



Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Summer 2007

National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

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NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK
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The National Justice & Peace Network co-ordinates and encourages work for justice and peace within the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales.

This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.

Editor
Maureen Matthews

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NEXT ISSUE DATE

OCTOBER 2007

COPY DATE

20 AUGUST 2007

ARRESTED AT FASLANE

On Palm Sunday weekend Rosemary Read, Rosy Townsend and Paul Scola, all of Nottingham Justice and Peace Commission were part of a large group from the Midlands joining the year long continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident nuclear base at Faslane.

Standing in front of several rather large policemen, singing "Sing Hosannah" is not a thing I often do. But as part of the 365 day blockade of Faslane, in view of Parliament's vote in favour of renewing the immoral, illegal Trident weapon system of massive destruction, it seemed essential witness.

It was Palm Sunday and there were over fifty of us from Nottingham and Derby taking part in the ongoing blockade. Just a handful from Derby, mostly Christian and four from J&P. How to make a Christian statement was what exercised us beforehand. A Palm Sunday procession was the answer. So we had Palms and a J&P cross with a J&P rainbow draped around it.

The journey there on Friday had taken many hours in minibuses. A wonderful Church of Scotland church allowed all of us to sleep on their floor - not much room between our mattresses, but OK. Food provided by a vegan catering service from Nottingham. Very tasty as well as healthy!

Saturday - we went to view the situation. Lovely sunny day. We walked with our placards and other symbols. As we were from Nottingham (diocese as well as city and area) we were mostly dressed as



Rosemary Read being arrested

Robin Hood's Merry Men, though there was Maid Marian, and Will Scarlet as well as Robin himself, very noticeable in tights, tunic and splendid cap.

Another night on the floor.

Sunday - those who were really blocking the gate definitely had their act together. Concrete, plaster of paris, chains and locks all played their part; so successfully that the entrance was shut for over four hours and one whole shift were not able to enter. (That is the point of the blockade - stop people going to work on weapons of mass destruction and encourage people to realise what an immoral thing this is as well as a total waste of

money) All those involved in that action were arrested making a total of over 700 arrests since the beginning of the protest in October.

Then we had our Christian procession, waving palms and carrying the cross, singing "Sing Hosanna". I tried to get to the gates but was prevented by the police. So I stood there and continued to sing. "A breach of the Peace". "I am being totally peaceful". "You are blocking the gates". "Me? On my own? Impossible" (The gates are at least 40 feet wide - anything could have got past me. I felt very small.)

"You realise no-one is taking any notice?" "Well you are talking to me". At this point another person joined me, willing to be arrested. "It's Palm Sunday, a very important day in the Christian year. Jesus was not in favour of violence. Surely we are allowed to do this?"

Result? 24 hours in a Police Cell. Message - more Christians need to demonstrate their opposition to WMD's.

URGENT CALL TO PRAYER & ACTION

ROMY TIONGCO



Romy Tiongco

Romy Tiongco, from the Philippines, is well known to many justice and peace contacts in the north east of England through his work for Jubilee Debt Campaign and Christian Aid. He was a frequent contributor to the J&P days held by Shrewsbury diocese and he and his wife Linda have recently been involved in post-tsunami work in Sri Lanka.

When Romy returned briefly to the Philippines in October 2006, he was prevailed upon by local activists to stand for the post of Mayor of Damulog at the May elections – one that he had held for nine months as an interim measure in 1986. In a political climate plagued by corruption and intimidation, his ability and integrity was thought to command strong support amongst the less privileged members of society. A number of other like-minded people agreed to stand for election to the Council, and Rogelio Estudillo, a life-time friend, became the group's political organiser.

However, on January 4, Rogelio was shot to death at his home. Rogelio's death has the appearance of a political assassination, and it would seem Romy is in considerable danger. At such a time, experience has shown that if the victim is known internationally and with support and solidarity abroad, governments can react quite quickly – if sufficient fuss is made. Local police are more likely to pursue their inquiries more vigorously if Manila feels the situation could be embarrassing!

An Easter letter from Romy states: *'Your petitions and letters have made a tremendous difference. When I decided to run, I prepared myself for death. I thought that chances of staying alive was 25%. Today I believe that the possibility of getting killed is down to 20%. The civilian and military officials are making serious efforts in resolving the murder of Rogelio. But by doing this, it is also sending out a very clear message that the authorities are keeping a close watch on the behavior of politicians in Damulog. An Administration political party has taken us under its wings which was denied us back in November. Being aligned with a national party give us greater security and protection. Your petitions and letters are generating pressures from the highest authorities in the country that will contribute tremendously towards making the coming elections in Damulog fair, clean and non-violent. We will do our bit to bring the percentage as close as possible to 0%.*

Our group has become more vigilant. I am never alone. The Vice Mayor is never alone. The rumour is that since the murder of a subject has not scared us, then they will target the heads. Only one person knows my itinerary. If political changes are to happen in the Damulog, our team must win and I must stay alive.'

Romy asks us to keep up the pressure - writing to the President and to the Ambassador

The President.

H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President, Malacanang Palace, JP Laurel St., Manila 1005, Philippines

The Embassy.

