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GLOBAL

2 October: International Nonviolence Day

On the international day of nonviolence we commemorate special women and men who saw nonviolence as a conflict transformation tool: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi and others who, in complex and violent situations, proved that active nonviolence can bring about social change. In response to the Gospel of Jesus, with its clear nonviolent message, Pax Christi International member organisations around the world work at a grassroots level to promote a world without violence. We address young people, political and military decision-makers, ex-combatants, civil society, communities of faith, encouraging a commitment to peace and reconciliation. Read more [here](#). ■

IPB Triennial Gathering: new international leadership structures elected

The recent International Peace Bureau (IPB) Triennial Gathering in Stockholm was dedicated, among others, to the renewal of IPB's international leadership structures for the timeframe 2013-2016. The German peace activist Reiner Braun was elected as the new IPB Co-President. The newly-elected IPB [Board](#) consists of 18 persons from 15 countries, whereas the new IPB [Council](#) is made up of 13 persons from 9 regions, plus the board members. Together they will serve for the next 3 years. Fr. Paul Lansu of the Pax Christi International Secretariat was elected as board member and Vice-President of IPB. ■

AFRICA

Pax Christi message of solidarity with the victims in Nairobi, Kenya

On 24 September, Pax Christi International's Secretary General, José Henríquez, addressed a message of solidarity to Pax Christi members and partners in Kenya, in connection to the violent attacks and hostage-taking that took place at the Westgate Centre in Nairobi, on 22 September. Read more [here](#). ■

South Africa consultation on economic inequality

The widening gap between the rich and the poor is an area of great concern for the Church in South Africa. The Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) convened a consultation on this topic in early September at St. John Vianney Seminary. Bishop Kevin Dowling, Deputy Chairman of SACBC's Justice and Peace department, and Co-President of Pax Christi International gave a theological reflection based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the prophetic sayings of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. Read more [here](#). ■

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

Forgiveness as a condition for peace-building in Colombia

Pax Christi International is one of the supporters of the forum "Forgiveness as a

Strategy for the Healing of Memory" which takes place on 4 October at the Centre for Memory, Peace and Reconciliation in Bogotá, Colombia. In the context of the current peace dialogue process in Colombia, the forum aims to provide a space for academic reflection to address the issue of "political culture of forgiveness and reconciliation" as fundamental and urgent to build sustainable peace and lasting positive effects both in the political arena, as well as in the community and at an interpersonal level. Read more [here](#). ■

National Congress for Reconciliation in Colombia

The anniversary of Pacem in Terris and the ongoing Colombian peace negotiations provide challenges and opportunities to the church in Colombia. The VI National Congress for Reconciliation, which took place on 30 September - 2 October in Bogotá, Colombia, gathered bishops, pastoral teams, religious communities, and civil society groups to engage in dialogue and analysis on the path to reconciliation and peace. Martha Inés Romero, Pax Christi International Coordinator for Latin America, attended the event. Read more [here](#). ■

2013 Week for Peace in Colombia

The 26th Annual Peace Week in Colombia took place on 8-15 September. A series of marches, rallies, meetings and cultural events devoted to mobilisation for peace were held on this occasion. The Catholic Church led a pilgrimage of the statue of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, the patroness of Colombia, throughout the country the entire week. The Colombian Episcopal Conference, religious orders, REDEPAZ and other Catholic groups participated. [Read](#)

[more](#) on this year's pilgrimage, or visit the [Semana Por la Paz](#) website. The initiative promoted by the Colombian civil society wishes to reaffirm that peace is possible in the country and seek a negotiated solution to the armed conflict that has lasted over 50 years. ■

Mining: progress or destruction?

The mineral potential of Bahia, Brazil, has attracted many mining companies and the state is a major partner. To reflect on the progress of mining in Bahia, Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT) hosted an event entitled "Mining: Progress or destruction?" on 24-25 September. This event included personal testimonies of those affected by the installation of these mines, a discussion facilitated by Professor Rodrigo Salles of the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, and a lecture from Tatiana Dias Domes, lawyer and advisor to the CPT. Read more [here](#). ■

