

## CONTENTS

### Global

Obituary: Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J. ....	2
In memory of Loris Francesco Capovilla.....	2
12–19 June: Laudato Si’ Week.....	2
London: Catholic approaches to nuclear weapons.....	2
10–20 July: International Youth Peace Forum.....	2

### Africa

Congo: Fear of renewed violence.....	3
Burundi: One year after the outbreak of the crisis.....	3
Kenya: Training for upcoming elections.....	3
South Sudan’s broken oil industry becoming a hazard.....	3

### Americas and the Caribbean

USA: Prison reform letter to Sens. McConnell and Reid.....	4
Chile: MPs demanded to cut military spending.....	4
Brazil: CPT’s 40 year anniversary.....	4

### Asia-Pacific

Japan: Abolition of capital punishment.....	5
Aotearoa/New Zealand: “Voice for the voiceless in West Papua” ..	5
Sri Lanka: Survivors New Year Celebration.....	5

### Europe

Austria/Italy: Bridges, not walls!.....	5
Pax Christi Germany at 100th German Catholic Day.....	5
Flanders: Pax Christi Day.....	6
Poland: KIK celebrates 60 year anniversary.....	6

### Middle East

Evolve or Dissolve: Ask a Syrian.....	6
Syria: Darayya humanitarian aid mission fails.....	6
West Bank: Demand to part business.....	7
PAX Iraq Alert III: Iraqi stability at risk.....	7

### Advocacy and campaigns

EU urged to show responsibility at WHS 2016.....	7
Israel/Palestine: Plea to release MP Marwan Barghouti .....	7

### Human rights

USA: Tell President Obama to stop the raids.....	8
UN: Indigenous people – conflict, peace and resolution.....	8
Mexico: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.....	8

### Disarmament

USA: Cease arms trade to Middle East.....	8
UK: Conscientious Objectors’ Day.....	9
Strong call for ban of nuclear weapons.....	9

### Peace spirituality & Peace education

France: Youth summer camp in Fromelles.....	9
Visit to the Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism.....	9
Italy: Upcoming workshop on welcoming refugees.....	10
Kenya: Violence prevention project.....	10

### Obituary: Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

On 30 April 2016, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace, passed away, at the age of 94. He was one of the most influential voices in shaping Catholic thinking about war and peace during the past century. In protest of the Vietnam War, he gained national attention for his participation in a striking act of civil disobedience with his brother, Philip. In addition to his remarkable work as a peacemaker, protesting against militarism, nuclear weaponry and U.S. war-making, he was also a poet and writer. Read the obituary [here](#), and the [statement](#) from Fr. Dan Berrigan's family. ■

### In memory of Loris Francesco Capovilla

On 26 May, 2016, Loris Francesco Capovilla passed away at the age of 100 in Bergamo, Italy. Capovilla, who supported the initial phase of Pax Christi Italy, was Pope John XXIII's personal secretary. As his close advisor, Capovilla convinced the Holy Father to hold his famous "moonlight speech" on the [evening](#) of the Second Vatican Council's opening on 11 October, 1962.

- Watch Pax Christi Italy's 2013 interview with Capovilla [here](#).
- Read Pax Christi Italy's vice president Sergio Paronetto's words about Capovilla [here](#).

■

### 12–19 June: *Laudato Si'* Week

On 24 May 2015, Pope Francis presented his encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On Care for our Common Home, in Saint Peter's Basilica. On the occasion of the one year anniversary, Pax Christi International supports the [Laudato Si' Week](#), from 12–19 June, 2016.

