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Bishop Murphy Labor Day Statement

WASHINGTON - With millions unemployed and U.S. workers experiencing tragedies such as mining deaths in West Virginia and the oil rig explosion and subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Americans must seek to protect the life and dignity of each worker in a renewed and robust economy, said Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York. Bishop Murphy addressed these

issues in the 2010 Labor Day Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), entitled *A New Social Contract for Today's New Things*, which can be found online in English (www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/labor_day_2010.pdf) and Spanish (www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/labor_day_2010_spanish.pdf).



Bishop Murphy, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, compared the challenges faced by today's workers to the changing society of the Industrial Revolution addressed by Pope Leo XIII in the 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (*Of New Things*).

America is undergoing a rare economic transformation, shedding jobs and testing safety nets as the nation searches for new ways to govern and grow our economy, said Bishop Murphy. Workers need a new social contract. Bishop Murphy said that creating new jobs would require new investments, initiative and creativity in the economy. He also drew on the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI, which call for placing the human person at the center of economic life and emphasize the role of civil society and mediating institutions such as unions in pursuing the common good.

Workers need to have a real voice and effective protections in economic life, said Bishop Murphy. The market, the state, and civil society, unions and employers all have roles to play and they must be exercised in creative and fruitful interrelationships. Private action and public policies that strengthen families and reduce poverty are needed. New jobs with just wages and benefits must be created so that all workers can express their dignity through the dignity of work and are able to fulfill God's call to us all to be co-creators. A new social contract, which begins by honoring work and workers, must be forged that ultimately focuses on the common good of the entire human family.

Religious Organizations Call for Investigation of Alleged Medical Experiments on Detainees

WASHINGTON- Twenty religious organizations, led by the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture \(NRCAT\)](#), are calling on Congress and President Obama to ensure a thorough investigation into allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) engaged in illegal and unethical human subject research and experimentation on detainees after 9/11 and to make the findings public. The allegations were contained in a [report](#) released last month by the Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).

This action follows a recent decision by the Office of Human Research Protection (OHRP) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to decline to investigate the original complaint filed by PHR, NRCAT, twenty religious organizations and various human rights organizations. Instead it referred the complaint to the CIA.

The complaint to OHRP was filed two days after PHR released its report detailing health professionals' involvement in the CIA's "enhanced interrogation program." Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health, informed the complainants that the CIA's "alleged research activities ... appear to be subject to the oversight of the CIA" and that the complaint had thus been forwarded to the CIA "for review."

"The CIA has already publicly denied these allegations and declined to investigate, so it makes no sense to refer the complaint to them alone," said Rev. Richard L. Killmer, Executive Director of NRCAT. "The faith community will continue to ask the government to investigate these newest allegations of forced human experimentation and to create a Commission of Inquiry to investigate all acts of torture committed by the U.S. government since 9/11. Both our national security and the soul of our nation depend on it."

Since the CIA is the agency to be investigated, the religious organizations are calling on President Obama to ensure an independent, thorough, and open investigation and calling on the House and Senate Intelligence Committees to do the same. Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Diane Feinstein has already committed to include the allegations of human experimentation in her investigation into the use of torture by the CIA; the religious organizations are calling on Senator Feinstein to make sure the committee's findings and recommendations are made public.

The allegations that the CIA used forced human experimentation to legally justify and hone its torture techniques raise serious questions of potential additional legal liability for the CIA and Bush-era officials.

The new effort will focus on mobilizing faith leaders in key congressional districts to

advocate directly to members of the relevant congressional committees and to raise awareness within the faith community about the imperative for a public inquiry into these allegations of illegal experimentation on prisoners.

The 20 national religious organizations that joined NRCAT, PHR and other human rights organizations in filing the complaint spans the broad spectrum of the religious communities in this country, including Muslims, Jews, Hindus and numerous denominations of Christians. A full list of the religious organizations that joined the complaint follows this release. In addition, more than 3000 individuals also became complainants, the largest number of people ever to sign a single complaint to the OHRP. NRCAT and PHR will deliver the list of complainants to the White House to urge the administration to ensure a thorough investigation of the alleged torture experiments.

"All people of faith understand there is such a thing as the spiritual health of a nation. If America is, as Alexis de Tocqueville once said, 'a nation with the soul of a church,' then it is absolutely essential that we exorcise torture and other experimental abuse from our souls and make amends by pursuing the steps required to ensure that U.S.-sponsored torture will never, ever, again be sanctioned or practiced," said Rev. Richard Cizik, president of The New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, a complainant organization.

The PHR report uncovered evidence that the CIA's alleged experimentation and research appear to have been performed to provide legal cover for torture, as well as to help justify and shape future procedures and policies governing the use of the "enhanced" interrogation techniques.

