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GLOBAL

13th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

The 13th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 21-23 October. Over six thousand international participants joined Nobel Peace Prize Laureates – among them the International Peace Bureau (of which Pax Christi International is a member) – in a debate on key issues related to the reduction of global social inequalities.

On this occasion, non-governmental organisations working for peace and human rights across the world were invited to present their activities at the NGO Village. The theme of this year's Summit "Stand in Solidarity for Peace – Time to Act" reflected the activities of many peace and human rights oriented organisations which had the opportunity to share their experiences and present their activities to thousands of guests from all over the world. Fr. Paul Lansu of the Pax Christi International Secretariat co-represented the International Peace Bureau (IPB) at the Summit in his capacity as Vice President of the organisation. He also represented both IPB and Pax Christi International at the NGO Village. For more details, see: www.nobelforpeace-summits.org. ■

International Peace Symposium

On 4 November 2013, the Government of Flanders organizes an international peace symposium in Brussels. The symposium will bring together Nobel Peace Prize winners with decision makers, scientists and

practitioners. The intended outcome of this event is to put the contribution of science as a catalyst for peace firmly on the international agenda, both formulating policy recommendations for intergovernmental organizations and institutions, and at the same time strengthening the links between policy-making, science and practice. This initiative also aims to underline the societal potential of science in addition to its traditionally well-known economic role. Fr. Paul Lansu will represent Pax Christi International and the International Peace Bureau at this Symposium. More information [here](#). ■

AFRICA

Call for improved efforts to end LRA atrocities

Leaders of civil society organizations from each country affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as well as Europe and the United States met in Brussels in early October and issued a joint statement calling for urgent action to finally end LRA atrocities and support the recovery of affected communities. It was the first time such a meeting is known to have taken place in the 27 year history of the LRA conflict.

The joint statement acknowledges the encouraging progress made in reducing LRA attacks in recent years, but it also notes the concerning reports of increased killings in the Central African Republic, where political instability has provided new opportunities for the LRA to operate. Signatories to this statement include IKV Pax Christi Netherlands and the European Network for Central Africa (EURAC), of

which Pax Christi International is a member. Read more [here](#). ■

[EurAc on Rwanda' parliamentary elections](#)

The European Network for Central Africa (EurAc), of which Pax Christi International is a member, has recently issued a statement on an outcome of the parliamentary elections in Rwanda. EurAc urges the European Union and its member states to recognise the indicators of fragility of development in Rwanda. The European Union is also urged to develop a clear stance on the question of a constitutional revision while providing all necessary measures to assist and protect human rights defenders and their organisations whenever necessary. Read the full statement [here](#). ■

[Horn of Africa Bulletin](#)

The newest issue of the Horn of Africa Bulletin, September-October 2013, from the Life and Peace Institute is available. This issue includes a study of faith and inter-faith relations in Kenya after the attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi on 21 September as well as the response of the Kenyan society and state. Also included in the bulletin is a look at the development of women's rights in Somalia following the change in government and constitution in 2012, a discussion on reconciliation in South Sudan based on experiences from the process in South Africa as well as news and resources from the region. Read it [here](#). ■

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

[Pax Christi USA on gun violence and the spirituality of peacemaking](#)

Each November, Pax Christi USA members and friends gather on the Friday night prior to the annual School of the Americas Vigil and Action in Columbus, GA. This year's programme entitled "Gun Violence Has No Room in the Spirituality of Peacemaking" will include prayer, music, inspiring speakers and more. The programme is open to the general public and all are invited to attend.

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, will deliver a presentation on domestic gun violence in US homes and neighbourhoods. Other topics to be addressed will include the US role in supplying arms and training in the on-going violence of war-making in the southern hemisphere. Additional information can be found [here](#). ■

[Pax Christi statement on the decision of closing the office of Tutela Legal](#)

Pax Christi International regrets the sudden closure of the Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado de San Salvador (Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador), one of the most emblematic organisations working for the defence of the rights of the victims of the Salvadoran conflict. Tutela Legal is one of the historical partners of Pax Christi International. Its founding director, María Julia Hernández, belonged to the International Board of Pax Christi International in the last years of her life. She played a vital role in giving Tutela Legal a professional rigor through ethics and joint commitment with the poorest and least advantaged people, who were always defended by Monsignor Oscar Romero.

