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“The real light which gives light to every man was coming into the world.”

(John 1:9)

The staff of the German Commission for Justice and Peace wishes you a merry Christmas and God’s abundant blessing for the New Year 2012.

Reform of the global financial system

After the EU summit on 27 October 2011, bishop Dr. Ackermann in a declaration stressed the urgency to reform the global financial system. In view of the G-20 summit in Cannes he demanded to open the way for a quick and compelling implementation of an internationally agreed coherent strategy for the regulation and guidance of financial markets oriented towards the common good.

On 24 October 2011, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace had published a note: „Towards reforming the international financial and monetary systems in the context of global public authority“. In his declaration, bishop Ackermann supports the aims of this note, for example to establish a global control mechanism for the international financial markets.

Autumn meeting of the Commission on religion and violence

The main subject of the autumn meeting of the Commission held on 21/22 October 2011 in Berlin was “religion and violence“. In his introduction, Prof. Dr. Thomas Hoppe analyzed the role of violence in religious thinking and acting. On the basis of the Christian concept of a just war and the Muslim Jihad concept, he explained how ethical positions on the one hand limit violence and on the other hand are used to un-limit violence. Prof. Hoppe named the “Relecture“ of violence affined passages in religious texts as well as a detailed analysis and deeper understanding of reasons for each situation as tasks which the religions have to deal with. It would be of utmost importance to remove the primary causes of violence in the non-religious field, he said. Prof. Heine, Islam scientist, explained the effect of the Jihad concept in different historical contexts, for example in 1967 after the defeat of the Arab armed forces by Israel as well as in different countries or regions with a Muslim or a majority non-Muslim population.

Jörg Lüer pointed to an exposure and dialogue programme on religion, conflict and violence which is being prepared in cooperation with AGEH and will be organised in October 2012 in Jos/Nigeria.

Debate on Israel/Palestine

The JP Commission exchanged assessments and reflections on the development of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The reason for the exchange was the declaration of JP President concerning the application of the Palestinian Authority for State recognition and admission to the United Nations of 26 September 2011. Despite differing opinions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Commission is agreed that it should continue to take up a position on this conflict and contribute to overcome the speechlessness in the context of this conflict.

Justice and Peace Europe – International workshop on inter-religious relations in Albania



The challenges and chances of the inter-religious and inter-cultural relations in Albania were at the focus of this year's international workshop of the European Justice and Peace Commissions. Unlike in other Southeast European countries, the particular situation of persecution under the communist rule in Albania has, in spite of some tensions, lead to relations based on mutual respect.

The Albanian identity offers quite a broad basis for mediation. The Commissions are agreed that the Albanian society on its way into the European Union needs a new way of dealing with conflict and violence. The religious communities try to bear adequate witnesses to point the way. In this context, reliable contacts and dialogue with other European societies is of considerable importance.

JP Europe – new presidency

After the end of the French presidency, the general assembly on 19 September 2011 elected auxiliary bishop William Kenney (Birmingham) new president of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions. As no national JP commission was willing to assume presidency for a whole term, the Executive Committee was asked to take care of part of the tasks for the next two years. The greatest challenge still is the establishment of a permanent secretariat. The German Commission's representative at ExCO is Jörg Lüer.

„Memory, Truth, Justice“, international workshop in Uganda

From 31 October until 6 November 2011, the international workshop "Memory, Truth, Justice – Dealing with the burden of the past" was carried out in Gulu/Uganda in cooperation with AGEH and with JP Gulu. The workshop concentrated on dealing with the violence-burdened past and present time in the North of Uganda. The aim of this workshop was to offer the 45 participants from 7 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia the possibility to deepen their understanding of social healing and reconciliation processes and to exchange experiences. The international attention at the same time was a clear sign of support by the partners, whose experiences and witness proved to be extremely inspiring.

During the workshop which was enriched by a message of greeting of the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Peter Cardinal Turkson, the participants met with survivors from different communities, former child soldiers, the Ugandan Army and with representatives of the religious communities. The workshop received broad media attention in Uganda.

Seminar on religion and state in Indonesia: Indonesia and the European Union: Human Rights and Faith in Focus

Dr. Daniel Legutke participated in a seminar on the right to religious freedom organised in the context of the EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24/25 October 2011 at the request of the Indonesian government. The 150 participants included representatives of civil society organisations of Indonesia and Europe, scientists, representatives of European governments and of the embassies of EU countries in Indonesia. The growing influence of Arab Islamism, especially of Saudi Wahhabism, was regarded as a problem in today's Indonesia. Many stated that it massively contributes to the tensions. There are worries about the increasing number of attacks on Christians, Christian communities and churches in

Archbishop Rrok Mirdita, Tirana, opens the workshop.

