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AFRICA

EurAc supports Mary Robinson's Commitment to the Great Lakes Region

The European Network for Central Africa (EurAc) and its members, including Pax Christi International, have welcomed the nomination of Mary Robinson as the UN Special Representative for the Great Lakes region. EurAc hopes that her political experience will have a positive impact on the peace process in the region. During Mary Robinson's first visit to the region, EurAc and its Congolese partners wrote a letter to her identifying a number of priorities. For EurAc it will be important that Mary Robinson will commit to ensure active participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of national and regional oversight mechanisms. More information [here](#) or visit EurAc's official [website](#). ■

Horn of Africa Bulletin

The Life and Peace Institute published the March-April issue of the Horn of Africa Bulletin. As usual, the HAB includes news and resources relevant to the region. In this Issue, the key headlines are "Dealing with the Mombasa Republican Council," "Beyond security: Assessing the role of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development," and "Conflict early warning and early response: space, practice and viability in Kenya." Read the complete Horn of Africa Bulletin [here](#) or visit the Life and Peace Institute's official [website](#). ■

Peace Process in the Democratic Republic of Congo

"Jambo" is the title of the E-Newsletter of Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen for Central Africa with a highlighted focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo. The featured

article discusses the possibilities of the peace agreement of Addis Ababa. Read in [Dutch](#). ■

Equity in Extractives Africa

Pax Christi Germany and its Commission for Solidarity with Central Africa issued a press release on 13 May 2013 concerning extractive industries in the region. The Commission welcomes the report from the African Progress Panel dealing with extractives. For more information, visit the [website](#) of Pax Christi Germany. ■

EurAC General Assembly

On 30-31 May 2013, the European Network for Central Africa held its General Assembly in Brussels. The program included a seminar in the European Parliament entitled "The protection of civilians and the challenges of the security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)." Because Pax Christi International is a member organisation of EurAc, our Secretary General, José Henríquez, attended the Assembly. ■

AEFJN: 25th anniversary

For the 25th anniversary of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network, the organisation held a round table entitled "Future Challenges for Africa-European Union Relations." The event took place on 24 April 2013, and Greet Vanaerschot, the Deputy Secretary General, represented Pax Christi International. ■

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

Human Rights Award Gilberto Bosques

On 27 April 2013, Marie Dennis, the Co-President of Pax Christi International, wrote a

letter addressed to the Ambassadors of France and Germany in Mexico nominating Msgr. Raul Vera Lopez for the Human Rights Award Gilberto Bosques. Msgr. Raul Vera Lopez is the Bishop of Saltillo and is also the current President of Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas (Fraybe), a member organisation of Pax Christi International. Read the nomination in [Spanish](#).

Violence in Metropolitan Zone of Port-au-Prince

The Commission Nationale Justice et Paix, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Haiti, published its 46th report with statistics about violence in the metropolitan capital of Port-au-Prince. This report covers the period of January – March 2013 and gives analyses, proposals and recommendations for the government. Read the full report in [French](#) or in [Haitian Creole](#) ■

Ecumenical Event for Peace in Colombia

The Ecumenical Forum for Peace in Colombia held a forum in Bogota, 18 – 19 May 2013, at which different members of various Churches and Faiths gathered to plea for just peace and unity in the country. The forum's primary goal was to create a dialogue to build bridges for peace within the civil society. Bishops of different church traditions participated as well as many other faith related organizations. Martha Inés Romero attended the forum to represent Pax Christi International. ■

First agreement signed in Colombia

On 26 May 2013, the government of Colombia and the FARC guerrillas reached an agreement on land reform after more than six months of peace talks in Havana. The agreement should put the country on the path of transforming rural Colombia by promoting economic and social development and by providing land to poor farmers. Land reform is

one of the most contentious issues in the talks on ending five decades of conflict. The dialogue will continue on 11 June 2013. ■

In Solidarity with the People of Guatemala

On 10 May 2013, Bishop Kevin Dowling and Marie Dennis, the Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International, issued a statement expressing their solidarity with the people of Guatemala. They wrote this after the Court declared Efraín Ríos Montt, former Guatemalan President, guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity. Read the full statement in [Spanish](#). ■

