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COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWS

Justice and peace-related news, actions, and resources from the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

September, 2023



SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS



Atomic test at Bikini Atoll in 1946.

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USCCB Calls for Nuclear Arms Control

In July 1945, as a key part of the Manhattan Project, the first nuclear weapon was detonated in the desert in New Mexico. Three weeks later the world witnessed the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Upon the anniversary of these events, Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace issued the following statement:

"About 78 years ago, we soberly recall, the United States conducted its first nuclear detonation in New Mexico, paving the way for the development of atomic bombs that would be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sadly, the development of nuclear weapons and threat of nuclear war has continued while arms control architecture is dissolving.

"The Cold War ended over 30 years ago, yet for those who remember, the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 brought us to the brink of nuclear annihilation. And only a precious few today remember those fateful events that brought an end to World War II in the Pacific. With the wars and threat of wars today, the menace of over 10,000 nuclear weapons in our world must not recede further from the public consciousness of today's generation.

"The scourge of the Russia-Ukraine war continues unabated and has included threats of using nuclear weapons. In our emergent multipolar world, state and non-state actors are capitalizing on rapidly developing cyber technologies that

are bringing forth weapons systems of increasing sophistication and lethality, compounding the risks of destabilization and miscalculation. New START, the last remaining major nuclear arms control treaty between the U.S. and Russia, continues to unravel. The billions of dollars spent on these weapons' development are precious resources thereby unavailable for other critical needs of human and economic development.

"We must remain vigilant never to lose sight of the extraordinary dangers these weapons pose to humanity.

Read more [here](#).

Pope Warns Against Dangers of AI at World Youth Day 2023



Signaling the Vatican's growing engagement in efforts to ensure the ethical development of new technologies, the Vatican has announced that "Artificial Intelligence and Peace" will be the theme for the next World Day of Peace, which is scheduled for Jan. 1, 2024.

"The remarkable advances made in the field of artificial intelligence are having a rapidly increasing impact on human activity, personal and social life, politics and the economy," the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said in a statement released Aug. 8.

"Pope Francis calls for an open dialogue on the meaning of these new technologies, endowed with disruptive possibilities and ambivalent effects," the statement said.

Read more [here](#).

Ortega Regime Seizes Central American University from Jesuit Order



The Organization of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (ODUCAL), with a membership of 116 institutions of higher education, expressed its solidarity with the Jesuits of Nicaragua following the expropriation of the Central American University (UCA) by the dictatorship of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, earlier this month.

In a recent statement, ODUICAL expressed its “deep concern over the siege, the confiscation of assets, and the closure suffered by the Central American University located in Managua” and its “solidarity with its educational community.”

The organization also demanded that “the drastic, abrupt, and unjust measures adopted by the Nicaraguan [court] against Catholic university educational institutions be reversed and corrected immediately.”

Read more [here](#).

Photo of UCA courtesy of Jesuits of Central America.

MORE TOPICS TO EXPLORE

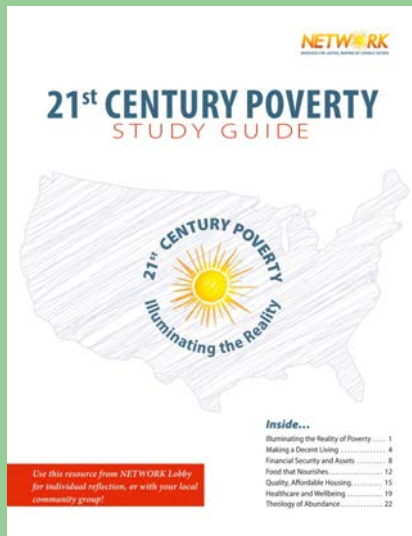
[Pope Francis to release a second Laudato Si on October 4](#)

[African painted dogs face extinction from climate change](#)

[Climate change threatens global food supply](#)

TAKE ACTION

READ: 21st Century Poverty: Illuminating the Reality of Poverty in America



NETWORK's new study guide can help you:

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The causes of poverty in the United States

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Spread awareness and dispel the many misconceptions that stand in the way of real progress.

WORK

Help your community take concrete steps to eliminate poverty.

Get started [here](#).

**Global Goals for Sustainable Development
Goal 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions**

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS



PLEAS FOR
GLOBAL PEACE
GROW LOUDER

WORLD IS WITNESSING LARGEST
NUMBER OF VIOLENT CONFLICTS

SINCE 1946

AND

**A QUARTER OF THE
GLOBAL POPULATION**

LIVES IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED

COUNTRIES (END 2020)



1/3 OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
MOSTLY WOMEN
FEAR WALKING ALONE IN
THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS AT NIGHT



A RECORD
100 MILLION PEOPLE

HAD BEEN **FORCIBLY DISPLACED** WORLDWIDE

(MAY 2022)



GLOBAL HOMICIDE RATE DECLINED

5.2%

BETWEEN
2015 AND 2020

FALLS SHORT
OF THE "SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION"
BY 2030 TARGETED IN THE SDGs



CORRUPTION IS FOUND IN EVERY REGION

ALMOST **1 IN 6** BUSINESSES HAVE RECEIVED BRIBE REQUESTS
FROM **PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Goal 16 is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. People everywhere should be free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith, or sexual orientation.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation, and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law. Governments, civil society, and communities need to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is critical to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and

U.N. International Days

2023

September 5

International Day of Charity

The International Day of Charity was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The date of September 5 was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace." [Learn more.](#)

September 7

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

This year's theme of "Together for Clean Air" focuses on the need for stronger partnerships, increased investment, and shared responsibility to overcome air pollution. Given the transboundary nature of air pollution, all stakeholders have a responsibility to protect the earth's atmosphere and ensure healthy air for everyone. [Learn more.](#)

September 8

International Literacy Day

Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda toward a more literate and sustainable society. [Learn more.](#)

September 15

International Day of Democracy

While the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in major challenges globally, a new upheaval in Europe is reminding the world that our democratic principles are constantly under threat. In fact, now more than ever Democracy is backsliding, civic space is shrinking, distrust, mis- and disinformation are growing while threats to the freedom of journalists and media workers are expanding by the day. This year, Democracy Day will focus on the importance of media freedom to democracy, peace, and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. [Learn more.](#)

September 17

World Patient Safety Day

World Patient Safety Day calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety. The Day brings together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, healthcare leaders, and policymakers to show their commitment to patient safety. [Learn more.](#)

September 18

International Equal Pay Day

International Equal Pay Day, celebrated on September 18, represents the

longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls. [Learn more.](#)

September 21

International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed around the world on September 21. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Never has our world needed peace more. [Learn more.](#)

September 26

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest goals of the United Nations. It was the subject of the General Assembly's first resolution in 1946, which established the Atomic Energy Commission (dissolved in 1952), with a mandate to make specific proposals for the control of nuclear energy and the elimination of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction. [Learn more.](#)

September 29

International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction

Reducing food losses and waste is essential in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons and tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted every day. Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service, and 2 percent in retail). [Learn more.](#)



Comboni JPIC Network News

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