



J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



JULY/AUGUST 2013

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FAST ACTION for **Immigration Reform**

*You are invited to 40 days of
prayer, fasting, and advocacy!*

September 9 to October 18, 2013

www.fastaction.us

image



People of faith across the country will engage in **prayer, fasting and expansive action** for 40 days starting when Congress returns from recess on September 9th and lasting until October 18th.



The faith community finds itself at a **pivotal moment** in the movement for immigration reform.

How do we raise the level of concern, engage our communities, and grow in the virtues of solidarity and hospitality? We are at a point where we have to escalate our efforts, expose the injustice, and engage the heart of our country. We are convinced that what we **really need now is a "compassion surge" rather than a border surge.**

As people of faith, we believe that we must engage our communities in **prayerful action in solidarity** with those whose lives are directly impacted by our **unjust immigration policies**, and who will be impacted by both just and unjust reforms being considered by policy makers.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition invites you to join in the prayer, fasting, and advocacy for immigration reform. Please join us as an individual, family, congregation, or study group. See more details and sign up at www.fastaction.us so we can track this for congressional visits.

If you can put together a local Fast Action launch event in early Sept. please let Eli know.

**CMSM addendum*

Consider Participating in Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience

Fasting, prayer, and advocacy in solidarity with immigrants is a way of cooperating in God's love and withdrawing cooperation from those things in our society that draw us away from compassion and justice with those in urgent need. Your journey may compel you to ask "what are the 'sources of power' that are benefiting from and upholding this unjust system of immigration?"

- Due to the urgency of legislation moving in Congress, explore divesting from the major detention center corporations: Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), GEO, and the Management and Training Corporation (MTC) and making a public statement about your considerations or intention. For details [click here](#).
- Explore divesting from other major corporations benefitting from de-humanizing and militarizing the border: Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman, General Atomics, Remington Arms, Chenega, Accenture, Raytheon, Rockwell Collins, and making a public statement about your considerations or intention. For details on these companies and immigration [click here](#) or [here](#).
- Dramatize the injustice by risking arrest with a sit-in/pray-in at your Congressperson's office, detention center or any of the above companies' offices. If needed, contact the local National Lawyers Guild for assistance. Collaborate with our immigrant sisters and brothers.
- For more examples of "non-cooperation" [click here](#). (Please note: Any methods chosen should clearly attend to human dignity and the principle of non-humiliation. A few on this list may not fit that criteria)
- More Resources on Civil Disobedience:
 - [Henry Thoreau and Civil Disobedience](#)
 - [The Role of Civil Disobedience in Democracy](#)
 - [Ruckus Action Strategy Guide](#) (PDF)

Read these op-ed's and consider writing your own:

Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles on [immigration reform](#)

Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer is the executive director of the Florida Council of Churches

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/06/20/3462039/florida-politics-haunts-immigration.html>

Treyvon and "Stand your Ground?"

Excerpts from Adam Cohen's article on [Repealing 'Stand your Ground'](#):

"[...] But critics have pointed out the obvious problem with "Stand your ground" laws. They encourage people who get caught up in dangerous encounters to up the ante and to shoot when gunfire could have been avoided. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a pro-gun-control group, has dubbed "Stand your ground" laws "Shoot first" laws. And the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) has pointed out an oddity of "Stand your ground": the "blanket immunity" that the Florida law gives to members of the public who fire their guns is actually broader than the leeway the law gives to police, whose job it is to defend public safety.



There is evidence that the critics are right — that these laws do in fact encourage people to turn tense encounters into killings. **Five years after Florida's "Stand your ground" law took effect, the Tampa Bay Times found that justifiable homicides in Florida had "spiked"**: up from an average of 34 in the first half of the past decade to 105 in 2009. The Washington Post has reported that **other states have seen similar jumps**. It is not just people who are parties to these encounters who have to worry. As the NDAA has pointed out, needless use of firearms in public places also puts innocent bystanders at risk. [...]"

Six choices that could've saved Treyvon from being killed and George from being a killer: [click here](#)

Faith Communities' Impact on Gun Violence: [click here](#)

Congressional Action Alert: Support the Youth Promise Act to fund evidence-based violence-prevention programs in local communities—[click here to contact your congressperson](#).

Syria Letter



Faith organizations have recently coalesced on a clear message to refrain from arming the rebels in Syria and to work for a diplomatic solution. Meetings with Congress and the White House are forthcoming. [Click here to read the letter](#) (PDF).

For more information, we encourage you to read an excellent [report by the International Crisis Group](#) and a second short, [summary by David Swanson](#), outlining why our further involvement in this war is a disastrous idea.