Chile: 40th anniversary of military coup

On 11 September 1973, the Chilean military led by General Augusto Pinochet, crushed Salvador Allende's democratically elected Unidad Popular government. The objective was to replace a progressive, democratically elected government with a brutal military dictatorship. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the military coup, and in memory of the victims and their families, Curico Serpaj, a team of Servicio Paz y Justicia, Serpaj-Chile, gave a public speech to remind others what happened in Chile on 11 September 1973. Further details and photos can be found [here](#). As part of the commemoration, the Atacama Serpaj team held a discussion to reflect the experience and work of Serpaj-Chile in the defense of human rights

during the military dictatorship. Read more [here](#). The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns also remembered the 1973 military coup through prayers and discussions. Read more [here](#). ■

Pax Christi Toronto 'Teacher of Peace' Award

Pax Christi Toronto has awarded Sister Mary Alban Bouchard, csj as a 'Teacher of Peace', in recognition of her lifetime achievement of dedicated commitment to world leadership in both Canada and Haiti for the cause of Peace on Earth. The Teacher of Peace Award - granted in line with the tradition of Pax Christi International - was presented to Sister Mary Alban on 28 August 2013 in her room at the infirmary of the new St Joseph Residence in Toronto Canada. Sister Mary Alban died a few days later, on 10 September. Read more [here](#). ■

ASIA - PACIFIC

Pax Christi message of solidarity with the victims in Peshawar, Pakistan

On 24 September, Pax Christi International's Secretary General, José Henríquez, addressed a message of solidarity to Pax Christi members and partners in Pakistan, deploring the immoral violence that took a toll on 81 Christians, including 37 women, and caused serious injuries to 140 others in the reprehensible attack on the All Saints Day Church in Peshawar, on 22 September 2013. Read more [here](#). ■

Catholic Social Teaching Seminar in New Delhi, India

On 21 September, the Justice, Peace and Development Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, in collaboration with the Justice and Peace Commission of the Delhi Archdiocese, organised a one-day seminar on Catholic Social Teaching at Yusuf Sadan, New Delhi. Speakers included Fr. Charles Irudayam, Sr. Helen CFMSS, Fr. T K John, Dr. John Dayal and Mr. Abraham Pattiyani. The event was attended by 30 participants. Click [here](#) for a report from the event, submitted by Rev. Dr. Charles Irudayam, Secretary of the CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development.

Call for humanitarian ceasefire in Zamboanga City

Pax Christi Philippines and Pax Christi International, through its co-president Marie Dennis, joined a petition in support of dialogue, humanitarian action and ceasefire in Zamboanga City, Philippines, initiated by civil society groups, peace advocates and concerned citizens. Signatories to this petition call for a peaceful resolution of an ongoing siege in the city of Zamboanga in the south of the Philippines that has led to a stand-off between forces of the Philippine government and elements associated with a Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) faction since 9 September. Already more than 300 civilians have reportedly been taken hostage in villages where the MNLF forces have barricaded themselves in. Five people have been killed, 90 wounded mostly ordinary citizens. More than 15,000 have been evacuated to makeshift centers. ■

Justice and Peace Workers (JPW) Asia-Pacific Forum

The 9th edition of the Justice and Peace Workers (JPW) network meeting was held in Fatima Retreat house in Lewella, Kandy, Sri Lanka from 3 to 9 September. The event, which brought together 32 participants from 16 countries in Asia & Pacific, was organised by the Human Rights Office Kandy – a Pax Christi member organisation – in collaboration with the Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples, in Hong Kong. This edition's theme was "Church and Human Rights: Building Solidarity with the 'Joys and Hopes, the Grief and Anguish' of Asian Peoples." Read more [here](#). ■

Religious minorities in Pakistan

The National Commission for Justice and Peace of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference has recently published a report on religious minorities in Pakistan. For the last 15 years, the Commission has compiled and analysed data in a human rights framework. The report looks at areas such as social discrimination, religious freedom, blasphemy laws, crimes against women, and political participation. It concludes with recommendations, "believing in the future Pakistan where everyone can live with peace and have access to justice and rights are respected". For more information, visit www.ncjp-pk.org. ■

MIDDLE EAST

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel

Numerous congregations, peace organisations, and other communities

groups around the world mobilised for a week of activities in support of an end to the Israeli occupation and a just and lasting peace for all in Palestine and Israel, during the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 22-28 September. People of faith and goodwill came together during a week to worship and pray, to educate and be educated, and to take bold action in support of those living under occupation. The World Council of Churches has issued a statement of support for World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2013. You can read this statement [here](#). A summary of events that took place during World Week for Peace 2013 can be accessed [here](#). ■

