



Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding ▪ March 14, 2016

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## FROM CPN AFFILIATES AND REGIONS

### Burundi: Bishops' Communique; Dialogue Needed as Violence Continues

In a communique from their Plenary Assembly, the bishops commented on the political situation: "The good and effective response to these questions [of Burundi's political future] can be found only through dialogue of politicians who have a vision for this country and who love this nation and its citizens more than they love their own interests." [Read the communique](#)

Fides News Agency shares periodic updates from its sources in Burundi, including ["Dialogue is urgently needed to avoid new bloodbath"](#) and [President Nkurunziza promises Ban Ki-moon an "inclusive dialogue" with the opposition.](#)

**Colombia: Monitoring the Ceasefire Agreement; REPAM and Post-Conflict Ecology; Bishops' Communique**

Pastoral Social / Caritas Colombiana and other civil society organizations presented a proposal to accompany the tripartite mechanism for monitoring and verification of the agreement on the ceasefire and bilateral and definitive hostilities. This proposal raises the participation of civil society "as an essential element that contributes to building trust and legitimacy among the parties and Colombian society and ensure its adequate implementation." [Read more here](#) and see the [full proposal](#) they shared (Spanish)

REPAM (Pan-Amazonian Church Network) concerned about ecological impact in post-conflict Colombia. [Watch the video \(Spanish\)](#)

In a communique from their Plenary Assembly, the bishops said, "We engaged with the peace process especially with regard to transitional justice, asking how to respond to crimes against humanity that in no way can be given amnesty or sheltered by impunity. The legal process in the making is taking strides forward as our society, the victims, and Pope Francis await it." [Read the communique](#)

### **DRC: New Network for Integral Ecology in Congo Basin; Bishops on their Electoral Process Consultations**

At the initiative of the Justice, Peace and Development Commission and Caritas Africa (both of SECAM), and of the Jesuit Social Apostolate in Africa, a consultative workshop was held on the creation of an ecclesial network for the protection of the Congo Basin. [Read more on the new network](#)

"In view of the alarming situation of our country... the Bishops of the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (GENCO) meeting in Kinshasa from 28 to 30 December 2015 have initiated consultations with the forces of the DRC. They discussed in particular the electoral process, to listen to the aspirations of all and offer their contribution. The outcome of these consultations is encouraging..." [Read the communique](#)

### **The Philippines: Islamic Radicalization; Peace Journalism; Elections and Instability**

Missionary in Philippines Notes Fears of Growing Islamic Radicalization: "I am convinced that through dialogue it is possible to bring about real change and create a climate of mercy. Just as Pope Francis is inviting us to do in this Holy Year." [Read more](#)

The dxMS radio station, "one of the six stations in Central Mindanao of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) congregation, is known all throughout for its in-depth and analytical reporting on Mindanao issues. The station also has reporters and news writers who are experts in peace and conflict-sensitive reporting..." [Read this spotlight](#)

“A coalition of religious groups is increasingly concerned that ‘instability’ could hit the country if the Commission on Elections fails to make the May 9 automated polls credible....” [Read more](#)

The latest on the peace deal: “Philippine, rebel negotiators reassess Mindanao peace deal: Church groups caution Islamic State could manipulate failed negotiations” [Read more](#)

### **South Sudan: New CRS Grant for Reconciliation; Bishops’ Message on Meeting with Pope Francis**

CRS will manage a \$6 million reconciliation program in South Sudan funded by USAID to support the South Sudan Council of Churches as it engages communities in grassroots reconciliation. The programming will have a special focus on women, youth, and others that have been marginalized by years of conflict, according to USAID. [Read more](#)

The bishops of Sudan and South Sudan met with Pope Francis from 12-22 January 2016 and issued the following statement: “After discussing the precarious pastoral and political situation of our two countries with our superiors in Rome... We want you to know that the whole Catholic Church feels and lives our current situation and is doing all she can to alleviate it...” [Read the whole statement](#)

### **Uganda: Prayers, Statements, Role of Media amid Elections**

Uganda held a presidential election in February 2016. Current President Yoweri Museveni claimed his fifth term with over 60% of the vote. In August, the Ugandan Bishops had issued a major pastoral letter on the election, which noted that violence in Uganda’s electoral history originated with “greed and dictatorial tendencies within and among political actors.” Read the [pastoral letter on elections](#) (August 2015) and see the [summary news coverage](#) from Fides.