His Excellency, Edgardo B. Espiritu, The Philippines Embassy, 9a Palace Green, London W8 4QE.

Petitions and model letters are available from 01244 678087/ 320562/350323/400906.

FR ANDRES TAMAYO



Fr Andres Tamayo

In the last edition of our Newsletter we highlighted the plight of Fr Andres Tamayo of Honduras and the murder of two of his colleagues. Fr Andres had spoken most movingly at our Conference on the Environment in 2005 about the dangers of opposing illegal logging.

Conditions for Fr Andres are deteriorating and we ask for your prayers for him the other members of the Environmental Movement of Olancho (MAO).

We also ask you to write to Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez seeking the support of the church for Fr Tamayo's work.

A suggested letter for you to adapt:

In this particular time where the world is striving for the unrelenting accumulation of wealth, it is essential to have church leaders like yourself that have the interest of the poor at heart. One of the impacts of your visit was a renewed interest in Honduras.

We have also followed with great interest the work of Father Andres Tamayo, who has been supporting the work of the Environmental Movement of Olancho (MAO) and to preserve God's given natural resources. In 2005, many Justice and Peace activists heard him when he spoke with great eloquence to the annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network and to a Climate Change conference in Edinburgh which coincided with the G8 meeting of world leaders. We believe that Father Tamayo's work is vital to preserve the forest against uncontrolled commercial logging. Illegal logging is causing serious environmental and social problems in Olancho and are particularly affecting poor communities. We are particularly concerned about the intimidation and threats suffered by environmentalist activists. And we are horrified by the recent murders of two activists and other assassinations that have taken place over the years.

Father Tamayo has been fighting tirelessly alongside local communities for the sustainable exploitation of the Honduran forests and to stop illegal logging. As a result of his work and continuous commitment, he has received several awards such as the internationally renowned Goldman Environmental Prize, which honours the work of grass roots environmentalists. We understand that Father Tamayo has been receiving death threats due to his dedicated work and we are very concerned about his safety.

Those of us involved in Justice & Peace work respectfully request your Eminence and the Honduran Church to publicly give your full support to Father Tamayo and MAO so that they can continue their invaluable work with greater safety.

Mailing Address:

Oscar Andrés Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga, S.D.B.
Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa Apartado 106, 3a y 2n Av. 1113,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



BOOK NOW

NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE CONFERENCE

20-22 JULY 2007

HAYES CONFERENCE
CENTRE
SWANWICK, DERBYSHIRE

Booking Forms are
available from:
NJPN Administrator,
39 Eccleston Square,
London SW1V 1BX

0207 901 4864
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

NJPN

" If 2,500 of us respond positively by signing a standing order form today for just £12 per year it would be absolutely fantastic, and we would be well on our way to meeting our long term goals. "

CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS — Who me?

"The key to changing the world and pursuing justice and disarmament is to allow the God of peace to disarm our hearts, make us instruments of peace, and lead us together on the road to peace."

John Dear, S.J.

is a priest, pastor, peace activist, organizer, lecturer, retreat leader, and the author/editor of 25 books on peace and justice.



From 1998 until December 2000, he served as the executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the largest interfaith peace organization in the United States. From 2002-2004, he served as pastor of several parishes in northeastern New Mexico. Currently, he coordinates Pax Christi New Mexico.

Fr. John Dear's work for peace has taken him to El Salvador, where he lived and worked in a refugee camp in 1985; to Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, the Middle East, and the Philippines; to Northern Ireland where he lived and worked at a human rights centre for a year; and to Iraq, where he led a delegation of Nobel Peace Prize winners to witness the effects of the deadly sanctions on Iraqi children. He has run a shelter for the homeless in Washington, DC; and served as Executive Director of the Sacred Heart Centre, a community centre for disenfranchised women and children in Richmond, Virginia.

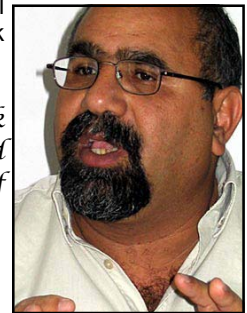
Writings include: **Living Peace**, published by Doubleday in 2001, **Mohandas Gandhi: Essential Writings**, published by Orbis Books in 2002, **Mary of Nazareth, Prophet of Peace** published by Ave Maria Press in 2003, **"The Questions of Jesus"** published by Doubleday in 2004, **"You Will Be My Witnesses,"** published by Orbis Books in 2006, and most recently, **"Transfiguration,"** published by Doubleday in 2007.

Zoughbi Zoughbi is founder and Director of Wi'am, The Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre which uses the traditional Arab form of mediation, called Sulha, with western models of conflict resolution. Wi'am is a branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Zoughbi was born in 1963, the second youngest of eight children, just two minutes walk from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. His family has lived in the area for almost 600 years as a Palestinian Christian family. He is married with four children.

In a recent interview in FoR's magazine, *Peace by Peace*, Zoughbi talked about the work of Wi'am: "We try to 'walk the walk and talk the talk' of nonviolence. Wi'am focuses on nonviolent conflict resolution and in particular we have programmes for women and children. For women we have programmes to help them be part of society on an equal footing, to be equal citizens. In our society which is very patriarchal, a conservative traditional society, it's not easy.