"The CIA's human experimentation, conducted for the purpose of further developing torture techniques, is a violation of accepted standards of medical ethics and of domestic and international law, including the Nuremberg Code, adopted in response to Nazi atrocities," said Rabbi David Saperstein, the director and counsel of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, one of the complainant organizations. " Just as the world committed to creating new boundaries after World War II, so we must now commit to ending U.S. use of interrogation methods that amount to torture and to act in a way that reflects the ideals on which our country was founded."

"The essence of America is our commitment to the rule of law," added Dr. Ingrid Mattson, President of the Islamic Society of North America, another complainant organization. "And as the Koran says, 'do not let the hatred of others swerve you from justice'. We must fight to protect our laws and treaties by calling those who breach them to account. The spiritual health of our nation will continue to suffer until the full truth opens a path to the justice and healing that our nation so desperately needs."

Faith Leaders, National Security Experts Claim Values, Security at Stake in NYC Mosque Debate

[The following is a press release from [Faith in Public Life](#), a strategy center advancing faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force for justice, compassion and the common good.]

A former U.S. military interrogator in Iraq and a national security historian joined prominent faith leaders from New York City and across the country today on a conference call with reporters to offer a robust defense of Park51, a community center and mosque planned near Ground Zero that has sparked contentious debate and increasingly vitriolic rhetoric from opponents. They said Park51 would help deprive terrorists of a tool for recruitment, and cautioned that a rising tide of anti-Muslim bigotry undermines our nation's historic commitment to religious freedom, pluralism and interfaith cooperation.

"Park51 would be a powerful symbol of U.S. tolerance and freedom that will stand in direct

contradiction to al Qaeda's narrative that Americans hate Muslims," said Matthew Alexander, who won a Bronze Star for leading an interrogations team that located Abu Musab al Zarqawi, the former leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq. "As a symbol, its construction demonstrates that the U.S. is not at war with Islam and that Muslims are welcome in America. It communicates a message of moderation that stands in stark contrast to al Qaeda's bankrupt ideology. Symbols like this matter. Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and the policy of torture and abuse handed al Qaeda its number one recruiting tool. Those who think al Qaeda will not be able to spin this controversy to their advantage are disastrously mistaken."

Faith leaders took political leaders to task for their fear-mongering and partisan maneuvering. "I feel compelled to stand against political leaders who are using this controversy to score political points. They are dishonoring the men and women, including the 59 Muslim Americans, who died on 9/11 at the hands of extremists," said **Lisa Sharon Harper**, Executive Director of **New York Faith & Justice** and author of *Evangelical Does Not Equal Republican... or Democrat*. "If we allow fear and twisted truth to reign in this situation we allow the terrorists who destroyed the World Trade Center to also dismantle our Constitution."

David Gushee, a professor of Christian ethics at **Mercer University** and co-founder of the **New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good** said religious freedom "is enshrined in our Constitution, deeply woven into our culture, and intended for situations just as these, where minorities need to be protected from fear, anger, political pandering and the whims of the majority."

Gushee also exhorted fellow evangelical Protestants to extend love and hospitality to their Muslim neighbors. "Certain evangelicals are among those leading the charge, not just against Park51 but a broader attack against Islam as a religion," he said. "Jesus taught that they will know we are his followers by our love. Every time a self-identified evangelical goes on the attack against Islam and Muslims as a group, he or she hurts the cause of the Gospel. I call on my fellow evangelicals to cease and desist."

The project will not only help keep the U.S. safe and symbolize freedom and tolerance, the debate around Park51 has in some ways become more important than the project itself. As political leaders and pundits make divisive and unjust claims, and mosques and Muslims across the country are under attack, faith leaders called for a return to the civility and fair-mindedness President Bush exhibited in the immediate aftermath of September 11. They also drew a striking comparison between leadership that cherishes inclusion and that which cherishes division, denouncing Tea Party rhetoric for scapegoating of vulnerable communities and exploitation of people's fears and anxieties.

"It is not merely a question of freedom of religion, or national security, or how we honor those who died on 9/11, although it is all of those things. It is fundamentally a question about whose path we are following during this economic crisis: the Tea Party path of isolation and exclusion, or a different path of interconnectedness and inclusion," said **Simon Greer**, President of **Jewish Funds for Justice**. "As a native New Yorker, it is clear to me that this diverse city has thrived because we have, more often than not, chosen the latter."

Several speakers drew on their own experience as a member of another religious minority. "Speaking as a Catholic -- a religion subject to considerable discrimination -- I cherish the fact that I can be a full citizen and also be committed to my faith tradition. I find it unacceptable and deeply un-American to deny adherents of other faith traditions the freedoms I have enjoyed," said **Andrew Bacevich**, a professor of international relations at **Boston University** and a historian of national security. "Whether intentionally or not, the contrived mosque controversy wrongly and wrong-headedly conveys the impression that the United States views Islam itself as a national security threat."