ASIA - PACIFIC

Campaign for Unbiased Education in Pakistan

The National Commission Justice and Peace, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International in Pakistan, has made its latest activity available under the 'Campaign for Unbiased Education'. Read the complete article in [English](#). ■

Call to Keep and Protect Article 9 in Japan

Together with several other international peace organisations and movements worldwide, Pax Christi International made a call to the Japanese government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to keep and protect Article 9 in the constitution. All messages of solidarity have been read at a peace gathering organised in Tokyo on 3 May 2013. The event was organised by Sister Filo Hirota. Sister Filo Hirota is an active board member of both Pax Christi International and the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace (Member Organisation of Pax Christi International). Read Pax Christi International's statement in [English](#). ■

Soldiers killed in Afghanistan

On 6 May 2013, Msgr. Heinz Josef Algermissen, Bishop of Fulda and Bishop President of Pax Christi Germany, issued a press statement concerning the recent killings of German and USA soldiers in Afghanistan. Read the press statement in [German](#). ■

Chetana Justice and Peace in India

"Chetana" is the Newsletter of the Justice and Peace Commission and of the Documentation, Research and Training Center of the Archdiocese of Mumbai. These two organisations are both important member organisations of Pax Christi International in India. Read the "Chetana" Newsletter of April 2013 in [English](#). ■

MIDDLE EAST

Dutch Economic Links with the Occupation

Cordaid, ICCO and IKV Pax Christi are three Dutch peace and development organizations that advocate a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with international law. These three organisations regard international trade relationships with the Israeli occupation forces as an obstruction. Together they have commissioned a report which aims to identify previous as well as new Dutch economic links with the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories. Read more about this report in [English](#) or in [German](#). ■

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel

This year World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel will be observed during 22-28 September 2013. This annual event is an initiative of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the

World Council of Churches and is supported by Pax Christi International. In sum, it seeks to promote an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. This year, the Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre (JIC), in partnership with the PIEF, invites you to take part in a Holy Land pilgrimage tour to Palestine during World Week for Peace. Further information about this pilgrimage, including itinerary details and pricing, can be found [here](#). ■

Pax Christi and Iraq

In April 2013, Pax Christi France had a delegation that went to Iraq. The main focus of this visit was to look at the situation of Christian communities living in different parts of the country. During the visit, delegates met Patriarch Raphael I who kindly asked for Pax Christi International's support. Msgr. Marc Stenger, Bishop President of Pax Christi France, wrote an article about the visit. Read the article in [French](#).

On 16 May 2013, Pax Christi Germany congratulated the International School in Dohuk in the North of Iraq. The School received the Aachener Friedenspreises 2013.

IKV Pax Christi organized a one day seminar on international involvement in Iraq on 27 May 2013. It has been 10 years since Iraq was invaded by a US led coalition. The invasion led to one of the most violent periods in Iraqi history during which the present Iraq was shaped. Delegates from Iraq visited the International Secretariat of Pax Christi on 30 May 2013.

In addition, Marie Dennis, International Co-President, and José Henríquez, Secretary General, held a meeting in Lebanon with Patriarch Raphael I of Iraq to discuss the idea of a Pax Christi group in Iraq. Pax Christi France, Pax Christi Italy, and Pax Christi Germany are ready to support this initiative. ■

Visit to Member Organisations in Lebanon

Marie Dennis, International Co-President, and José Henríquez, Secretary General, met with our Member Organisations in Lebanon. On 27 May 2013, they visited the [Association Justice et Miséricorde](#) where they met with Fr. Hadi Aya, the founder of the organisation, and with Ms. Hana Nassif, an official board member of Pax Christi International.

