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***"I will open your graves and have you rise from them."
 Ezekiel 37:12***

The team of the Justice and Peace office would like to wish you a blessed celebration of the resurrection.

JP Commentary calling for common good-orientated policy in the election campaign

JP intends to issue monthly Commentaries in the election year 2017 in order to draw public attention to the ongoing major challenges facing policy-makers, both internationally and in Germany: Worldwide inequality, climate change, expanding violent crime, etc. "We can only achieve and permanently secure a good life for everyone, clean air, security and prosperity, if we put the common good first, and that means the global common good", Bishop Ackermann and President Prof. Sternberg of the Central Committee of German Catholics said in their first joint statement, which was published on Ash Wednesday, 1 March, by the German Bishops' Conference and the Central Committee of German Catholics.

In the second Commentary, the President of JP in Europe Archbishop Hollerich (Luxembourg) encourages us to seek European solutions, taking the example of refugees: "There can be no doubt that the political problem caused by refugees cannot be solved nationally, but that it must be tackled at European level".

The text of the Commentaries is published (in German) on [katholisch.de](http://www.katholisch.de): <http://www.katholisch.de/aktuelles/aktuelle-artikel/das-gemeinwohl-zuerst-weltweit>. The contributions are also put up for a discussion via the [katholisch.de](http://www.katholisch.de) Facebook channel. [weltkirche.de](http://www.weltkirche.de) will also be publishing the further Commentaries.

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the human right to health as topics for discussion at the spring meeting of the Commission

A representative of the EU's Directorate-General on Agriculture attended the Commission's meeting held on 17/18 March 2017 providing information on the coming re-negotiation of the CAP, which is to apply from 2020 onwards. The ILD's European policy dialogue entitled "Pro Rure" continues the urgently-needed dialogue regarding questions of rural development and the future of agricultural policy at European level, as was illustrated by Lothar Kleipass from the ILD. JP would like to assist in the EU's debate on the CAP, where possible together with the Central Committee of German Catholics and the German Bishops' Conference, and to take up positions. The CAP is significant not only for the further development of agriculture in the EU and in the "South", but also for the development of democracy in Europe.

With regard to the second point, namely that of human rights and cultural traditions, Prof. Heiner Bielefeldt and Prof. Stefan Rixen described the political challenges regarding the test case of health. Both called for cultural sensitivity in medical facilities, understood in terms of individual and institutional ethics.

Workshop in Columbia

The international workshop entitled "Memory, Truth and Justice – Dealing with the Burden of the Past. Learning in the light of the Colombian Experiences" was held in Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Quibdó et. al., from 19-25 March



from left to right: Katarina Hulmanová (FKI Slovakia), Johannes Wallacher, Jco von Wedel (European Commission)



from left to right: Stefan Rixen, Heiner Bielefeldt, Stefan Vesper

2017. The workshop had been long prepared together with the AGEH (Association for Development Cooperation), the National Reconciliation Commission, the Columbian Bishops' Conference, as well as JP. The workshop was both a joint learning movement attended by representatives from 15 different countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, and at the same time an impressive symbol of solidarity with the victims of violence in Columbia and with everyone making a constructive contribution towards overcoming it. The workshop provided an opportunity for those attending to meet both various victims of violence as well as its perpetrators. Two teams visited FARC and ELN rebels who are serving time in prison in Bogotá, whilst the other two teams debated with former high-ranking military officers, including the former commander-in-chief of the Columbian armed forces. The planned meeting with detained paramilitaries was barred by the prison governor. All the meetings made it clear to what degree the peace process is open to question and painful. This made the testimony of the local church all the more impressive and encouraging in continuing along this path in the face of the considerable resistance it has encountered, including within the Church. You will find a summary of the media on the workshop, as well as the final declaration, at www.justitia-et-pax.de.



Representatives attending the workshop

Workshop in Bosnia

Subsequent to the European workshop on dealing with the past of Bosnia-Herzegovina burdened by violence, which was held in Sarajevo by the MKS, Renovabis and the Interreligious Council, considerable discussions with the Serbian Orthodox partners were sparked at this workshop regarding the erection of a memorial plaque at the mass grave in Tomašica, in the course of which Dr. Lüer travelled to Sarajevo on 1/2 February 2017, after many telephone conversations, in order to discuss opportunities for further cooperation with a variety of partners, including Cardinal Puljić and Efendi Smahić. As a result of the discussions, the Interreligious Council in Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed to erect a joint symbol of respect for all the victims regardless of their ethnic origins on 24 April 2017. The most senior religious leaders of the Catholic, Serbian Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish communities wished to visit various sites of mass crimes on this day and to commemorate the many different victims together for the first time.

Church-and-conflict training

The 8th training course on the Church's peace doctrine and on the Church in conflict situations took place on 20/21 February 2017. The course is held together with the AGEH for specialists in peace and development cooperation. However it is also open to other interested parties. The next course will be held in Cologne on 29/30 June 2017.

Exposure and dialogue programme on global value-added chains

The exposure and dialogue programme on precarious working conditions along the value-added chain for cotton was held from 4 to 11 February 2017. It was attended by 11 representatives of German NROs belonging to the Clean Clothes Campaign and the Textile Alliance, of the Government as well as of the implementing organisations, and by two partners of the project of the Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid (KZE) from Uganda. The dialogue workshop was held at the Indian Social Institute in New Delhi. It was well attended, with 45 people participating, and is documented by SEWA Bharat. This made it possible to bring together the partner networks of all the areas in which the KZE project works.