Prior to the election, Archbishop John Baptist Odama, Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, called on the media to play a role in peaceful elections: “I think we should be proactive on this important matter because many people listen to the media. We love our country so let us be proactive in addressing the issue of violence.” [Read more](#)

The Inter-religious Council of Uganda held national prayers ahead of the elections. Read more via [the Ugandan Bishops](#) and [Vatican Radio](#)

### **Other: Holy See on Peacebuilding; Congo Brazzaville Bishops’ Statement; Pope Francis in Mexico on Peace**

“The Holy See delegation pointed out the role Catholic institutions play in post-conflict peacebuilding around the world in an address to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday. ‘The Holy See, as a subject of International Law, has

always been a promoter of peace between countries, actively participating in the work of the UN, while the local Catholic churches have always been a factor of reconciliation at the national level.” [Read the article and full text](#)

The Bishops of Congo Brazzaville released a pastoral statement on mercy and forgiveness. Radio Vaticana cites the bishops: “Congo needs peace and it’s up to us to build it, avoiding all acts of violence and conflicts that lead to war.’ The Bishops describe war as the enemy of progress and of humankind.” [Read more](#)

Pope Francis visited Mexico as a “missionary of mercy and peace,” he said in his speech to civil authorities and diplomats. [Read the full text](#) and [news coverage](#) from Radio Vaticana.

## RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Hiring: Pax Christi International, CRS South Sudan, USCCB

#### *Senior Officer for Programs, Pax Christi International*

The Senior Officer for Programs (SOP) is member of a small and dynamic staff at the International Secretariat. The SOP is responsible for the oversight of all Pax Christi International programs, ensuring that they adhere to agreed-upon standards from a results-oriented approach. The SOP reports to the Secretary General. This is a full time position based at the Pax Christi International Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. [More on the PCI Senior Officer position](#)

#### *CRS South Sudan*

Job Summary: Catholic Relief Services South Sudan Program is recruiting for a highly competent, proactive and self-driven person to fill the position of Project Director for a multifaceted peacebuilding and reconciliation initiative that promotes broadly inclusive, equitable and transparent processes for (a) grassroots truth-telling and reconciliation, (b) a transitional justice process and (c) formal negotiations. [More on the CRS Project Director position](#)

#### *USCCB Internship – International Justice and Peace*

The Office of International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has an opening for a full-time intern beginning immediately. This internship opportunity will allow the intern to explore the intersection of Catholic social teaching and international issues of justice and peace. The intern will be able to enrich his or her academic program or career preparation through engaging in research and working with policy advisors on a range of international issues. Interns are paid a modest stipend. Find a position description [here](#) and apply [here](#). Applicants can do an internship with us as part of their academic program, shortly after graduation to prepare for a career, or in preparation for graduate study.

## Conferences and Workshops

*Teaching Peace in the 21st Century: 8th Annual Summer Institute for Faculty*

*Application Deadline: 31 March 2016*

From June 13-17, 2016, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies will offer the 8th Annual Summer Institute for faculty and course development. Since its inception in the summer of 2009, more than 80 institutional teams interested in either [1] enhancing and extending the structure and quality of their peace studies programs; or, [2] developing a new program in peace studies have attended. More information is on the [Kroc Institute website](#). Final Applications are due 31 March 2016.

*Call for papers: "Seeking to Edify the Church and Evangelize through Publications"*

*African Ecclesial Review (AFER) Journal ▪ Submission deadlines: 15 May and 15 August 2016*

The African Ecclesial Review (AFER), which started in 1959, is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is a scholarly journal distinguished for its open discussion and unbiased commitment to pastoral issues affecting the Church. It aims at making Christ's message relevant through dissemination of reflection, discussion, informed views, documentation and pastoral ministry. AFER provides a medium of publication for writers to share ideas on issues affecting the Church in Africa and the world. AMECEA Gaba Publications is inviting articles in form of reflections, discussions, informed views and pastoral ministry experiences for publication in our next issue of AFER under the following themes.

Vol. 58, Issue 2, June, 2016 (Deadline: May 15, 2016)

THEME: COMBATING CORRUPTION IN AFRICA: The Role of the Church

Vol. 58, Issue 3, September, 2016 (Deadline: August 15, 2016)

THEME: EVANGELIZATION IN THE AFRICAN LITERATURES (i.e. works of fiction)

Send your article in a Word document to the Editors at [publicationsgaba@cuea.edu](mailto:publicationsgaba@cuea.edu) or [jangat@cuea.edu](mailto:jangat@cuea.edu).