Congressional Action Alert: Encourage your senators and representative to cosponsor a new bill, recently introduced into both houses of Congress that would restrict funds for U.S. military involvement in Syria. There are identical Senate ([S. 1201](#)) and House ([H.R. 2492](#)) bills. **Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121** and ask for each office. Tell the Congressional staffer who answers that you don't want the U.S. sending weapons to Syria and that you want your senator to cosponsor Senate Bill 1201 and your representative to cosponsor House Bill 2492.

Israel/Palestine

Official negotiations are finally underway thanks to the U.S. and many organizations such as Churches for Middle East Peace. Let's pray and continue to advocate for a justpeace. Below are some updates on boycott and divestment tactics and a study tour to the Holy Land. How is God calling you?

European Union's Boycott of Israeli Settler Companies

[Israel Faces Deepening Isolation](#), Kerry Warns

"There are some early signs that Netanyahu is realizing the price his country may one day pay for its settlements, in particular those near Palestinian population centers. He met recently with some of Israel's leading manufacturers, who expressed their worry that their products may one day be boycotted in Europe, a worry he shares. Kerry, capitalizing on this anxiety, has warned Netanyahu in recent weeks that if the current peace talks bear no fruit, Israel may soon be facing an international de-legitimization campaign -- in his words -- 'on steroids.'"

United Methodist Regions Divest

In the 1980's the United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits divested \$77 million from companies doing business in South Africa. Through this principled act, they were part of a global divestment movement that helped end apartheid.

In June 2013, "Four United Methodist annual or regional conferences (New England, Minnesota, Pacific Northwest and Upper New York) have voted this month to divest or have their funds divested from companies involved with Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. They joined five other conferences (West Ohio, New York, Northern Illinois, California Nevada and California Pacific) which had already taken similar action, bringing the total to nine regional bodies representing thousands of churches.

The companies targeted in the recent resolutions included Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Hewlett Packard and, in one case, General Electric. All play significant roles in the occupation." For the full article [click here](#).

In March 2013, the **Mennonite Central Committee U.S. unanimously decided** that -- effective immediately -- it [will not invest](#) knowingly in companies involved in the Israeli occupation." They adopted the [investment screen](#) developed by the American Friends Service Committee, which includes the aforementioned companies and more than **two dozen others**. And last year, Friends Fiduciary Committee, which handles investments for **hundreds of Quaker institutions**, [divested](#) from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Veolia

Environment.

*Search these interactive databases to [find out exactly which corporations are profiting from the injustice](#).

Study Trip



Monday, October 14th - Friday, October 25th, 2013

Cost is \$2,652 per person

If you would like to join this tour, please contact Churches for Middle East Peace prior to registration.

Visiting with Israelis and Palestinians is essential to understanding how the ongoing conflict undermines the lives and livelihoods of both peoples, and to being an advocate for an end to the violence and better futures for both people. If you have a call to be a peacemaker, and a passion and love for the people of Israel and Palestine, CMEP invites you to join a Peace Journey this October.

Part pilgrimage, part reality tour and part learning and planning, this journey uses MEJDI's dual narrative approach which includes both Palestinian and Israeli guides while visiting people with different histories and a shared future. [Click here to listen to CMEP's national conference call on "What is a dual narrative tour?"](#)

For more details and registration [click here](#).

Hyatt Worker Agreement

***CMSM and other Catholic organizations participated in this worker's rights movement and boycott.**

UNITE HERE and Hyatt Reach National Agreement

Pact provides contracts and process for workers to join union, ends global Hyatt boycott
CMSM and many other faith organizations have been working hard to advance this cause.

CHICAGO (July 1, 2013)—Today Hyatt Hotels Corporation and UNITE HERE, the union of hospitality workers in the U.S. and Canada, announced a national agreement that resolves longstanding disputes between the two organizations. The agreement creates a framework for the company and the union to work together moving forward. Both UNITE HERE and Hyatt hailed the pact as a positive step.

The agreement will go into effect upon the settlement and ratification of union contracts by Hyatt associates in San Francisco, Honolulu, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Pending associate approval, the contracts will provide retroactive wage increases and maintain quality health care and pension benefits. The proposed new contracts would cover associates into 2018.

A key provision of the agreement establishes a fair process, which includes a mechanism for employees at a number of Hyatt hotels to vote on whether they wish to be represented by UNITE HERE. As part of the accord, upon ratification of the union contracts, UNITE HERE will end its global boycott of Hyatt.

D. Taylor, the president of UNITE HERE, said, "We look forward to a new collaborative relationship with Hyatt. This agreement shows that when workers across the hotel industry stand together, they can move forward, even in a tough economy. Both organizations deserve credit for working out this constructive step forward."

