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## AFRICA

### The Re-integration of Ex-Combatants in Central Africa

This booklet, published by Pax Christi International, presents the accounts of twelve men and women who, after fighting in the conflicts in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have freely joined the reintegration programme of Pax Christi with the desire and determination to rebuild their lives. The booklet also contains 8 recommendations that Pax Christi submits to national governments, the European Union, the United Nations, and other agencies in charge of implementing the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programmes (DDR). Copies can be ordered by e-mailing: [hello@paxchristi.net](mailto:hello@paxchristi.net) (only mailing costs will be charged). ■

### War in Mali

On 19 January 2013, Pax Christi Italy published a statement on the war in Mali. This statement can be read in [Italian](#). On 20 January 2013, the Commission for Peace Politics of Pax Christi Germany issued a press release criticising the French intervention in Mali. See at [www.paxchristi.de](http://www.paxchristi.de). ■

### DRC: NGOs state the necessity of reforming the army

On 20 December 2012, 144 Congolese NGOs asked President Kabila, to take steps to demonstrate his political will to reform the army, the police and the other security services. In an [open letter](#) sent that day the signatory NGOs point out that this reform would give the DRC an apolitical and professional army which would give confidence to the people in all their diversity. Several Pax Christi Member Organisations signed the letter. ■

### Situation in the Gulf of Guinea

Since 2010, the Gulf of Guinea has become one of the most important hotspots for piracy and armed robbery at sea. Concerns have been raised that the current approach taken by international actors, including the European Union, has focused excessively on expensive, short-term anti-piracy initiatives. Root causes of piracy and interlinked transnational criminal activities will have to be addressed, including the lack of economic alternatives, high levels of economic inequalities and weak/undemocratic governance. The European Peace Building Liaison Office organised a discussion on these issues and the International Secretariat was represented by Miranda Fondem. ■

## AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

### [Pax Christi Toronto's Letter of Solidarity to Kairos](#)

Pax Christi Toronto supports the Day of Solidarity with Canada's First Nations held on 11 January 2013 by Kairos Canada. The day is a Solidarity Fast honouring Chief Theresa Spence's fast to dramatize the worsening situation afflicting Canada's First Nations, their Peoples, and their Land. Pax Christi Toronto confirms their solidarity with Chief Spence, and all of the churches, in demanding the abandoning of the demeaning social welfare approach in relations with the First Nations. The full letter can be read [here](#). ■

### [Pax Christi Montréal on Indigenous, Drones and Faith](#)

Antennes de paix/Pax Christi Montréal acted in solidarity with the indigenous peoples in a public event on 11 January 2013. A prayer event took place during the meeting of Canadian Prime Minister Harper with a delegation of indigenous peoples. The event was co-organised by Kairos Canada. Members of Pax Christi Montréal and of other networks attended.

The position statement of Pax Christi International on Drones has been an inspiration for Jean-Claude Leclerc, a journalist of Le Devoir in Canada. His article has been published under the

section of Ethics and Religion and makes use of the statement of Pax Christi International. The article can be read in [French](#).

Pax Christi Montréal is planning a public evening on the issue of Catholic organisations dealing with justice, peace, and charity in the context of the latest documents of the Holy See, to be held on 27 February 2013. Theologians will present the Papal document "Intima Ecclesiae natura" and explain where the Catholic NGOs have to play their role. ■

### [Violence in the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince](#)

The Commission Episcopale Nationale Justice et Paix, Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, has published its 45<sup>th</sup> report about the level of violence in the metropolitan capital city of Port-au-Prince in Haiti, covering the months October – December 2012. Read the document in [Creole and French](#). ■

### [Pax Christi USA: Haiti, 3 Years after the Earthquake](#)

Pax Christi USA invites others to consider the current situation in Haiti and what groups, regions, church communities, and other individuals may be called on to do to assist in the collaboration between Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi Port-au-Prince. They provide a prayer for Haiti on the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the earthquake, a study article on

retrofitting Haiti with community-building and social justice, and an opportunity to act by following the “Kita Nago” march for unity. The full e-bulletin can be read [here](#). ■

### **Pax Christi USA Action Alert: Sign Letter of Conscience to Secretary Vilsack**

Pax Christi USA has long supported the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and their campaigns for justice for farmworkers. In November 2012, the CIW's Fair Food Programme was lifted up as a model for addressing human trafficking in the US. Faith-based groups are taking this opportunity to urge the USDA to embrace the model. Read more and sign the letter [here](#). ■

## **ASIA - PACIFIC**

### **Speaking Tour in India**

Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Pax Christi Secretariat is planning a visit in India, 18 February – 2 March 2013, in order to have contacts and meetings with Member Organisations and to explore further collaboration with partners. In New Delhi, he will be accompanied by Fr. Charles Irudayam, Secretary, JPD Office at the CBCI Centre; in Indore, Fr. Paul will have contact with J. Narayano Rao, peace activist, who is planning several meetings; in Mumbai, Paul will be accompanied by Virginia Saldanha, former Board Member of Pax Christi

