



News Brief ▪ June 9, 2015 ▪ *Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding*

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CONFLICT, NATURAL RESOURCES, & THE GLOBAL CHURCH: PREPARING FOR *LAUDATO SII*

When it comes to peacebuilding and preventing violence, the management of resource extraction plays a key role. Proper management is part of our human responsibility to care for creation, especially for the sake of the most vulnerable and future generations.

In preparation for Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, this news brief brings you resources from the global Church related to resource extraction and conflict.

"The stockpiling of natural resources, which in many cases are found in the poor countries themselves, gives rise to exploitation and frequent conflicts between and within nations. These conflicts are often fought on the soil of those same countries, with a heavy toll of death, destruction and further decay. The international community has an urgent duty to find institutional means of regulating the exploitation of non-renewable resources, involving poor countries in the process, in order to plan together for the future." (Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 49)

"Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude." (Pope Francis, Wednesday Audience, 21 May 2014)

The Impacts of Mining: Establishing Relationships Between Advocates, Persons at the Grassroots, Policy Makers and Mining Companies ▪ The Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) of the JPIC Commission of the Union of Superior Generals of men and women religious (USG-UISG), released a 129-page Final Report on its survey on mining impacts and advocacy. The analysis and final report were developed at Ramon Llull University in Barcelona. Find more on the survey and the JPIC Commission's ICWG here: [Final report: Analysis and recommendations for design of a network](#)

Red Eclesial Panamazónica (REPAM) Founded ▪ The REPAM (Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network) was created to unite Church leaders working in the Amazon around a common vision to protect its natural resources and defend its native peoples. [Memoria del Encuentro Fundacional \(Report of the Foundational Meeting, in Spanish\)](#)

Latin American Bishops Testify on Extractives and Human Rights at the IACHR ▪ The Latin American Bishops petitioned the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, saying mining companies must be held accountable for human rights violations in Latin America. In response, on March 19, a hearing took place at the IACHR in Washington, DC. See [special coverage](#) of the hearing, [video \(full\)](#), and [photos](#). Representatives of the United States and Canadian bishops were present to stand by their Latin American colleagues. [USCCB Press Release](#)

Letters of solidarity to the President of CELAM:

- [Letter](#) from Bishop Oscar Cantú, Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace, USCCB
- [Letter](#) from Archbishop Paul-André Durocher, President, CCCB

Other coverage of the hearing from [Catholic News Service](#) ▪ [To Go Forth \(USCCB\)](#) ▪ [Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach](#)

Bishops Worldwide Call for Greater EU Regulation of Conflict Minerals ▪ At last count, 146 bishops from 38 countries on 5 continents signed a statement calling on the European Union to implement "ambitious and binding rules" governing corporate due diligence on conflict resources. The statement was organized by CIDSE, an international alliance of Catholic development agencies. [Two-page statement signed by bishops](#)

Similarly, José Henríquez, Secretary General of Pax Christi International, along with several other Catholic organizations' leaders, signed a letter with Dr. Denis Mukwege calling for greater regulation of conflict minerals. [Letter by Dr. Mukwege and 34 NGOs](#)

The European Parliament indeed voted 402 to 118 to adopt a draft law that would require European companies to certify that their imports of minerals and mineral-containing products come from clean supply chains. [CIDSE press release](#) ▪ [EurAc press release](#) ▪ [WSJ article](#) ▪ [Amnesty International statement](#)

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace: *Energy, Justice, and Peace: A Reflection on Energy in the Current Context of Development and Environmental Protection* ▪ 149 pages, published by Libreria Editrice Vaticana. The volume is a reflection of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace on how energy is linked to justice and peace. The latter can, in fact, be threatened for all unresolved energy issues, while a healthy energy management can and should contribute to an integral, real, sustainable development. [See more.](#)

Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Malawi Facilitates Dialogue on Kanyika Mining ▪ As the article describes, "the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) has embarked on a dialogue process between stakeholders of the Kanyika mining, including the local community, government and the investor so that justice prevails." See the [article](#) and coverage from [AMECEA](#).

Pax Christi International Members Active on Effects of Mining ▪ In India, Pax Christi member OJPD-CBCI co-hosted a workshop on mining and migration ([more](#)), and in Colombia, PAX Netherlands denounced mining-related human rights violations ([more](#)).

Bishops of Bolivia: *El Universo, Don De Dios Para La Vida: Carta Pastoral sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Humano en Bolivia (2012)* ▪ For Lent 2012, the *Conferencia Episcopal Boliviana* (Bishops' Conference of Bolivia) released *The Universe, Gift of God for the Sake of Life: Pastoral Letter on the Environment and Human Development in Bolivia*. They treat the impact of indiscriminate extraction of minerals and hydrocarbons throughout the text. [Full pastoral letter \(Spanish\)](#)

CELAM Departamento de Justicia y Solidaridad (Department of Justice and Solidarity), Concluding Document on Extractives and the Church (2011) ▪ From July 14-16, 2011, CELAM and MISEREOR held an international conference in Lima, Peru, on "Extractive Industries (Mining and Hydrocarbons), the issue of non-renewable natural resources in Latin America and the Mission of the Church." [Concluding Document](#) also available in Spanish, French, and German.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in veritate* (2009) ▪ The central theme of the 2009 encyclical is integral human development in charity and truth. On the environment generally, see Chapter Four, paragraphs 43-52, and on resource extraction in particular, in relation to conflict, see [paragraphs 49-51](#), also available in other languages.

CELAM V: *Aparecida Document* (2007) ▪ Before he was Pope Francis, Bergoglio helped prepare the final document of the Fifth General Conference of Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, which met at Aparecida. Thus, [the Aparecida document](#) (here, English version) can serve as context for the coming encyclical. See sections 60-73, especially 66 (Economic Situation); 83-87 (Biodiversity and Ecology); and 470-475, especially 473 (Care for the Environment).

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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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