



Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

NewsNotes

A bi-monthly newsletter of information on international justice and peace issues

July-August 2020

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Take action - Email, call, fax or write U.S. decision makers

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Joint Statement on Anti-Racism

The leadership of the Maryknoll entities and the Office for Global Concerns are responding to the growing anti-racism movement in the United States.

Since George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, was killed by a police officer in south Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, the Black Lives Matter movement has become the largest civil rights movement in history, sparking mass protests against systemic racism in the United States and around the world. On June 10, the leadership of the Maryknoll Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, and Lay Missioners issued the following joint statement, “A Call for Anti-Racist Transformation in the United States:”

“Maryknoll missionaries mourn the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and all those who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism. Our faith is rooted in the belief that every person is made in the image and likeness of the Creator, and thus equally deserving of dignity and respect. We join Pope Francis in saying we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. We abhor the violation of life that racism represents.

Seeing the video of the killing of Mr. Floyd and other videos of killings, beatings, and harassment of black and brown people by police and others who benefit from white privilege has made us all witnesses to the persistent sin of racism that resides within hearts and distorts social structures in the United States. We stand in solidarity with our suffering black and brown brothers and sisters who live in fear due to systemic violence, and with all those expressing grief and outrage, who feel their voices are not heard. We echo their cry of Black Lives Matter and their call for justice, to reverse the power of the state used against people of color.

Mr. Floyd’s tragic death occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has revealed stark truths about systematic racial inequality in the United States, as black and brown deaths skyrocket and economic devastation in black communities teeters on depression. It is painfully clear that the United States has never fully atoned for its original sin of slavery and the proceeding century of racial discrimination in law and in culture.

Both the 1968 Kerner Commission report and the 50-year update by the Eisenhower Foundation say deepening racial division is not inevitable. ‘[The] alternative will require a commitment to national action,’ the original report said, ‘compassionate, massive and sustained, backed by the resources of the most powerful and the richest nation on this earth. From every American it will require new attitudes, new understanding, and, above all, new will.’

We see the righteous anger and courage of the millions of people demonstrating in the streets across all 50 states – people of all races, ethnicity, and ages – and we feel a spark of hope. We pray that this is the birth of the new will needed to transform ourselves and our society. Together we say his name – George Floyd! Black Lives Matter.”

In addition, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns helped organize two events for Catholics in the D.C. area in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. The first occurred on June 2, in response to President Trump’s visit to the Saint John Paul II Shrine in Washington D.C., one day after police and troops, using tear gas and shields, pushed demonstrators out of Lafayette Park so the president could pose for photos outside of St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Susan Gunn, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, helped organize the vigil across the street from the Catholic shrine on June 2. “Our Christian faith calls us to recognize the tremendous suffering of our brothers and sisters,” Gunn told the National Catholic Reporter. “I believe it’s absolutely shameful that the Knights of Columbus is hosting the president at this time at the St. John Paul II National Shrine, our great pope, a man of peace.”

Gunn’s sentiments were echoed by Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington D.C., who said in a statement on June 2, “I find it baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated in a fashion that violates our religious principles, which call us to defend the rights of all people, even those with whom we might disagree.”

In addition, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns helped organize a prayer service and march on June 8 at the Black Lives Matter Plaza for Catholics in the DC area. The prayer service was led by Black diocesan priests and was entitled, “Requiem for the Black Children of God.”

On June 25, the Maryknoll Affiliates hosted a webinar on “Courageous Conversations in Times of Pandemic and Polarization,” which gave some tips for the work of anti-racism. More resources on anti-racism work can be found at <https://bit.ly/MOGCBLM>. §

Justice for Immigrants in U.S. Policy

This is a abbreviated version of the brief on immigration as part of our election briefs series, Faithful Voting and Global Concerns. View the entire brief here: <https://bit.ly/ElectionBriefsMOGC>

People trying to immigrate to the United States suffer from the failures of an outdated immigration system and the ongoing political gridlock preventing reform. The patterns and landscape of immigration to the United States have greatly changed since the framework for our current system was created in 1965, but it has been 30 years since the last significant reform. Experts across the board continue to call for comprehensive immigration reform, while the current Administration makes every attempt to block avenues to immigration, including through broad immigration bans, restriction of access to asylum, and other means considered inhumane and illegal.

The highly complex U.S. immigration system is founded on principles of family unification, economic need, and humanitarian protection. The number of visas available under each of those categories per year is limited, and the demand far outpaces the supply, leading to huge backlogs in the system. Legal U.S. residents must often wait decades for visas for their immediate family members to be approved. Similarly, competition for work visas is fierce in subsets of industries, such as in agriculture, construction, and hospitality. Many employers in these industries claim they have no choice but to hire undocumented workers.

Despite heightened border enforcement, the undocumented population in the United States has grown to about 11 million, largely due to the absence of legal pathways to immigration and ongoing “push” factors prompting people to leave Central America and Mexico, including gang and state-sponsored violence, poverty, and climate change. Data suggest that the increasing militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border and the efforts to deter undocumented immigrants from the U.S. have been largely ineffective in reducing the undocumented population. Deterrence efforts have instead contributed to several humanitarian crises at the southwest border, most egregiously the family separation crisis of 2018, in which at least 2,648 children were separated from their parents upon arrival, some of whom remain separated today.

The United States has historically granted visas for humanitarian reasons, such as for asylum seekers, but

recent policy changes have made it effectively impossible to gain such protection. By law, asylum seekers are offered the same protection as refugees – permanent protection from persecution to due race, religion, nationality, or membership in a social or political group – but they must apply for asylum at a U.S. border or within one year of their arrival in the United States.

Judge

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a long history of advocating on behalf of immigrants and in favor of just, comprehensive immigration reform, motivated particularly by the large percentage of U.S. Catholics who are, and historically have been, immigrants.

The USCCB explains that, according to Catholic social teaching, while nations have a right to enforce their laws and borders, the duty of Christians to “welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person” is paramount. Any efforts to enforce the law must respect the dignity of migrants, the importance of family unity, and the right of persons to migrate when they are unable to support themselves or their families at home. Catholic social teaching also asserts the duty of wealthy nations to accommodate migration flows.

