



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



**MAY 2014**

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## Pope Francis Goes to the Holy Land

From May 24 to 26, 2014, Pope Francis visited the Holy Land. He spent time with refugees as well as religious and political leaders. Surprisingly, Francis [invited the Presidents of Israel and Palestine](#) to Rome

to pray for peace and they accepted.

While in Jordan, he visited refugees and said about the conflict in Syria:



"All of us want peace!" he exclaimed. "But as we observe this tragic conflict, seeing these wounds, seeing so many people who have left their homeland, forced to do so, I ask myself: who is selling arms to these people to make war? Behold the root of evil! Hatred and financial greed in the manufacturing and sale of arms. This should make us think about who is responsible for this situation, for providing arms to those in conflict

and thereby sustaining such conflict. Let us think about this and with sincere hearts let us call upon these poor criminals to change their ways."

**TAKE ACTION:** For us in the U.S., let us take this to heart and advocate President Obama to refrain from further providing arms to parties in the conflict.

## *Marist Brother in Syria*

**Brother Georges Sabe SM** makes plea for water in Aleppo. More details [click here](#).

## *Tent of Nations Destruction*

**URGENT ACTION** : Tent of Nations Farm Uprooted by Israeli Forces

May 19th, 2014, Israeli forces uprooted some 1,500 fruit trees on a farm of Daoud Nassar, a Lutheran farmer with land near Bethlehem. He is well known to

many US visitors as the head of "Tent of Nations" and has fought to hold on to his family's land in the face of opposition by nearby settlers. His motto is "We Refuse To Be Enemies." The "[Tent of Nations](#)" is an educational and environmental farm started by a Palestinian Christian.



## South Sudan: Nonviolent Peaceforce

The Nonviolent Peaceforce is one of the premier unarmed civilian peacekeeping NGO's in the world. For those living in or concerned about South Sudan, this organization is especially worth supporting, resourcing, and connecting with religious actors in the area. If you're in other places of acute conflict, I encourage you to [look them up](#) and consider inviting them to your area.



In S. Sudan, NP has "teams protecting civilians in ten locations including Bentiu and Bor, communities that have experienced civilian massacres in the past week. Tiffany is on her way to Bentiu as I write this. The crisis is overwhelming. I am so proud of our peacekeepers who are courageously standing with and protecting as many civilians as they can. In Bor, two of our peacekeepers were in

the United Nations base when the attack started. They took shelter inside a tukul (mud hut) along with five women and nine children. On three separate occasions men with guns approached the peacekeepers and demanded they leave the women and children to be killed. By refusing to leave them, the peacekeepers saved the lives of these women and children." For more details [read here](#).

For recent research on their impact in the Philippines [click here](#)

## Campaign Nonviolence

Campaign Nonviolence is starting to hear from people across the country who will be holding **CNV** nonviolent actions in their local cities **September 21-27**. From Albuquerque to Detroit, from Los Angeles to Dallas, from Juneau to Pittsburgh, people will take action to spread active nonviolence -- and to deepen the nonviolent struggle to abolish war, end poverty, reverse the climate crisis, and challenge all violence.

[Click here](#) to see our map featuring an initial list of 30 cities where CNV promoters are planning September actions. And

SIGN THE PLEDGE!  
Build a Culture of  
Nonviolence



CAMPAIGN  
NONVIOLENCE

then get on the map yourself by emailing your action plans to us at [info@paceebene.org](mailto:info@paceebene.org)!

For those who are just now thinking about nonviolent action during Campaign Nonviolence Week, see our [Call to Nationwide Nonviolent Action here](#) – and the [CNV Action Checklist here](#)!

Stay in touch with Campaign Nonviolence on [Facebook here](#) -- and plan to join our next **CNV National Conference Call on May 29, 5 p.m. Pacific/8 p.m. Eastern**. [You can RSVP here](#)!

## Pentagon Spending: OCO

The House recently passed a couple key amendments to their National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015. CMSM was part of a [25 faith groups' letter](#) on the OCO account.

- **[Amendment 138. \(filed as #307\)](#)**—Mulvaney (R-S.C.), Murphy (D-Fla.): This bipartisan amendment puts the brakes on the Pentagon's slush fund—the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, also known as the war funding account. The Pentagon and Congress have gotten into the regrettable habit of funding items through the OCO that are completely unrelated to the war in Afghanistan. The Mulvaney-Murphy amendment will make clear how the OCO funds can be used.
- **[Amendment 37. \(filed as #131\)](#)**—Griffith (R-Va.), Ellison (D-Minn.): This bipartisan amendment tackles the problem of star-creep in the top-heavy military. It implements former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates' efficiency initiative with respect to the top-heaviness of the military. It would eliminate three 4-star billets and five three-star billets.

## Immigration

*\*Pentecost Tool-Kit Reminder:* [English](#), [Spanish](#)

### *Yordy's Story*

Like most DREAMers, Yordy considers himself an American. Growing up, his teachers

always told him, "work hard and you can become anything you want to be." Work hard he did, in 2011 Yordy graduated at the top of his class, with a 4.02 GPA.

**Recognizing his talents, Yordy was accepted to UCLA,** however he was unable

to attend as his family could not afford the \$54,000 in tuition. Like many DREAMers who are unable to go to college because of their legal status, **Yordy was in limbo. Just a week before Deferred Action (DACA) was announced, Yordy made the difficult decision to go to Mexico,** hoping to be able to go to college there.

