

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE KI A TAATOU KATOA / WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL EVERYWHERE



Tēnā koutou katoa

This month's news...



The threat to Southern Basin – OMV’s plan to carry out exploratory drilling off the coast of Otago / Southland.

Faith leaders, peace practitioners deepen church's commitment to nonviolence and peace.

It’s Violence, Jim, but not as we know it.

by Kevin McBride

Global military spending rises again, will NZ's in this year's budget?

by Peace Movement Aotearoa

'Move the nuclear weapons money' international campaign

April - the time when Christians worldwide were preparing and celebrating the season of Easter when tragedy impacted again upon the world. On Easter Sunday, suicide bombers killed 253 people and injured more than 500 at churches and top-end hotels across Sri Lanka. A little known Islamist group (National Thowheed Jamath) is believed to be behind the attack. This follows the attack the month before in Christchurch, when Muslims praying in mosques were attacked and 50 lives were lost.

We live in precarious times - places long seen as spaces of peace, faith and sanctuary from violence are seen as no longer safe. Peace can never be taken for granted and needs constant attention and work. We cannot become complacent on values that uphold peace. To become complacent allows prejudice and division to grow leading to acts of violence similar to what we have seen.

Pax Christi Aotearoa joins with others in offering our condolences to all those affected by the attacks in Sri Lanka and earlier in Christchurch. Our prayers and thoughts are with all families affected by these events. At the same time, we are looking inward, like our sister organisations, throughout the world - seeking to understand, to ask the right questions, to authentically listen and to develop tools for the communities we work with - so that peace can grow, flourish and constantly regenerate.

Bridget Crisp rsm

The Threat to Southern Basin – OMV's plan to carry out exploratory drilling off the coast of Otago / Southland.

A year ago, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that the Government will not be issuing any new oil exploration permits. This action of the government was to show its commitment to the Paris Climate Accord to try and limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 1.5°C. This means moving away from a dependence on fossil fuels. New Zealand's major energy use is primarily in the renewables – hydro, wind and thermal. However, we do have oil, gas and coal mining enterprises operating in New Zealand as well as big oil companies holding exploration permits for oil and gas that do not fall under the current governments new policy.

One of these large oil companies is Austrian owned OMV which hold most of the existing exploration permits in New Zealand waters. OMV has recently applied to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to be able to discharge harmful substances from the deck drains of a drilling platform. This application to EPA shows that OMV are planning to go ahead and do explorative drilling in the Southern Basin off the coast of the Otago /Southland area. The harmful substance likely to be discharged, if the application is approved would be seawater contaminated with oil, drilling fluids and sediment as well as any harmful substances used on the platform.

The Southern Basin is a very rich biodiverse and pristine area which is home to the Southern Right Whales, New Zealand Sea Lions and dolphins. The area for the proposed exploration is deep and is in some areas deeper than the Gulf of Mexico, where the Deepwater Horizon oil spill happened on April 20, 2010.

The risks to the coastal and ocean environment of New Zealand is great as any potential disaster would be difficult to control due to the isolation and extreme weather of the area.

Earth Day 2019 (April 22nd) theme is about 'Protecting our Species'. There are many species within the Southern Basin that are either considered vulnerable or threatened. The survival of these species is now in jeopardy if oil exploration goes ahead. The public are invited to make a submission to the EPA on OMV's application to discharge harmful substances into the ocean. It may be possible to prevent OMV from going ahead with exploration if EPA refuses their application to discharge waste. The public have until 5pm on May 27th to make a submission on OMV's application. Submission forms can be downloaded from www.epa.govt.nz