In addition, Pope Francis and theologians of migration remind us of our duty to “welcome the stranger” and that the experience of being strangers in a foreign land is deeply woven into the history of our faith. Pope Francis explains that in the migrant we are called to see the face of Christ.

Act

We can call upon our candidates to include the following positions in their platforms:

- Expand access to the legal immigration system, most urgently for long-term undocumented U.S. residents, especially DACA recipients
- Restore and strengthen systems for the fair processing of asylum seekers and protect their human rights and dignity during the process
- Establish a humane immigration enforcement system, including by investing in alternatives to detention and prioritizing family unity
- Revitalize U.S. contributions to addressing the root causes of migration in impoverished and struggling nations §



Justice for Immigrants in U.S. Policy is a series of 10-page briefs, Faithful Voting and Global Concerns, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns address: key global issues for voters to consider for the 2020 U.S. election. Inspired by the gospel and Maryknoll mission's commitment to stand with vulnerable communities around the world, we urge U.S. citizens to consider these issues and vote to advance the common good, social justice, and the integrity of creation.

See

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Climate Change and U.S. Policy

This is an abbreviated version of the issue brief on climate change as part of our series, *Faithful Voting and Global Concerns*. View the entire brief here: <https://bit.ly/ElectionBriefsMOGC>
See

Life on earth is facing a serious threat due to human-induced climate change. A solid scientific consensus indicates that global warming is due to greenhouse gas emissions primarily from burning fossil fuels for more than 200 years. While high-income nations produce the bulk of emissions, low-income nations are most vulnerable to its impacts.

We already see the impacts of a changing climate: loss of sea ice and accelerated sea level rise; extreme and erratic weather patterns, prompting devastating wildfires in Australia and California; increased frequency of extreme storms and floods, and rapidly changing agricultural patterns in many parts of the world.

Based on what the world's leading climate scientists said in a report in 2018, we have about ten years left to take the necessary steps to prevent irreversible damage from climate change. Doing so will require that we keep the average global temperature rise well below 2 °C (3.6 °F) above pre-industrial era levels, and ideally below 1.5 °C (2.7 °F).

No country can expect to escape the effects of climate change. Because greenhouse gas emissions and ecological degradation in one place affect the entire earth's climate, global cooperation is necessary to address this crisis. The most recent and successful cooperation effort is the Paris Agreement of 2015, a landmark accord signed by all 197 countries in the world.

The Paris Agreement requires each signatory nation to offer a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions every 5 years. It also creates a fund for countries to contribute to mitigation and adaptation projects, particularly in impoverished countries.

However, most countries have failed to lower their emissions or pledge enough to avoid catastrophic climate change. Frustrated with their governments' inaction, in recent years youth all over the world have taken to the streets to demand their leaders act to protect their future.

Judge

Concern for the environment has been incorpo-

rated into Catholic social teaching through the writings of the three most recent popes. In 1990 Pope John Paul II stated, "Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith." In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole."

In his landmark 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis explored the spiritual roots of the ecological crisis: "[The earth] now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her."

Pope Francis has urged all people of good will to work together to care for our common home and avert the growing ecological crisis, including through the Paris Agreement: "All governments should strive to honor the commitments made in Paris, in order to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis."

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns www.maryknollogc.org

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Act


Climate change is no longer a problem only facing future generations. We should urge our leaders to take strategic action at every level to mitigate the effects of climate change and assist those who suffer from its effects. We can call on our candidates to support the following policy commitments:

- Re-enter the Paris Agreement, the most successful international cooperative agreement on climate so far. The U.S. plans to formally leave the agreement on November 3, 2020 but can initiate the process to re-enter at any time.
- As part of its participation in the Paris Agreement, the U.S. should reinstitute and increase its financial commitments to help all nations mitigate and adapt to climate change, particularly those which are impoverished and more vulnerable.

Faithful Citizenship

Research how your candidate measures up on climate change by viewing the [League of Conservation Voters](#) candidate scorecard. If a candidate's position is unclear, reach out to the campaign and ask. Let candidates know you are concerned about the climate crisis and vote to protect our common home.

Maryknoll Experience



[We] study and discuss *Laudato Si'* in the rural parish [in El Salvador] where I live and we implement what we can through our agricultural and environmental ministries. The main effects of climate change here are the drastically extreme wet and dry seasons and catastrophic storms that result from almost constant, insufficient or excessive rainfall leads directly to hunger among the poor.

- Fr. Vincent Maryknoll Lay Missioner

Pray

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and honor. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, bearing no one's burden and none.

- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

Act

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Faith in action: Read about a new Vatican initiative to urge all Catholics to divest from fossil fuels: <https://bit.ly/HSdivest>

Welcoming Refugees in U.S. Policy

This is an abbreviated version of the brief on refugees as part of our election briefs series, Faithful Voting and Global Concerns. View the entire brief here: <https://bit.ly/ElectionBriefsMOGC>

See

The United States has long been the world leader in offering resettlement to refugees. Under the current Administration, the U.S. refugee program has been diminished, resulting in refugees being stranded in temporary shelters abroad.

A “refugee” is someone who has crossed an international border in order to flee persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a social group. To gain refugee status, individuals must be recognized by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, or a national government as fitting the criteria. If they qualify, they have the right to permanent resettlement in a safe country.

Only a small percentage of refugees – often the most vulnerable – opt for permanent resettlement abroad; most remain in the neighboring countries to which they initially fled or eventually return home. Before they are resettled by a country which volunteers to receive them, refugees go through an extensive screening process that takes, on average, 18-24 months.

Since 1980, the U.S. has aimed to resettle an average of 95,000 refugees per year – the most of any country. However, the Trump administration’s goal for fiscal year 2020 was to admit a maximum of just 18,000 refugees.

Meanwhile, the world is facing a staggering number of people who have been forcibly displaced and the worst refugee crisis since World War II.

Diplomatic and humanitarian solutions are shrinking as nations fail to cooperate to deal with underlying causes of violence and provide permanent solutions for refugees. When countries such as the U.S. draw back from their commitment to help refugees, refugees are left waiting for help. With decreases in funding, refugee agencies in the U.S. continue to close.