Pax Christi International hopes that the archdiocese of San Salvador will respect

and carry on the legacy of Tutela to address the thousands of victims of the conflict who are still waiting for justice to be done. This is the only way to lay the foundations of a peaceful country. Download the statement in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Further resources: tutelalegalmariajh.com. ■

ASIA - PACIFIC

Workshop on Catholic Social Teaching

A workshop on Catholic Social Teaching was conducted by the Justice, Peace and Development Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (JPDO-CBCI), at the Social Development Centre in Ranchi, India on 21 and 22 October 2013. The 73 participants, most of whom were priests and nuns from 8 dioceses of Jharkhand, engaged in fruitful discussions to map out strategic interventions for achieving integral and inclusive development, guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. A report from the event, produced by Dr. Charles Irudayam, Secretary of the Office for Justice, Peace and Development, CBCI, is available [here](#). ■

NCJP on Peshawar incident

Peter Jacob, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP) - a Pax Christi International member organisation in Pakistan – was interviewed by The Friday Times regarding last month's incident in Peshawar which took a toll on 81 Christians, including 37 women, and caused serious injuries to many others. Read the full interview [here](#). ■

Initiatives in Development, Empowerment and Awareness Society (IDEAS)

Initiatives in Development, Empowerment and Awareness Society (IDEAS), a Pax Christi International member organisation working with disadvantaged children in India, has recently issued its 6-month activity report. The report gives a detailed account of IDEAS' activities to promote child rights in the first part of 2013. For example, during the summer holidays of April - May 2013, IDEAS organised a Creative Camp for over 300 children. On 12 June, at the reopening of school, IDEAS provided school supplies for children in need. Currently, they are taking care of 30 boys and 20 girls. Read the full report in detail [here](#). ■

Nuclear safety post-Fukushima

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 to help raise awareness about the magnitude of this disaster and its consequences in Japan and in Tokyo in particular. The full text of the call is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#) and [Italian](#). ■

MIDDLE EAST

UNRWA as a global advocate for the protection of Palestinian refugees

On 15 October, the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs held a debate on the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). On this occasion, Brigitte Herremans of Pax Christi Flanders gave a speech on UNRWA as a global advocate for the protection of Palestinian refugees.

Broederlijk Delen and Pax Christi Flanders have worked extensively on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict especially after Hamas took power over the Gaza Strip and Israel imposed a blockade. Brigitte Herremans explained how she worked regularly with John Ging, UNRWA's former head of operations in Gaza. John Ging stressed the importance of providing security and safety to refugees.

By definition, refugees are inherently in need of protection because they are not protected in their state of nationality. The UNRWA's provision of education, health, and relief services has always had a protection aspect. Despite the numerous challenges, the UNRWA has managed to overcome the dichotomy between assistance and protection. Read the complete speech [here](#). ■

Call for the Syrian people

On 12 October, Pax Christi France President Msgr. Marc Stenger gave a homily ("[Chrétiens et musulmans, ensemble contre l'inhumanité dont est victime le peuple syrien](#)") on the importance of Christians and Muslims standing together against the chaos, destruction and lack of humanity which have severely affected Syrians of all religious confessions across the whole country.

On 7-11 October, an inter-religious delegation led by President Marc Stenger visited Jordan and Lebanon to bring hope and support to Syrian refugee families living in camps and elsewhere. The delegation also met with religious authorities of these two countries which every day witness the arrival of more and more Syrian refugees in distress.

Members of Pax Christi France are raising their voices in a [call for the Syrian people](#). In this call, peace is an absolute must and there is no peace without justice. The dramatic situation experienced by the Syrian people shocks and challenges many people. What is happening in the country is a challenge to humanity and a breach of religious principles. All parties in the conflict and their allies as well as political leaders are called upon to intensify negotiations for a political solution and to implement a cease-fire. Read more (in French) on Pax Christi France's website: www.paxchristi.cef.fr. ■

