

September 23, 2013



## CPN ACTIVITIES

- National Congress for Reconciliation in Colombia, Sept. 30—Oct. 2, 2013

## CPN PARTNERS

- CRS Global Solidarity Network
- Conference: Freedom to Flourish: Is Religious Freedom Necessary for Peace, Prosperity, and Democracy?

## A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: NEWS

- 2013 Nansen Refugee Award to Congolese Nun
- Colombia: Week for Peace 2013
- Colombia: Letter to Negotiators
- Mindanao: Bishops Issue Appeal for Peace
- Mindanao: Interfaith Council
- Myanmar: Archbishop Calls for Respect for Diversity

## RESOURCES

- Book: *Human Rights Monitor 2012-13: A Report on the Religious Minorities in Pakistan*
- Book: *Human Rights, the Church and Post-War Sudan*
- Pew Research on Religion & Religious Freedom
- Online Course: Introduction to Interfaith Conflict Resolution

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## CPN ACTIVITIES

### National Congress for Reconciliation in Colombia, Sept. 30—Oct. 2, 2013

The anniversary of *Pacem in Terris* and the ongoing Colombian peace negotiations provide challenges and opportunities to the Church in Colombia. The *VI Congreso Nacional De Reconciliación*, to take place Sept. 30—Oct. 2, 2013 in Bogota, Colombia, will gather bishops, pastoral teams, religious communities, and civil society groups to engage in dialogue and analysis on the path to reconciliation and peace. [Read more](#) on this important initiative sponsored by major Church institutions, including the Colombian Episcopal Conference, Caritas, CRS, and CPN.

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## CPN PARTNERS

### CRS Global Solidarity Network

The CRS Global Solidarity Network (GSN) study e-broad program is an online learning community and curricular resource that offers students and faculty in the United States a deeper understanding of the challenges the world's most vulnerable face, as well as

their strength and resilience. Fall sessions are underway. The spring session will focus on "Confronting Slavery and Human Trafficking." [Learn more.](#)

### **Freedom to Flourish: Is Religious Freedom Necessary for Peace, Prosperity, and Democracy?**

The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs at Georgetown University is hosting a conference October 9—10, 2013 celebrating three years of Georgetown's Religious Freedom Project. The two-day capstone conference will look back over the project's first three years, and look forward as well. It will address the relationship between religious freedom and human flourishing. Top experts will engage in a series of rich and dynamic discussions around the proposition that religious freedom is not only a universal right but also a universal good. [Read more.](#)

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## **A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: NEWS**

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### **2013 Nansen Refugee Award to Congolese Nun**

Sister Angélique Namaika, a Congolese Roman Catholic nun who has shown exceptional courage and unwavering support for survivors of brutal violence in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been selected as the 2013 winner of UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award, which she will receive on September 30 in Geneva. In north-eastern DRC, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has waged a campaign of violence that has uprooted hundreds of thousands of people. Sr. Angélique works on behalf of the more than 2000 Congolese women and girls who have been kidnapped and terrorized. Of these women, she says, "I will never stop doing everything possible to restore their hope and offer the chance to live again." [Read more](#) about Sr. Angélique and the 2013 Nansen Refugee Award.

### **Colombia: Week for Peace 2013**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Week for Peace concluded on September 15 after a series of marches, rallies, meetings and cultural events devoted to a mobilization for peace. The Catholic Church led a pilgrimage of the statue of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, the patroness of Colombia, to areas throughout the country during the week. The Colombian Episcopal Conference, religious orders, REDEPAZ and other Catholic groups participated. Founded in 1987 in the *Pontificia Universidad Javeriana* in Bogotá, the week for Peace is celebrated in the second week of September and has grown from a regional to a national celebration and movement for peace. [Read more](#) on this year's pilgrimage, or visit the [Semana Por la Paz website](#).

### **Colombia: Letter to Negotiators**

A coalition of Colombian faith-based and peace organizations, including key Catholic actors such as the Colombian Episcopal Conference and Jesuit and Pontifical Universities, sent a [letter](#) to the Colombian negotiating teams in Havana Aug. 30, 2013 focusing on human rights, labor rights, peace and reconciliation. They urge negotiators

to stay at the table until an agreement is reached and conclude by offering to play their part in educating the populace.

### **Mindanao: Bishops Issue Appeal for Peace**

Following recent hostilities that have left at least 53 people dead and thousands displaced, the Catholic bishops in Mindanao called for the government and Muslim rebels to engage in dialogue to find a peaceful solution. In addition, they ask for government and civil society groups to support displaced persons, and plea for the government and rebels, known as the Moro National Liberation Front, to negotiate the release of hostages. [Read the full September 13, 2013 statement](#)

### **Mindanao: Interfaith Council**

After a year of preparation, the Interfaith Council of Leaders-Sulu was formed at the end of August 2013. Following on the success of Christian-Muslim dialogue groups in other regions, this group will work towards the promotion of better understanding and relations between Christians and Muslims in Mindanao. Together the two faith groups will undertake efforts for the common good of the community. [Read more.](#)

### **Myanmar: Archbishop Calls for Respect for Diversity**

Archbishop Charles Maung Bo calls for respect for ethnic and religious diversity as a key element of true peace and freedom. In a [letter published in The Myanmar Times](#), August 23, 2013, he addresses the current situation, including the recent violence against Muslims, and calls for financial assistance for displaced persons and access to those living in camps. "No society can be truly democratic, free and peaceful if it does not respect – and even celebrate – political, racial and religious diversity, as well as protect the basic human rights of every single person, regardless of race, religion or gender."

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## **RESOURCES**

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### **Human Rights Monitor 2012-13: A Report on the Religious Minorities in Pakistan**

The National Commission for Justice and Peace of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference published its report on religious minorities in June 2013. For the last 15 years, the Commission has been compiling data and analyzing it using a human rights framework. The report looks at such areas 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 and PDFs of previous reports, visit [www.ncjp-pk.org](http://www.ncjp-pk.org)

### **Book: *Human Rights, the Church and Post-War Sudan***

Kussala Eduardo Hiiboro, bishop of Tambura-Yambio in South Sudan, brings an extensive academic background and his own lived experiences to the issue of human rights in Sudan in *Human Rights, the Church and Post-War Sudan* (Paulines Publications Africa,

2008). He puts into perspective the fact that the human rights issue is not only a political and juridical responsibility but also a theological problem.

To order or for more information, visit the Faith in Sudan series page [Faith in Sudan series page](#) of Paulines Africa.

### **Pew Research on Religion & Religious Freedom**

Brian Grim of the Pew Research Center has compiled a list of learnings on religion and religious freedom gleaned from the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project. [Read more.](#)

### **Introduction to Interfaith Conflict Resolution**

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) offers a course designed to enhance the peacemaking capacities of individuals and faith-based organizations by focusing on objectives, methods, and best practices of interfaith dialogue, a form of religious peacemaking increasingly recognized for its relevance to 21st century conflict. [More information.](#)

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*The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) is a voluntary network of practitioners, academics, clergy and laity from around the world which seeks to enhance the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding, especially at the local level. The CPN aims to deepen bonds of solidarity among Catholic peacebuilders, share and analyze "best practices," expand the peacebuilding capacity of the Church in areas of conflict, and encourage the further development of a theology of a just peace. While it is a Catholic network, the CPN believes that authentic and effective Catholic peacebuilding involves dialogue and collaboration with those of other religious traditions and all those committed to building a more just and peaceful world.*

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