Judge

In this time of unprecedented global migration, Pope Francis has made it clear that our faith calls us to

respond with compassion to the needs of those fleeing violence in their homelands. Based on the inherent dignity of each person as created in the image of God and our biblical call to “welcome the stranger,” Pope Francis says that nations should act toward refugees and migrants with “generosity, enthusiasm, wisdom, and far-sightedness.” To displaced people he has said, “You are at the center of the Church’s heart.” To wealthy nations, he has said that ungenerosity toward refugees is “an alarm bell warning of the moral decline we will face if we continue to give ground to the throw-away culture.”



Maryknoll Experience
 “[While volunteering in a refugee camp in Greece, I came across a] young man [refusing] the food that the church provides for them. He said “I am fasting.” I asked him to tell me about his fast. He just said “I fast so that all THIS will be over.” I just want to join my prayer to his.”
 – Sr. Rosemarie Milazzo, MM

Act

There are Members of Congress in both parties who remain steadfast in their support for refugees. We can urge our Members of Congress and Administration to revitalize bipartisan cooperation to support refugees by encouraging the following policy commitments:

- Ensure the number of refugees admitted to the United States annually is reflective of the global need for refugee resettlement, as determined by UNHCR. For example, new legislation can require that the president consult further with Congress and UNHCR when deciding how many refugees to admit each year.
- Maintain the United States’ financial contributions to refugee assistance programs at historic levels or higher.
- Increase U.S. leadership in efforts to expand international cooperation to help refugees, such as the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees.
- Support diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts in war-torn countries to address the root causes of the refugee crisis.

Faith in action: Contact Congress to urge them to revitalize bi-partisan U.S. support for refugees:
bit.ly/SuppRefMOGC §

Sanctions: Nonviolent Tool or Lethal Weapon?

This is an abbreviated version of the brief on U.S. sanctions policy as part of our election briefs series, *Faithful Voting and Global Concerns*. View the entire brief here: <https://bit.ly/ElectionBriefsMOGC>

See

Economic sanctions are often presented as a non-violent alternative to military action by governments seeking to influence or coerce foreign leaders. Far from nonviolent, however, many sanctions target non-combatants and result in death on a scale comparable to war. There are many forms of sanctions, targeting different kinds of economic activity, from freezing a corrupt leader's assets to imposing broad trade embargos. Both their effectiveness and their lethal impact vary widely.

Economic sanctions became a popular tool of foreign policy during the 1970s and '80s when an international program of boycott, divestment, and sanctions was employed against the apartheid regime in South Africa. But the potential of sanctions to devastate vulnerable civilian populations – especially women and children – was witnessed when U.S.-led United Nations sanctions in Iraq in the 1990s and early 2000s led to the deaths of over 250,000 Iraqi children.

When sanctions are solely punitive and too broad, civilians pay the price. Under current U.S. sanctions in Iran, for example, essential items such as medical goods are exempt, but by targeting institutions such as national banks, shipping, and currency exchanges, sanctions make it exceedingly difficult for hospitals to import needed equipment and medicines.

The United States has increasingly employed sanctions with the express goal of regime change, often explicitly seeking to inflict suffering on civilian populations to provoke them into rising up against their own leaders. Studies have repeatedly found that this strategy has the opposite effect, leading populations to rally around otherwise-unpopular governments in the face of foreign economic aggression.

Experts suggest sanctions are most effective when employed by international coalitions, in conjunction with other diplomatic efforts, and with a combination of “carrots and sticks” offering the target country a clear path toward having them lifted. Instead, U.S. sanctions under the current administration have been leveled unilaterally, as punishment alone, without accompanying

diplomatic efforts. The Iran nuclear agreement exemplified the kind of multifaceted approach most likely to succeed, but the U.S. pulled out of this international agreement in 2017.

Judge

Too often, the use of sanctions violates Catholic values of nonviolence and just peace by failing both to protect the vulnerable and to effectively advance the cause of reconciliation and sustainable peace. Even when employed with legitimate objectives such as halting corruption, human rights violations, or preparations for war, Catholic social teaching requires that sanctions “be used with great discernment and must be subjected to strict legal and ethical criteria.” They should be applied:

- Multilaterally,
- In conjunction with other diplomatic tools and ongoing dialogue,
- With a timetable and clear incentives for positive action,
- And must not result in harm to civilians.

Act


Sanctions are a complicated tool of international relations, taking myriad forms and functioning within a wider framework of diplomatic or military action. We should urge our candidates to commit to taking the following actions:

- Employ sanctions strategically and nonviolently, according to the criteria listed above;
- Listen to the voices of ordinary citizens and those who accompany them on the ground in targeted countries,
- Ease or lift sanctions that threaten civilians either directly or indirectly, especially in response to disasters such as a pandemic.

Faithful Citizenship

Find out the candidates' records on economic sanctions. Do they support U.S. engagement with other countries to transform conflicts through nonviolent diplomatic means? If a candidate's position is unclear, reach out to the campaign and ask. Let them know you are concerned about the violence sanctions can inflict on vulnerable communities, get them on the record, and vote for strategic nonviolence and just peace! §

Faithful Voting and Global Concerns
Global Issue Briefs for the 2020 U.S. Elections



Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Issue 4: Sanctions

Sanctions: Nonviolent Tool or Lethal Weapon?

In a series of two-page briefs, *Faithful Voting and Global Concerns*, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns addresses key global issues for voters to consider for the 2020 U.S. election. Inspired by the gospel and Maryknoll's mission of "commitment to stand with vulnerable communities around the world, we urge U.S. citizens to consider these issues and vote to advance the cause of peace, social justice, and the integrity of creation."

See

Economic sanctions are often presented as a nonviolent alternative to military action by governments seeking to influence or coerce foreign leaders. Far from nonviolent, however, many sanctions target non-combatants and result in death on a scale comparable to war. There are many forms of sanctions, targeting different kinds of economic activity, from freezing a corrupt leader's assets to imposing broad trade embargos. Both their effectiveness and their lethal impact vary widely.

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The United States has increasingly employed sanctions with the express goal of regime change, often explicitly seeking to inflict suffering on civilian populations to provoke them into rising up against their own leaders. Studies have repeatedly found that this strategy has the opposite effect, leading populations to rally around otherwise-unpopular governments in the face of foreign economic aggression.

