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*"Our belief in the Resurrection is confirmed by our involvement in that event, by our joint resurrection. ....The tomb is ourselves. The Resurrection is to take place within ourselves."*  
*(from "Patience with God", Tomáš Hálik, Freiburg 2010)*

*The JP staff wishes you a happy and blessed Resurrection Day.*

**JP Commission in Trier: Evaluation of working period 2009 – 2014  
Visit by Bishop Filippi from Uganda**

The Commission for Justice and Peace was invited to the spring meeting in Trier from 21/22 March. On the basis of a detailed report the Commission discussed its work of the past 5 years.

Professor Bielefeldt, Professor Hoppe and Professor Wal-lacher who acted as chairmen gave an introduction into the deliberations on the topics of human rights, development and peace.

In his conversation with bishop Giuseppe Filippi, President of the Ugandan Commission for Justice and Peace, Hubert Tintelott evaluated the activities concerning decent work and informal economy in view of their importance for Uganda and the implementation of the ILO country strategy Decent Work.

The working group Just Peace had presented "Peace ethics considerations for the further development of the international community's responsibility to protect" which were recommended to the future Commission as a foundation for further work.

The international orientation of JP's work has become stronger. Demands and possibilities were discussed and it was recommended to deepen international cooperation also in the future.

**Declaration on the Crimean crisis**

After consultations of the Commission on the situation in Ukraine, the President Bishop Ackermann in his declaration "Justice creates security – Security promotes peace, solidarity with the democratic forces in Ukraine" condemned the actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on 27 March. Due to the annexation of the Crimea which is contrary to international law the foundations of European and international security are at stake. The unstable situation created by the Russian activities threatens to escalate and may lead to a bloodbath. This has to be avoided. Ackermann supports the current efforts of the Federal Government, especially in view of possible stronger sanctions.

This clear attitude in view of the actions taken by the Russian Federation has to be accompanied by a self-critical analysis of the mistakes made by European politics, because one has to resist the temptation to perceive the counterpart in an indiscriminate way.

With concern Bishop Ackermann follows the inner developments in Ukraine. The considerable achievements by the Maidan protests are increasingly changing into frustration and political extremism due to the pressure of violence and the experienced retraumatising humiliation. He considers it a question of solidarity and political wisdom to resolutely support Ukraine at this stage.



*Tintelott (left) with Bishop Filippi (middle), Prof Dr Krause (right)*

### ***International specialist conference "Sweet fruits – good for everyone?"***

On January 16, 2014, representatives of the German Bundestag, the EU Commission, of church and governmental development cooperation, of commercial enterprises - from REWE to GEPA - and of consumer advice centres together with international partners of Justice and Peace met in Berlin to discuss the perspectives of rural development by self-organization, value chains and social standards with guests from international partner organizations.

Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, President of Caritas Internationalis, referred to Caritas' global campaign against hunger, which wants to enforce the inclusive right to food. He considers the exploitation of labour migrants and agricultural workers by low wages and working conditions which often have an adverse impact on health to be scandalous. The right to decent work has to set limits to the commercial companies' pursuit of profits. His dialogue partner Professor DDr Johannes Wallacher demanded that social-ethical criteria have to apply to all players on the market, to commerce, to enterprises, producers and consumers so that sustainable benefits for everyone will be provided.

The state plays an important role in the implementation of human rights standards. In the discussion held by representatives of the EU Commission, of REWE group, by an international trade unionist and a representative of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce on chances and limits of seals of quality and voluntary standards, the representatives of the companies showed an interest in reliable legal general conditions, a prerequisite for their investments.

Finally Bärbel Höhn MdB, Cardinal Rodriguez and others talked about the consequences for agricultural and development policy.

#### ***.....with consequences***

In the following days the international guests from Zambia, Uganda, South Africa and the Philippines took part in the Global Forum Food and Agriculture organized by the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and visited the International Green Week. The guests used their stay in Germany and the Schengen area for broad networking, among others with the European Commission, the Bauernverband and the International Christian Rural Peoples' Movement (Internationale christliche Landvolkbewegung). Between Caritas and REWE a cooperation aiming at improving the working conditions at banana plantations in Costa Rica is on the way.