Bridget Crisp

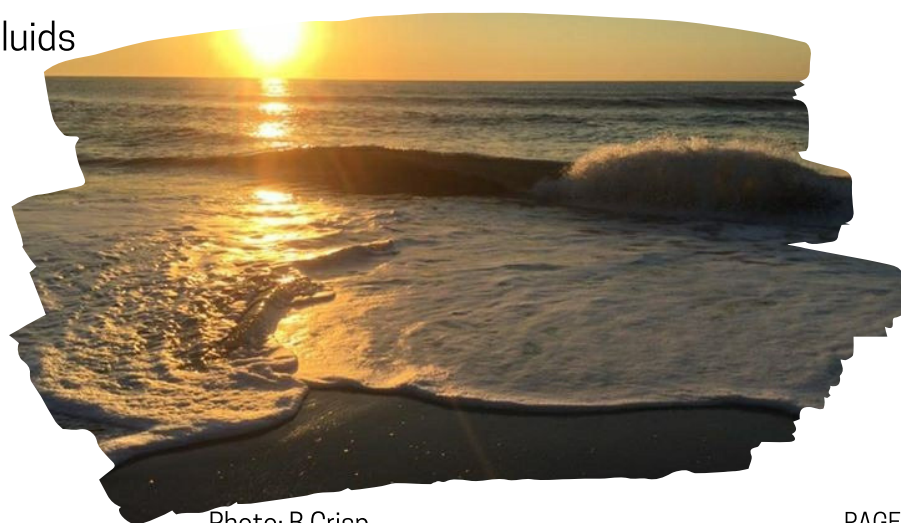


Photo: B Crisp

Upcoming Significant Events....

Inside keeping the Silence of Peace at Parihaka

Thursday 30th May 2019

5.30pm - 7pm

University of Otago House, 385
Queen Street, Auckland.

'My Faith & Human Rights'

The Women's Auxiliary Organisation of
the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
New Zealand

Interfaith Conference

featuring presentations on
'My Faith & Human Rights'

Saturday 29th June 2019

2pm - 4pm

20 Dalgety Drive, Manukau

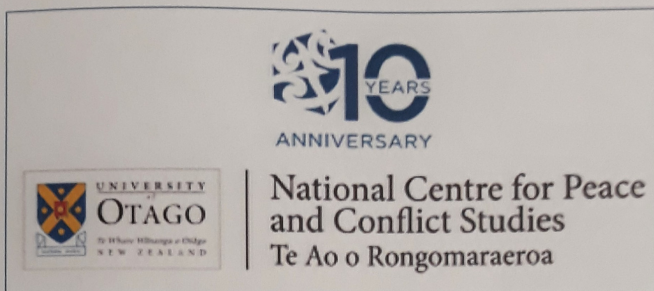
Registration is at **1.45pm**, programme
begins at 2pm followed by afternoon
tea.

RSVP by Saturday 8th June to

Rukshana Khan.

Ph: 021 730817

Email: rkkhan.amj@gmail.com



Presents:

Maata Wharehoka

Inside Keeping the Silence of Peace at Parihaka

Date: Thursday, 30 May 2019

Time: 5:30pm-7:00pm

Place: University of Otago
House, 385 Queen Street,
Auckland

Taking a journey through the
organizational legacy of Tohu and
Te Whiti, their legacy, their
determination to keep peace whilst
being accountable for their actions.
Peace and imprisonment. Peace and
Justice. Peace and Reconciliation.
Where will the legacy take us
tomorrow? Peace yesterday, peace
today, peace tomorrow. My Journey.



An expert in marae arts, raranga and karanga, Parihaka's Maata Wharehoka is heavily involved in her community and passing on knowledge to future generations. She has been the caretaker of the marae for nearly 30 years and is a driving force behind Parihaka's focus to be a self-sufficient community.



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



path of **NONVIOLENCE**
towards a **CULTURE** of **PEACE**



For immediate release
5 April 2019

Faith leaders, peace practitioners deepen Church's commitment to nonviolence and peace

Vatican City – On 4-5 April, the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Pax Christi International's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative organized a workshop on the theme, "Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace."

With a consideration and understanding of current situations of conflict and violence, participants engaged in dialogue about the roots of violence, the hope for peace and reconciliation, and reflected on paths to a conversion to nonviolence. They noted that nonviolence is not only a method but a way of life, a way to protect and care for the conditions of life for today and tomorrow.

"Our conversations on nonviolence and peace filled our hearts and minds with a consideration of the dignity of each person – young people, women and men, people who are impoverished, citizens and leaders," said Mons. Bruno Marie Duffé, Secretary of the Dicastery. "Nonviolence and peace call us to a conversion to receive and to give, to gather and to hope."

"Pax Christi International deeply appreciates the support and participation of the Dicastery in this workshop, which has been a significant and positive step in the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative," said Marie Dennis, Co-president of Pax Christi International. "We are touched by the interventions from all the participants, who reiterated the importance of nonviolence rooted in respect, patience and spiritual strength."

Workshop participants hailed from Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Brazil, Canada, the United States, Uganda, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Fiji, South Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Palestine, the United Kingdom, France and Italy, and included Bishops, Archbishops, peace practitioners, theologians, social scientists, educators and those in pastoral ministry. In addition, the Dicastery's Prefect Cardinal Peter Turkson (Ghana) was present, as was Cardinal Joseph Tobin (Newark, New Jersey, USA).

