textbooks in Punjab and Sindh Provinces in Pakistan. The study was published by the National Commission for Justice and Peace, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International. Read the study in [English](#). ■

NCJP in Karachi and Islamabad

The National Commission Justice and Peace, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, made an update of its recent activities at Karachi and Islamabad, under the Campaign for Unbiased Education.

For more information, check out the following articles: [Tribune](#), [Area 14/8](#), [The Nation](#), [The Friday Times](#). ■

Disarming Times Pax Christi Australia

Pax Christi Australia has published the Journal Disarming Times, March – April 2013. The journal includes a eulogy for

Michael Henry, an article on the Jeju Island and a submission on the Defence White Paper. It also includes an article on Drones written by Paul Rogers. Read in [English](#). ■

Article on North Korea

“North Korea's month of bluster: is there method in its 'madness'?” is the title of an article written by Prof. Joseph Camilleri of Pax Christi Australia, dated 4 April 2013. The article has been published in “The Conversation.” Read [here](#). ■

MIDDLE EAST

Members Pax Christi Austria in EAPPI Programme

Josef Windischer, Secretary General of Pax Christi Austria participates in the Ecumenical Advocacy Programme for Palestine and Israel from 15 April till 15 July 2013. He will be located in Tulkram, West Bank. The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) brings internationals to the West Bank to experience life under occupation. Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) provide a protective presence to vulnerable communities by monitoring and reporting human rights abuses and by supporting Palestinians and Israelis working together for peace. When they return home, EAs campaign aims for a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through an end to the occupation, respect for international law and the

implementation of UN resolutions. Read more [here](#). ■

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. ■

Pax Christi International calls for the immediate liberation of the two kidnapped bishops in Syria

Pax Christi International calls for the immediate liberation of Yohanna Ibrahim, the Syriac Orthodox archbishop of Aleppo, and Paul Yazigi, the Greek Orthodox archbishop of Aleppo in Syria.

The two archbishops reportedly were kidnapped, and a deacon driving them - Fatha' Allah Kabboud - was killed, while they were undertaking a joint humanitarian mission near the Turkish border north of Aleppo on 22 April 2013. Between the Syrian government and the opposition forces, no group has claimed responsibility. These kidnappings are a

further sign of the tragic situation that is enveloping the Syrian nation, where violence and weapons continue to sow death and suffering. Read more in [English](#) or [German](#). ■

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2013

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel invites agencies working for justice to join a week of prayer, education, and advocacy for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and a just resolution to the conflict. The theme of this year's event will be "Jerusalem, the city of justice and peace." In 2013, World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel will be held 22 -28 September. Pax Christi International will participate in this Week of Action. More information can be found on the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum's [website](#). ■

Media and War in Syria

On 14 April 2013, Brigitte Herremans of Pax Christi Flanders/Broederlijk Delen participated in a debate on Flemish television concerning the on-going conflict and war in Syria. Watch the video in [Dutch](#). ■

Syria Alert XI: Don't Fail Syria

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands issued its eleventh Syria Alert on 15 April 2013. Bold steps must be taken to stop the mass killing and suffering of Syrian civilians. IKV Pax Christi argues that the Syrian regime lost any credible and legitimate claim over the sovereignty over Syrian territory.

IKV Pax Christi made some suggestions for strategies for the European Union and the Friends of Syria. Read more [here](#). ■

Lessons from 10 years of international involvement in Iraq

It has been 10 years since Iraq was invaded by a US led coalition and the regime of Saddam Hussein was toppled. The invasion led to one of the most violent periods in Iraqi history, during which the present Iraq was shaped. International involvement placed a heavy mark on the process of state and nation building in the country. On the occasion of 10 years of international involvement in Iraq, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', IKV Pax Christi Netherlands and some other partners will organize a one day seminar on international involvement in Iraq on 27 May 2013. Read more [here](#). ■

EUROPE

AGM Pax Christi UK

On 11 May 2013, the Annual General Meeting of Pax Christi UK takes place in London at Holy Apostles Church Hall. Combined with the AGM is the meeting of the National Justice and Peace Network. The speaker will be Prof. Tina Beattie who will discuss the ethical and moral questions surrounding cyber war and drone warfare. Read more [here](#). ■

