



Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

NewsNotes

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200 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: (202)832-1780 Fax: (202)832-5195
ogc@maryknoll.org www.maryknollogc.org

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Peace, Social Justice, and Integrity of Creation

Maryknoll Sisters Maryknoll Lay Missioners Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers

Washington Office
200 New York Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 832-1780

New York Office
PO Box 311
Maryknoll, NY 10545
(914) 941-7575

ogc@maryknollogc.org

www.maryknollogc.org

Susan Gunn, director sgunn@maryknollogc.org
Fr Francis J. Breen, MM ffbreen@maryknoll.org
Anna Engelmann aengelmann@maryknollogc.org
Thomas Gould thomas@maryknollogc.org
Sr Margaret Lacson, MM mlacson@mksisters.org
Dan Moriarty dmoriarty@maryknollogc.org
Sr Susan Nchubiri, MM schubiri@mksisters.org
Fr John Sivalon, MM jsivalon@maryknoll.org
Lisa Sullivan lsullivan@maryknollogc.org

To contribute to NewsNotes, please contact Thomas at thomas@maryknollogc.org

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

President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov

President
World Bank Group
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
www.worldbank.org

Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520
(202) 647-6575 phone
(202) 647-2283 fax
www.state.gov

Vice President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
vice_president@whitehouse.gov

Managing Director
International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20431
www.imf.org

Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301
(703) 695-5261 phone
www.defenselink.mil

White House Comment Desk
(202) 456-1111 phone
(202) 456-2461 fax

U.S. Representative to UN
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
(212) 415-4000 phone
www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov

Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202)353-1555 phone
AskDOJ@usdoj.gov
www.justice.gov

Capitol switchboard:
(202) 224-3121
www.congress.gov

Current status of bills:
<http://thomas.loc.gov>

A Venezuelan Migrant's Story

One migrant's journey through South and Central America to seek asylum in the United States.

Right now, tens of thousands of people in Central and South America are beginning a months-long journey to the U.S. border. One recently arrived migrant generously shared his story for publication under a pseudonym:

Andrés is a 26-year-old man from Venezuela who traveled over 3,300 miles across South and Central America to reach the U.S. border with Mexico. Under the Maduro regime, Venezuelans have experienced extreme food and medicine shortages, and, Andrés says, a government where laws are not equally applied. Identifying as gay, he felt like a target and decided he must leave. Without proper travel documents or much money, he began by walking 70 grueling miles through the dense jungle of Panama's Darien Gap, where death by drowning or falling is not uncommon.

After surviving the jungle, he passed through Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala by foot and bus in a matter of weeks. Andrés says, "in Panama we were delayed three days [at a UN migratory station] due to the deaths that occurred," referring to a bus full of migrants that tumbled off a cliff killing at least 39. The waters for bathing at the UN migratory station were downstream from human sewage. "More than one person contracted a skin fungus."

Once in Mexico, Andrés joined countless desperate migrants who, over the years, have latched or thrown themselves onto "La Bestia" (The Beast), the freight train that runs north from Chiapas to the U.S. southern border. Falling would mean a swift and certain death. Perched on top of the train, migrants are vulnerable to harassment by locals who pelt them with rocks. A nine-year old girl in Andrés' party nearly lost an eye.

Throughout the journey there is constant anxiety. The immigrants' presence in every country along the route is unauthorized. They are easy to spot, from their stale clothes, their thick Venezuelan accents, or for Haitians, their black skin. All are markers of vulnerability, and no opportunity is wasted to gouge them for all they are worth.

At every migration checkpoint, Andrés found a bypass controlled by organized criminals who demanded a fee. Locals joined in by charging high prices, and Andrés heard tales of law enforcement handing migrants to cartels for slave labor. He estimated that the extra charges cost him \$2,500, all while subsisting on a diet of bread, water, and the occasional cookie.

Despite his difficulties, Andrés says he has been lucky.

He made it into the United States, where he requested asylum. The U.S. Customs and Border Patrol sent him to a detention center in Louisiana, where he spent one month behind bars for the first time in his life, not knowing if he would be released to friends in New York or to the dangerous streets of Tijuana, Mexico. Others he was imprisoned with had been detained for as long as five months. "The desperation really gets to you," Andrés said of that time. He made it to New York.

Along his route, too, he has been lucky. He was fortunate to be able to have family and friends to wire money to him as we traveled. Carry it with you and you risk losing it all to muggings. In fact, part of what makes the journey take so long for most other people is they must wait to earn the money to make it past the next checkpoint.

Andrés is still haunted by his last night in Mexico when he was nearly kidnapped by a roving mob. Had strangers not come to his rescue, he does not know where he would be now.

Catholic social teachings are unambiguous. They assert the duty of wealthy nations to accommodate migration flows and work to address the causes of forced migration. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops explains that, while nations have a right to enforce their laws and borders, the first duty of Christians is to "welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person." 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.