Women's Human Rights at Risk in Iraq

On 5 November 2013, there will be a Brown Bag Lunch Discussion on *Women's Human Rights at Risk in Iraq* at the EPLD office. A few weeks ago, violence spread to the Iraqi Kurdistan region, with bombings in the city of Erbil. Women and girls are already particularly vulnerable, due to discriminatory laws and traditional values about their status and questions of honour. One in every five women in Iraq is thought to have been the victim of physical or psychological violence. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat will attend the Brown Bag Lunch Discussion on 5 November at EPLD. More information [here](#). ■

EUROPE

Pax Christi International Peace Award 2013

The 2013 Pax Christi International Peace Award has been granted to the International Memorial Society for its deep commitment to human rights in the Russian Federation and for its outstanding work in keeping alive the memory of the victims of political repression in the country's recent history. The Award has been graciously funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund since 1988, and it honours contemporary individuals and organisations who make a stand for peace, justice and non-violence in different parts of the world.

In light of the pressure experienced by non-governmental organisations in Russia today, the award also symbolises Pax Christi International's solidarity with all defenders of human rights within the International Memorial Society and with the Russian human rights community at large. The Peace Award Ceremony will take place in Leuven, Belgium on 14 November 2013. Download the press release in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#) and [Italian](#). ■

Pax Christi Germany Delegate Assembly Meeting

Pax Christi Germany's Delegate Assembly Meeting took place in Fulda, Germany, on 25-27 October. For three days, the 90 delegates representing the national Catholic peace movement discussed issues regarding the arms export control, the Syrian conflict, indigenous peoples' rights, and the future of peace work in the current international context. José Henríquez,

Secretary General, attended the meeting. More details (in German) can be found [here](#). ■

Pax Christi Ireland

The annual peace mass of Pax Christi Ireland was celebrated on Sunday, 6 October, by Fr. David Brough, the Parish Priest of Rathmines, in Dublin. Bishop John Kirby has been appointed president of Pax Christi Ireland in succession to Bishop Raymond Field. For more info, see: www.paxchristi.ie. ■

DISARMAMENT/ DEMILITARISATION

"Time to Go" Campaign

The "Time to Go" Campaign for the removal of American nuclear weapons stationed in Belgium ended in a big manifestation, 20 October 2013, in the Jubilee Park (Cinquantenaire) in Brussels with a clear message: "Time to Go! Nuclear weapons away from Belgium." For more details visit www.timetogo.be or [facebook](#). ■

"Don't Bank on the Bomb" Campaign

IKV Pax Christi revealed on 10 October in its worldwide research "Don't Bank on the Bomb" that financial institutions from around the world invest almost 314 billion US dollar in nuclear weapons producers. A total of 298 banks, pension funds, and insurance companies invest into 27 companies involved in the production, maintenance and modernisation of nuclear weapons. Depending on their investments and practices, financial institutions are divided

into a global “Hall of Shame” or “Hall of Fame”. As well as a “Hall of Shame,” the report also includes examples of good company and national practice. In the “Hall of Fame” and “Runners-up” category, 32 financial institutions are credited for having policies intended to limit or even exclude their investment in nuclear weapon producers. The [full report](#) and the [executive summary](#) are available. More information about the research can be found at www.dontbankonthebomb.com.

On 16 October, Susi Snyder of IKV Pax Christi was in New York to speak about the "[Don't Bank on the Bomb](#)" campaign. The event – supported by Abolition 2000 NY Metro – took place at the World Federalist-Global Policy Institute. ■

2014 Global Day of Action on Military Spending

The next edition of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) will take place on 14 April 2014. This coincides with the release by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) of their annual statistics on global military spending. The International Peace Bureau, of which Pax Christi International is a member, is the main coordinator of this annual initiative. To learn more about previous GDAMS editions and planned local/regional activities, visit: www.demilitarize.org. ■

Nuclear Weapons: Threats and Solutions

On 28 October, the US-based Global Institute for Security held a special event at the United Nations entitled “Nuclear Weapons: Threats and Solutions”. Hon. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, delivered the keynote

address with Ambassador Thomas Graham, Co-Chair of the ABA International Law Section’s Task Force on Nuclear Non-proliferation, as a respondent. Beth Begley, Pax Christi representative at the United Nations in New York, attended the event. Read more [here](#). ■

Civil society presentations on disarmament at the United Nations’ First Committee