20-Years Oslo Accords

On 13 September 1993, the 'Oslo Accords' – a 'Declaration of Principles' for Palestinian self-rule – were signed in Washington by Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Twenty years later, the number of Israeli settlers in East Jerusalem and the West Bank - the territories occupied by Israel – has increased considerably. Several groups including Pax Christi Flanders, Broederlijk Delen, Algemene Centrale-ABVV, Socialistische Solidariteit, Palestina Solidariteit, Vrede vzw, Vredesactie, 11.11.11., organised a consultation on this issue on 12 September. Read their full position [here](#) or visit the website of Pax Christi Flanders [here](#). ■

Syria: thinking beyond violence

On 10 September, the German section of Pax Christi issued a statement on the current situation in Syria putting forward a series of recommendations for the German government's response to the Syrian crisis,

and suggestions on how everyone can show solidarity through vigils, demonstrations, prayer and fasting, signing petitions for a diplomatic and political solution to the conflict, etc. The full statement in German can be accessed [here](#). ■

People of faith respond to threats of attack on Syria

On 9 September, Marie Dennis, co-president of Pax Christi International addressed a letter to U.S. Congress members asking them to reject the request of President Obama to attack Syria. On behalf of the Catholic community worldwide, Marie Dennis calls for a negotiated peace and for support for the creation of zones of peace and deployment of nonviolent peacekeepers, including civilians, to accompany Syrian communities overwhelmed by the violence. Read more [here](#). ■

EUROPE

Pax Christi France on nuclear security

On 12-13 October, Pax Christi France is organising a workshop on nuclear security and safety of nuclear waste in the aftermath of Fukushima. The event takes place in Issy-les-Moulineaux and is open to everyone. Prior registration is needed. Read more [here](#). ■

What future for NATO?

With unfinished business in Afghanistan and the international community bracing for impact in Syria, NATO is under pressure to define its future role. To do so, the Alliance

must find answers to questions about its capabilities, global outlook, and transatlantic solidarity. On 19 September, Carnegie Europe hosted NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who presented his vision for the Alliance, 2014 and beyond. Fr. Paul Lansu of the Pax Christi International Secretariat attended the event. Read more [here](#). A report of the meeting (in Dutch) can be accessed [here](#). ■

Pax Christi Germany on the current situation in Syria

Pax Christi Germany Vice President Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler was interviewed by Domradio.de on the situation in Syria. The audio recording (in German) can be accessed [here](#) or on Pax Christi Germany's website [here](#). ■

Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles: nonviolence as a means of response to the Syrian crisis

In a recent editorial, Nicolas Bossut, Secretary General of Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles talks about the numerous challenges to be faced in the debate and polarisation between pro and anti-interference in Syria. To read the full article, click [here](#). ■

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel – Related Events

Bishop William Kenney led the opening words at a service initiated by Pax Christi UK in the Garden at Friends House in London on 28 September to mark the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel. The week, called for by the World Council of Churches invited member churches and faith communities to come together for a week of prayer,

education and advocacy for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and a just end to the conflict. Read more [here](#). ■

[Freedom of Expression in Belgium: an approach to the legal framework](#)

In this analysis, Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles answers questions surrounding the legal framework for freedom of expression in Belgium. This analysis dives into the various limits and strengths of its current system. Read the latest analysis [here](#) in French. ■

DISARMAMENT/ DEMILITARISATION

[“Time To Go” Campaign against Nuclear Weapons](#)

Pax Christi Flanders, Vrede, Vredesactie and Coordination Nationale d'Action pour la Paix et la Démocratie have initiated a campaign for the removal of American nuclear weapons stationed in Belgium. The “Time To Go” Campaign aims to mobilise the entire Belgian social sector, including labour unions, key political figures and the cultural sector. On 5 October, a conference on nuclear arms will take place in Brussels. The event will be coupled with an exhibition showing the evolution in the anti-missile movement, from late 1970s/early 1980s until today. The campaign will end in a big manifestation on 20 October 2013 in the Jubilee Park (Cinquantenaire) in Brussels with a clear message: “Time to Go! Nuclear weapons out of Belgium.” To learn more about this campaign, including how you can get involved, visit: www.timetogo.be. ■

[5-12 October Drone Week of Action](#)

The Drone Campaign Network, of which Pax Christi UK is a member, is organising the third annual Week of Action on drones to promote understanding and resistance to the growing use of drones and remote warfare. Read more [here](#). ■

[The International Peace Bureau calls for an end to militarism](#)