During their stay in Lebanon, Marie Dennis and José Henríquez also visited the Lebanese Association for Human Rights where they met with Dr. Ogarit Yunan. Dr. Ogarit Yunan is the co-founder of the Lebanese Association for Human Rights and the founder of the Academic University for Non Violence and Human Rights (AUNOHR) in Lebanon. ■

EUROPE

Lessons from the Peace Process in Northern Ireland

While every conflict and context is unique, many of the central principles and lessons that were drawn from the Northern Ireland Peace Process could be applied to other conflicts. The '[Mitchell Principles of Democracy and Non-Violence](#)' that were used in the Northern Ireland Peace Process required all those working towards a conflict resolution to commit to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving the political issues. The European Peace Building Network, EPLO, held a lunch meeting on this subject on 7 May 2013. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat attended this meeting. ■

Remembering the Reichstag Fire 1933

On 8 May 2013, Pax Christi Germany issued a press release entitled "[Remembering the Reichstag Fire of 10 May 1933.](#)" This historical day of burning all non-German literature was the beginning that gradually led to the systematic exclusion and killings of the Jewish people, Roma, Sinti, Anarchists and many more. Read the complete press release in [German](#). ■

Turkey, EU and NATO: 50 Years after the Ankara Agreement

Historically speaking, Turkey has always served as a bridge between Europe and Asia as a transcontinental nation. In its recent history, the country has been a privileged partner of many important Western and European organisations. A colloquium on this subject was organised on 7 May 2013 by the Royal Higher Institute for Defence in Brussels. Fr. Paul Lansu of the Pax Christi International Secretariat attended this colloquium. ■

Pax Christi United Kingdom

The latest Newsletter of Pax Christi UK is now available. It features the 80th anniversary of the Catholic Worker Movement. Read the Newsletter in [English](#).

Pax Christi UK recently produced a video entitled "[Give peace a budget: seven ways to spend \\$1.7 trillion dollars.](#)" The section has also produced supporting notes and a lesson guide for use in schools and other groups. View the video [here](#). ■

Ministries for Peace in the Netherlands and Worldwide

In 2011, IKV Pax Christi initiated the establishment of a Ministry for Peace in the Netherlands. Today there are over 40 other

Ministries that have also been established worldwide such as in Nepal, Costa Rica, the Solomon Islands and more. The common aim is to work for peace worldwide. Read more in [Dutch](#). ■

European Union as a Peace Building Entity

One of the dilemmas for the European Union has always come down to the question of geographical enlargement of the Union or deepening the policies of further integration and collaboration. Some might argue that you have to make a choice. Others believe that these two scenarios can be developed simultaneously. Croatia is the latest new EU member. What about Ukraine and other countries in the Eastern European region? On 17 May 2013, Fr. Paul Lansu of the Pax Christi International Secretariat presented a paper and posed the question "Can the EU function as a peace building entity?" The paper was presented during the workshop on Peace Spirituality Encounter taking place in Warsaw, Poland. Read the paper in [English](#). ■

From Croatia to Kosovo: a European peace in process?

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands invites all people who are interested in the next BalkanBorrel entitled "*From Croatia to Kosovo: a European peace in process?*" During this event, participants will elaborate on the local impact and views of the EU and European enlargement in the Western Balkans, specifically in Croatia and Kosovo.

This event is organized in co-operation with the Alfred Mozer Foundation and Linking Europe. The BalkanBorrel will take place on June 13th, at 19:00 in Utrecht, Netherlands. Admission is free but please subscribe via balkanborrel@ikvpaxchristi.nl with your name, organization or discipline, title and address. For an address or some directions, please visit IKV

Pax Christi's [website](#) or visit the [Facebook event page](#). ■

40th Anniversary Pax Christi Flanders

In 1973, Pax Christi Belgium decided to start with two autonomous Pax Christi sections in the country: Pax Christi Flanders and Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles. On 20 May 2013, Pax Christi Flanders celebrated its 40th anniversary in Antwerp. Etienne De Jonghe, the former Secretary General of Pax Christi International, gave the key note speech. A letter of congratulations from the Co-Presidents and Secretary General of Pax Christi International was also read before the assembly. Read the letter in [English](#). Also check out a brief report of the event in [Dutch](#). ■

Annual Congress Pax Christi Italy

Pax Christi Italy held its annual congress in Rome from 25 till 28 April 2013. Active nonviolence was the main topic of the meeting. José Henriquez, the Secretary General of Pax Christi International, attended the meeting. Read more in [Italian](#). ■

