

November 27, 2012



CPN UPCOMING EVENTS

- **PEACEBUILDING 2013: *Pacem in Terris* at 50**
Conference April 9-10, 2013

PEACE PROCESS AND THE CHURCH: COLOMBIA

- Colombian Bishops Meet in Miami for Peacebuilding Work
- Bishops' Statement on the Need for Dialogue
- Unilateral Truce
- Pacific Coast Bishops Speak out Against Killings

PEACE PROCESS AND THE CHURCH: MINDANAO

- Government and MILF Reach Agreement on Framework for Peace
- Mindanao Bishops Issue Statement on the Framework Agreement

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: AWARDS

- Pax Christi International Peace Award 2012 to Cardinal Onaiyekan
- World Vision International Peace Prize 2012 to Archbishop Odama

PEACEBUILDING 2013: *Pacem in Terris* at 50 Conference

Plan to join us at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC on **April 9-10, 2013** for a major conference on peace sponsored by the CPN and over a dozen Catholic universities and agencies to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the encyclical, *Pacem in terris* and explore Catholic peacebuilding today. Students are invited to present at the affiliated **Graduate Student Conference** on April 8. Further updates on speakers, workshops and registration can be found at the [CPN April 2013 Conference](#) page.

PEACE PROCESS AND THE CHURCH: COLOMBIA

Colombian Bishops Meet in Miami for Peacebuilding Work

Church leaders continue to play an influential role in the peace process in Colombia. Seventeen bishops, including the general secretary and the current and former presidents of the bishops' conference, with 2 senior staff, spent 4 days in Miami to discuss peacebuilding strategies and to hear from specialists in the field. The meeting was sponsored by the Colombian bishops' *Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social/Cáritas Colombiana*, Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the CPN, and CRS; it was hosted by Archbishop Thomas Wenski and the Archdiocese of Miami. For more see the article with photos by the [archdiocesan paper](#).

Bishops' Statement on Peace Talks

Church leaders are expected to influence continuing discussions that led to the first direct peace talks in ten years between the government and the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC) that opened in Oslo last month. For more see the [statement](#) from the *Conferencia Episcopal de Colombia* on the need for dialogue for peace.

Unilateral Truce

In September, the FARC was ready to accept only a bilateral truce and then announced a unilateral cease-fire at the opening of full negotiations with the government in Cuba on Nov. 19, according to Fides News (Agenzia Fides 20/11/2012). On October 27, Cardinal Ruben Salazar, president of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia, called on the FARC to observe a unilateral truce as a gesture of their sincere desire for peace; see the [article in Spanish](#).

Pacific Coast Bishops Speak out Against Killings

The bishops of the Pacific coast dioceses have issued a statement on the violent killings, particularly of indigenous and Afro-Colombian persons, in that region of Colombia. They call on the government and lay leaders to defend life as a gift of God. See their [statement in Spanish](#).

PEACE PROCESS AND THE CHURCH: MINDANAO

Government and MILF Reach Agreement on Framework for Peace

In early October the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) reached an agreement to bring lasting peace to the Mindanao region. Called the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, it provides general features of a new autonomous political entity. Download the text of the [Framework](#) here.

Mindanao Bishops Issue Statement on the Framework Agreement

Last month the Mindanao bishops issued a statement calling for “continuing consultations with all stakeholders” during the specific development and application of the Framework Agreement. They pledge “vigilant optimism” on the Framework Agreement and see it as the beginning of “much hard work” to concretize peace. See their [statement](#).

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: AWARDS

Pax Christi International Peace Award 2012 to Cardinal Onaiyekan

Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria, who was recently elevated to the College of Cardinals, was awarded the Pax Christi International Peace Award 2012 “for his efforts in promoting understanding between people of different faiths through dialogue in Africa.” See the [press release](#) in English.

World Vision International Peace Prize 2012 to Archbishop Odama

The Most Reverend John Baptist Odama, Archbishop of Gulu, Uganda, was awarded the World Vision International Peace Prize 2012 for his long standing commitment to and risks taken for building sustainable peace in northern Uganda. See an interview and video footage of the [World Vision award](#).

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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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