Pax Christi International member organisation actions:

- Pax Christi Flanders: Poster for local climate protection – [read more](#)
- Pax Christi France: *Laudato Si'* exhibition – [read more](#)
- Pax Christi Toronto: Outdoor Mass – [read more](#)
- Booklet: [Rose Marie Berger – Laudato Z'ine](#)
- Pax Christi Munich: Intro to *Laudato Si'* by Charles Borg-Manché ([video](#), [audio](#), [PDF](#)) in German

■

### London: Catholic approaches to nuclear weapons

On 24 and 25 May 2016, Pax Christi International attended a colloquium on Catholic approaches to nuclear proliferation and disarmament. The featured speakers discussed "the moral and policy implications of major new initiatives by Pope Francis and the Holy See on nuclear proliferation, deterrence and disarmament." One of the specific goals of the colloquium was to "define new or largely unexamined theological and ethical issues raised by prospects of reducing reliance on nuclear deterrence and ensuring that nuclear weapons are never used." Read more about the event [here](#). ■

## 10—20 July: International Youth Peace Forum

From 10–20 July, the International Youth Peace Forum: Global Youth Rising 2016 (GYR 2016) will take place in Transylvania, Romania. PAX Netherlands is among the supporters of this event. “GYR 2016 is 10 days of intensive trainings, discussions, workshops and practical strategic planning with some of the leading organisations, activists, trainers and practitioners in the world covering peacebuilding, conflict transformation, youth participation and empowerment and much, much more.” Organisations, movements and individuals are invited to apply. The application deadline is 13 June, if no visa is needed. Read more [here](#). ■

## AFRICA

### Congo: Fear of renewed violence

On 19 May 2016, Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen (BD) were hosted by Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders. Reynders expressed his support for Pax Christi Flanders’ call, outlined in their [petition](#), “to have the federal government commit to the disarmament of rebels in Congo, especially now that the electoral tensions are rising in the country.” Furthermore, both Pax Christi Flanders and BD “asked the minister to implement a policy that supports fair and secure elections in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo, DRC.]” There is fear that DRC President Joseph Kabila will violate the constitution by postponing the upcoming elections and will continue to serve, which

could lead to protests. Read more here in [Dutch](#). ■

### Burundi: One year after the outbreak of the crisis

Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen issued a paper on the current situation in Burundi. President Pierre Nkurunziza’s decision to run for a third term resulted in widespread protests as well as a failed military coup. In addition, the humanitarian and security situation has deteriorated, as around 250.000 people have fled to neighbouring countries. In response to the conflict, the international community imposed economic sanctions against Burundi, which amounts to a withholding of 430 million euros until 2020. Pax Christi Flanders believes that only a diplomatic solution and an inclusive dialogue between the involved actors can lead to a peace process. Read the paper [here](#) (in Dutch). ■

### Kenya: Training for upcoming elections

Chemchemi Ya Ukweli, a Pax Christi International member organisation in Kenya, conducted two civic education trainings in preparation for the upcoming general election in Kenya in 2017. The 2013 election in Kenya unexpectedly led to a violent outburst in the country. As a preventative measure, the training promoted “the expansion of civic engagement spaces towards accountable and inclusive democratic practices” by “contributing to the selection of credible leaders through a free, fair and transparent General Election in 2017” and by “strengthening accountability mechanisms at

the National and County Levels”. Read more [here](#). ■

### South Sudan’s broken oil industry becoming a hazard

On 3 May 2016, Wim Zwijnenburg from PAX Netherlands wrote a blog post on the deteriorating environmental conditions in South Sudan, a country that has experienced years of violence and war – most recently in 2013 – frequently revolving around the control over oil. Numerous reports, dating back to 2007, have raised concerns about the pollution caused by the oil industry. After South Sudan won its independence in 2011, it took steps to address the environmental problems with the Transitional Agreements and the 2012 Petroleum Act; however, there is little evidence that either are being enforced, as neither the government nor the oil companies are held accountable. Read the blog [here](#). ■

## AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

### USA: Prison reform letter to Sens. McConnell and Reid

On 5 May 2016, Pax Christi USA signed on to a [letter](#) directed to Senators Mitch McConnell and Harry Reid, urging them to support the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S. 2123), and to act quickly to bring the legislation to a floor vote in May. The signatories commend the bill’s provision to limit federal life sentences for youth and adults and to end solitary confinement for

youth. The letter states that, “there is a federal prison crisis looming due to overcrowding caused by excessive mandatory minimum sentences and a prison system with limited rehabilitative opportunities,” and that S. 2123 would contribute to furthering a fair and proportional justice system. ■