"We are delighted that our associates in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Waikiki will have contracts and the pay raises that go with them," said Doug Patrick, Senior Vice President, Human Resources for Hyatt. For the full press release [click here](#).

Global Poverty Stories

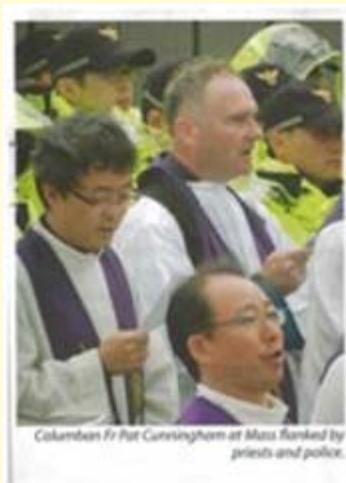
Share Your Story of Confronting Global Poverty

Do you have a story to share about how a member of your institute is leading an inspiring effort to confront poverty? The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services are looking for stories to feature on their Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP) website.

Stories must be 300 words or less and should feature Catholics working internationally on issues such as hunger and nutrition, conflict and peace, just use of natural resources, anti-poverty programming, etc. You can [read examples here](#) in the "Witness of People Around the World" section. [Submit a story via the CCGP web page now!](#)

Columbans in Korea

Columban missionaries have accompanied communities through dictatorships, war, and other periods of conflict. We know the suffering that military presence can cause for God's people and all creation. As we approach the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on July 27th, Columbans in Korea continue to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Korea. **[We invite you to stand with them too by joining people around the world in signing this solidarity letter to prevent an increased military presence on Jeju Island.](#)**



Jeju Island, the "Island of Peace" is a World Heritage site recognized for its fragile marine ecosystem. South Korea is building a naval base there and already the dredging is destroying the coral reef ecosystem. As people of faith, we are called to care and protect creation. **Let the people of Jeju know that you support their efforts to protect the unique Jeju ecosystem by [Signing this Letter](#).**

The people of Gangjeong Village feel that the growing presence of military personnel will disrupt the local way of life and lead to an increase in drinking and prostitution on the island as has been the case near other military bases such as in Okinawa, Japan and Fort Bliss in Texas. **[Sign this letter of solidarity to stand with Gangjeong in their efforts to protect their community life.](#)**

This military base has implications for us, too; the U.S. military plans to contract use of the

base for a missile defense program. The U.S. makes these plans even as we cut other aspects of our budget that promote education, reduce hunger, and guarantee real human security around the world.

As Pope Francis said during his first Easter mass celebration, we must maintain peace among all people of the world as we are “guardians of creation.” He further emphasized a need for peace in Asia, especially on the Korean Peninsula, praying, “may disagreements be overcome and a renewed spirit of reconciliation grow.” [Please sign this letter](#) in solidarity with the Gangjeong community on Jeju Island.



In faith,

Amy Echeverria
Director, CCAO

PS: Columban Fathers in Korea invite you to "Like" the [No Naval Base on Jeju Facebook page](#) and post a solidarity photo of yourself, your family, or your parish that represents your commitment to peace in Korea.

Job Opening

East Side Heart & Home Family Center, a non-profit family support agency in East St. Louis, Illinois, is looking for a Program Director for Housing/Home Ownership Instruction and Development Efforts for Fundraising. For more information including responsibilities, duties, and skills required, please contact ESH&H Family Center at 618-875-7295, 9-5, M-F. Submit resumes with references, Attention: Sister Carol Lehmkuhl, Director, ESH&H Family Center, 705 Summit Ave.; East St. Louis, IL, 62201. <summit705@yahoo.com>.

J/P Ministry Tip: Companion Programs

One of the most fruitful ways to live our faith and impact poverty is to literally become friends with at least one poor person in your neighborhood. Meet with them regularly, listen to their joys and challenges, encourage and assist them in their steps out of poverty, and allow yourself to be changed. This can be done very simply as an individual or group. Here are two examples of structured programs with those living in the streets: [Catholic Charities in NC](#) and [Friendship Place](#) in DC. Here is the [program manual](#) (.doc) for a Catholic Charities “Circle of Support” program.

CMSM



- *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*
- *promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;*
- *provides a corporate influence in church and society.*

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This newsletter is sent to members and associate members of CMSM.
It is also sent to justice and peace directors of CMSM member organizations,
and to others who have expressed an interest.

If you fall into the last category and no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
send an e-mail to postmaster@cmsm.org and you will be removed from the list.