Russia at the Crossroads and the Problems of Democracy

"Russia at the Crossroads and the Problems of Democracy" is the title of a book written by Victor Kogan-Yasny, coordinator of Regional Civic Initiative – Right to Life and Human Dignity, Member organisation of Pax Christi International in the Russian Federation. The book covers a series of articles published on different occasions during the period of 2004 – 2012. ■

UN in Geneva/ Russia: Repression of Religious Minorities and NGO's

As a side event at the UN in Geneva Enrique Sierra, delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations attended the meeting entitled "Unprecedented Repression of Religious Minorities and NGO's in Russia. This meeting was held Monday 29 April 2013 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. ■

DISARMAMENT / DEMILITARISATION

Appeal for the Middle-East WMD before the NPT Conference in Geneva

Pax Christi International supports the appeal to the UN Secretary General and the convening countries of the Non Proliferation Treaty conference taking place in Geneva 22 April – 3 May 2013 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other

weapons of mass destruction. Read the petition [here](#). ■

No Nukes Team in Action

For the second year, IKV Pax Christi Netherlands has gathered a dynamic group of students for a Crash Course in Nuclear Diplomacy. Ten students went through three workshops in the Netherlands and then joined the Pax Christi International delegation to the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva, 22 April – 3 May 2013. The No Nukes Team has also published a series of policy briefs with proposals to the Dutch Foreign Minister and a handbook for Dutch Parliamentarians: "How to get rid of the bomb in 5 steps." A set of recommendations to NPT Members was circulated. Read more [here](#). ■

Nuclear Weapons in Europe

Different side events have been organised by the NGO community during the PrepCom NPT in Geneva. On 22 April 2013, a session was held on nuclear weapons in Europe and on how to get rid of them. Soon some of these will be modernized. How can these stockpiles be included in efforts of disarmament, how can modernization be stopped, how can Europe become a nuclear weapons free zone? These questions have been dealt with by a panel which included Susi Snyder of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands. ■

Pax Christi UK: Stop Fooling with Nuclear Weapons at Aldermaston

On 1 April 2013, Pax Christi UK members joined with hundreds of people around the country at the traditional Easter protests at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston, Berkshire. Aldermaston is where the nuclear warheads for trident are being processed. Read more [here](#). ■

Next steps in making the ATT work.

On 3 June 2013 the Arms Trade Treaty opens for signature in New York. We want as many Heads of Government and/or Foreign Ministers to come as possible on 3 June, in order to make this a very high profile political event. If the first 50 governments announce that they will have a national control list that covers ALL conventional arms, it becomes harder for subsequent signers to do so with a partial list. The higher the political and media profile also, the bigger pressure there will be on governments to sign, and for Entry into Force to happen as soon as possible.

Pax Christi International invites all its Member Organisations to adapt and send a letter to their governments. If you are part of a Control Arms national platform, this will be more effective if you send the letter as a group. Read/use the [Template Letter](#). Read more [here](#). ■

Political Debates on Drones

Several Member Organisations are working on the issue of Drones, the unmanned aerial vehicles. Background

papers have been published and debates with politicians have started. On 16 April 2013, Pax Christi Flanders organised a debate in the Flemish Parliament at which Wim Zwijnenburg of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands introduced the topic. ■

International Day of Action for Nuclear Disarmament

The International Peace Bureau of which Pax Christi International is a member, together with other NGOs and especially with the NGO Committee for Disarmament, held a protest action against nuclear technologies on 23 April 2013. The event took place during the Second PrepCom NPT meeting taking place in Geneva. The protest action took place at the Palais des Nations with an "inflatable power plant," banners, as well as street theatre. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat as well as Bernadette Lucet from Pax Christi France attended the event. ■



HUMAN SECURITY

Give peace a budget: seven ways to spend \$1.7 trillion dollars

The Global Day of Action Against Military Spending was held in the United Kingdom. Pax Christi UK produced a new film ready for GDAMS, "Give Peace a Budget: Seven ways to spend \$1.7 trillion dollars" – For more information, click [here](#)

On 15 April 2013, Pax Christi UK held a meeting at the House of Commons and the film was shown then for the first time. There are various actions taking place around the country on 15 April: [UK Event](#); [Demilitarize News](#). Check out the photographs of the event of 15 April in London [here](#).