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) Triennial Gathering which took place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13-15 September welcomed the agreement between Russia and the USA on chemical weapons in Syria. Hopefully this will lead to negotiations to put an end to the terrible civil war: “The forming of international coalitions for military intervention is now much more difficult as public opinion against war has become so strong. People are weary of war and the deceit and rhetoric that go with it. They are suspicious of double speak and are tired of ‘humanitarian’ statements which end with actions that simply generate more human suffering.” To read the full IPB statement calling for an end to militarism, click [here](#). ■

HUMAN RIGHTS

[Human rights in Syria](#)

On 16 September, Pax Christi International's Communications Officer Ramona Kundt attended a meeting with Syrian human rights activists, organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), in Brussels. The discussion provided an opportunity to present documentation efforts conducted by the EMHRN and its Syrian partners on international crimes and grave human rights violations in the country,

notably violence against women. Read more on EMHRN's work on Syria [here](#). ■

Violence and human rights violations in Haiti

The National Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace in Haiti recently released a report on the presence of violence and human rights violations in Haiti during 2012. The first part of the report reproduces the observations of 2012 and includes a detailed analysis of the frequency of violence in the country. This section contains many recommendations that deal with violence, human rights violations and the responsibilities of the State to address these injustices. The second part of the report provides a complete list of cases registered by the parish and diocesan commissions during the year of 2012. The Commission hopes that these observations and reflections will help raise awareness, and inspire those committed and determined to live in peace and mutual harmony. Read the full report [here](#) in French. ■

HUMAN SECURITY

Nuclear safety

The Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission of Japan (JPIC) is concerned about the lack of awareness on the long-term effects of the 2011 Fukushima triple disaster, on health and environment. JPIC is calling on potential participants in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, athletes and spectators alike, to take a stance on the issue, to inform themselves and help raise awareness about the magnitude of this disaster and its consequences on Japan and Tokyo, in

particular. The full text of the call can be accessed [here](#). ■

JUST WORLD ORDER

Food for Life Campaign

Pax Christi International encourages all its member organisations to take part in the 'Food for Life Campaign' organised in the framework of the annual Churches' Week of Action on Food, 13-20 October 2013. The Churches' Week of Action on Food is a time to advocate for policies and practices – locally, nationally and internationally – that tackle the injustices which cause almost a billion people around the world to be hungry and malnourished while over a billion suffer the unhealthy consequences of obesity. 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). Read more [here](#). ■

PEACE EDUCATION

Annual Peace Weeks

Peace Weeks are a unique model for advancing peace education in a local context. Many Pax Christi Member Organisations plan peace weeks in their local contexts often working closely with like-minded organisations and local groups.

This year, the annual peace week of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands took place from 21 to 29 September. The theme chosen for 2013 was "Act for Peace: together we support

nonviolent peace activists in Syria". For further details, visit: www.ikvpaxchristi.nl

The annual peace week of Pax Christi Flanders took place from 21 September to 2 October. This year's topic was "Diversity in the public sector". The "Time To Go" Campaign against nuclear weapons was also part of the 2013 peace week. For details, visit: www.paxchristi.be. ■

UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace

On 6 September, Marie Dennis, Pax Christi International Co-President, and Beth Begley, Pax Christi representative at the United Nations in New York, attended the United Nations High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, in New York. The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss ways and means to promote the Culture of Peace. Special focus was on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Culture of Peace adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999. ■

Training Workshops on conflict mediation

Pax Christi Flanders in cooperation with the Network for Education Mediation organises a training workshop "Zin in conflicten? Geef conflicten zin!" during the coming school year in different locations in Belgium. Topics to be addressed include: how to turn conflicts into learning and personal growth opportunities; how to deal and interact with people in a conflict to find solutions through mediation targeted actions; and how to listen and talk to others so that a change in feeling and behavior can occur. To find out more about these training days, see the Pax Christi Flanders [website](#) or check out the official brochure [here](#). ■

PEACE SPIRITUALITY

50th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Luigi Bettazzi

On 6 October, Pax Christi Italy celebrates the 50th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Luigi Bettazzi, former president of Pax Christi International Pax Christi Italy. A special religious celebration will take place in the Cathedral of Ivrea, Turin, on this occasion. Participation is open to everyone. For more details and practical arrangements, contact Pax Christi Italy at info@paxchristi.it. ■

50th Anniversary of Pacem in Terris

In a press conference held on 26 September at the Holy See Press Office, Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, presented the upcoming event that will celebrate the 50th anniversary celebration of Blessed John XXIII's encyclical Pacem in Terris. Cardinal Turkson confirmed during the presentation that the goal of the celebration, which will take place on 2-4 October, was to "verify the translation [of the encyclical] in practice of its fundamental teachings in the field of human rights, the overall common good, in politics, and the fields in which the peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations is played out."