Experts suggest sanctions are most effective when employed by international coalitions, in conjunction with other diplomatic efforts, and with a combination of “carrots and sticks” offering the target country a clear path toward having them lifted. Instead, U.S. sanctions under the current administration have been leveled unilaterally, as punishment alone, without accompanying diplomatic efforts. The Iran nuclear agreement exemplified the kind of multifaceted approach most likely to succeed, but the U.S. pulled out of this international agreement in 2017.

U.S. Sanctions Today

- The U.S. Department of the Treasury maintains various forms of sanctions on over 30 targets around the world, and the Department of State has 20 sanctions programs it helps to oversee.
- Most notable are broad-reaching sanctions on Iran, North Korea, Myanmar, Syria, and Cuba, all of which have been condemned by faith groups and human rights organizations for harming civilians.

Coronavirus Connection

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns has joined other organizations in calling for the immediate lifting of economic sanctions by the U.S. during the pandemic so that North Korea, various Middle Eastern countries, and other sanctioned nations can procure the necessary resources to fight the spread of the virus and bolster their economies.

COVID-19 Exposes Repression in Latin America

The Latin America Working Group offers a roundup of the actions by governments in Latin America that use the pandemic to expand corrupt or repressive rule or respond with police brutality.

COVID-19 has begun to drastically affect life in Latin America. While government restrictions are essential to save lives, measures must protect, not harm, citizens.

El Salvador: The national stay-at-home order in El Salvador is being enforced by the military, and some of those accused of violating it are arbitrarily detained and confined in quarantine centers. The Supreme Court declared President Bukele's COVID-19 containment measures to be unconstitutional. Despite this ruling, Bukele ordered security forces to continue arbitrarily detaining anyone violating his lockdown order.

Honduras: Seventy-six percent of the Honduran population that work outside of the agricultural industry belong to the informal sector and many cannot afford to abide by lockdown measures. Efforts to relieve some of the pressure through handouts with food or undercut by government corruption. The Alvarado Brothers, for example, defied lockdown measures to sell bread only to be shot by the military police, leaving one of them dead.

Ecuador: One of South America's smallest countries, Ecuador has the fifth highest number of COVID-19

deaths. Human rights organizations fear the pandemic will devastate Ecuador's indigenous groups, which they say have been neglected by the country's health ministry. Despite confirmed cases of COVID-19, indigenous communities have been slow to receive tests and medical supplies.

Brazil: As of June 18, Brazil has reported a total of 46,842 COVID-19 deaths, making it the hardest hit country in the world after the United States. President Bolsonaro fired his Health Minister over disagreements regarding the country's coronavirus strategy, and the most recent one quit after four weeks. Bolsonaro has called social distancing useless and participated in two "anti-lockdown" protest outside the presidential palace in Brasilia, even as Brazil was predicted to be the new epicenter of the virus.

Find this roundup as a graphic and PDF at <https://bit.ly/RepLAMOOC>

Faith in action: Ask Congress to support the bipartisan Protecting Human Rights During Pandemic Act: <https://bit.ly/HRpandemicAA> §

Diocese of Hong Kong Opposes New Security Law

The Catholic Church in Hong Kong raises concerns that a new security law will threaten the basic rights and freedoms of the territory's people.

The Diocese of Hong Kong Justice and Peace Commission signed an open letter to the Chinese government opposing a controversial new security law just days before the vote by China's top legislative body.

The letter, dated June 16, 2020, and signed by 86 human rights and social justice organizations, including the diocese's Justice and Peace Commission, was addressed to Li Zhanshu, chairman of China's National People's Congress, responsible for the law, which Beijing says is intended to prevent and stop acts deemed a threat to national security.

"We are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the recent adoption by China's National People's Congress (NPC) of a formal decision to directly impose national security legislation on Hong Kong. We urge the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) to reject the legislation," the letter states.

"Although no details of the law's contents have been made publicly available, the decision — along with recent comments by Chinese and Hong Kong officials — suggest that it will threaten the basic rights and free-

doms of the people in Hong Kong. We are particularly concerned about the law's impact on Hong Kong, especially its vibrant civil society."

According to UCA News, some details of the new law, which cover sedition, succession, terrorism and acts by foreign powers and were revealed by state media in June, could put Catholics, including senior clergy, in danger of prosecution. A full draft of the legislation was not released. Beijing has confirmed that under the new rules it will have the authority to extradite people charged under the legislation for trial in the mainland's opaque and harsh justice system.

A local national security commission supervised by Beijing will oversee the legislation and will be able to overrule local authorities in some cases. The new law will also empower authorities to scrutinize schools including dozens of Catholic diocesan and religious schools on vague national security grounds.

China's National People's Congress passed the national security law for Hong Kong on June 30, with all 162 votes in favor. §

Philippine Official Brands Nun a 'Terrorist'

Duterte spokesperson says red-tagging of Sister Mary John Mananzan is permitted under freedom of speech. This article by Joseph Peter Calleja was printed by UCA News on June 25: <https://bit.ly/RedTagMOGC>

A senior government official has accused a Benedictine sister of being a “long-time ally of a communist terrorist organization” after condemning the libel conviction of top journalist Maria Ressa and news writer Reynaldo Santos, Jr.

Sister Mary John Mananzan called Ressa’s conviction an attack on press freedom in a recent social media post.

Much of her criticism was aimed at the judge in the case, Rainelda Estacio Montesa, who she said studied at St. Scholastica, a Benedictine school.

Sister Mananzan said she was saddened that the judge did not show the values of a “scholastic” education.

“Whatever successes you [Judge Montesa] may have attained, I am afraid you are a failure as scholastic. Some consolation is that Maria Ressa is also a scholastic,” Sister Mananzan added.

Presidential communications undersecretary Lorraine Badoy responded to the nun’s post by linking her with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

“I am not intolerant of MJ’s [Mary John’s] views. If she thinks Maria Ressa is the best thing since sliced bread, what do I care? We are a democracy after all. Not communist like others strive for us to be,” she said on social media.