#### ***....and enterprise dialogues in advance***

Preparing for the International Specialist Conference the members of the Task Force Tropical Fruit had taken part in various dialogue forums and conferences, among others in the Social Forum of REWE group on 7 November 2013. Whereas the business representatives were much interested in the opinion of the civil society organizations, representatives of the government/politics and of the trade unions did not participate. In addition, the Task Force organized more confidence-building talks, e.g. with the Chairman of Nestlé Germany in Frankfurt on 28 November 2013, and on 9 December 2013 it organized a further talk with Seeberger company, a leading supplier of food using tropical processed fruit and member of the Misereor Business Forum.

### ***International conference "Defending Human Dignity and Human Rights: A Challenge for International Cooperation" in The Hague***

The working group human dignity and human rights in cooperation with JP Netherlands and JCTR Zambia had invited participants from 11 African and European countries from 5 to 8 February 2014, who



Prof. Wallacher (left) with Cardinal Rodriguez (right) and chairwoman Bruns

gave an impressive insight into their dedicated and unerring work for the protection of human rights. Not only in African countries but also in Europe the Church by many committed people is perceived as an institution that decisively contributes to an improvement of the life situation of marginalized and oppressed people. The participants considered a better structured and more pro-active networking in favour of violated human dignity to be an essential challenge for the Church. During the discussions it was pointed out again and again that the cooperation between North and South in this perspective requires a clear view on the different possibilities of the Church and of civil society in the respective countries to work towards political changes.

As changes in the political culture of Europe – for instance in regard to migrants and refugees – will only be successful by changes within European societies, social reconciliation in African countries can also be achieved only by changes from within.

Nevertheless such processes can be supported and backed up by selective international cooperations. The final declaration "From Dialogue to Action" summarizes these findings and is to be used in the future for promoting international dialogue.

### ***Annual meeting of the committees for mission – development - peace***



This year's annual meeting took place in Würzburg from 13 to 15 February 2014 and was entitled: "Preparation of a post 2015 agenda: Challenges for the universal Church work in the dioceses". In addition to the exchange between the approx. 28 participants from 14 dioceses and the Landeskomitee der Katholiken in Bayern (National Committee of Catholics in Bavaria) the meeting focussed primarily on the so-called "Post 2015 agenda". In different contributions first of all the different perspectives of the international discussion were presented and then the discussion centred on the possibilities of the dioceses to participate in this process.

Fr. Peter Reinl OSA explains the concept of the Augustinerkirche in Würzburg

### ***Talk with African human rights activists at the Catholic Liaison Office in Berlin***

At the invitation of the Federal Foreign Office and at the request of the German Lesbian and Gay Association on 26 November 2013 a meeting with human rights activists for homosexuals, bisexuals, and intersexual and transgender people of different countries of Sub-Saharan Africa took place in Berlin. In moving words the human rights defenders gave testimony of violence and exclusion experiences in their home countries. Unfortunately representatives of the Church in Africa not infrequently contribute directly or indirectly to an aggravation of violence and exclusion. At the same time some gave witness to positive experiences made with individual bishops and other office bearers. The human rights defenders asked to support especially those representatives of the Church who speak out against discrimination and violence and who often are facing enormous opposition by society. Moreover, they asked German actors to remind the African Church representatives, if possible, of the role they should play as far as minimising violence is concerned.

### ***Discussion group trade unions and Justice and Peace***

The visit of the Secretary of the Ugandan Commission for Justice and Peace, Dr Emmanuel Kiiza, to Germany was taken advantage of to deal with the topic of decent work in informal economy and with the cooperation with Uganda during the meeting of the discussion group on 26 March 2014. In addition the efforts of trade unions and church institutions to fight the precarious working conditions in the meat industry shall be intensified.

The orientation guide "Decent income in the globalized world" was presented to the ECOSOC, the UN Economic and Social Council, by Kolping International and it was accepted there as a contribution of civil society.