Pax Christi International Co-Presidents Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling, and Secretary General José Henríquez will attend. Read more [here](#). ■

Global day of prayer and fasting for peace in Syria and the Middle East

Many Pax Christi sections and members worldwide joined the call of Pope Francis to pray for peace in Syria and across the Middle East, on 7 September 2013. Pax Christi Flanders organised a day of prayer and fasting with Christians and Muslims encouraging them to work together in peace and solidarity. Read more [here](#).

Pax Germany also participated in the day of prayer and fasting on 7 September. Horst-Peter Rauguth, clergy advisory board member of Pax Christi Germany called upon all members to seize the momentum and join together in groups, parishes and dioceses, to pray for peace in Syria. Read Pax Christi Germany's prayer [here](#) or visit their webpage [here](#).

The British Section of Pax Christi called on its members and supporters around the country to take up the invitation of Pope Francis to pray and fast for peace in Syria and other conflict areas. Pax Christi UK is also urging members to engage with local members of parliament about the UK's involvement in the global arms trade. Read more [here](#). ■

Developing theological reflections

Pax Christi International invites theologians, theological faculties, interfaith peace centers, etc. to make a contribution to a systematic theological reflection on peace. We are looking to develop a theological reflection emerging from the diversity of cultures and religious traditions that ground Pax Christi members' work for peace worldwide. Two peace-spirituality related documents are available as the basis for

reflection [here](#). For more information and exchange along the process of systematic reflection: please, contact Jef Felix, Chair of the Pax Christi Board Committee on Peace Spirituality and Theology at jef.felix@skynet.be. ■

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE CELEBRATIONS

Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron

On 17 September, Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron hosted an event to mark the International Day of Peace taking place on 21 September. The aim was to inspire others to work for lasting peace in Sudan at all levels of society. For more information about the event, click [here](#). ■

Pax Christi USA

Pax Christi USA has joined in co-sponsoring a series of activities around 21 September, the International Day of Peace/Prayer for Peace. Pax Christi USA's prayer resource for this occasion can be accessed [here](#). ■

Pax Christi Montréal

Pax Christi Montréal celebrated the 21 September International Day of Peace, which this year was dedicated to 'Education for Peace', with a series of activities focused on the 50th anniversary of Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris*. Read more [here](#). ■

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands marked the International Day of Peace in the context of

their annual Peace Week (21-29 September). For further details, visit: www.ikvpaxchristi.nl ■

Pax Christi Flanders

Pax Christi Flanders also marked the International Peace Day in the context of their annual Peace Week (21 September - 2 October). For details, visit: www.paxchristi.be. ■

LATEST PUBLICATIONS FROM THE PAX CHRISTI MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Pax Christi Italy

The September issue of "Mosaico di Pace", a monthly publication issued by Pax Christi Italy is now available. Among others, it features updates on Syria and Egypt, an opinion piece on 'Killer Robots' by Miriam Struyk, Programme Director for security and disarmament at IKV Pax Christi Netherlands, as well as an account of the Youth Summer Camp "Cities, no military bases!" organised by Pax Christi Italy in August. Read more [here](#) (in Italian). ■

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, USA

The September-October issue of Maryknoll Office's bimonthly News Notes, offers a summary of all current news items pertaining to international justice and peace. In addition to updates on current conflicts, the publication provides details on how to get involved with various peace initiatives, and take action against social injustices

happening all around the world. To read this newsletter, click [here](#).

The Maryknoll Office also published two Middle East Notes this September. One was released on 5 September ([here](#)) and the other was released on 19 September ([here](#)). These notes provide detailed accounts of Maryknoll's work and concerns in the Middle East. ■

Life & Peace Institute, Sweden

A new issue of "New Routes", a quarterly publication of the Life & Peace Institute, a Pax Christi member in Sweden, is available. This special issue focuses on a number of peace agreements since the end of the Cold War in different parts of the world. The issue also contains contributions from Berghof Foundation and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation. Read more [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

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

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