A future full of hope: A message of hope and a call to action - Sudan, July 2010

[The following is the preamble to the statement by the **Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SCBC)**. It was written on the occasion of its extraordinary plenary session, held July 15-22, 2010 in Juba, southern Sudan. You can read the entire document on the web site of the [Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns](#).]

Addressed to all the people of Sudan, the Sudanese leaders, and all people of good will

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

PREAMBLE

We, the Catholic Bishops of Sudan, gathered in an Extraordinary Plenary Session in Juba from 15th-22nd July 2010, reflecting and praying together on the present situation in Sudan, greet you and present to you this **message of hope and call to action**.

This is an historic moment. This is a moment of change. Sudan will never be the same again. After centuries of oppression and exploitation, after decades of war and violence which have marked and marred the lives of so many Sudanese in south and north with no respect for human life and dignity, and now, after 5 years of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), we have reached a time to move and prepare for change.

We believe it is not the will of God for human beings to endure such suffering and oppression, particularly at the hands of fellow human beings, and so we bring a message of hope and encouragement to our people and all people of good will.

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the person is at the core of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. Our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Our Church teaches that the role of the government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good. Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. "The Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel" (Vatican II, *The Church in the Modern World*). The Church is a teacher of truth for humanity and has the right and duty to speak on political and social issues that affect the people.

New Debt for Disaster for Pakistan? Jubilee USA Network Calls for Immediate Debt Service Moratorium in Response to Disaster, Assistance in Grant Form

WASHINGTON, DC - [Jubilee USA Network](#), an alliance of more than 75 religious denominations, human rights groups, and development agencies, raised concern over the World Bank and Asian Development Bank's recent announcements to provide Pakistan with a \$900 million and \$2 billion loan respectively. Pakistan already pays \$3 billion a year in debt service, carrying a foreign debt totaling \$54 billion, and now risks a new debt crisis in the face of the worst natural disaster in its history.

"Pakistan must be able to mobilize all available resources toward recovery," stated Eric LeCompte, Executive Director of Jubilee USA Network. "Instead of sending billions in debt

service out of the country, Pakistan should be able to invest those resources in relief and recovery for its people. Furthermore, the international community should provide grant support instead of new loans that will push the country further into debt," he added.

Despite initial estimates pricing Pakistan's recovery at \$20 billion over the next five years, only a fraction of needed assistance has been forthcoming from the international community. Jubilee USA applauds the Obama administration for promising \$150 million in flood aid thus far, yet also calls on the administration to take leadership in ensuring that needed assistance does not add to the country's already staggering debt burden, hindering future development.

As part of a comprehensive relief and recovery plan, the Administration should:

1. Call on all bilateral and multilateral creditors to immediately institute at least a two year moratorium with no accrued interest on all debt service payments from Pakistan. While this will free up \$3 billion each year to direct toward the country's initial recovery, the moratorium should only be a first step toward auditing Pakistan's debt portfolio and negotiating definitive cancellation of Pakistan's debt stock, as is called for by Pakistani civil society.

The US should use its substantial voting power and influence on the Boards of both the IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank to secure a moratorium from these creditors, secure immediate agreements by all bilateral creditors to halt debt service payments, as well as negotiate definitive debt cancellation. All of Pakistan's resources should be directed at recovery, not repayment.

The international community has responded with debt service moratoria and debt cancellation in the wake of massive human catastrophes in the past: to Hurricane Mitch in Central America in 1998, the countries devastated by the 2004 tsunami, and to Haiti's catastrophic earthquake in January 2010.

2. Ensure that emergency disaster-related assistance, wherever possible, be in the form of grants instead of loans. Time and again, countries facing tragedies like Pakistan's catastrophic flooding are forced to mortgage their future as they borrow for relief and recovery efforts. Thus, the tragedy is magnified for years to come.
3. Lead efforts to establish up-front funding for climate change-related disaster preparation. With early warning systems, risk analysis, and preparation, Pakistan could have dramatically reduced the damage caused. The United States and other historically high greenhouse gas emitting countries must take responsibility for their climate debt to those who are least responsible for, and most vulnerable to, climate change.

Outstanding Volunteers to Be Honored by National Catholic Development Conference

CHICAGO, IL -- The [National Catholic Development Conference](#), the nation's largest association of religious fundraisers, will honor outstanding volunteers Miriam Ford and Colleen Kelly of New York with the 2010 NCDC Good Samaritan Award. The award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon on Monday, September 20th, at the 2010 NCDC Conference at the Chicago Downtown Marriott.