Participants will continue their dialogue and research; their reflections will be shared with the Holy Father, with the hope for a possible encyclical that will address these issues and challenges and will promote nonviolent initiatives as a way for mediation, rights, hope and love.

"We need to be artisans of peace, for building peace that is a craft that demands serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skills." (Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate*, 19 March 2018)

For more information, contact:

Johnny Zokovitch, communications director, Pax Christi International, j.zokovitch@paxchristi.net

Judy Coode, Catholic Nonviolence Initiative coordinator, Pax Christi International, j.coode@paxchristi.net

Pamela Fabiano, Press and Media Office, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, press@humandevlopment.va

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It's Violence, Jim, but not as we know it.*

"It is always better to introduce oneself with gentleness and patience than with force and violence. Which, besides, always appears to me to be somewhat unjust when done to people who are in their own country and have never thought of going and disturbing you in yours" (Jean de Surville, visitor to Aotearoa in 1769)

As I write this, representatives of some Pax Christi sections are meeting in Rome with the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace to discuss the topic of violence. Those who have assembled share their experience of "working on the ground in situations of tremendous conflict, working for social, political and cultural change through nonviolence." Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand is not represented, most probably because we are seen as a country which is not currently experiencing "situations of tremendous conflict", though the recent event in Christchurch shows that we are as exposed to serious acts of violence as any.

In reality, though, we are a nation based on colonisation, which both involves physical violence in its imposition and the ongoing systemic violence of subjugation and denial of cultural rights. Our nation is maintained on a form of majority-led democracy, the consequences of which keep the minority indigenous people of the land in a continuous state of domination and subservience.

In the 19th century, a series of land wars and acts of legislation removed the control of their land from Maori to a colonising government and colonising people from overseas. By the middle of the century, Maori had become a minority in their own land. Since then, having only a token representation in the official government has given them no effective power to limit the ongoing takeover of land and resources. Varied levels of discrimination have kept them in that position ever since, so that the violence they experience is an ongoing experience of powerlessness. Even where procedures have been set in place whereby they might seek redress through the Waitangi Tribunal and other such bodies, the cost in time and legal expenses and court processes resulting in limited compensation can make it hardly worthwhile. Having to work in someone

else's system is in itself to endure a kind of violence, particularly when you are part of a minority group unable to summon support for your position. This kind of violence is just as damaging and destructive of peace in the long-term as any physical kind.

Not all violence comes from the barrel of a gun, and even the criteria for inclusion at the Rome conference includes "social, political and cultural change" which has been and still is part of the experience of many people in New Zealand. There is an ongoing need for those everywhere who are part of a colonising majority to find ways to unpack their history and change the systems of oppression of indigenous people. Then the social, political and cultural under-pinnings of all cultures can receive full recognition in the governance and day-to-day operation of the nation. This can also apply when the winners and losers of current extremely violent conflict come together to seek a long-term solution to the grievances which caused it.

We hope that future consultations of this kind can be broadened to represent all Pax Christi members who experience any form of violence and powerlessness, whether physical, mental or systemic, in recognition of our guiding ethic of "peace for all everywhere". It is demonstrable that addressing underlying forms of violence can offset and avoid the more "extreme forms", many of which can be traced back to peaceful struggles to overcome oppression of one kind or another. Treating each other with "gentleness and patience" might well have avoided having to find solutions to the force and violence of warfare which is testing the best efforts of those gathered in Rome.

* With apologies to Star Trek's Mr Spock.

Kevin McBride

Global military spending rises again, will NZ's in this year's Budget?

by Peace Movement Aotearoa

According to figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) today, during the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, world military expenditure in 2018 totalled an estimated \$(USD)1,822 billion in 2018 - an increase of 2.6% from 2017, and a level 76% higher than the post-cold war low in 1998. [1]

Every dollar of military expenditure is a dollar taken away from socially useful spending - a dollar that could be used to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure to a decent standard of living for all: a dollar that could be used to save lives, rather than preparing for war.

Last year's global military spending averaged out to more than \$(USD)4.99 billion every day, while an average of more than 14,794 children under the age of five died every day from mainly preventable causes - lack of access to adequate food, clean water and basic medicines.[2] That is one of the prices paid, the collateral damage that is seldom talked about, for maintaining armed forces in a state of combat readiness around the world.