### Chile: MPs demanded to cut military spending

On 4 May 2016, Serpaj Chile, a Pax Christi International member organisation in Chile, completed its national campaign “Recortemos el Gasto en Armas” (Cut Military Spending), by delivering a letter to members of Parliament in Valparaíso. This letter, which demands the repealing of the “restricted law on copper”, the democratisation of the armed forces, and a cut in military spending, comes in the context of the Global Day of Action Against Military Spending. It is hoped that the letter will initiate a process of dialogue surrounding the demands, and facilitate a discussion about the critical social issues that the country faces, such as poverty and inequality. Read more [here](#) in Spanish. ■

### Brazil: CPT’s 40 year anniversary

On 3 May 2016, Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT), a Pax Christi International member organisation in Brazil, began a series of thematic publications on the occasion of its 40 year anniversary. Throughout May, CPT publish content about the individuals who have collaborated with the NGO, so as to “rescue” and spread the memory of their work. This month of memory publications revealed the stories of those who fought for the rights of the indigenous and quilombola

(descendants of Afro-Brazilian slaves who escaped from slave plantations in Brazil) communities – for their right to life, land, and water. Read more [here](#) in Portuguese. See the publications [here](#). ■

## ASIA - PACIFIC

### Japan: Abolition of capital punishment

On the occasion of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit (26–27 May, 2016) the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace, a Pax Christi International member organisation, issued an appeal to the Japanese government and the Justice Ministry to abolish capital punishment, which is carried out by hanging. The Council criticises the fact that arguments in favour of abolition are not openly discussed in Japan. The Council states, “We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationship.” Furthermore, it demands that the government protects God-given life and defends human rights in the world. Read the appeal in [English](#) and [Japanese](#). ■

### Aotearoa/New Zealand: “Voice for the voiceless in West Papua”

Pax Christi Aotearoa / New Zealand supported the 9– 20 May 2016, nationwide speaking tour called “Voice for the voiceless in West Papua”, during which Rev. Socratez Yoman met with politicians, students, human rights groups, and church leaders in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Rev. Yoman spoke about his experience as a human rights defender, as well as the current situation in West Papua. On 11 May, during Rev. Yoman’s visit in Wellington, a screening of

“Run it Straight (for West Papua)” was shown, which was followed by his presentation and later, a talanoa (discussion), with both Rev. Yoman and the “Run it Straight” crew. Read more [here](#). ■

### Sri Lanka: Survivors New Year Celebration

On 23 April 2016, the Human Rights Office – Kandy, a Pax Christi International member organisation in Sri Lanka, hosted an event in celebration of the Sinhala & Hindu New Year, for survivors of torture, rape, as well as for families of the disappeared and of prisoners. The objective was to provide these individuals with an opportunity to release their stress, meet other courageous victims of human rights violations, and to help with their integration into the greater society. ■

## EUROPE

### Austria/Italy: Bridges, not walls!

On 4 June 2016, Pax Christi Italy will meet Pax Christi Austria at the Brenner Pass at the Austrian-Italian border to oppose the EU-Turkey deal on migrants and to show solidarity under the theme “bridges, not walls”. Everyone is invited to join. The programme includes reflection and discussion about how the EU should take responsibility and accept refugees, because of the role it has played in the conflict, as a result of selling of weapons to the region. During the encounter, participants will take part in a prayer and a moment of silence at the grave of Alex Langer, an Italian journalist and peace activist. Read more information in Italian and register [here](#). ■

## Pax Christi Germany at 100th German Catholic Day

Pax Christi Germany took part in the 100th German Catholics Day from 25–29 May 2016, in Leipzig. At Pax Christi Germany's booth there was an exhibition, which showed 55 successful examples of nonviolence from the past 100 years, under the motto: "Nonviolence is usual, violence is not!" In addition the Pax Christi section organised [daily talks](#). Pax Christi International's co-president, Bishop Kevin Dowling, discussed a shift from Just War to Just Peace theory. Moreover, Pax Christi Germany held several diverse workshops and discussions as well as a movie screening on illegal arm exports. Read the [program](#) and more about the [German Catholics Day](#). ■

