



May, 2007

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Iglesia Católica se reúne con el ELN , Comisión de Conciliación Nacional

La Iglesia Católica reiteró su disponibilidad y aceptó la invitación que le hizo el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), para reunirse en La Habana (Cuba) el miércoles 11 de abril de 2007, con el fin de escuchar sus percepciones y puntos de vista, en un encuentro previo a la sexta ronda de diálogos formales entre ese grupo guerrillero y el Gobierno Nacional.

La Conferencia Episcopal de Colombia (CEC), delegó para este encuentro a Monseñor Jaime Prieto Amaya, Obispo de Barrancabermeja; a Mons. Leonardo Gómez Serna, Obispo de Magangué; a Mons. Fabián Marulanda López, Secretario General de la CEC y al Padre Darío Echeverri, Secretario General de la Comisión de Conciliación Nacional (CCN).

La presencia de los Obispos colombianos en La Habana busca generar un ambiente de confianza entre las partes, que permita disminuir las tensiones y contribuir al desarrollo de la mesa de diálogo entre el ELN y el Gobierno.

“No vamos como parte de la mesa formal de diálogo sino como facilitadores, como personas y como entidad que puede ayudar a solucionar las dificultades. Vamos a escuchar cuáles son las

diferencias entre las dos posiciones”, explicó Mons. Prieto Amaya.

Agregó que “lo más importante es que de nuevo retorne la confianza entre las partes y se armonicen los ritmos. Son diferentes los ritmos del ELN y del Gobierno”, dijo.

En la respuesta dirigida el pasado tres de abril al Comando Central del ELN, el Presidente de la CEC, Mons. Luis Augusto Castro Quiroga, reafirmó la disposición de la Iglesia Católica de “prestar nuestros oficios de facilitación de manera oportuna y eficaz en aquellos momentos en que la situación así lo demande.”

Agrega que “resulta valiosa la oportunidad de sostener un encuentro, con el fin de escuchar sus puntos de vista y discutir acerca de los contenidos de su propuesta de agenda común, de manera que podamos enriquecer nuestra interlocución con ustedes y con el Gobierno Nacional, e intercambiar perspectivas comunes a todos para superar las dificultades actuales”.

<http://www.ccncol.org>.

Reflective Peacebuilding: A Planning, Monitoring and Learning Toolkit by the Kroc Institute at the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Relief Services

Written by John Paul Lederach, Reina Neufeldt, and Hal Culbertson with contributions from John Darby, Brenda Fitzpatrick, Susan Hahn, Myla Leguro, Martha Merritt, and Philip Visser.

Reflective Peacebuilding is designed to improve peacebuilders' abilities to learn before, during and after interventions in unpredictable conflict contexts. The tools were devised by practitioners and scholar-practitioners for use at the community level. They have had hands-on testing with practitioners from around the globe and can either stand alone or augment established design, monitoring, evaluation and learning systems and practices.

This toolkit was developed over several years as part of a learning collaboration between faculty and students at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Relief Services program staff in the Southeast, East Asia and Pacific Region (CRS SEAPRO). The production of the toolkit was made possible by a grant from the United States Institute of Peace. Electronic copies of the toolkit are available online at <http://kroc.nd.edu/> and <http://www.crs.org/publications/peacebuilding.cfm>.

Living Faith: How Faith Inspires Social Justice by Curtiss DeYoung

In his latest book, Christian ethicist Curtiss DeYoung explores how faith provides the impetus for social action through character studies of three of the most influential activists of the twentieth century: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Malcolm X, and Aung San Suu Kyi. Each individual comes from a different time period and a different faith, but DeYoung suggests that they were united by motivation. In each case, their faiths impelled them to pursue social justice and bridge the gaps between nations, beliefs, and ways of life. To order go to <http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/searchresults.jsp?searchType=all&searchstring=Living+Faith%3A+How+Faith+Inspires+Social+Justice&classificationID=-1&x=11&y=9>.

Zones of Peace by Landon Hancock and Christopher Mitchell

Zones of Peace is an innovative book about how ordinary people can resist violence and foster peace proposals, even in the midst of brutal, protracted conflicts. It explores a wide variety of cases worldwide: some of them inspiring successes, others disappointing failures, and several that continue to evolve. Zones of Peace is an important step toward understanding the lessons and possibilities of citizen conflict resolution. It offers signposts for how small but concerted, disciplined steps at the local level can make an elusive peace possible. To read excerpts or order the book click on: <http://www.kpbooks.com/details.asp?title=Zones+of+Peace>.

