



August 2010

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Sudanese Bishops Statement on 2011 Referendum

At their plenary session, held July 15-22, the Sudan Catholic's Bishops' Conference issued a major statement on implementation of the 2005 peace agreement and the referendum on independence for southern Sudan, which is scheduled for January 2011. For the full statement, see http://www.maryknollogc.org/regional/africa/SCBC_July2010_statement.html.

Congolese Bishops Praise U.S. Law on "Conflict Minerals"

A provision (Sec. 1502) in the financial reform legislation (HR 4173) passed by the U.S. Congress in July should make it harder for rebel groups to export minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the United States. The provision requires companies to disclose whether they use minerals from the DRC and to adopt due diligence mechanisms for tracing the origins of minerals they import. The bill was supported by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services, and the Congolese Bishops' Conference. For a summary of Sec. 1502, see: <http://capwiz.com/catholicbishops/issues/bills/?bill=14787396>

African Council of Religious Leaders to Assist African Union

The African Union (AU) requested the African Council of Religious Leaders of *Religions for Peace* to coordinate a newly formed Permanent Steering Committee of the AU designed to advance cooperation between the AU and religious communities on the continent. Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and a Co-President of the *Religions for Peace* World Council, and Al Hajj

Saad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto and a leader of the *Religions for Peace* African Council of Religious Leaders, urged religious leaders in Africa to work together for peace and reconciliation. For more information on the Interfaith Dialogue Forum go to: <http://www.acrl-rfp.org/acrl-dialogue.php>.

U.S. Bishops Support Nuclear Disarmament Legislation and Issue Study Guide

As part of its ongoing efforts on nuclear disarmament, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is urging the U.S. Congress to pass The Global Security Priorities Resolution (H.Res. 278), which links long-term savings derived from reducing the U.S. nuclear arsenal to increased support for nuclear nonproliferation efforts and child survival programs. See USCCB letter to Congress at: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/2010-07-01-ltr-hubbard-house-hr278.pdf>. The USCCB has also prepared a study guide for use with the film “Nuclear Tipping Point.” The study guide helps groups explore nuclear weapons issues in light of their Catholic faith. The guide is available at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/warandpeaceind.shtml>.

Kenya - Churches say it's “time for amendments to the new Constitution”

According to the Catholic News Agency and Fides News Service, the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations have declared that “Now is the time for making amendments to the new Constitution.” This statement is in reference to the new constitution which the Bishops deemed “flawed” on moral issues. At the same time, the Bishops asked that all Kenyans “make even greater efforts now to uphold the need for peace, love and unity in our relations as brothers and sisters to all other Kenyans.” For the full story, go to <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-referendum-kenyan-bishops-urge-reform-for-flawed-aspects-of-new-constitution/>. The statement made by the Episcopal Conference of Kenya can be found at <http://www.kec.or.ke/news.asp?ID=192>

Film on Peacebuilding in Kenya by Catholic Relief Services

Following the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007-2008, Catholic Relief Services worked closely with Caritas Australia and three dioceses to support Church leaders in pursuit of a multifaceted peacebuilding program. The film “Peacebuilding” is focused mainly on the Rift Valley. To view this video, go to <http://www.crsprogramquality.org/peacebuilding/>.

U.S. Bishops Deplore Violence Against Christian Minority in Bangladesh

The U.S. Bishops have raised concerns with the U.S. State Department about violence against Christians in Bangladesh and emphasizing the importance of protecting religious minorities, The article can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/2010-05-12-ltr-hubbard-to-amb-blake-attacks-on-christians.pdf>

Faith in Action Conference, Washington Theological Union, September 16-18

This conference will provide an opportunity to learn about the latest in social justice, liturgy, and other ways in which God continues to work anew in the Church and world today. The event is sponsored by the Washington Theological Union alumni but open to all. To register, go to <http://www.wtu.edu/about/eventscalendar.htm>.

Development and Peacebuilding Booklets Available

The Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at University of San Diego has developed its 2009-2010 Distinguished Lecture booklets featuring Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners In Health and U.N. Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti; William Ury, co-founder and senior fellow of the Harvard Negotiation Project; and Raymond Offenheiser, president of Oxfam America. They are available at: http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/distinguished_lecture_series/read_dls_booklets.php

***Driven from Home* by David Hollenbach**

Driven from Home: Protecting the Rights of Forced Migrants, by David Hollenbach, proposes a human rights framework to guide political and policy responses to forced migration. Georgetown University Press offers a 30% discount on this book or any other GU Press book to members of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. Please use the code **M67** when placing an order on the Georgetown University Press website (www.press.georgetown.edu) or when phoning their customer service center at 800-537-5487.

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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