



July 2010

- **Report: D.R. Congo Bishops on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**
- **Event: Church on the Ball—Soccer Peace Tournament, South Africa**
- **Report: Vatican's Address to the International Criminal Court Review Conference**
- **Report: Indonesian Christians Concerned Over Attacks on Churches**
- **Event: Women's Roles for Peace: Is Religion a Source of Strength or an Obstacle?**
July 8, 3:00 pm, Georgetown University
- **Event: Conference on UN Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security, September 29, San Diego, CA**
- **Event: Peace, Theology, and Spirituality Workshop, November 9, Antwerp, Belgium**
- **Petition: Blasphemy Law in Pakistan Petitioned**
- **News: Caritas and Others Agree to Focus on "A New Pentecost for Africa"**
- **Book: *The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa* by Katongole**
- **Research: *Sant' Egidio and the Transformations of Peacemaking* by Anouilh**

D.R. Congo Bishops on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

A National Symposium organized by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of D.R. Congo (CENCO) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the declaration of independence in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was held June 9-12 in Kinshasa. The Catholic Archbishop of Kisangani, Archbishop Marcel Utambi Tapa, delivered the closing remarks and said the new Congo will be founded on ethics and gospel values. For more information on the Symposium go to: <http://www.cenco.cd/> (in French).

Church on the Ball—Soccer Peace Tournament

The Catholic Church in Southern Africa organized a Soccer Peace Tournament in the Township of Atteridgeville, Pretoria, at the same time as the FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. Twenty-six teams competed in the African Peace Cup. The aim was to bring together athletes and fans of different social classes, different ethnicities, and national origins as well as fans from all over the world. For more information to: http://www.churchontheball.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53:a-peace-cup-to-bring-together-fans-of-football&catid=6:news&Itemid=13

Vatican's Address to the International Criminal Court Review Conference

A statement was delivered on June 2, 2010 to the International Criminal Court Review Conference by Archbishop Alain Paul Charles Lebeaupin, apostolic nuncio to Kenya. In a major development, this conference agreed to add the crime of aggression to the ICC's jurisdiction. For the full statement, in

Italian: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/secretariat_state/2010/documents/rc_seg-st_20100601_lebeaupin-kampala_it.html

Indonesian Christians Concerned Over Attacks on Churches

Theophilus Bela, president of the Jakarta Christian Communication Forum and secretary general of the Indonesian Committee of Religions for Peace, met with Maria Otero, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs to discuss concerns regarding numerous attacks on churches and other signs of religious intolerance. Bela, a Catholic representative from the committee of religions for peace submitted a detailed report for the U.S. government officials in hopes the U.S. will help improve relations between the religious communities. To see the report: <http://cpn.nd.edu/conflicts-and-the-role-of-the-church/other-conflicts/indonesia/>

Women's Roles for Peace: Is Religion a Source of Strength or an Obstacle? July 8, 3:00 pm, Riggs Library, Healy Hall, Georgetown University

This public event concludes a two-day symposium on women's approaches and work to build peace. With an emphasis on the roles of religion, meeting participants from around the world will reflect with a broader audience on their conclusions, concerns and ideas for making their work for peace more effective. The Symposium is co-sponsored by the United States Institute for Peace, Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and the World Faiths Development Dialogue. For more information, <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/events/an-exchange-on-womens-roles-for-peace-is-religion-a-source-of-strength-or-an-obstacle>.

Conference on UN Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security—September 29 – October 1, 2010

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice's Women's Peacemakers initiative will host a conference in San Diego, CA, to examine where and how the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 have had and can have impact. It is timed to inform and consolidate recommendations for the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and mark the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. To attend this working conference, complete the application before September 10, 2010. For more information go to: http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipi/programs/women_peace_makers/conferences/precarious_progress//

Peace, Theology and Spirituality Workshop, November 9, Antwerp, Belgium

Pax Christi International will organize an international workshop on the theme "There is no Way to Peace, Peace is the Way" on November 9, 2010 in Antwerp, Belgium. The workshop is part of the broader project by the movement on developing peace spirituality and peace theology. For more information, please email: paul@paxchristi.net

Blasphemy Law in Pakistan Petitioned

Aid to the Church in Need is calling for action to abolish Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws. The Church in Pakistan welcomes the international petition launched by Aid to the Church in Need in France. The petition continues to gather support and has already reached about 3,000

signatures. To see the petition, go to: <http://www.acnuk.org/pages/speak-out-about-pakistans-blasphemy-laws.html>.

Caritas and Others Agree to Focus on “A New Pentecost for Africa”

Caritas confederation members and the Department of Justice and Peace of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM/SCEAM), other organizations of the Catholic Church in Africa, and CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity, an organization made up of 16 Catholic development agencies) approved the “Mumemo Declaration: A New Pentecost for Africa.” The document states that “Africa is a continent of great opportunity; therefore it is part of the mission of the Church Family of God to help make this opportunity real for the people of the continent. http://www.cidse.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/Publication_repository/20100531_Mumemo%20Declaration%20A%20New%20Pentecost%20for%20Africa_26%20May%202010.pdf

***The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa* by Katongole**

Author Emmanuel Katongole, a Catholic priest from Uganda, argues in *The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa* that "the most critical social challenge is one of 'daring to invent' the future through new foundational narratives that reflect and nurture a fresh, different vision for African politics and social life. This is the primary political difference that Christianity can make in Africa." For more information: http://www.eerdmans.com/shop/product.asp?p_key=9780802862686.

***Sant' Egidio and the Transformations of Peacemaking* by Anouilh**

Sant' Egidio and the Transformations of Peacemaking: A Comparative Study of Mozambique-Burundi, a dissertation by Pierre Anouilh, examines Sant' Egidio diplomatic activity in relation with the conflicts in which the community got involved. Anouilh is interested in communicating with others interested in this research and can be reached at: p.anouilh@gmail.com

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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