IKV Pax Christi: Goodbye to Bishop van Luyn

On 16 September 2013, Pax Christi Netherlands will say goodbye to Msgr. Ad van Luyn who has been the Bishop President of Pax Christi Netherlands for the past 19 years. On Bishop van Luyn's day of resignation, a seminar on the meaning of a United Europe will be held in Utrecht, Netherlands. The keynote speaker will be H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council. ■

DISARMAMENT / DEMILITARISATION

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

The new *Campaign to Stop Killer Robots* was coordinated by an international coalition of NGOs concerned about the implications and impact of fully autonomous weapons called "killer robots." This campaign was launched in London on 23 April 2013. Killer robots present multiple challenges to humanity. This Campaign calls for urgent action to pre-emptively ban fully autonomous weapons that would be able to select and attack targets without any human intervention. The global Campaign is coordinated by five international and four national NGOs. Pax Christi Aotearoa/New Zealand is part of the coalition in New Zealand. All NGOs, community groups, and professional associations that support the Campaign's call for a ban on killer robots are invited to add their support. Find out how to show your support [here](#). ■

Joint Statement from ICBUW: Reclaiming the Protection of Civilians

On 24 May 2013, members of the International Coalition Banning Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) attended a governmental conference hosted by the Norwegian government on reclaiming the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law. Pax Christi International is a member organisation of ICBUW. Together with IKV Pax Christi and the Toxic Remnants of War Project, ICBUW issued a joint statement that you can read in [English](#). ■

First National Protest against UK Drones

When the UK began its own remote operation of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) in

Afghanistan during the last week of April 2013, hundreds of people took part in protests at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire. The protest was organised by CND, the Drone Campaign Network, Stop the War Coalition, and War on Want. Pax Christi UK is a member organisation of the Drone Campaign Network.

Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi UK said: "We believe that the use of armed drones is a new challenge to the morality of warfare. Among other things, their low cost, ease of use and minimal military casualty rate make them attractive to politicians. They insulate Western public opinion from the true horrors of war. Decisions leading towards war and military intervention will be more not less likely. We urge our Church leaders to evolve a new moral teaching that reflects the challenge of this new technology." Read the Pax Christi UK briefing in [English](#) or take a look at the pictures from the national demonstration [here](#). ■

Arms Trade Treaty signing Ceremony

The Arms Trade Treaty ceremony takes place on 3 June 2013 at the United Nations in New York. Member organisations of Pax Christi International have been invited to approach their Prime Minister of Foreign Ministry to be present at the Ceremony in order to sign the ATT. Beth Begley will represent Pax Christi International at the ATT signing Ceremony. States have to sign, ratify and accede to the treaty. On 15 May 2013, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State, John Kerry, by Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi International. Read the letter in [English](#). ■

Open-ended Working Group Nuclear Disarmament

In October 2012, the General Assembly decided to convene an open-ended working group (OEWG) to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament

negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The OEWG is chaired by Ambassador Manuel B. Dengo Benavides of Costa Rica. This OEWG will meet between 14-24 May, 27-28 June and 19-30 August 2013. Susi Snyder of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands will attend some of these meetings. ■

No Nukes Team on Tactical Weapons in Europe

The No Nukes Team of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands has published several articles in stimulating the political debate to remove tactical nuclear weapons from the Netherlands as well as Europe. Check out the following articles: “Praktische Voorstellen Om Nederland Kernwapenvrij Te Maken” in [Dutch](#), “How to Get Rid of the Bomb” in [English](#), and “Will the Netherlands lead the way to nuclear disarmament?” in [English](#). ■

Churches on Arms Trade in Germany

On 15 May 2013, Msgr. Heinz Josef Algermissen (Bishop President of Pax Christi Germany) and Msgr. Martin Hein (Bishop of the Evangelical Church) have issued a joint message on the arms export of Germany. Read the joint message in [German](#). ■

NGO Committee on Peace in Vienna

On 24 April 2013, Elisabeth Jungmeier, delegate of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in Vienna, attended the NGO Committee on Peace. Participants discussed a report from the international conference on “The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons” that took place earlier in Helsinki, March 2013. ■

HUMAN RIGHTS

23rd Session of the Human Rights Council

From 27 May – 14 June 2013, States will gather in Geneva for the Human Rights Council's 23rd session. Various experts on human rights, violence against women, and the freedom of assembly, association and expression will report to the Council on key developments in those areas. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat will be attending part of the session. The Council's programme for the session can be accessed [here](#) once it is available. ■

Progress Report of the OEWG

Before the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council takes place in June 2013, Pax Christi International shows its support for the written statement entitled “Progress report of the Open Ended Working Group on the Right to Peace: Civil, Society Organisations assessment.” Read the full statement in [English](#).