## Flanders: Pax Christi Day

On 16 May 2016, Pax Christi Flanders invited its volunteers and friends to its annual Pax Christi Day. The honorary speaker, Jamila Channouf, discussed the citizens' initiative 'Gentse Lente', a festival which takes place in Ghent, Belgium, in celebration of its cultural diversity, related to music, crafts, and food. Olivier Forges also spoke during the event about another citizen movement called, the Congolese LUCHA, which demands social justice and affirms the need to take nonviolent action for basic needs. Read more [here](#) in Dutch. ■

## Poland: KIK celebrates 60 year anniversary

On 4 May 2016, Klub Inteligencji Katolickiej (KIK), a Pax Christi International member organisation in Poland, issued a declaration on

the occasion of their 60-year anniversary. In the declaration, KIK defines its goals as a Christian organisation, independent of state power and local government. It honours all the people, who have influenced and contributed to its work. KIK believes that its task is to serve Poland by promoting an open look at Poland's mistakes in the past, so as to avoid them in the future. Moreover, KIK wants to remind us of its spiritual roots and that it intends to be more open to youth involvement. Read the declaration in Polish [here](#). ■

## MIDDLE EAST

### Evolve or Dissolve: Ask a Syrian

On 17 May 2016, Pax Christi International endorsed a statement written by Syrian CSOs, activists and academics who are directly involved with the Syrian conflict. The statement identified the failures of world leaders and the international community to protect civilians and non-military targets, by allowing "large-scale violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention" as well as by not disclosing "the fate of thousands of forcibly disappeared Syrians" and permitting the use of "military force against people seeking protection". The signatories explained their demands, including the provision of humanitarian access, humanitarian aid from the UN and to provide local actors with strategic support through long term, direct, core funding plans. Read the statement [here](#). ■

### Syria: Darayya humanitarian aid mission fails

PAX Netherlands reported that the 12 May 2016 humanitarian aid mission to Darayya ended in failure after “government forces insisted on removing all medical supplies except for vaccines from the inter-agency UN and ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)/SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) convoy.” After the convoy, which reportedly only contained medical and school supplies, was denied, the Syrian government launched at least nine mortars in the vicinity of where the residents of Darayya were waiting for the aid, killing two and wounding five. The humanitarian community agrees that the siege of Darayya serves no military purpose, but is rather a collective punishment. Read more [here](#). ■

### West Bank: Demand to part business

On 4 May, at HeidelbergCement’s general assembly, Pax Christi Germany and the NGO Dachverband Kritische Aktionäre demanded that the German company uphold international law by discontinuing business with its affiliated firm, Hanson Israel. The Israeli firm does business in the occupied territories of the West Bank and supports the building of settlements and walls in the area. Pax Christi Germany pointed out that four leading pension funds based in Europe have already distanced themselves from HeidelbergCement, because of human rights and ethical standards violations. Read more in German [here](#). ■

### PAX Iraq Alert III: Iraqi stability at risk

In its May 2016 Iraq Alert, PAX Netherlands affirmed the necessity for a more assertive commitment from the international community to address the political crises and ongoing demonstrations in Baghdad and Erbil, as well as the other challenges facing Iraq. PAX believes that there is a need for a comprehensive approach that focuses on all of Iraq, rather than just on the ISIS-affected areas. The military campaign against ISIS has weakened and divided Iraqi state structures, which in turn, has negatively impacted civil society. Moreover, the disconnected initiatives that are being implemented lack a comprehensive and coordinated approach with a long-term vision. Read the Alert [here](#). ■

## ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING

### EU urged to show responsibility at WHS 2016

On 18 May 2016, Pax Christi International was among the organisations that sent a letter to the EU delegation to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The letter calls on the EU to take action by promoting a comprehensive approach to serve the needs of people in conflict zones, as well as by integrating the proposed recommendations as a priority within the new EU Global Strategy of Foreign and Security policy. The EU and its member states should commit to conflict prevention and resolution – especially with investments for conflict analysis; a conflict sensitive approach to develop programmes and to ensure policy coherence with the [Post-2015 Frameworks](#). Read the letter [here](#). ■

