

**Visit of Sister Patricia Ryan, DHUMA/Pax Christi Peru
Brussels, 18 – 29 June 2019**

Sister Patricia Ryan is a Maryknoll Sister from the United States. She was missioned to Peru in 1971. Sister Patricia has been living and working since then in Puno with Aymara and Quechua indigenous peoples. She served as Coordinator of the Rural Institute of Education (1972-1982) offering adult education in social and agricultural technical material to members of Aymara rural communities, a member of the Pastoral Team of Mocachi (1982-1991) living and sharing life in the Aymara Community of Camacani and as Vicar of the Vicaría of Solidarity of the Juli Prelature (1988-1997), the human rights office of the Catholic church, promoting and defending the life of the indigenous communities and creating nonviolent alternatives to the situation of political violence in Peru. From 1997-2003, Sister Patricia served as Vice-President on the Leadership Team of the Maryknoll Sisters Congregation in Maryknoll, New York and upon return to Peru in 2003 reincorporated into the Vicaría team as Pastoral Moderator.



In 2007 the Vicaría became an NGO now known as Human Rights and Environment (DHUMA) of which Sister Patricia is the founder and president. DHUMA is dedicated to the promotion and defense of human rights, the rights of indigenous people and the rights of Mother Earth, especially water. Its team offers education and legal defense to Aymara and Quechua rural communities and their

grassroots organizations in the context of the extractive industry of mining and the contamination of Lake Titicaca and its tributaries. Recently, the organization won a landmark ruling that indigenous communities must be consulted before the government can grant mining concessions on their lands. In the past, DHUMA has given presentation in EU and UN contexts. In 2016 they participated in the hearings of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Washington for the case Bear Creek Mining Corporation against the Republic of Peru (Case No ARB/14/21), as they had presented an Amicus Curiae Brief as a non-disputing party. DHUMA is a recipient of the 2018 Letelier-Moffitt human rights award.



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