HUMAN SECURITY

Civil Society and High Level Political Forum

Pax Christi International co-signed a statement on 3 May 2013 with proposed modalities for civil society participation in the high level political forum. NGOs have noticed a trend that pushes civil society further and further away from the centre of influence when policy is being made in economic and social development matters. Read more in [English](#). ■

Post 2015 Development Agenda

The High Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda held a discussion with delegates of NGOs at the United Nations in New York on 31 May 2013. Panellists discussed substantive recommendations regarding the report. Beth Begley and Alexandra Hiniker, delegates of Pax Christi International, attended. ■

JUST WORLD

Make Finance Work for People and the Planet

On 10 May 2013, Pax Christi International co-signed the statement "*Make Finance Work for People and the Planet; a civil society to the 2013 Group of 20 Summit.*" The statement was presented to the G20 Sherpas on 12 May, and it will also be presented to the Civil 20 on 13-14 June and hopefully to the G20 Leaders in September when they meet in Russia. Read the statement in [English](#). ■

PEACE EDUCATION

Annual Peace Weeks

The annual peace week of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands takes place 21 – 29 September 2013. The main topic is "*Act for Peace: together we support nonviolent peace activists in Syria.*" For more information please visit the IKV Pax Christi [website](#) or e-mail info@ikvpaxchristi.nl.

The annual peace week of Pax Christi Flanders takes place 21 September – 2 October 2013. The main topic is "*Diversity in the public sector.*" For more information, please visit the

Pax Christi Flanders [website](#) or e-mail paxchristi@paxchristi.be. ■

PEACE SPIRITUALITY

House in Lourdes

The Pax Christi Peace House in Lourdes will be open from 10 July till 28 August 2013. Volunteers will be needed to welcome guests visiting the pilgrimage site of Lourdes. Volunteers must pay for their travel costs but the accommodation in Lourdes is taken care of. The coordination is done by the Secretariat of Pax Christi France. For more information, please contact pax.christi-france@paxchristi.fr

Publication: 50th Anniversary Pacem in Terris

On 30 April 2013, Pax Christi Montréal published a book directed by Prof. Gregory Baum on the relevance of the 50th Anniversary of Pacem in Terris for today and tomorrow. Prof Gregory Baum addresses several questions: What are the signs of the time? What have been the most significant changes in the past 50 years and what are the challenges for just peace in the future?

For more information, please contact joanne.saindon@bayardcanada.com. ■

Peace Spirituality Encounter in Poland

Pax Christi International held a pilgrimage/retreat in Poland, 18 – 20 May 2013. About 35 people from different Member Organisations including Pax Christi International attended. On 16 and 17 May 2013, participants held a peace spirituality encounter in Warsaw. Read more about this gathering in [Polish](#). On 18 May, a pilgrimage took place in Auschwitz/Birkenau. Read more about this workshop in [Polish](#). On 20 May 2013,

delegates participated in a Way of the Cross at the concentration camp of Birkenau. Read more in [Polish](#). ■

ADVOCACY

[An International Advocacy Working Group in Washington DC](#)

Advocacy in the US Capital is important for many reasons. However, two reasons in particular are the focus of this initiative. First and foremost, Washington DC is home of several intergovernmental bodies (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization of American States, among others). The decisions of these entities have wide effects around the world. As for the second focus, the US government's foreign policy decisions also have a significant impact around the globe. The Working Group aims to design and coordinate a strategy for addressing the US government or other agencies on issues that are important to Pax Christi International and other Member Organisations. ■

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

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

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