Just twelve days of military expenditure would eradicate extreme poverty everywhere, and just five weeks of military expenditure would ensure that five of the key UN Sustainable Development Goals are met - eradicating extreme poverty, ending hunger, ensuring healthy lives, clean water, sanitation, and quality education for all.[3]

The five biggest military spenders in 2018 were the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, India and France, which together accounted for 60 per cent of global military spending. Russia was the sixth-largest spender in 2018. US military spending rose for the first time in seven years, to \$649 billion in 2018. China increased its military expenditure by 5.0 per cent and India by 3.1 per cent. Saudi Arabia decreased its military spending by 6.5 per cent, France by 1.4 per cent and Russia by 3.5 per cent.

Military expenditure increased in Central America and the Caribbean, Central Europe, Central and South Asia, East Asia, North America, South America, and Western Europe.

Military spending decreased in Eastern Europe, North Africa, Oceania, South East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. The total military expenditure of the countries in the Middle East for which data is available also decreased.[1]

New Zealand's military spending: Military spending here increased in the 2018 Budget to a record total of \$ (NZD)3,755,683,000 - on average, that's \$ (NZD)72,224,673 every week.

The increase was across all three of the Budget Votes where most military expenditure is itemised: Vote Defence, Vote Defence Force and Vote Education. The amount taken from Vote Education and allocated to the armed forces was \$(NZD)1,029,000 - an increase of more than 4% over 2017. Overall, the difference between estimated actual military spending in the 2017 Financial Year and the 2018 Budget was more than 9%.[4]

By way of contrast, an estimated 28% of children here live in a family with an income below the poverty line, and at least one in one hundred New Zealanders are homeless.[3] Essential public services including health, education, support for persons with disabilities and housing desperately need increased spending, yet the government continues to prioritise military spending - in addition to the increase in last year's Budget, in July 2018 the government announced that it would spend \$(NZ)2.346 billion on four military aircraft.

At the end of May, the first 'well being' Budget will be released - will this year's Budget actually focus on the wellbeing of New Zealanders, or will we see yet another increase in military spending that does not meet our real human security needs?

Resources and references:

Aotearoa New Zealand Campaign on Military Spending - <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/gdams.htm>

'Global military spending rises again, will NZ's in this year's Budget?' Peace Movement Aotearoa, 29 April 2019 - <https://www.facebook.com/notes/peace-movement-aotearoa/global-military-spending-rises-again-will-nzs-in-this-years-budget/2180308212016536/>

[1] 'World military expenditure grows to \$1.8 trillion in 2018', SIPRI Media Release, 29 April 2019 and 'Trends in world military expenditure 2018', SIPRI Fact Sheet, 29 April 2019 are available at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/gdams.htm>

[2] 'A child under 15 dies every 5 seconds around the world', WHO, 18 September 2018 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/18-09-2018-a-child-under-15-dies-every-5-seconds-around-the-world>

[3] 'Time for action on military spending', Peace Movement Aotearoa, 2018 - <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/gdams.htm>

[4] 'Military spending increases again, time for alternative thinking', Peace Movement Aotearoa, 17 May 2018 - <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/gdams.htm>

UNITED NATIONS

2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

In the afternoon of Thursday May 9th, Pax Christi International will sponsor a side event at the United Nations during the 2019 Preparatory Committee gathering for the 2020 Review of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The main message of this side event will be directed at the United States of America who continue to ignore its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which requires, under Article VI, that each Party to the Treaty undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures for nuclear disarmament, toward the goal of complete disarmament. In the absence of national leadership on this critical issue, it is incumbent upon us as citizens to devise, publicise, and pursue creative methods of publicising and reducing the risks of nuclear war. The panelists at this event represent a diverse group of U.S. citizens who actively demonstrate, in very different ways, the power of individuals in local communities to draw attention to the threat of, and reduce the risk of, nuclear annihilation.

An introduction will be given by Mary T. Yelenick, Pax Christi International NGO Representative to the United Nations in New York and the moderator will be Anthony Donovan of Pax Christi Metro New York, a writer and filmmaker on the subject of nuclear abolition.