Justenhoven and Getrude Chimange during the workshop

### ***Expert group world economy and social ethics (SVG)***

The SVG met for a hearing on domestic services in global economy on 3 December 2013. This was the start to a new study which is to be prepared and presented at the end of the year by the Oswald von Nell Breuning Institute.

### ***International workshop Burundi***

From 11 to 16 November 2013 the German Commission for Justice and Peace organized together with AGEH and the Burundian Justice and Peace Commission a workshop on dealing with the past burdened by violence. Using the example of the experiences made during the bloody conflict in Burundi and its consequences the 40 participants from different African, Latin American and European countries entered into an exchange of thoughts and asked whether there are possibilities to contribute to reconciliation processes. During the workshop the participants met victims, ex-combatants, civil society actors as well as representatives of the government and the opposition. The workshop assisted the local church to define the current challenges on dealing with a past burdened by violence more precisely and to develop further perspectives for action. With the workshop the Catholic Church of Burundi gave an impressive testimony of its efforts to heal the individual and social injuries. The complete report is available at the Berlin JP office.

### ***Journey of the president to Afghanistan***

From 18 to 21 December 2013 the president of the Commission for Justice and Peace stayed in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif following the invitation of the military bishop. He was accompanied, among others, by Auxiliary Bishop Bischof, responsible for the pastoral care for the Federal Police, Lieutenant General Schelzig, Professor Justenhoven and Dr Lüer. The journey was to give an impression of the current situation in Afghanistan and of the challenges which have to be met by the German armed forces. Talks were held with representatives of the military, of Afghan civil society, Caritas, the police, development aid workers and Muslim clerics.

The overall picture, which is formed by the different perspectives, presents a fragile and in many parts confusing situation. The positive potentials for development are threatened by the gravitational forces of long-year violence and its consequences. How the situation will develop after the termination of the ISAF operation remains to be seen.

### ***Training on the Catholic teaching on peace***

On 28/29 March 2014 training on the Catholic teaching on peace "Church and Conflict. Part of the problem or part of the solution?" was organized by AGEH and JP as part of the AGEH programme 2014. The training is intended to contribute to use the practical potentials of the teaching on peace more effectively. It will be repeated in October 2014.

### ***News from the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation:***

#### ***II. International Workshop for general staff officers***

From 26 November to 1 December 2013, the second international workshop for general staff officers on dealing with a past burdened by violence took place in Oswiecim/Auschwitz. The workshop was organized by the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation and the Centre for ethics education in the armed forces. General staff officers from Poland, Germany and France participated in this workshop. The workshop is a contribution to developing a common European culture of the armed forces which shows a critical attitude towards violence.



*Wreath-laying ceremony at the execution site Auschwitz*

### **Central African religious leaders in Germany, Talk with Archbishop Nzapalainga, Bangui**

At the invitation of the German Bishops' Conference the three leading representatives of the religious communities of the Central African Republic (CAR) were on a peace mission in Germany from 30 March to 3 April. In talks with the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr Gerd Müller, and with the Federal Minister of Defence, Dr Ursula von der Leyen, and with other representatives of politics and the Church, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga, Catholic Archbishop of Bangui and President of the Central African Episcopal Conference, Imam Omar Kobine Layama, President of the Islamic Council of the Central African Republic, and Pastor Nicolas Guérékoyame-Gbangou, President of the Evangelical Alliance of the Central African Republic asked for a stronger German commitment in their home country.

The unrest in the Central African Republic which has lasted for more than one year has led to a humanitarian catastrophe, described Archbishop Nzapalainga the situation in his country. State structures have collapsed and neither the army nor the police are capable of acting and the judicial system does not function any more. Again and again there are outbreaks of violence which have resulted in thousands of deaths. "By speaking with one voice we religious leaders want to demonstrate that religions will not be divided and be used for power-political purposes", said Imam Omar Kobine Layama.

Bishop Vanbuel, President of the Central African Justice and Peace Commission, whom Bishop Ackermann had addressed in a letter of solidarity already in the summer of 2013, participated in a meeting held on 2 April in Cologne with universal church organizations and institutions.