At the podium:

Fitor Muça (Evangelical Brotherhood); Baba Edmond Brahimaj (Bektashi); Prime Minister Sali Berisha; Archbishop Gerard Defois, JP Europe; Selim Muça (Muslim); Auxiliary bishop Antoni (Orthodox)



Memorial in memory of the victims of a Lord Resistance Army (LRA) massacre



Auxiliary bishop William Kenney (Birmingham) in Tirana before his election together with Prof. Dr. J.P. Lehnens, Luxemburg (middle) and Sr. Madeleine Fredell, Sweden (right)



It's all about communication

recent years. Some participants said that there is the danger of a “paki-stanization” of Indonesia – with all the consequences involved – which is accompanied by anti-Western thinking. On the other hand it cannot be denied that evangelical groups from South Korea and the USA also adopt a very aggressive appearance.

To discuss the role of religions for the State and society in such a big forum including Church institutions, Muslim associations and many civil society groups, this can be stressed as a positive example of EU’s relations with religions. The Indonesian government obviously endeavours to maintain the image of a tolerant, open and multicultural country – despite all the recent setbacks.

Decent work for domestic workers, workshop in Geneva

From 29 November until 1 December 2011, the Global Forum Migration and Development (GFMD), an UN-initiative to strengthen the rights of migrants, was held in Geneva. As delegate of the GFMD civil society, Mrs Hagemann also participated in the Civil Society Days of GFMD. The contribution focused on the topics ‘Investing in Development Alternatives to Migration-Development for Decent Jobs „at Home” and ‘Diaspora, Employment and Development’.

Parallel to the GFMD, cooperation with the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) was continued during the „Peoples’ Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights” with a workshop on the “Rights for domestic workers and ratification of ILO Convention C189” held on 2 December 2011. In October 2011, MFA had organized a strategy workshop in Manila together with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Domestic Workers’ Network (IDWN). The results of this workshop were introduced into the work of the December workshop.

In Geneva it has been confirmed that strong alliances between domestic workers’ and migrants’ organisations, NGOs and trade unions are necessary to implement C189 into national legislation. ITUC’s new campaign “12 by 12”, officially presented on 19 December 2011 in Brussels, is to serve this purpose.

Tropical fruit – Expert talks about standards

On 10 November 2011, the “Task Force Tropical Fruit” met with guests of GLOBALG.A.P, the leading international standard setter in food production, the German Fruit Trade Association (DFHV) and the Institute for Development and Peace of the University of Duisburg-Essen (INEF) to talk about ‘how can quality and social standards set by development policy contribute to promote the cultivation, processing and marketing of tropical fruits by small farmers?’ The aim of the talks was to exchange information and to identify possible fields of cooperation. One point of discussion was the effectiveness of certifications with regard to incentives to improve production and quality. It became clear that national standards set by local working groups are equally important as the implementation of standards into a legal system. The participants in these talks expressed their interest in continuing their cooperation in order to strengthen legal security for producers and merchants in the cultivating countries (good governance) and to extend certifications on trading chains (creation of transparency and enhancement of negotiation power). The Task Force or “poverty orientation” working group will take up these talks in 2012.

The fight against terrorism

Archbishop Dr. Ludwig Schick and Prof. Dr. Thomas Hoppe, editorial staff member, presented the bishops’ declaration “Terrorism as Ethical Challenge. Human dignity and Human Rights” on 5 September 2011 at the Catholic



Representatives of domestic workers and migrants’ organisations from Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa describe their activities.

Academy in Berlin. The press response in general was very positive, stressing among other things the close connection with the declaration "A Just Peace".

Human Rights Forum – Talks with federal foreign minister Westerwelle

The annual talks of the human rights forum with the federal foreign minister took place on 6 October 2011. Summarizing the work of the last months, minister Westerwelle emphasized the German-led resolution on child soldiers submitted to the security council on 12 July 2011 and the continuation of bilateral human rights dialogues especially on the advocacy work of human rights defenders. Points of discussion introduced by the Human Rights Forum were arms exports and human rights, impunity as subject of international relations, dealing with human rights issues within the European Union and the role of Germany in the United Nations. In response to criticism of the EU human rights policy, minister Westerwelle said that the federal government makes use of political rooms for manoeuvre. Markus Löning, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights, added that there are considerations about how to create dialogue mechanisms within the EU which enable more open talks about the human rights situation within the EU. The federal minister finally stressed the importance of procedures that are uncomplicated and yet in the scope of applicable law concerning the issue of entry visa for students, for exchange programs or even for human rights activities. He added that he will support a broad interpretation of current rules and asked to inform him about problems with particular consulates.

Short films on solidarity in human rights politics on You Tube

The Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions commissioned the Cologne Academy of Media Arts to produce four short films based on the text of its declaration "Human dignity and human rights. Culture of solidarity enhancing human rights".

