



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



*APRIL 2014*

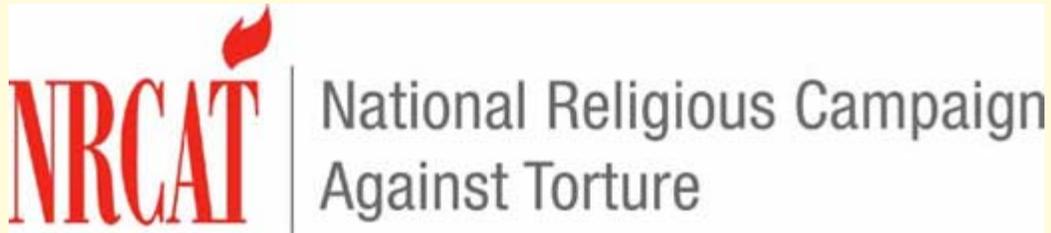
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## *Torture Report Passes*

The Senate Intelligence Committee vote to release critical portions of its report on CIA torture is a victory that deserves to be celebrated!

**Despite this important victory, our work is still far from done.**

The report will now go to the President and the executive branch for a redaction process before it is made public.



Please help us by sharing/promoting the NRCAT [action alert](#) with your members or network. When a person from a state with a Senator who voted for release enters their zipcode, it will generate a thank you to the Senator. Otherwise it will generate an email to the President.

## *Immigration*

### *Bishops on the Border*



Some Catholic Bishops recently celebrated Mass at the Arizona border. See [pictures](#) and read [article](#). Reflect on Cardinal O'Malley's [homily](#), Nogales, 1 April 2014.

## *Lenten Fasting and Call-In Days*

We hope you are enjoying the Lenten Fasting and Call-In Days! Here is a reminder about the [congresspersons to call](#).

## *Hunger Strikes at GEO*

"Officials of GEO, the private corporation that runs the detention center for U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement, came to one wing of the facility and "asked if anyone wanted to speak to detention center officials about the detention conditions," according to the statement. "The twenty men who volunteered followed the officers out of their cells. Believing they were headed to a negotiation on hunger strike demands, the men were instead handcuffed, surrounded by officers in riot gear and taken into solitary confinement." Full Article: [click here](#).

**\*Please check your investments, and if you're invested in GEO make a public statement about divesting or advance your shareholder advocacy in a significant way.**

## *Deportations*

April 6, 2014  
*NY Times*

"With the Obama administration deporting illegal immigrants at a record pace, the president has said the government is going after 'criminals, gang bangers, people who are hurting the community, not after students, not after folks who are here just because they're trying to figure out how to feed their families.'

But a *New York Times* analysis of internal government records shows that since President Obama took office, two-thirds of the nearly two million deportation cases involve people who had committed minor infractions, including traffic violations, or had no criminal record at all. Twenty percent -- or about 394,000 -- of the cases involved people convicted of serious crimes, including drug-related offenses, the records show." Full article: [click here](#).

## *Ecumenical Advocacy Days: Videos*



- Rev. John Dear's rousing call to nonviolence from our [Friday Opening Celebration](#);
- Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love's informative policy presentation on "Justpeace" and Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelsons' rousing call to our 2014 Legislative Ask at our [Saturday Policy Plenary](#);
- Presentations from our [Lunch Plenary](#) panel on solutions to gun violence, sponsored by Heeding God's Call;
- A question and answer [Legislative Ask Lunch Plenary](#) focusing on EAD's Lobby Day preparations.

## *Pax Christi Award to JRS*



The 2014 Pax Christi International Peace Award has been granted to the Jesuit Refugee Service Syria (JRS Syria) for its outstanding dedication in providing emergency relief to Syrians since the war began in 2011. Established in 1988, the Award is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund and honors contemporary individuals and organizations who make a stand for peace, justice and nonviolence in different parts of the world. More details, [click here](#).

In our December 20 Region III meeting, our group suggested some of the following areas of focus for the CMSM Justice and Peace Commission.

- Issues of income inequality and labor issues. We thought that CMSM could say something from its assembly in light of the lack of strong public statements on the issue from the USCCB.
- We thought it would be helpful if communications like the JP Alert could include possible brief homily points for those members who preach on Sunday. E.g. points to

- preach on at the start of National Migration Week etc.
- Issues of climate change and the drastic impact that climate change is having on the church in the South Pacific.
- Working more closely with AFJN on issues of the Sudan and the Central African Republic.



## *Restorative Justice: Social Action Summer Institute*

July 20-24, 2014  
Washington University  
St. Louis, MO

The **Social Action Summer Institute** is sponsored by the Roundtable, which is a collaboration of Justice and Peace directors within the Catholic Community.

### *Setting the Captives Free Embracing Christ in the Victim, Offender, & Community*

#### **Featured Speakers:**

- Bishop Emeritus Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Mark Umbreit, University of Minnesota's Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking
- Janine Geske, Dir. of the Marquette University Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative
- Father Ron Chochol, Archdiocese of St. Louis

#### [More details](#)

**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.*

8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152  
Tel: 301-588-4030 • Fax: 301-587-4575 • [www.cmsm.org](http://www.cmsm.org)

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](mailto:postmaster@cmsm.org) and you will be removed from the list.