Sister Mananzan was founder and chairperson of the leftist Gabriela Women’s Party for 18 years. The group was founded in 1984 to advocate for women’s issues and later became one of the biggest groups to fight

the Marcos regime.

Undersecretary Badoy also said Mananzan’s close ties to a “communist terrorist group” had made her sound hateful and divisive, as communists are.

“Why is Mary John Mananzan so closely allied to a group that has brought this country so much grief and destruction and that has, as its main goal, the overthrow of the government?” she said.

The official’s post drew demands for a public apology from women’s and human rights groups.

“Sister Mananzan is only the latest on a long list of activists and Duterte critics red-tagged by Badoy and the agencies she works with. We demand a public apology from Badoy retracting and correcting her condemnable Facebook post,” said the lay group Movement Against Tyranny in a statement.

The group also said the undersecretary had gone too far in red-tagging and accusing one of the pillars of Philippine activism.

“Such wild and baseless accusations coming from an undersecretary and official not only defames Sister Mary John’s person and reputation but puts her life and liberty in peril,” the group added.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said Badoy’s comments fell within the realm of freedom of expression.

“That was her personal view. We are in a democracy ... Freedom of expression is guaranteed under the Bill of Rights,” he told reporters. §

Cambodia: Hun Sen to Cement His Dynasty

Cambodian strongman is grooming his eldest son to take over leadership of the country. Read the rest of this article from UCA News by Joseph Benny, published June 26: <https://bit.ly/DynastyMOGC>

Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for 35 years as if in a dictatorship, is keen to pass on the baton to his eldest son to perpetuate a dynasty in the one-party state.

The 67-year-old prime minister said he is grooming his eldest son, Hun Manet, 43, to take over leadership of the country, reports said on June 23. But he has no plans to discontinue his authoritarian rule for at least another decade.

Hun Sen acknowledged that whether his son ultimately becomes prime minister “rests with voters.”

“First, within the party – whether it can accept his candidacy or not – and secondly, he needs to be elected by the people,” Radio Free Asia quoted Hun Sen as saying.

The Supreme Court of Cambodia dissolved the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) in November 2017, alleging a plot to overthrow the government.

Hun Sen followed up on the political front by silencing the media and human rights activists before winning all 125 seats in parliament in the July 2018 general election.

During an inspection of the construction site for the new Phnom Penh International Airport on June 22, Hun Sen vowed that his ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) would rule the country for as long as a century. §

South Sudan: Violence Amid COVID-19

Intercommunal violence and government corruption pose serious challenges for South Sudan during the pandemic.

In March, António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, called for a global ceasefire. He stated, “The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.” In South Sudan, despite recent promising steps in the peace process, this call has gone unheeded due to ongoing violent conflicts between communities and deeply entrenched political corruption.

The Deep Knowledge Group, a consortium of commercial and non-profit organizations in Hong Kong, has identified South Sudan as the most dangerous country to reside in during the coronavirus pandemic after extensive analysis of the country’s levels of violence and government and economic capacity.

Reports given by Sister Esperance Bamiriyo, a Comboni Missionary Sister in Wau, South Sudan’s second largest city, support such an assessment. As one example of ongoing violence during the pandemic, she states that in April, approximately 7,000 civilians occupied the grounds near the Catholic Cathedral in Wau, taking refuge from armed militias active in the region. However, the fear that COVID-19 would rapidly spread in the congested living quarters led people to reluctantly return to their homes. When they arrived home, as they struggled to collect firewood and begin farming, many were attacked and killed.

This example highlights how state authorities continually fail to protect civilians and manage local conflicts. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, condemned violence in Jonglei State in central South Sudan which occurred on May 16. According to UN reports, from January to March 2020, intercommunal fighting was the main source of violence against civilians and resulted in at least 65 cases of sexual assault, 452 injuries, 592 abductions, and 658 deaths. These conflicts between communities stem from a long history of fighting over natural resources, which include water and grazing land for cattle. Today these conflicts involve military-grade weapons and tactics, acquired through decades of almost continuous war in South Sudan.

The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) strongly condemned this violence in a statement issued on June 17, 2020. “We call for immediate cessation of hostilities and formation of State and Local governments,” the council stated. “We also appeal in the name of God to all our political leaders to value people over

and above position, power and party interests.”

To that end, the formation of governments in the ten states of South Sudan was announced the same day, June 17, a long-awaited and contentious step in the South Sudanese peace process. President Salva Kiir will nominate governors for six of the states; Vice President Riek Machar, who leads an opposition party, will nominate governors for three; and the South Sudan Opposition Alliance will nominate a governor for one state.

Given rampant corruption, South Sudanese leaders are unlikely to respond to the plea of the SSCC to value people over other interests. A new report by The Sentry, an organization which investigates corruption, details how, since independence was granted for South Sudan in 2011, government leaders have co-opted governmental institutions; looted resources; and ignited a civil war, which began in 2013. Although the civil war is over, the report explains that acts of corruption by South Sudanese leaders continue to be linked to international corporations, foreign banks, and foreign governments. Dismantling such a large and tightly woven web of criminal activity will take extensive time and resources in addition to the acquiescence of South Sudan’s leaders.

Assessments of the health care situation in South Sudan during the pandemic have been mixed, but positive reports are likely misleading due to insufficient testing and data. A policy brief produced by the Sudd Institute, a research institute in South Sudan, analyzes mortality in the pandemic and concludes that South Sudan is “one of the least hit countries in the region.” It claims the country performs seventh among 11 regional countries and ranks sixth out of 11 for lowest number of deaths per 100,000 population.

However, the researchers admit that testing in the country is inadequate, leading to an inaccurate picture of the situation. For South Sudan to effectively confront this pandemic, effective testing, contact tracing, and quarantine measures will need to be implemented, as recommended by the World Health Organization. Treatment of COVID-19 has caused so much pressure on the government that David Shearer, the UN Special Representative on South Sudan, has briefed the UN Security Council that the entire health care system could easily collapse and lead to even more deaths.

Faith in Action: On July 9, South Sudan will celebrate nine years of independence from Sudan. Join in prayer for peace and protection during this time of pandemic: <https://bit.ly/SSudanIndep> §

Statement on Israeli Annexation

Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of which the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns is a member, released the following statement on April 29 opposing Israeli plans to vote to annex portions of the West Bank.

