



Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding ▪ November 2, 2016

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Developments in Catholic Peacebuilding

Congolese Bishops denounce deteriorating security conditions

After Don Joseph Mulimbi Nguli, vicar of the parish of San Martino in the municipality of Kutaba, Lubumbashi, was killed during the night on October 21 in the southern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Archdiocese of Kisangani released a statement condemning the “cowardly murder of a servant of God who gave his life for the people” and asking “the government to ensure the security of the population in a global, total and definitive manner.” The Archdiocese’s statement follows the Episcopal Conference of the Congo’s statement on recent attacks in parishes and religious communities, particularly in Kinshasa, Kananga and Bukavu.

South African Bishops ask South African Government to reconsider withdrawal from ICC

The South African Catholic Bishops’ Conference (SACBC) Justice and Peace Commission has asked the Government of South Africa to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Commission is concerned that South Africa’s withdrawal

from the ICC “will encourage large scale African exodus from Rome Statue and entrench impunity.” The Bishops have asked the Government to reconsider its decision to withdrawal until Africa has developed “a credible and effective regional court with the capacity and will to demand accountability of all state officials and leaders, particularly the serving heads of government.” [Click here](#) to view the Bishops’ statement in full.

Peace center opens in Kit, South Sudan

The Catholic Church opened Good Shepherd Peace Center in Kit, South Sudan, on October 15. The project, which was **spearheaded by the Religious Superiors’ Association of South Sudan**, was built with funds donated by Italian and German Catholic charities, as well as several South Sudanese Catholic religious congregations, on land leased from the St. Martin de Porres Brothers. Located next to the Kit River, the facility has 40 en-suite bedrooms - each capable of accommodating two beds – a youth hostel that can accommodate 60 people, spacious conference and dining rooms, a central chapel, and several seminar rooms and outdoor tukuls. [Click here](#) to read more about the center.

South Sudanese religious leaders travel to Rome to talk with Pope Francis about peace

Pope Francis met with Archbishop Pualino Lukudu Loro, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba; Archbishop Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop and Primate of Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan; and Rt. Rev. Moderator Peter Gai Lual Marrow, Chairman of South Sudan Council of Churches and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan on October 27 in Rome to discuss the ongoing crisis in their country and possible pathways to peace. During the meeting, the three Christian leaders urged Francis to broker peace talks between Kiir and Macahr, something they suggested he could do during an official visit to South Sudan. Francis said he is “**very much in favor**” of a papal visit to South Sudan. [Click here](#) to view the South Sudanese **religious leaders’ joint** statement on the meeting.

Sudanese Archbishop speaks out about child soldiers

Recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan is among the worst in the world – estimates suggest 16,000 child soldiers have fought in the conflict since December 2013. Archbishop Paulino Luduku Loro of Juba, South Sudan told **Catholic News Agency** the only solution to the phenomena of child soldiers in his country is to “**stop fighting and talk peace.**” He believes many of these child soldiers “**are not even recruited by anybody.**” Rather, they “simply go by themselves to fight” because “**they feel the problem, they are grieved, [and] they feel that there is an injustice in the administration of the government.**” [Click here](#) to read **Catholic News Agency’s** article.

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

2016-17 CPN Academic Programs in Peace Building

[Click here](#) to view a list of academic programs provided by CPN affiliates and other institutions.

Mapping Religion and Development: Country-level Analysis in Four Countries

The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and the World Faiths Development Dialogue are completing a three-year research project that has explored the complex ways religious institutions and practices intersect with efforts to advance international development and peace in four countries: Bangladesh, Senegal, Kenya, and Guatemala. The project is lead by senior fellow at the Berkley Center and Professor of the Practice of Development, Conflict, and Religion at Georgetown University, Katherine Marshal, and aims “to enhance mutual understanding, identify obstacles and knowledge gaps, and look for opportunities to engage in partnerships that promise to improve the quality of development interventions.” [Click here](#) for more information.

Announcements

2016 Pax Christi International Peace Award

Pax Christi has awarded the 2016 Pax Christi International Peace Award to the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of Pakistan and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. These organizations were chosen as representatives of the nonviolent struggle of the human rights community in Pakistan and will be honored at a ceremony in Geneva at the World Council of Churches’ Chapel on November 17, 2016. [Click here](#) to read the full press release.

Documentary film release: *Under Caesar’s Sword*

The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, the Religious Freedom Institute, and Aid to the Church in Need are pleased to announce the release of **Under Caesar’s Sword**, a documentary film examining Christians’ responses to violence, destruction of churches, imprisonment, and threat of death, particularly in the Middle East and South Asia. [Click here](#) to view the trailer or film. [Click here](#) to view a discussion guide for use in church groups and classes.

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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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