The NGO committees present at the First Committee sessions of the UNGA in New York from 7 October - 5 November 2013 issued the following statements on disarmament: [Weapons of mass destruction](#), [Emerging technologies](#), [Fully autonomous weapons](#), [Way of work](#), [Arms trade treaty and small arms and light weapons](#), [Explosive weapons and toxic remnants of war](#), and [Anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions](#). Pax Christi International, Pax Christi Montreal and IKV Pax Christi, endorsed some of these statements. More information [here](#). ■

JUST WORLD ORDER

Post-2015 Development Agenda

On 8 October, Cheryl Morrissey, Pax Christi International Representative to the United Nations, and Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, addressed the UN High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development in New York. One of the priorities of this meeting was to ensure that all segments of civil society continue to have a “seat at the table” as the Post-2015 Development Agenda is being laid out. Read more [here](#). ■

Environmental protection: the role of ethics, lifestyles, solidarity and global justice

A Dialogue Seminar on “Environmental protection and climate change as a challenge for policies – the role of ethics, lifestyles, solidarity and global justice” was organised on 17 October 2013 by the European Commission together with the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), and the Commission of the Episcopates of the European Community (COMECE). The event was held in the framework of the initiative for dialogue with churches, religious associations or communities, and philosophical and non-confessional organisations. Fr. Paul Lansu of the Pax Christi International Secretariat attended the event. Read more [here](#). ■

PEACE EDUCATION

GreenFaith Fellowship Program

With the support of Pax Christi International, Madeline C. Labriola has been accepted to the 2014 GreenFaith Fellowship Programme, an initiative that facilitates environmental leadership training for religious leaders. Madeline will join 22 classmates from religious traditions including Muslim, Hindu, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, and Unitarian Universalist. They will work in a wide variety of settings, including congregations, universities, environmental and religious NGO's, denominational organisations and businesses. Beth Begely, Pax Christi representative at the United Nations in New

York, was a part of the 2013 GreenFaith Fellowship Class.

GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental coalition whose mission is to educate and mobilise diverse religious communities for environmental leadership. Founded in 1992, GreenFaith is a leader in the fast-growing religious-environmental movement and has won national and international recognition for its work. For more information, see www.greenfaith.org. ■

PEACE SPIRITUALITY

World Mission Sunday

On 20 October, Pax Christi International Co-President Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg, South Africa, celebrated Mass at Westminster Cathedral in London, in observance of World Mission Sunday. Bishop Dowling was invited by Missio England and Wales. Mgr. Canon James Cronin, National Director of Missio England and Wales, said: "World Mission Sunday is our chance to join Pope Francis in building a Universal Church reaching out to the most marginalised in our world. Catholic missionaries go to areas most in need of Gospel values of love, hope and grace so that our brothers and sisters overseas can hear that Jesus loves them. On the 20th October, we can all become missionaries through prayer and giving to the worldwide Church". Read more [here](#). ■

50th Anniversary of Pacem in Terris

On 3 October, Pax Christi International Co-Presidents Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling, delivered Pax Christi's good will message at the Pacem in Terris 50th

anniversary conference which took place in Rome on 2-4 October.

The aim of this celebration, as explained by Cardinal Peter Turkson, the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, during a recent press conference, 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.” Read the Co-Presidents message in full length [here](#). ■

Pacem in Terris

In a recent interview for the Vatican Radio, Pax Christi International Co-President Marie Dennis explains why Pacem in Terris has served as a kind of Magna Carta for the work of Pax Christi since its inception in 1945, in the aftermath of the World War II. Listen to the interview [here](#) or read the interview [here](#). ■

World Day of Prayer and Action for Children

The Nairobi-based Global Network of Religions for Children – whose Secretary General, Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, is also a member of the Pax Christi International Board – is among the organisers of this year’s World Day of Prayer and Action for Children.

Celebrated annually on Universal Children’s Day, on 20 November, the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is a day of reflection and a call to action for the well-being of children around the world. Since its launch in 2008 the World Day has grown into a movement that has year round influence, weaving together the efforts of faith-based

and non-governmental organisations with those of governments around the world. So far the World Day has mobilised over 300 activities in over 85 countries to improve the lives of children worldwide. For more details, see: www.dayofprayerandaction.org. ■

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. Read in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#). 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 CALENDAR

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

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