We also work with children and that is really the enjoyable work because children will be the youth of tomorrow and they will be the leaders of the coming years. We work with the children focusing on trauma coping. We don't have trauma 'healing', this is not post traumatic stress disorder because its layer over layer – it is not post - it continues. So we work to help them cope together, play together and provide them with an environment to air their feelings, to vent their problems and to create. FoR and other organisations have supported us and we really appreciate all the prayers and support and partnership because without you, without international support, I don't think we could do it."

"We try to 'walk the walk and talk the talk' of nonviolence."



THANK YOU

In recent editions of this newsletter we have appealed to you for funds to support our work.

We thank those of you who have responded with donations and Standing Orders and those of you who have been able to Gift Aid your donations. Without

your help we would struggle to maintain our present programme and growth would be impossible. If you would still like to donate or complete a Standing Order form please contact: NJPN Administrator,

39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

0207 901 4864

MAY

- 10 **Zambian campaigner tours UK**—CAFOD partner Mulima Kufekisa, ‘Did we make poverty history?’
Worth Abbey, W. Sussex 01483 898866
- 13 **Zambian campaigner tours UK** 9 Henry Road, Finsbury Park. 0208 449 6970
- 14 **Zambian campaigner tours UK** St Bartholemew’s, St Albans. 01604 785254
- 16 **Zambian campaigner tours UK** Our Lady & St Joseph’s, W7 0208 502 9722
- 13-19 **Christian Aid Week** 020 7620 4444
- 16 **World Debt Day** www.cafod.org.uk
- 18-20 **Christianity and the Environment** with Mary Colwell & Fr Sean McDonagh Contact Emmaus House
- 20 **Wirral Coastal Walk** 5-15 miles for CAFOD 07920 232 936

JUNE

- 2 **‘Ring the Alarm’ G8 mobilization** www.cafod.org.uk
- 2-10 **Stop the Arms trade Week** CAAT 0207 281 0297 www.caat.org.uk email: beccie@caat.org.uk
- 5 **World Environment Day** www.christian-ecology.org.uk 01524 33858
- 9 **Say Enough! to 40 years of Israeli Occupation - Justice for the Palestinians** Lincoln’s Inn Fields 1.30 pm
organised by ENOUGH! Coalition www.enoughoccupation.org
- 10 **Day of Prayer to stop the Arms trade** 0207281 0297 www.christian@caat.org.uk
- 16 **Pax Christi AGM** speaker: Giles Fraser 10.30-4.30 Holy Apostle Church Hall, Pimlico. 0208 203 4884
- 18-24 **Refugee Week** events nationwide 0207 346 6752 www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
- 30 **Catholic Assoc. for Racial Justice AGM** 0208 802 8080 email: info@carj.freeseve.co.uk

JULY

- 20-22 **‘Called to be Peacemaker’s - who me?’** National J&P Conference, Swanwick, Derbyshire. 0207 901 4864
- 21-27 **Living Theology Summer School** on Catholic Social Teaching www.livingtheology.org.uk

AUGUST

- 6 & 9 **Anniversaries of Hiroshima & Nagasaki** Pax Christi 0208 203 4884 7 CND 0207 700 2393
- 23 **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** www.setallfree.net

SEPTEMBER

- 9 **Racial Justice Sunday** CARJ 0208 802 8080 CTBI 0207 654 7241
- 21 **Global Cease Fire day and UN International Day of Peace** 0207 456 9180 www.peaceday.org
- 22 **Liverpool J&P Commission Annual Assembly** at LACE 10.00 - 4.00 0151 522 1080

OCTOBER

- 8 **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** 0207 733 7900
- 13 **Birmingham Diocesan Assembly** ‘Stewards of Creation’ with Fr Sean McDonagh, Ellen Teague 0121 477 0412
- 17 **International Day for Eradication of Poverty** www.unmeditation.org/
- 21 **‘Set All Free’ service**, Metropolitan Cathedral 3pm 0151 522 1080
- 21-28 **One World Week** ‘All Together Now’ 0118 939 4933
- 24 **United Nations Day** www.unmeditation.org/

NOVEMBER

- 3-4 **First module of Integrating Life & Faith**, Craighead Institute at Loyola Hall. 0151 522 1080
- 13-15 **Residential Faith & Justice retreat** at Loyola Hall focussing on Fr Tom Cullinan’s pamphlet on Eucharist.
Possible to attend Saturday only. 0151 522 1080

Many of the above websites may be accessed via links from our website

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Archbishop Romero Memorial Lecture

to be given by

Mgr Ricardo Urioste

Romero’s Former Secretary & Vicar General

entitled

‘Oscar Romero - A Saint for the 21st Century?’

Wednesday 16 May 6.30pm Crucible Centre, Roehampton University, 80 Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5SL

Friday 18 May 6.30pm Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1

Saturday 19 May 10.30am Aylesford Priory, Kent, ME20 7BX

On each occasion there will be opportunity for questions and discussion afterwards

FREE ENTRY

ALL ARE WELCOME