International; in Goa, he will be guided by Solomon Ranjan of the World Council of Churches. ■

### **On the Political Crisis in Pakistan**

Following the warrant of arrest of the Premier, Fr. Emmanuel Yousaf, National Director of the Justice and Peace Commission, a Member Organisation of Pax Christi International, gave an interview explaining his view of the political crisis in Pakistan. He does not believe that there is a conspiracy theory against the Premier because the case has been in process for a while and the judiciary does not want to destabilize the country. The interview can be read on this [website](#). Also available is the [E-Mirror October–December 2012](#). ■

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum**

The Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) held its meetings from 31 January till 4 February 2013 in Beit Jala, Palestine. The PIEF Core Group is a Forum organised by the World Council of Churches. Fr. Paul Lansu represents Pax Christi International at PIEF. The major task at the meeting is to prepare for PIEF participation at the WCC Assembly this November, in Busan, South Korea. ■

## 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 participates in this Week of Action. More information can be found on the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum's [website](#). ■

## Call to Ensure Relief to the Syrian People

Pax Christi International, on 15 January 2013, wrote a letter on Syrian humanitarian aid to act as a call to ensure relief to the Syrian people. Pax Christi International called upon the UN, the EU, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to increase and diversify the aid to be given for the refugees and displaced people in and around Syria. The movement expressed its concern about the winter conditions that are adding to the hardships for more than 600.000 Syrian refugees. The full call to action is available in [English](#). ■

## Advocacy on Syria in NY and DC

From 21 till 25 January 2013, a small delegation of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands visited New York and Washington, DC to discuss the situation in Syria with political authorities. They did so in collaboration with Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International. The expectations of the visit were: (1) To identify and meet with key political actors on Syria; (2) Identify and meet with possible allies among NGO's and think tanks on the main objectives of IKV Pax Christi in Syria, in particular engagement with the opposition Coalition in order to strengthen the civil element in the revolution, and the dialogue to prevent sectarian violence; and (3) To increase knowledge and insight on the options to influence the position of the allies of the Syrian government, in particular Russia and Iran. ■

## EUROPE

### Pax Christi UK's 2013 Events

Pax Christi UK has several events planned for February and March 2013. 13 February will be an Annual Ash Wednesday liturgy, followed by a Lenten day of reflection and discussion on 23 February. 18-23 March is the Romero Week Speaking Tour, of which Marie Dennis will participate. Details on the events can be found on Pax Christi UK's [website](#). ■

## Annual Assembly Diocesan Pax Christi Delegates Germany

The Annual Assembly of delegates of the different regional and diocesan Pax Christi sections of Pax Christi Germany will meet in Stuttgart, 15 – 17 March 2013. Participants will discuss the “Pax Christi Vision 2017.” On 17 March, Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat will lead a session on peace spirituality. For more information, send an e-mail to: [paxchristi-rs@bo.drs.de](mailto:paxchristi-rs@bo.drs.de). ■

## DISARMAMENT / DEMILITARISATION

### Disarmament Affairs at United Nations

Ms Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations in New York, has invited an NGO representative to share concerns, aspirations, and ideas in promoting disarmament goals. The objective is to have a dialogue with the civil society on disarmament. The meeting took place on 14 January 2013. Alexandra Hiniker of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands attended. ■

### Global Day of Action Against Military Spending 2013

This year's Global Day of Action Against Military Spending (GDAMS) will be held on 15 April 2013. GDAMS brings groups together to create a global movement to pressure governments to reallocate their defence budgets. The latest SIPRI

report estimated the global military spending in 2011 at \$1,738 billion. If reallocated, this amount could address essential human needs and current crises. More information can be found on their [website](#). Fr. Paul Lansu is in the Steering Committee. ■

### Publications on Disarmament Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles

Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles published two books on disarmament: (1) “Can massive crimes be prevented? The Responsibility to Protect in the Context of the Reality” and (2) “Regulations of the Arms Trade. Towards a Vision for a World without Violence.” More information is available by e-mailing: [info@paxchristiwb.be](mailto:info@paxchristiwb.be). ■

### On Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

On 4-5 March 2013, the government of Norway will host an international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. This conference should result in wider recognition that the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapon use would be unacceptable and inspire states to begin the work needed to agree to a ban on nuclear weapons.

For two days immediately before the meeting, 2 – 3 March, there's an international civil society forum. The plan is for "humanitarian, environmental, religious, development, disarmament,

and youth organisations as well as labour unions and interested academics, students, journalists and politicians, to come together to learn, discuss, and take action towards a ban on nuclear weapons." Susi Snyder of IKV Pax Christi Netherlands and possibly other delegates of Pax Christi International will participate. More information can be found at: [www.oslo2013.org](http://www.oslo2013.org).