## Israel/Palestine: Plea to release MP Marwan Barghouti

On 21 April 2016, Pax Christi Austria's Commission Israel-Palestine supported the British MPs' plea to Israel to release Palestinian MP Marwan Barghouti from jail. In a letter to Austrian MPs the Commission states that Barghouti is believed to be the only person capable of uniting the country, as he is seen as trustworthy by both Fatah and Hamas, and because of his moral authority. In 2002 he was sentenced to life in prison. The plea asserts that Barghouti's release would have a positive result, as was seen in the case of Mandela, Gandhi, and Nehru, which could ultimately help facilitate Palestine's process towards independence. ■

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### USA: Tell President Obama to stop the raids

According to Reuters, U.S. immigration officials plan "a month-long series of raids in May and June to deport hundreds of Central American mothers and children found to have entered the country illegally' after 1 January 2014." In response to the report, on 24 May 2016, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, a Pax Christi International member organisation in the U.S., has organised an urgent action to tell President Obama to stop the raids. Tens of thousands of women and children from Central America who have crossed into the United States since 2014 could possibly be affected by the raids. Take action [here](#). ■

## UN: Indigenous people – conflict, peace and resolution

From 9–20 May 2016, Pax Christi International's representatives to the UN in New York were present at the 15th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The session's theme is "indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution". "Even in peaceful societies, indigenous peoples often find themselves involved in situations that escalate to conflict mostly relating to their lands. [...] Although indigenous peoples are overrepresented as victims in conflicts, often they have not been considered as stakeholders in transitional justice mechanisms or in peace process negotiations and accords." Recordings of the open forum meetings can be accessed [here](#). ■

### Mexico: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

On 17 May 2016, Frayba, a Pax Christi member in Mexico, signed a document on the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, to raise awareness against and condemn such forms of discrimination. Reforms have been made to the Political Constitution of Mexico on the matter of human rights; however, the public and private institutions have not carried out actions to eliminate the discrimination, stigmatisation and to respect the basic rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans and the sexually ambiguous (LGBT). Legal and political reforms are needed to abolish the discriminatory laws and to protect LGBT from violence and discrimination. Read the letter in Spanish [here](#). ■

## DISARMAMENT

### USA: Cease arms trade to Middle East

On 5 May 2016, Pax Christi International and Pax Christi USA signed a [letter](#), along with 15 other Christian groups, addressed to the U.S. Congress, urging it to cease all arms allocations and transfers to the Middle East as well as calling on other countries to do the same. The signatories believe that the arms trade to the Middle East – approximately \$150 billion from 1946 to 2010 – “is a major factor in fueling a downward spiral of militarization, dehumanization, and destruction of lives and livelihoods across the region.” Rather than continue with the arms trade, the letter calls for more robust development aid and enhanced diplomacy to promote a lasting peace in the region. ■

### UK: Conscientious Objectors’ Day

Pax Christi UK supported the International Conscientious Objectors’ Day event, which took place on 15 May 2016, at 12 noon in Tavistock Square, London. In celebration of the annual event, participants gathered at the Conscientious Objectors’ stone, in honour of COs of all countries, past and present. The hour-long ceremony consisted of short speeches, songs led by Sue Gilmurray, a minute of silence, and the laying of flowers at the stone. Read more [here](#). ■

### Strong call for ban of nuclear weapons

Over 100 governments and NGOs, including Pax Christi International and the World Council of Churches (WCC), were present at the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nuclear

disarmament, which completed its second session on 13 May 2016. The majority supported the proposal for a new treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, even though the nine nuclear states did not participate. However, a minority of governments insisted that existing laws were enough. With regard to the session, on 17 May, the Pax Christi International Washington Working Group presented a [webinar](#) on “nuclear abolition and why we as U.S. Catholics should work for it at this time.”