The target group of these four films, which are available since the end of September 2011 and can be seen on You Tube

<http://www.youtube.com/user/JustitiaEtPax.de> are young persons in particular. In Germany, the films were officially presented on 11 October 2011 in Cologne during the awarding ceremony of the One-World Film Prize of North Rhine Westphalia.

„Breaking the Silence“

On the occasion of the visit of Dana Golan, director of „Breaking the Silence“, the "Joint Initiative for International Humanitarian Law in the Middle East" of Misereor, EED and Justice and Peace had invited to a meeting at the *Haus der Evangelischen Kirche* in Bonn on 25 October 2011 (annex 6). „Breaking the Silence“ is a non-governmental organisation, where former soldiers of the Israeli army inform about army operations and procedures in the occupied Palestinian areas. The film "To see if I'm smiling" is about experiences made by the soldiers involved and their reflections. The film presentation was followed by an exchange and discussion in which about 100 persons participated. The points of discussion ranged from "internal leadership" over offers for traumatized soldiers and the Israeli occupation policy to women serving as soldiers.



*Participants in the project:
(from left to right) Richard
Dooley (speaker), Dr. Daniel
Legutke, Gertrud Casel,
Gregor von Sivers, Prof.
Sibylle Stürmer (project
manager), Olaf Wehmeyer,
Jutta Zylka
(Photo © S. Bins).*

"Raw materials, values and interests", GKKE coherence report

The 10th GKKE coherence report listed demands on a German raw material policy in coherence with development policy. In resource-rich countries the promotion of good governance and strengthened civil society control mechanisms are of crucial importance for a development-oriented extraction of raw materials. This includes the creation of local value chains, the certification of the businesses involved according to human rights, environmental and socio-political standards.

In an expert meeting on 27 October 2011 in Berlin, members of the parliament representing the ruling as well as the opposition parties, representatives of the ministry for development cooperation and of the ministry of economics and of Transparency International (TI) Germany discussed about the report. While the participants agreed to the GKKE demands concerning the implementation of a raw-materials policy of the German government that is responsible in terms of human rights and poverty-oriented, they considered the implementation to be a challenge in view of the interest-based strategy of the federal government. According to TI the report confirms that a voluntary observance of human rights in raw-materials policy is not enough. Binding regulations are needed. The coherence expert group will continue to observe the implementation of the raw-material strategy.

GKKE Pharmadialogue

On 23 November 2011, the new chief executive officer of the German Association of research-based pharmaceutical companies (vfa), Birgit Fischer, took part in the meeting of the joint working group 'Pharmadialogue' in the vfa office in Berlin. She emphasized the importance of the dialogue with the Churches in view of urgently needed new approaches in health policy requiring technical know how as well as political willingness and social commitment. The participants in the dialogue explained that, on the one hand, pharmaceutical companies would have to proceed from product solutions or a supply of medicines to systematic services in healthcare – not only in developing countries. On the other hand, Churches too should be open to unusual alliances as they offer new chances for problem solutions which promote human development.

GKKE report on arms exports 2011

The GKKE annual arms export report, compiled by the specialist group "arms exports" headed by Dr. Bernhard Moltmann, was presented on 12 December 2011 at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin.

GKKE in its report demanded to draw consequences from the disastrous effects of the supply of arms to authoritarian and repressive regimes in the Arab world which became dramatically evident in the first half of 2011 in the context of the Arab changes and upheavals. Once again, the often alleged connection between authoritarian regimes and the stability and safety they guarantee proved to be a fallacy.

The record turnover achieved with weapons of arms in 2010 – which, according to the government's report, amounts to 2.1 billion Euros, i.e. a plus of 50% compared to 1.3 billion Euros in 2009 – particularly results from the supply of two submarines to Portugal and one submarine to Greece. Even in 2010, when the extent of the Greek government debt was already known, the world champion of exports, i.e. Germany, made money out of further debts of Greece.



Dr. Bernhard Moltmann (left) with GKKE presidents, Prelate Dr. Karl Jüsten (middle) and Prelate Dr. Bernhard Felmberg (right)

Personalia

On 2 November 2011, Mrs Resi Biegansky joined the secretariat of the Justice and Peace office and took on the tasks formerly performed by Mrs Schumacher.

Papal visit and EDP

During his visit to Germany, Pope Benedict in his speech to the Central Committee of German Catholics on 24 September 2011 in Freiburg, after expressing his appreciation for the commitment of the lay faithful, also referred to exposure programmes: "For some years now, development aid has included what are known as *exposure programmes*. Leaders from the fields of politics, economics and religion live among the poor in Africa, Asia or Latin America for a certain period and share the day-to-day reality of their lives. They are exposed to the circumstances in which these people live, in order to see the world through their eyes and hence to learn how to practise solidarity." - a truly encouraging recognition!

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