On April 22, 2020, Secretary of State Pompeo, responding to the new Israeli coalition agreement, said that annexation of much of the West Bank is for Israelis to decide. Pompeo's words were seen by people across the political spectrum as greenlighting annexation. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) strongly condemns the Trump administration's support for Israeli annexation of the West Bank and calls for the U.S. government to work instead for a viable and just peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Absent leadership from the Administration, Congress must immediately take concrete legislative action to make clear the U.S. government will not fund or otherwise support annexation.

President Trump's plan, issued in two parts in June 2019 and January 2020, proposes that Israel annex some 30 percent of the West Bank regardless of Palestinian actions. After issuing the second part of the plan, the U.S. government sent a team to work with the Israeli government in a joint commission to map out the areas for annexation. The commission began work in February.

Unilateral annexation of Palestinian land in the West Bank is in direct contravention of international law and conventions, and would likely mark the end of any possible just and lasting resolution to the conflict. Annexation would further deprive Palestinians of any realistic chance for a state, eliminate diplomatic cooperation, and perpetuate the current withholding of aid by the U.S. government. It is unacceptable that the U.S. would recognize annexed West Bank territory to be part of Israel, and repugnant that the U.S. government is pro-

posing and facilitating this confiscation of land designated to be the future Palestinian state. If Congress fails to act now, the United States will bear a significant amount of responsibility for the continued disenfranchisement of Palestinian rights and for the continuation of the conflict.

CMEP's executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, says, "As Christians, we cannot support unilateral annexation, because peace must be negotiated between the parties directly involved - Israelis and Palestinians. As Americans, we believe the U.S. must neither foot the bill for annexation, nor provide diplomatic cover for it."

The Israeli coalition agreement calls for annexation to be presented to the Knesset as early as July 1. At time of writing, Israelis have yet to affirm the Netanyahu-Gantz coalition as Israel's government. For Americans, the decisions are whether to oppose unilateral Israeli annexation and whether later to impose consequences if – heaven forbid – annexation comes to pass.

Opposition must be quick. July 1 is just over two months from today. And there is no guarantee that an Israeli government would stop at 30 percent of the West Bank. Many Israeli leaders see that 30 percent as a minimum, and are calling for the annexation of all of Area C – some 60 percent of the West Bank – this July. Americans need to make their voices heard in favor of peace and opposing annexation.

Faith in action: Send a message to Congress urging them to oppose Israeli plans to annex portions of the West Bank: <https://bit.ly/NoAnnexCMEP> §

DACA Recipients Can Dream On

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns issued the following statement on June 18, 2020.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns receives the news of the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program with great joy and relief. With this long-awaited victory, DACA recipients can now take deep breaths and continue to dream of bright futures here in the United States, their true home.

"Through personal encounters and at marches and rallies in Washington DC, we have heard and witnessed the heartache and resilience of DACA recipients and their families as they have fought against the constant threat of deportation and for the government to recognize that their home is here," said Susan Gunn, Director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. "While

the work for a permanent solution for DACA recipients and their families must continue, this decision provides welcome relief and hope for these hard-working immigrant youth who so enrich our communities and congregations."

We urge the Trump administration to fully and immediately reinstate the DACA program, so that younger immigrants may apply, and we urge Congress to quickly follow with a legislative solution, such as H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, to provide a permanent pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. As we celebrate this victory, we continue to cry out, "Justice for Dreamers, justice for immigrants!" **Faith in action:** Take action for Dreamers: <https://bit.ly/DREAMmoge> §

International Debt Relief and Aid Needed

There is an urgent need for the United States to offer foreign aid and support the IMF expanding debt relief for vulnerable countries hit by the coronavirus.

While the health crisis brought on by the coronavirus is severe, the global economic crisis is devastating. In some parts of the world, people fear death from hunger and unemployment as much as from sickness.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called the pandemic the “worst economic downturn since the Great Depression” and predicts a decline in global growth of almost 5 percent in 2020 with global employment loss in the second quarter of 2020 equivalent to losing 300 million full-time jobs. This is a sharp downturn from earlier forecasts. The IMF has said it expects the recession caused by the pandemic, both globally and in many individual countries, to grow even deeper.

International humanitarian experts at Bread for the World and elsewhere have urged Congress to provide \$12 billion in aid for countries sinking under the weight of the coronavirus crisis. Reports from UN-affiliated agencies indicate that 265 million people could face starvation of “biblical proportions” by the end of the year and half-a-billion people could be pushed into poverty by the growing global economic crisis. Many impoverished countries are facing this new crisis compounded by ongoing crises of food insecurity, fragile health infrastructure, and crushing debt.

Congress has so far spent 0.1 percent—not one percent, but one-tenth of one percent—of its total COVID-19 response on international actions, roughly \$2.4 billion out of \$2.4 trillion. The \$12 billion that many hoped would be included in the HEROES Act would be a step toward the nearly \$90 billion in aid that UN experts predict will be needed to protect the most vulnerable 10 percent of people around the world.

To avoid dire economic and humanitarian consequences, Congress should take three actions.

Provide emergency assistance

Congress should provide no less than \$12 billion for international assistance in the next legislative package. This funding should include resources for emergency global health and health security activities, as well as for food security, livelihood, and other programs to mitigate the economic shock of the pandemic. In comparison, the U.S. provided an emergency appropriation of \$5.4 billion for three countries in West Africa to respond to the Ebola outbreak in 2015.

Within this response, Congress should continue support to the World Health Organization, the only multilateral institution organization with the technical capacity and global mandate to support and coordinate the

public health response of all countries.

Support debt relief

Congress should support expanding a moratorium on debt service payments from indebted countries to international financial institutions, like the IMF, to enable countries to increase spending on essential items to fight the pandemic. So far, the IMF canceled debt payments for the 25 poorest countries and the G20 agreed to put debt on hold for others. But this is not enough. Across 46 countries, debt payments for this year are currently projected to be 400 percent of their health budgets.