*Call for conference papers: Mercy: the engine of reconciliation?*

*Abstract/proposal deadline: 30 May 2016*

A multi-disciplinary inquiry into the role of mercy in human affairs at the University of Winchester, England, 4-6 September 2016. Mercy is the “cardinal virtue” of reconciliation according to Daniel Philpott (“Just and Unjust Peace” OUP 2013). But its place in the arena of peacebuilding and political reconciliation is contested. To understand fully the potential of mercy in international affairs we want to bring together diverse secular and religious perspectives. We invite papers which cast a critical light on the nature of mercy. We welcome empirical studies and stories (including film) which illustrate the impact of acts of mercy in particular situations of conflict. Prospective participants are invited to submit abstracts of 250-300 words (in Word or Open Office format). Proposals must include name, institutional affiliation (if relevant), a short biography (no more than 100 words) and an email address and phone number. Proposals for panel discussions (organised by the participants) will be considered. We hope to publish a selection of papers. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 May 2016. For further information and to submit abstracts, email [Simon.Keyes@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Simon.Keyes@winchester.ac.uk).

*Call for conference papers: Extractive Industries in Africa: Addressing Conflicts and Integrating Sustainable Development* ▪ Abstract deadline: 1 June 2016

The Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), Hekima University College, Nairobi, Kenya, will hold a conference on 4-5 October 2016 on resource extraction in Africa with the focus of addressing conflicts and integrating sustainable development. This is in the light of new resource discoveries in the continent and the negative experiences found too often in the past. The discussions from the conference will highlight the existing best practices that give evidence of improvement of quality of life from resource extraction, and the opportunities that the extractive industries create, while equally raising caution on practices that alienate parts of the population, propagate corruption and degrade environment. The outcome of these discussion will be published in a book, HIPSIR's *Africa Peace Studies Journal*, and conference proceedings. The recommendations will be useful for policy formulation and implementation as well as for advocacy and inter-stakeholder conflict resolution mechanisms. We invite 250 word abstracts on related topics. Send abstracts to [conference.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke](mailto:conference.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke).

**Books: *Christianity and Freedom* and *Si vis pacem, para virtutes***

*Christianity and Freedom, 2 vols., ed. Hertzke and Shah (Cambridge, 2016)*

Cambridge University Press will be releasing two volumes on Christianity and freedom, edited by Allen D. Hertzke and Timothy Samuel Shah: *Christianity and Freedom: Historical Perspectives* (Volume 1, April 2016), and *Christianity and Freedom: Contemporary Perspectives* (Volume 2, February 2016). The volumes enlist an array of outstanding scholars to illuminate Christianity's contributions to freedom — specifically to the development of robust principles and practices of religious and political freedom, across vast stretches of time and space. Our team draws on a wide range of cases — from Tertullian's novel arguments against Roman persecution to the responses of Iraqi Christians today to the Islamic State — to challenge the standard, Enlightenment-inspired historiography that holds that Christianity characteristically stifles or resists radical notions of human liberty and liberation. In [Volume 1](#), leading historians uncover the under-appreciated role of Christianity in the development of basic human rights and freedoms from antiquity through today. [Volume 2](#) illuminates how Christian minorities and transnational Christian networks contribute to the freedom and flourishing of societies across the globe, even amidst pressure and violent persecution. Learn more and order copies via [Cambridge University Press](http://Cambridge University Press).

*"Si vis pacem, para virtutes": Ein tugendethischer Beitrag zu einem Ethos der Friedfertigkeit, by Alexander Merkl (Aschendorff, 2015)*

*"If you want peace, prepare for virtue": The Contribution of Virtue Ethics to Peace Ethics.* The thesis of the book (in German) is to express the relevance of virtue for peace ethics from a theological and ethical perspective. Its starting points are the German bishops' pastoral letter "Just Peace" (2000) and the US bishops' peace pastoral "The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace" (1993). Drawing on various German and American sources, the author discusses implications for human rights, civil society, and other themes and describes some precise content of the "virtues of peacefulness." Dr. Alexander Merkl is Chair of Moral Theology at the University of Regensburg. [Read more](#) from the publisher.

Please send information on Catholic peacebuilding to [cpn@nd.edu](mailto:cpn@nd.edu). To unsubscribe to this listserv, respond to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject heading. If you have received this email as a forward, you may subscribe to the listserv by emailing [cpn@nd.edu](mailto:cpn@nd.edu). Connect with us on Twitter [@Catholic\\_Peace](https://twitter.com/Catholic_Peace).

*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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