Read the [briefing paper](#), [campaign article](#) (PAX), [statement](#) from Pax Christi Flanders, [campaign summary](#) (ICAN) and [OEWG article](#) (WCC) of Pax Christi International members and partners on this issue. ■

## PEACE SPIRITUALITY & PEACE EDUCATION

### France: Youth summer camp in Fromelles

From 16–24 July 2016, Pax Christi Jeunes, a French Pax Christi working group, is running a summer camp in Fromelles, near Lille, France. The program has a flexible structure, allowing individuals and groups to either sign up for single days or for the entire programme. During the First World War, 100 years ago, on 19 and 20 July 1916, 5.000 Australians, 2.000 British and 2.000 Germans died in Fromelles. Thousands of Australians travel annually to Fromelles to commemorate their ancestors; participants will join in the commemoration. On the 100 year anniversary of the battle, the camp will provide participants with the opportunity to think about concrete actions of

how to implement peace in their daily lives. Moreover, the campers will meet with inhabitants of the nearby migrant camps and will listen to their stories. Read the programme and find more information in French [here](#). ■

### [Visit to the Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism](#)

Pax Christi Austria invites everyone to attend their visit to the new Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism on 4 June, 2016. Munich was the starting point of the advancement of the Nazis in Germany. Hitler and other party leaders received support for their political careers from many influential citizens of Munich. Last year, the documentation centre was opened in the former headquarters of the NSDAP. This visit included a guided tour through the centre in the morning and a seminar in the afternoon. Read more [here](#) in German. ■

### [Italy: Upcoming workshop on welcoming refugees](#)

Pax Christi Italy has organised a three day workshop for lay persons and priests of Pax Christi to be held 6-8 June, 2016. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to expert testimonials from the Centro Astalli on welcoming refugees; learn ways to show others how not to discriminate – especially homosexuals; discuss the new strategies of Pope Francis' encyclical and to focus on the theological roots of a welcoming culture. Moreover, there will be time to listen to the word of God and to pray. Read more [here](#) in Italian. ■

### [Kenya: Violence prevention project](#)

The staff of Chemchemi Ya Ukweli (CYU), a Pax Christi International member organisation in Kenya, attended a three-day training on violence prevention in February 2016. The [field report](#) was published on 16 May 2016. The training was organised by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice in Nairobi, Kenya for young adults from Nairobi's slum communities as well as the CYU staff. The intention of the event was to train participants in the strategies of 'self-de-escalation' and conflict resolution, which they would in turn take implement in their communities so as to resolve disputes before they become violent. ■

## PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL IN THE MEDIA

[Hiroshima Revisited- "No New Nukes" on From a Woman's Pov](#) (radio),  
88.5 WMNF, 26 May 2016

[What happens when you replace a Just War with a Just Peace](#),  
by Dr. Maria Stephan, published in Foreign Policy, 18 May 2016

['Subversive peacemaking' theme at Pax Christi conference](#),  
Ekklesia, 18 May 2016

[Ethiopia hosts conference on hate speech and violence](#),  
Vatican Radio, 10 May 2016

[Trump v. Clinton matchup has Catholic leaders scrambling](#),  
Crux, 9 May, 2016 ■

## RESOURCES FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- Pax Christi USA: [Annual Report](#) 2015
- Life & Peace Institute: [Reconciling the irreconcilable? Peacebuilding & humanitarianism](#) (Horn of Africa Bulletin March-April 2016, Vol 28 Issue 2)
- International Peace Bureau: [IPB World Congress, Disarm! For a Climate of Peace](#), May 2016
- Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles: [Colonisation belge : réécrire un passé qui ne passe pas](#) (analyses), May 2016
- Anne-Claire Orban (Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles): [Unifying project for Sunnis and Shiites](#) (audio interview), May 2016
- Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles: [Un quotidien oublié : les chiïtes bruxellois](#) (analyses), May 2016
- Pax Christi Italy: [Mosaico di pace](#), May 2016
- PAX: [Iraq Alert III](#), 12 May 2016



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Online Volunteer Translators

Pax Christi International is looking for online volunteers to translate and/or proofread its monthly newsletter as well as occasional advocacy documents and statements pertaining to human rights, human security, disarmament, demilitarization, just world

order, religion and violent conflict, from/into: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Russian, Arabic, etc. For details, click [here](#). ■

## INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

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

To unsubscribe from this list, contact: [hello@paxchristi.net](mailto:hello@paxchristi.net).

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