Support the IMF issuance of Special Drawing Rights

Congress should instruct the U.S. representative to the IMF to support, not block, issuance of \$3 trillion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), an emergency financial liquid resource that is without any cost to U.S. taxpayers. To be clear, it costs absolutely nothing to the U.S. taxpayer for the IMF to issue SDRs.

CEPR and Oxfam America recently published an excellent issue brief explaining the urgent need for the IMF to issue SDRs: <https://bit.ly/CEPROXSdr>

A special international reserve asset created by the IMF, SDRs are distributed to central banks of countries in proportion to their IMF quotas. Countries can exchange SDRs for freely usable currencies when they are in weak financial positions. They are similar to the Federal Reserve’s swap arrangements, which have primarily benefited wealthy nations, whereas SDRs are distributed to all IMF member countries. The IMF last issued SDRs in 2009 in response to the global financial crisis and thereby helped ease the impact of the crisis on developing economies.

Because SDRs are issued to each country roughly in proportion to the size of its economy, economists project that an issuance of \$3 trillion SDRs will ensure that significant help can reach Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and other regions that face major economic and public health emergencies.

According to a poll released by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, people in the United States overwhelmingly support increased foreign assistance due to the pandemic, with 80 percent of poll respondents agreeing that assistance to other countries to fight diseases makes us safer. Now U.S. voters need to tell Congress.

Faith in action: Tell Congress to provide life-saving foreign assistance for COVID-19:

<https://bit.ly/CongressFACovid> §

U.S. Closing the Door to Asylum Seekers

Maryknoll Lay Missioner Heidi Cerneka, an immigration attorney in El Paso, Texas, explains why the Administration's decision to indefinitely close the southwest border is immoral and illegal.

On May 12, the Trump administration indefinitely extended the closure of the U.S.-Mexico border, which began in late March on grounds of public health concern. As an immigration attorney working at the southwest border, I believe this decision is inhumane, immoral, illegal, and ineffective. It will have serious consequences for asylum seekers and immigrant families and will be a stain on the moral fabric of our society for years to come.

The border closure, based on Center for Disease Control directives on March 20, has led to the expulsion of over 20,000 migrants, some of whom were asylum seekers and unaccompanied children. The new directives allow border agents to bypass immigration and asylum laws, leading to a near-total shutdown of the asylum system, which had already been severely gutted by previous Trump administration policies.

Given that the U.S. has signed and ratified the UN Protocol to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which obligates the U.S. to respect asylum seekers at our borders, this move is illegal. Our domestic immigration law, the Immigration and Nationality Act, further commits us to offering this protection to those fleeing persecution based on race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group. Individuals have a legal right to seek asylum at or within our borders and we have an obligation to process their claims and accept those who qualify duly and legitimately. We cannot legally send individuals back to countries in which their lives are at risk. Yet that is exactly what we are doing right now, denying many people a chance to even state their asylum claims.

The closure of the border will especially affect those on the journey to the border who believed the United States to be a nation that respects its own laws and stands for justice. Many of those who intended to exercise their legal right to seek asylum are now trapped in Mexican border towns in crowded shelters and tent camps with no resources, no jobs, and no end in sight. They came seeking protection from the dangers in their home countries and now find themselves hungry and at risk of extortion and kidnapping.

One asylum seeker, Angela, has been waiting in Ciudad Juárez for her asylum hearing for many months with her husband and four small children, two of whom have significant health issues. They sleep on the floor of a shelter and at times go hungry, but they cannot go

home because of the threat against them in their country of origin. Now, given the border closure, they have no idea how long they will be stuck in the shelter. Their court case has been rescheduled three times and is currently scheduled for August. Those seeking asylum should not be included in the border closure, but border agents are sending people who cross into the U.S. seeking asylum back to Mexico without even an interview.

Mexican border towns are at higher risk of COVID-19 infection because of the overcrowded migrant shelters. In addition, the U.S. continues to spread COVID-19 in Latin America by deporting migrants from the U.S. to countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia. The Guatemalan government has announced that 116 migrants deported to Guatemala from the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19 so far. The local communities are frightened by those returning from the U.S. Mexican and Central American officials continue to call on the U.S. to halt deportations to stop the migration of the virus to its southern neighboring countries, where health infrastructures are generally very fragile.

Based on this Administration's continual attempts to restrict immigration and access to asylum, this decision to close the border indefinitely is not based on legitimate public health concern. It is taking advantage of the crisis. In the vacuum of legislative authority created by a Congress that spends its time bickering along party lines, the Executive branch is de facto writing destructive immigration policy, not in the public interest, but based on political interests. Our vulnerable neighbors, and our moral integrity, will be deeply scarred by their choices. §

Disastrous Asylum Rules Proposed

On June 15, the Trump administration announced a new set of proposed rules that further restrict access to asylum, especially for Central American applicants. Experts say that, if approved, these new changes would effectively "abolish asylum as we know it in the United States." Public comments on these proposed rules are being accepted until July 15. Faith in action: Visit <https://p2a.co/vRu15hT> to submit a comment to the Administration on these proposed rules.

Work to Protect Oceans Continues

Ocean ecosystems are vital for mitigating climate change, but they are at risk of collapse due to the ecological crisis.

With increasing urgency, scientists are raising the alarm about the need to protect oceans from ecological devastation, especially given their important role in mitigating global climate change. Even during the pandemic, scientists and experts are working hard to find solutions that will protect the world's oceans, including through innovative technology and preservation efforts.

The oceans, which make up 71 percent of the planet's surface area, play a critical part in mitigating climate change by absorbing the excess heat and carbon created by human industry, a role known as a heat and carbon "sink." According to the UN, about 30 percent of the excess carbon dioxide produced by humans is stored in the oceans, raising the amount of carbon dioxide in the oceans by 35 percent since the industrial revolution.

The resulting rise in temperature and acidity of the oceans has serious consequences for ocean ecosystems and human communities, including through threatening marine life, causing changes in weather patterns, increasing the frequency of storms, and contributing to sea level rise. In addition, eight million tons of plastics enter the ocean every year through human disposal.

Rising ocean acidity is also leading to coral "bleaching," or the loss of the vast coral reefs which support a large portion of ocean marine life. An estimated 50 percent of the world's coral reefs have already become "bleached." Scientists are worried that oceans will soon reach their breaking point in terms of degradation, causing ecosystems to collapse and weakening the capacity of the oceans as a carbon "sink."