Read the press release of Pax Christi Flanders of 15 April 2013 in Dutch [here](#). ■

ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING

Participation in the NGO Working Group of the UN Security Council

The NGO Working Group on the UN Security Council which was started in 1997 organizes regular meetings with Council Ambassadors on topics of interest (human rights, disarmament, humanitarian relief, etc.) for constituencies of about 34 NGO members. The diversity of the interests also makes this a very diverse group.

Different advocacy efforts need to be undertaken at different levels, and so this is one of the core motives of this initiative. On 10 April 2013, the Steering Group of the NGO WG on the SC approved the application of Pax Christi International. Marie Dennis, Co-President, will be the delegate of Pax Christi International. Marie will coordinate with the other colleagues active at the United Nations in New York. Pax Christ International can add value to the group but also expand its own network in order to strengthen the advocacy role of the movement and the representation mandate of the International Secretariat.

CoNGO Committee on Human Rights in Geneva

The CoNGO Committee on Human Rights met in Geneva on 24 April 2013. Participants made an evaluation of the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council (March – April) and made the preparations for the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council taking place 27 May – 15 June 2013. Enrique Sierra, delegate of Pax Christi International at the United nations, and Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended.

PEACE SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY

The Tablet Interview with Marie Dennis

In March 2013, Marie Dennis made a speaking tour with Pax Christi in the United

Kingdom. The main topic was the Martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero. On 30 March 2013, an interview was published in The Tablet. The title of the interview is “On a road made by walking it.” The interview is available [here](#).

Relevance today of Pacem in Terris

Gisèle Turcot from Pax Christi Montréal in Canada, wrote an article about the relevance today of Pacem in Terris, the encyclical of Pope John XXIII on “Peace on Earth” of 1963. The article has been published in Relations, March 2013. Read [here](#).

Several other Member Organisations published press releases on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary. Read the Press Release from the Indian National Commission for Justice, peace and Development [here](#), and at the websites of [Pax Christi France](#) and [Pax Christi Flanders](#).

Catholic Peacebuilding and U.S. Policy Focus of Conference

Catholic leaders, academics, and U.S. government officials addressed Catholic Peacebuilding and U.S. foreign policy at a major conference, Peacebuilding 2013: *Pacem in Terris* at 50, 9-10 April, at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Pax Christi International was represented by Marie Dennis, Co-President, and José Henriquez, Secretary General. Read the press release [here](#).

PEACE EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK

Pax Christi International Summer Youth Camp in Italy

Pax Christi Italy is organizing a summer camp from the 3rd to 8th August 2013 for youth aged 18-30 years old in the city of Vicenza, home to one of the largest US military bases in Europe. The participants will be introduced to the "Popular Movement of Non-Violent Resistance" of Vicenza city and with the Pax Christi Italy. The camp will be an opportunity to gain insight in to issues behind increasing militarization, the spreading of military culture, and grassroots organizations' response through non-violent resistance. Youth from Pax Christi Member Organisations are warmly invited to participate. For further information, e-mail: giulia.falgari@alice.it ■

New Franz Jägerstätter Youth Resource

Pax Christi UK published its latest youth work resource, "Franz Jägerstätter: A Story of Remarkable Faith." This workshop explores Franz's story, his witness, and what he can teach us about the Christian vocation to peacemaking. Read more [here](#).

World War I and 2014

In 2014 the peace movement is going to mark the historical anniversary of 100 years since World War I with a critical reflection, some creative activities, and new initiatives. On 24 April 2013, Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat participated in an informal evening event on 2014 in Geneva together with Reiner Braun from IALANA and Colin Archer of the IPB. Several Pax Christi sections of Pax Christi International are planning events on this occasion. ■

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

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

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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

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