On 29 January 2014, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga had visited the Secretariat of the German Bishops' Conference following a journey to several European countries.

### **Concerted action 2014 on youth unemployment in Europe**

With the concerted action 2014 "Youth unemployment – A crisis which threatens our future" Justice and Peace demands that all over Europe more attention to the fight against youth unemployment is given during the European election campaigns. In Germany the declaration was published on 9 April and it was sent to dialogue partners in the Federal Government and in Parliament and to the German Members of the European Parliament.

From 14 to 16 March 2014 the General Secretaries of the European Justice and Peace Commissions met in Brussels. At the newly-established Permanent Secretariat, COMECE General Secretary Daly SJ welcomed the participants and informed about the focus of their work. A Round Table was held on the challenges in the run-up to the EU-Africa Summit with Fernando Ponz of the EU's External Action Service, Bernd Nilles, CIDSE General Secretary and others.

The growing national and nationalist trends to be observed in many European countries gave cause to concern and might become the subject matter of the concerted action 2015.

### **Arms Export Report 2013 and expert discussion with members of parliament**

GKKE Presidents Prelate Dr Karl Jüsten and Prelate Dr Martin Dutzmann, together with Jan Grebe, head of the expert group "arms exports", presented the GKKE's 2013 arms export report in Berlin on 16 December 2013 and demanded a turnaround in the arms export policy. The focus of the report is on the legal regulations governing the German arms export policy.

"Arms exports and parliamentary control: What are the possibilities offered by the coalition agreement?", this was the subject of the expert discussion with members of parliament which took



Grebe (left), Jüsten and Dutzmann (right) at the Bundespressekonferenz (Federal Press Conference)

place on 3 April 2014 in Berlin as part of the expert group meeting. Eight members of Parliament had accepted the invitation: Arnold, Barthel, Bulmahn and Westphal from the SPD, Brugger from Bündnis 90/The Greens, and van Aken and Buchholz from the Left. They discussed about first steps towards a more transparent and prompter reporting by the Federal Government and about deliberations to be carried out by an appropriate working group. On 7 April, the government parties published a key issues paper on arms exports.



Grebe (middle), (left) Dutzmann, (right) Jüsten and Bulmahn MdB

### **Parliamentary evening organized by GKKE on the financial transaction tax**

Under the heading "Financial transaction tax – before the decision" GKKE together with the campaign "Tax against poverty" had invited to a parliamentary evening to be held in Berlin on 19 March 2014. The evening was started with keynote speeches held by the Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Finance, Dr Michael Meister MdB, and by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General on Innovative Financing for Development, Philippe Douste-Blazy (Paris/New York).



from left to right:  
Jüsten, Dr Meister MdB,  
Kuschnerus, Douste-Blazy

During the discussion it became obvious that compromises are needed to reach the necessary unanimous position of the eleven states involved, which might be joined by two or three further countries. The campaign "Tax against poverty" and GKKE in any case will press for the implementation of the Commission's proposal on a national and international level within the European network.

The participants also discussed about the different options concerning the possible application of funds for global public goods, e.g. by supporting existing funds as UNITAID or the Climate Fund.

### **Obituary on Dr Irene Fernandez**

On 31 March 2014, Dr Irene Fernandez, winner of the Right Livelihood award and founder of the Malaysian human rights organisation TENAGANITA died unexpectedly at the age of 67. Dr Fernandez campaigned for the rights of migrant workers and migrants in Malaysia, particularly for the rights of domestic workers and farm workers. She denounced the inhuman living conditions for migrants in state detention camps and therefore had to endure imprisonments and interrogations. TENAGANITA was a partner organisation for 2012 World Day of Prayer. In September 2013, Irene Fernandez still participated in the JP conference "Without Borders. Migration in a limited World".

Justice and Peace expressed its condolences to TENAGANITA.



Dr Fernandez (right) in a conversation with Dr Hagemann in Berlin on 2 Sept. 2013

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