Experts at the UN are working hard to increase global awareness of the threats to the ocean and help people connect it to other human development goals and concerns. One of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 is called "Life Below Water" and focuses on the need to protect oceans for the sake of the ecosystems themselves, for the estimated 3 billion people who directly rely on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods, and for all life on earth that is threatened by a changing climate.

The 2020 Oceans Conference in Lisbon was set to address various challenges to the ocean, advance research on solutions for ocean protection, and help make connections between protecting the oceans and other human development goals. It had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

World Oceans Day, held on June 8 each year, is another opportunity to advance awareness of the impor-

tance of oceans for our global wellbeing. At this year's virtual World Oceans Day festivities, the theme was "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean." The online gatherings focused on new technologies that can protect ocean ecosystems and on the capacity of oceans themselves to address environmental challenges.

"As the challenges to the ocean continue to grow, so does the need for novel solutions," the Ocean Newsletter said. "[World Oceans Day] will shed light on ocean innovations from around the globe in areas of need that are both promising and proven, instill optimism, and have demonstrated the ability to scale effectively. It will also provide a platform to hear from thought leaders who are paving new paths forward for the health of the ocean and the planet."

Experts presented several examples of innovative technology during the World Oceans Day virtual gatherings. One is the Great Bubble Barrier, which seeks to decrease plastic pollution in the oceans by addressing the fact that two-thirds of ocean plastic comes from rivers. The bubble barrier is a tube that lies at the bottom of a river and produces a "curtain" of air bubbles to divert plastic wastes to the shore, where it can be collected. Innovators say this solution can successfully divert 86 percent of plastic waste without affecting ships or fish. Another example is the use of ocean waves to power water desalination, which can provide clean water for coastal communities.

As helpful as technological innovations may be, many experts emphasize that we cannot rely on technology alone to preserve these ecosystems; prevention of climate change and conservation of natural ecosystems is critical. Although ocean preservation is first and foremost the responsibility of individual nations, this will not be achieved without robust initiatives at both the regional and global levels. Carbon dioxide increase, which is responsible for climate change, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and coral bleaching, cannot be reversed without global cooperation.

Peter Thompson, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, remarked, "In 2021 the UN will launch the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. To achieve the resilient future we want for people and planet, the development of the Sustainable Blue [Ocean] Economy will depend overwhelmingly on innovation and ocean science." §

Resources

- 1) From Pax Christi International, sign a **letter to Pope Francis** thanking him for **prioritizing nonviolence** in his work on a just recovery from the COVID-19 crisis: <https://bit.ly/TYPaxChristi>
- 2) Register for our upcoming **webinar, “Climate Change and U.S. Policy” on Thursday, July 9, from 12:30-1:00 p.m. EDT.** This webinar is the third in a series of webinars, which is part of our Faithful Voting and Global Concerns project: <https://bit.ly/MOGCJuly9>
- 3) Check out our series of **two-page issue briefs** and webinars released as part of our *Faithful Voting and Global Concerns* project to help educate voters on key global issues in advance of the 2020 U.S. elections: <https://bit.ly/ElectionBriefsMOGC>
- 4) Read an article by journalist Ezra Klein, **“Imagining the nonviolent state,”** on how the values of nonviolence can be incorporated into society. <https://bit.ly/KleinNonviolentUSA>
- 5) Read the **UN’s statement on racism** in the United States: <https://bit.ly/UNHRRacism>
- 6) Explore these video resources from the Garrison Institute on **“Care for Caregivers,”** which include instruction on meditation and mindful movement: <https://bit.ly/GARMindMed>
- 7) Read this article in the Nation about the links between the **struggles of African Americans against racism** in the U.S. and the war on **Africans under the foreign policy of anti-terrorism**: <https://bit.ly/38mcgnq>
- 8) Read a report (in Spanish only) on the human rights violations facing Indigenous Peruvians during the pandemic, submitted to the UN by Human Rights and the Environment (**DHUMA**) of Juli, Peru, an organization of which **Sr. Pat Ryan, MM,** is president: <https://bit.ly/DHUMAUN>
- 9) Read an 8-page backgrounder, **“Food First Backgrounder: Farmers and Farmworkers Face the Virus,”** a special edition compilation on ways food sovereignty activists see the coronavirus crisis as a pivotal moment for change: <https://bit.ly/Foodfirst>
- 10) Watch the recording of a webinar, **“Religious Responsibilities in Confronting Police Brutality,”** hosted by Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs: <https://bit.ly/GTPolBrutality>
- 11) Read a new report from the Institute for Policy Studies, **“No Warming No War: How militarism fuels the climate crisis and vice versa:”** <https://bit.ly/NoWarmNoWar>
- 12) Read a report from Misereor, the German Catholic development organization, called “Global Sovereign Debt Monitor 2020,” on the increasing **global debt crisis.** <https://bit.ly/MisDebt>
- 13) Explore a new webpage from the Vera Institute for Justice on **justice for immigrants** during the COVID-19 pandemic. Find new data on detention and COVID-19, deportation, DACA, etc: <https://bit.ly/VeraSptImm>
- 14) Read a new document **Pope Francis, “Life After the Pandemic,”** now available in English: <https://bit.ly/VitaDopo>
- 15) Read an article in the Journal of Moral Theology on the work of the Church for environmental justice since the release of Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* five years ago: <https://bit.ly/MGoodwinLS>
- 16) Read an article by Susan T. Jackson and Christoph Laucht on the real life consequences of using **militarized language**: <https://bit.ly/2WMO1uf>
- 17) Read the latest **migration update** from the Latin America Working Group (LAWG): <https://www.lawg.org/migration-news-brief-06-19-20/>
- 18) Watch a webinar from Churches for Middle East Peace on how U.S. Christians can stand **against annexation of the West Bank** and for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine: <https://bit.ly/WebCMEPAnnex>
- 19) Read the new report by the **UN Human Rights Agency** on the widespread killings in the **Philippines** under President Rodrigo Duterte: <https://bit.ly/3gaiPfm>