Special Report: Personal Transformations: Moving from Violence to Peace, United States Institute of Peace

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has recently published a new Special Report: Personal Transformations: Moving from Violence to Peace by Dr. Renee Garfinkel. It tells the stories of religious extremists of various faiths who have turned to peacemaking. It can be downloaded from the USIP website <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr186.html>.

International Training Programme for Conflict Management, Newsletter

The International Training Programme for Conflict Management (ITPCM), with headquarters located in Italy, is a multi disciplinary framework for training research, analysis and consulting in the field of conflict management. Since 1995 over 5000 professionals, practitioners and experts in various fields graduated from the ITPCM-promoted training courses and direct experience has been developed in West and the Horn of Africa, South East Asia, the Balkans, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The ITPCM provides a newsletter that is available on line to those interested. For more information about ITPCM and to read the newsletter click on the link, www.itpcm.sssup.it/newsletter2007.

National Pastoral Life: Social Action Summer Institute, July 15-20, 2007

The twenty-first annual Social Action Summer Institute (SASI) will be held at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, July 15-20, 2007. Track I will feature Fr. Bryan Hehir's outstanding overview of Catholic social teaching as well as Dr. Gina Henz-Piazza's insightful discussion of the biblical roots of justice. Track II will help returning SASI participants consider how to engage the Catholic community on the issue of global climate change and environmental justice. Please go to the website for more information about the

Institute. <http://www.nplc.org/roundtable/events/summerinstitute07.htm>.

The Mennonite-Catholic Theological Colloquium, July 30-31, 2007, Notre Dame, IN

The Mennonite-Catholic Theological Colloquium will hold a conference at the University of Notre Dame, immediately following the Bridgefolk conference, July 30-31. Catholic and Mennonite scholars will take up issues of history, theology and peacemaking as they emerge in [Called Together to Be Peacemakers](#), the final report of the international dialogue between Catholic and Mennonite representatives from 1998-2003. Information and registration materials are available at <http://www.bridgefolk.net/theology/colloquia.php>.

Women PeaceMakers Program, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, San Diego, California, Call for applications

The Women PeaceMakers Program is a program for leaders from conflict-affected countries around the world who have been involved in human rights and peacemaking and who are seeking ways to have a greater impact on peacemaking efforts in their society.

Four Women PeaceMakers are selected each year to spend two months in residence here at the Institute, at no cost to them, where they have their unique peacemaking stories documented through both film and writing, have the opportunity to engage with the community through a series of public panels and to meet with local and national leaders involved in human rights, political action and peacemaking efforts.

The Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice is accepting applications for Peace Writers to document the stories of Women PeaceMakers for publication. Writers will interview the Women and engage in extensive research to become familiar with the histories of their conflicts and peacemaking efforts.

If interested in applying please visit the website for more information about the program, photos and narratives of past Women PeaceMakers and Peace Writers and an application: <http://peace.sandiego.edu>. Application deadline is June 1st.

Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program: Strengthening Today's Leaders to Build Peace, Call for Applications

The Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies (RPCS) Program announces a call for applications for the January 2008 program session. The deadline for district-endorsed applications to be submitted to The Rotary Foundation for this session is 1 July 2007.

Program Synopsis: The Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program is a professional development

program held in Bangkok, Thailand through which up to 30 participants embark on three months of intensive study instructed by some of the leading specialists in the peace and conflict resolution fields. The customized curriculum has been crafted by specialists in the field to capitalize on the experience of both participants and lecturers while balancing theoretical and practical learning.

For More Information contact Jenn Weidman, Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program Specialist, at jenn.weidman@rotary.org or 847-866-3374. with any questions or for more information. Program materials and participant profiles are available at <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/rpcsp/index.html>.

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.

If you have information on Catholic peacebuilding that you would like to share with the Network, please contact:

*Gerard F. Powers, Coordinator, or Cathy Laake, Program Assistant
Catholic Peacebuilding Network*

100 Hesburgh Center

Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA

574.631.6970 (ph)

574.631.6973 (fax)

email: cpn@nd.edu

<http://cpn.nd.edu>

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