Ford and Kelly are hardworking, compassionate and committed long-time family nurse practitioners and volunteers. Both Ford and Kelly have served several economically disadvantaged communities in New York City, including many HIV positive adolescents and adults. In February 1997, Ford and Kelly opened a free health clinic for the uninsured in

New York City. The clinic, entitled the "Ita Ford - Bill Kelly Health Care Team," was named after Ford's aunt Sr. Ita Ford, MM, a Maryknoll Sister that was murdered in Latin America while serving the Jesuit Refugee Service, and Colleen's brother Bill Kelly, who was a victim of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

The clinic was sponsored by a grant from the Sisters of Charity of New York, of which both women are affiliated. This free health clinic served those who couldn't afford basic health care, including many undocumented immigrants from Mexico. Ford and Kelly's clinic positively affected others, as many of their own health care volunteers opened similar free clinics throughout New York City. In addition to serving the poor, both women actively advocate for social justice and peace. In 2001, in response to the September 11th World Trade Center tragedy and to the personal loss of her brother Bill, Kelly founded "September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows," an organization that offers hope and solace to those affected by the tragedy. In the same spirit, Ford co-founded the Bronx Action for Justice and Peace, a group of Bronx community members committed to working for nonviolence and social justice after September 11th.

After the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, Ford and Kelly assisted in clinics in Haiti offering their expertise and compassion. The women raised enough support for a program that runs emergency tent camp clinics in Haiti. Additionally, the pair raised money with the Sisters of Charity of New York for the nursing school at Notre Dame Academy at Port-Au-Prince. Although their New York clinic closed recently, Ford and Kelly remain very active in the local community, bringing basic quality healthcare to many individuals in need. Kelly currently provides care to children in need through the Montefiore School Health program. Ford is currently enrolled in a doctorate program at Adelphi University in which she donates her time working with immigrant mothers. Both Ford and Kelly are each mothers of three children.

The Good Samaritan Award was established in 1968 to recognize those who exemplify concern for others through exceptional service. Nominees must have a life of service that is an outstanding example of the Gospel message, as manifested by the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The nominee's service has also made a significant impact on the lives of the persons in need and must be actively engaged or recently associated with such services.

30th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Four U.S. Churchwomen

[Pax Christi USA](#) would like to invite you to participate in the SHARE Foundation's commemoration of the lives and legacy of the **Four U.S. Churchwomen, Dorothy Kazel, Maura Clarke, Ita Ford and Jean Donovan, assassinated in El Salvador thirty years ago**, by participating in a delegation to El Salvador focused on women's justice issues both in El Salvador and around the world.

Delegates will have the opportunity to:

- Attend the events relating to the 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the four U.S. Churchwomen
- Participate in a Forum on issues affecting women in El Salvador and in the United States
- Join an International Encounter of Women Religious and Christian Base Communities

They will also:

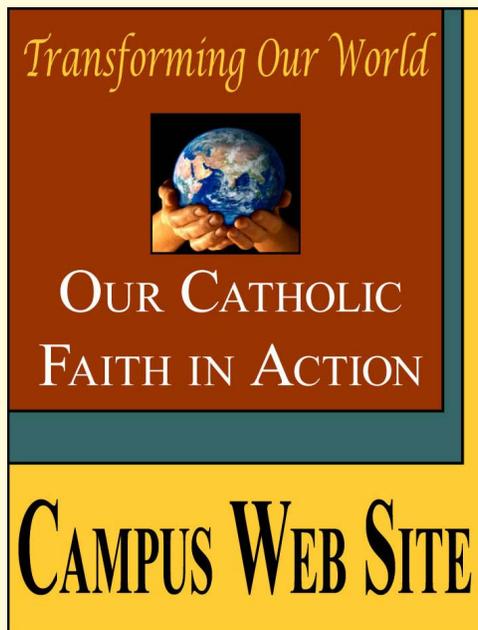
- Meet with Salvadoran women parliamentarians
- Visit women's projects in rural communities
- Meet with and hear speakers on current day El Salvador issues
- Visit the historical martyr sites in El Salvador including the location where the four

churchwomen were assassinated, the home of Archbishop Romero and the University of Central America (UCA) where the Jesuit martyrs lived and died.

This event is organized by the SHARE Foundation and co-sponsored by Pax Christi USA and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).

The delegation will take place November 29th - December 6th, 2010. The cost is \$850 plus airfare, but scholarships and group discounts available.

Please contact Elizabeth at Elizabeth@share-elsalvador.org or Beth at beth@paxchristiusa.org or visit the [SHARE Foundation's website](#) for more information or to register. And please let them know how you heard about the delegation.



"Our Catholic Faith in Action" Campus Web Site

This new site for campus ministers and students features Catholic social teaching, prayer resources, activities, videos, podcasts, an Idea of the Week, and more. Visitors can also submit their own ideas.

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

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