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

Interest in this Forum is growing among civil society players. The Members' Assembly of the Africa-Germany Network was held in Paderborn on 10 November 2016. The Orders attending were interested in what could be done on the topic of migration and development. The first civil society meeting took place on 17 November 2016 at the invitation of the Federal Government (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), and the second is to be held on 24 March 2017. A workshop organised by VENRO on 1 March lent concrete form to the commitment of the German

civil society and Diaspora. The international steering group, led by the International Catholic Migration Commission, expressed its concern regarding the orientation of the topics of the GFMD towards shaping the return of migrants.

“Human rights under pressure – Cultural traditions as bridges to policies that are equitable in terms of human rights” JP Congress on 9/10 December 2016



The content of the first podium discussion, namely the European challenges posed by right-wing populism, ensured that it received a particular echo among the public. A highpoint was the tribute paid to *Father Jacques Mourad* from the Mar Musa community in Syria. The further content foci regarding human rights-related questions and culture in the test case of the right to health are particularly helpful for international work in this field.

from left to right: Archbishop Hollerich (Luxembourg), Rebekka Harms MEP, Prof. Dr. Andreas Lob-Hüdepohl (chair) and Auxiliary Bishop Zadarko (Poland) talking about the new populism

Specialist discussion “Facing the challenge: Right-wing populism and Christian Churches in Germany” in Berlin on 16 December 2016

The ad hoc working party on “The Catholic Church and Right-wing Extremist Tendencies” used the specialist discussion to present its work to the public for the first time. The working party has so far particularly aimed to analyse the problems. Wilhelm Heitmeyer presented findings from his long-term studies on the “German situation” as to the extent to which right-wing positions and attitudes are also spread among people who consider themselves as belonging to a Church. Heitmeyer stated that closed right-wing extremist worldviews were relatively uncommon, but that the level of agreement with individual hypotheses taken up by right-wing populist parties was above average. A draft guide for the Bishops’ Conference containing suggestions on how to deal with right-wing populist attitudes is currently being drawn up jointly by Justice and Peace and the Commission for Migrants (XIV). It is hoped that it will be published towards the end of 2017.

Conference in Nairobi, Contribution to religion and development

Dr. Daniel Legutke had been asked at the international conference of the Research Group of Commission X “Catholic Social Teaching and the Common Good in Africa: Implications for individual and institutional participation in social engagement”, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 21-23 February 2017, to present recent developments at international level on the topic of “Religion and sustainable development”. The Conference had been sparked by a proposal which Justice and Peace had made to the working party at the initiative of Major Liebetanz, which had been prepared by the MWI (Institute of Missiology Missio e.V.) under the aegis of Prof. Dr. Thomas Schreijäck.

GKKE Arms Export Report 2016 and invitations to attend discussions

The GKKE Arms Export Report 2016 was published on 12 Dec. 2016 at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin, and was very well received in the press. Its content focussed on proposals and considerations relating to a new Arms Exports Control Act (*Rüstungsexportkontrollgesetz*), intended to transpose the content-related criteria of the EU’s Common Position into German law and make the Political Principles legally binding, as well as the core content of the latest German Policy on Small Arms (*Kleinwaffengrundsätze*). It is intended to increase transparency and enhance the Bundestag’s powers of control. The obligation to provide reasoning for exports to third states is to be shifted to the proponents of arms exports, and a right to lodge representative actions is to be introduced.

Discussion invitations from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry of Defence were received subsequent to the publication.

25 years of the GKKE pharma dialogue, GKKE series of publications, Vol. 65

The GKKE has published the evaluation report drafted by *Priv.-Doz.* Dr. Walter Bruchhausen as Vol. 65 of the GKKE’s series of publications with

contributions for critical reflection, in which he describes the development of topics and areas, implementation and impact of the joint projects. He analyses success and failure factors, as well as "lessons learned". Former and present stakeholders add critical reflections from their respective points of view to the evaluation. A concluding outlook explains the way forward as to the evaluation in the GKKE pharma dialogue.

Words of thanks from the Federal President to experts in the peace and development service

In the light of the crises and conflicts the world over, Federal President Joachim Gauck praised the commitment of development helpers. "You are great", said Gauck at the reception on the "Day of returned development helpers and peace experts" in Berlin on 3 March. The Joint Conference Church and Development (GKKE) and the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Entwicklungsdienste* (AGdD), which is the umbrella association of the development services, as well as the agencies and services affiliated with the AGdD, sent out the invitations to attend this conference under the motto "The world in your suitcase". More than 200 returned experts attended the event at the Catholic Academy in Berlin and the ecumenical service.



Karl Jüsten, Joachim Gauck, Daniela Schadt and Martin Dutzmann in Berlin on 3 March 2017

50 years of Populorum Progressio and opening congress of the Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development

Approx. 400 representatives of national Catholic institutions came to the Vatican to attend a first conference on 3/4 April in Rome at the invitation of the Prefect of the Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development, Cardinal Peter Turkson. The work of the former Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace was merged with that of Migrants and Itinerant People, Health Care Workers and Cor Unum on 1 January 2017 to form the new Dicastery. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* at Easter 1967. The programme reflected the connection between PP and *Laudato si'*. It was rounded off by moving, impressive examples from the work of the Church in humanitarian aid, social work, the campaign for decent work, integration and reconciliation work from all the continents. The visit by Pope Francis underlined the significance of the new Dicastery and of its task to promote integral human development.



Cardinal Turkson welcomes Pope Francis among the Secretaries and Congress delegates.

50 years of Justice and Peace, celebration on 19 October 2017

The German Justice and Peace Commission will also be turning 50. It was founded soon after *Populorum Progressio* was published. We would already like to invite you to attend the celebration on 19 Oct. 2017 from 3:00 p.m. onwards at the Catholic Academy in Berlin under the motto "Thinking of the common good worldwide – Taking new paths in integral development".



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