Panelists include:

- Martha Hennessy, Defendant, Kings Bay Plowshares (and granddaughter of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement)
- Professor Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Dept. of Theology, Fordham University (expert witness in recent court hearing in the Kings Bay Plowshares action)
- Maura Keaney, First Vice President, Commercial and Non-Profit Banking, Amalgamated Bank (the first New York bank to adopt a policy of not lending to companies tied to the manufacture of guns and weapons, including nuclear weapons)
- William Hartung, Director, Arms Security Project, Center for International Policy (expert on militarism and the nuclear weapons industry)
- Rev. Timothy Graff, Director, Social Concerns Office, Archdiocese of Newark, Cardinal Joseph Tobin's Liaison to Labor, Director of Government Relations (addressing how to disseminate Pope Francis's message about nuclear abolition)
- Brendan Fay (Actively engaged in ongoing divestment discussions with members of the New York City Council)

Source: Pax Christi International

'Move the Nuclear Weapons Money' International Campaign

The Swiss city Basel-Stadt kanton hosted a successful conference on 'Move the Nuclear Weapons Money' from April 12 - 13, 2019. This conference brought together parliamentarians, city councilors, climate change and disarmament experts, investment fund managers and activists to address, and reverse, the corporate and financial interests which maintain a fossil fuel based economy and nuclear arms race. Two key tools of the conference were:

1. divestment from nuclear weapons and fossil-fuel industries.
2. investment in peace and sustainability with a focus on investments by governments, pension funds, cities, universities, religious organisations and banks.

A statement from one of the participants of the conference:

'Through divestment we can put pressure on the industries to change. Such action highlights the immorality (and stupidity) of making vast profits on the destruction of the planet. It also gives support to legislators who are trying to adopt and implement policies for nuclear disarmament and climate protection.'

Dr Ute Finckh-Krämer, former Member of the German Bundestag

To read highlights of this conference go to <http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/news/basel-city-hosts-successful-conference-on-move-the-nuclear-weapons-money/>

Source: <http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org>

Worth Reading...

The Ministry for the Environment has released the **Environment Aotearoa 2019** Report. The report brings together the knowledge base from three years of reporting and identifies nine priority issues:

1. Our native plants, animals and ecosystems are under threat.
2. Changes to the vegetation on our land are degrading the soil and water.
3. Urban growth is reducing versatile land and native biodiversity.
4. Our waterways are polluted in farming areas.
5. Our environment is polluted in urban areas.
6. Taking water changes flows which affects our freshwater ecosystems.
7. The way we fish is affecting the health of our ocean environment.
8. New Zealand has high greenhouse gas emissions per person.
9. Climate change is already affecting Aotearoa New Zealand.

To download a copy of the report go to www.mfe.govt.nz/

Listening to the People of the Land is available from Accent Publications. To order go to website: www.accentpublications.co.nz . The book is retailing for \$40.

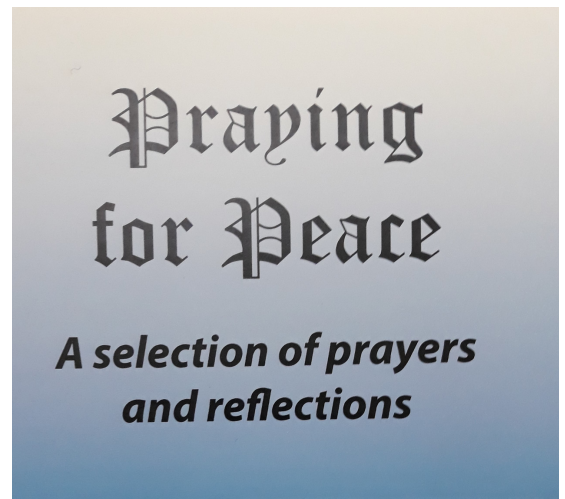


Listening to the People of the Land

Christianity, Colonisation & the Path to Redemption

Edited by Susan Healy

Praying for Peace is available from Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand. To order go to paxnz@xtra.co.nz . The book is available for \$20 plus postage and packaging.



Environment Aotearoa 2019

New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Pax Christi is an independent Catholic social justice organisation. We work hard to address issues of peace and justice at a local, regional and global level.

If you want to know more about Pax Christi, to join meetings, or to set up group meetings in your area, please contact paxnz@xtra.co.nz or ring 09 377 5541 / 021 72994.

Pax Christi relies on volunteers & donations to enable the work to continue.

To make an online donation our a/c name and number is: Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand 03-01730353-867-00
Please contact us for a receipt.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

DIARY DATES

- May 3rd World Press Freedom Day
- May 5th Holocaust Remembrance Day
- May 24th International Women's Disarmament Day
- June 5th World Environment Day



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