*Pax Christi International published a paper "The Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons" and can be read [here](#).* ■

### **Campaign for a Ban on Nuclear Weapons**

Pax Christi International invites all Member Organisations and people of good will to campaign for a ban on nuclear weapons. You are encouraged to join the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](#), as it is the civil society partner for the Oslo conference and has been immensely increasing its reach. You can also release statements and write letters of support to governments and other organisations. We urge you to take action to support the Oslo meeting of 2013 so that it is not simply another diplomatic meeting, but can result in a clear map to an end to nuclear weapons. ■

### **Second PrepCom NPT**

The [Second Preparatory Committee](#) for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the [Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\)](#) will meet from 22 April–3 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The chair of the meeting will be Ambassador Cornel Feruta of Romania. Some information is available on the [Reaching Critical Will website](#). Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat and other members Pax Christi International, including 10 students from the Netherlands, will be present. ■

### **Wanted: Nuclear Lobbyists for IKV Pax Christi**

IKV Pax Christi Netherlands will train a group of students to become lobbyists for a nuclear weapons free world. During Crash Course and the NPT PrepCom, participants will be asked to write blogs and articles about their diplomatic adventures. Following the events, participants will organise an event about nuclear weapons. The full program description is available [here](#). ■

### **Nuclear Proliferation: is Belgium involved?**

On 12 February 2013, the Royal Higher Institute for Defence is planning a conference on the issue of "Nuclear Proliferation: is Belgium involved?" H.E. Ambassador Werner Bauwens, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-



Proliferation of the Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs will speak on the question of nuclear proliferation. Fr. Paul Lansu of the International Secretariat will attend. ■

### Control Arms' Global Week of Action

Control Arms' Global Week of Action will be held from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. The theme will be "missing pieces," referring to the few missing elements of the draft text that would make the Arms Trade Treaty complete. In their letter, they have provided suggested actions and resources. Pax Christi International invites all of its Member Organisations to focus on the ATT during the Week of Action. The letter can be read in [English](#). ■

### ATT Final Conference March 2013

At the UN First Committee, Member States passed resolution L11 on the Arms Trade Treaty. This means that there will be another round of negotiations from 18–28 March 2013. Pax Christi International will continue to advocate in favour of an ATT, together with the Ecumenical ATT Working Group and [Control Arms](#). A delegation of Pax Christi International will be present in New York during the Diplomatic Conference. ■

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### Submission to the UN Open Ended Working Group on the Right to Peace

On 4 February 2013, Civil Society Organisations will submit a joint NGO written statement to the first session of the UN Open Ended Working Group on the Right to Peace being held from 18–21 February 2013 in Geneva. The statement explains all CSO meetings organised since the establishment of the Open Ended Working Group in June 2012. Pax Christi International is a signatory to this statement. Trevor Griffiths represents Pax Christi International at the OEWG. ■

## HUMAN SECURITY

### UN Commission for Social Development

The Chair of the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, Mrs Sewa Lamsal Adhikari (Nepal), held an informal briefing for all interested delegations on the programme of work of the fifty-first session of the Commission on 17 January 2013. The Commission for Social Development will be held from 6 to 15 February 2013. The provisional annotated agenda is in this [document](#). Mary McDonald, Cheryl Morrissey, and Beth Begley represent Pax Christi International at the Commission.



The priority theme of this year is "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, and full employment and decent work for all." The list of side events on the occasion of the Commission is available [here](#). ■

### **57th session, Commission on the Status of Women**

The Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013. The priority theme will be "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls." The review theme chosen is "the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS." A delegation of Pax Christi International will be present. Read more on the [UN Website](#). ■

### **12th session, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The Session of the Permanent Forum will be held at the United Nations, New York in May 2013. It will be a review year of the Forum. A delegation of Pax Christi International will be present. A provisional agenda of the session is posted [here](#). ■

## **PEACE EDUCATION & YOUTH WORK**

### **Singing for Peace Retreat**

The Pax Christi Jeunes section of Pax Christi France is planning a "singing for peace" retreat in Mazille, Bourgogne, from 12 till 17 August 2013. Participants will also have different workshops on justice and peace issues. More information is available [here](#). ■

## **PEACE SPIRITUALITY**

### **Peace Sunday Pax Christi UK**

Pope Benedict XVI's peace message for Peace Sunday was "Blessed are the Peacemakers." In his message, His Holiness asked God to "grant us concord and peace, so that the aspirations of all for a happy and prosperous life may be achieved." As well as having focused on the peace message during Mass on 20 January 2013, some parishes throughout the UK mounted exhibitions, others held vigils, and some created special children's peace liturgies. More of the message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI can be read [here](#).

Fr. Rob Esdaile wrote about the Peace Sunday and Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi UK said: This is an excellent reflection on the Gospel

understanding of peace and peace-making - challenging the idea of peace as something that is passive, the absence of trouble or disorder. Those who follow the path of Jesus know that peace-making is about getting into trouble; not being afraid to speak out and challenge those things that break relationships between people and between people and God. A great resource for parishes celebrating Peace Sunday can be found [here](#). ■

## INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

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

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Pax Christi is the International Catholic Peace Movement with members worldwide. For more information visit our website: [www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)

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