**Mexico was nothing like Yordy imagined,** it was certainly different than what he remembered as a 6 year old. Yordy was unable to attend college in Mexico because they considered him a foreign student. Not only was Yordy in limbo again, but now his life was also in danger. **Yordy is openly gay and, in Mexico, he has been the target of hate crimes.** "One time a group of people started throwing rocks at me, calling me a faggot and telling me I deserved to die." Yordy reported all of these attacks to the police, but each time they openly told him "we don't help fags."

Fearing for his life, and hoping to return to his home, DREAMer Yordy turned himself in to ICE on March 10th. **For the last 45 days Yordy has suffered countless abuses, while in detention, here in San Diego.** Yordy had a fear interview in which the Asylum Office agreed with his fears, however ICE in Washington, D.C., ordered that the Asylum Office DENY his case. In addition to Asylum, **Yordy is also eligible for what's known as Prosecutorial Discretion.** This form of relief is for people, like Yordy, who have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives, and have strong ties to the community. Unfortunately things don't look good for Yordy; **ICE has been following orders from Washington D.C. to deny all of these requests for discretion.**

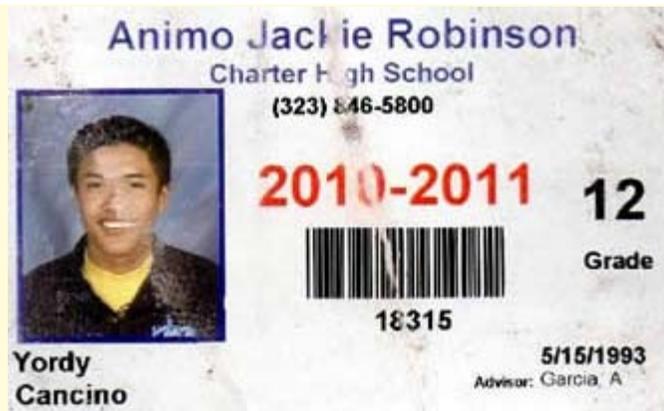
## ***Border Patrol Abuses***

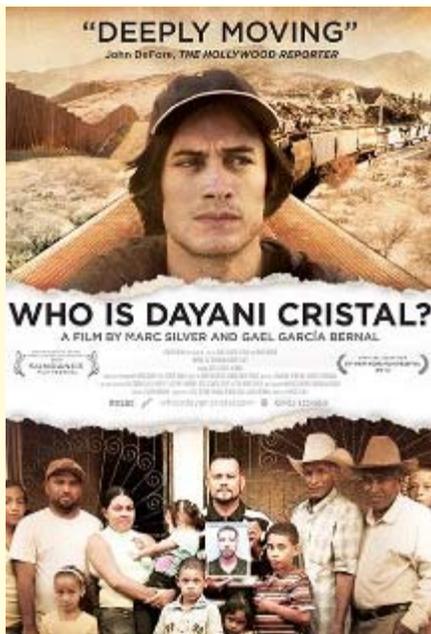
ACLU has a new website landing page for a set of [videos](#) just released about abuses by Border Patrol (CBP) along the US-Mexico border. We need your help to get the word out! The purpose of the videos is to bring further attention to the fact that the U.S. Mexico border has been turned into a virtual military zone in the name of "border security," and that everyone in border communities is affected. Thus, they need more oversight and accountability.

## ***Migration Video: Who is Dayani Cristal?***

This video is excellent for parish, school, and community education on the immigration issue in the U.S.

**Who Is Dayani Cristal?** tells the story of a migrant who found himself in the deadly stretch of desert known as "the corridor of death" and shows how one life becomes testimony to the tragic results of





the U.S. war on immigration. As the real-life drama unfolds we see this John Doe, denied an identity at his point of death, become a living and breathing human being with an important life story.

**Winner of the Sundance 2013 Cinematography Award** and nominated in the **World Documentary Competition**, "Who is Dayani Cristal?" has been

described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as "A deeply moving doc [which] finds a new way of making the immigration debate personal." For more details on the film [click here](#).

## *For-Profit Prisons: Slave Wages*

Professor Jacqueline Stevens, head of the Deportation Research Clinic at Northwestern University and 2014 Guggenheim Fellow, has sued ICE to obtain records relating to detainee labor programs used by DHS and private prisons to hide the true cost of the detention bed quota.

*The last year I've been conducting research on the legality of ICE contracts authorizing private prisons to meet performance goals by paying one dollar per day to the people they're locking up. Current insights into the program are possible because a couple years ago I received a partial response to a FOIA request documenting ICE and private prison firms [paying those in ICE custody one dollar per day](#). In the wake of that release, reporters have followed up. In fact, there have been intermittent reports on this since 2009, when journalist Susan Carroll described the program in an [article in the Houston Chronicle](#).*

*The government says the program is legal, but the scope and profits made by the private prison firms go well beyond the program's official description and are shocking. For instance, the [2012 Krome Facility Request for Proposals](#) lists shifts for "detainee workers" alongside those paid prevailing local wages under the Service Contract Act. The labor is a crucial part of running these detention centers.*

For more details see [here](#).

## **Climate and Food Choices**

### **May Climate Webinar; How Does What We Eat Affect the Planet?**

The May 1st Franciscan Action Network [Climate Campaign Webinar](#), introduced us to the connection between the environment and the food we eat from a

Franciscan perspective. The presenters offered several resources available to support and sustain community efforts to educate, grow and harvest our own food.



The upcoming climate webinars will focus on the way we grow food and how what we eat affects everyone on the planet. We will continue to learn more about moving from information to action as we head toward an exciting fall where the United Nations will hold a [Climate Summit 2014](#).

We invite you to listen to the [webinar online](#) and view all the [additional resources](#) on our web page.

## J/P Ministry Tip:

Show the movie *Who is Dayani Cristal?* as [described above](#) in the immigration section!

**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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