Pope Francis writes, "Merciful God... Inspire us, as nations, communities, and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters. May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand." §

Faith in action:

- Volunteer at Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, which welcomes short and long-term volunteers to provide hospitality to migrants. Learn more at <https://mogc.info/AH-volunteer>
- Join an immersion trip to El Paso/Juarez organized by the Maryknoll Father and Brothers <https://mogc.info/border-immersion>

Guatemala: Election Results Sow New Hope

A surprise second-place finish for anti-corruption candidate bodes well for a country plagued by corruption.

Guatemalans awoke to unexpected results the morning after the country's June 25 national elections. Bernardo Arévalo of the Semilla party, an anti-corruption candidate who had been polling in eighth place, took second place in the voting with 11.8% of votes, behind frontrunner Sandra Torres with 15.78%. The two will face one another in a runoff election on August 20.

Both candidates are described as "center-left." But in Guatemala and throughout the region, such designations have become increasingly irrelevant, giving way to a more salient division between corruption and authoritarianism vs. democratic rule of law.

For the first time in Guatemala, more voters cast null or spoiled ballots than voted for any candidate, with 17.39% – a strong indicator of broad dissatisfaction and mistrust in establishment politicians and an election. Other top anti-corruption candidates were disqualified on arbitrary grounds by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, while several leading candidates who were allowed to run had openly violated election rules. Arévalo's strong showing injected a new sense of hope into an electoral process church officials and human rights defenders had seen as unlikely to bring much-needed change to the country.

In recent years, a powerful conglomeration of political and military leaders, wealthy elites, and organized crime groups widely referred to as the "Pact of the Corrupt" have systematically dismantled or coopted Guatemala's democratic institutions.

MOGC participated in a June 21 virtual meeting organized by the Root Causes Initiative, an international grassroots and faith-based network convened by the HOPE Border Institute and Faith in Action, with USAID and State Department officials. Cardinal Álvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of Huahuatenango, told U.S. government officials that Guatemala was a "failed state" ruled by a "dictatorial, authoritarian" regime. He predicted that the elections would only serve to further entrench corruption. Describing the desperation of Guatemalans, he lamented, "Nothing will change."

But Arévalo's runoff campaign seems to change that calculus. The son of Guatemala's first democratically elected president, Juan José Arévalo Bermejo, the younger Arévalo has experience as a diplomat, a government minister, and a member of the legislature. Because polls had him and running mate, Karin Herrera, far behind the projected front-runners, his earnest, grassroots campaign was not seen as a threat, which may be why he was allowed to remain in the race. Now, journalists and human rights advocates view the

August runoff as the first realistic chance in years to break the stranglehold of corrupt interest on the Guatemalan state.

Before the election, Jorge Santos, head of the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (UDEFEFUGA), told the Guardian, "It doesn't matter who wins, the political mafia has already made sure that the regime will continue and we will be in crisis for at least another generation." But after the election results were announced, Santos retweeted a tweet saying, "Thank you, Semilla, for shutting my mouth. It's the best thing that's happened to me in my life."

In another significant deviation from polling trends, candidate Zury Ríos – the daughter of Efraín Ríos Montt, the brutal military dictator of the 1980s – had consistently been predicted to finish in second or third place, but came in sixth.

Corruption as a root cause of migration

The Root Causes initiative sent a letter to President Biden and Vice President Harris on June 12 urging them to take stronger steps before the election. The Maryknoll Affiliates chapter in Guatemala were among the signers.

"In plain terms," the letter reads, "powerful and corrupt business interests, politicians, and current and ex-military officials have captured the Guatemalan state to enrich themselves. This corrupt pact... (has) arbitrarily manipulated ballot access rules to undermine the upcoming national elections.

"The consequences for ordinary Guatemalans are devastating. More and more people are being displaced by illegal mining and agribusiness projects that operate with impunity. The lack of democratic accountability leads to Guatemala having one of the lowest tax rates in Latin America and a massive underinvestment in education, health, and development. More than half of all Guatemalans live in poverty. These economic pressures are the root causes that force Guatemalans to migrate. If nothing is done to change course, Guatemala is headed into a period of greater political and social instability that will drive even more people to flee."

Many see Arévalo's Semilla party as more directly aligned with organizations that have been sounding the alarm on all of these issues. In a situation that seemed hopeless, Guatemalan voters have managed to keep hope alive. §

Faith in action: If you, or anyone you know, is eligible to vote in the Guatemala election while abroad, follow the instructions here to cast your vote in the runoff election. <https://migrante.tse.org.gt/home>

Panama: Catholic Environmental Network Opposes Mining

REMAM has urged Panama's National Assembly to reject a deal with a Canadian copper company's subsidiary.

In a statement titled "Saving our Common Home," the Ecclesial Ecological Network of Mesoamerica (REMAM), declared its opposition to a new contract concerning Central America's largest open pit copper mine negotiated by the government of Panama and Minera Panamá, a subsidiary of Canadian company First Quantum Minerals Ltd.

In the deal announced in March, the mining company agreed to pay \$375 million dollars minimum annually to the Panamanian government for operations at Cobre Panamá. This was an increase from the \$61 million paid in 2021, despite the company's \$3.2 billion in profit. Not addressed in the proposed contract were the violations of worker's rights or the environmental concerns. Production from the copper mine accounts for 3.5% of Panama's economy.

The REMAM statement calls metallic mining "neither viable nor sustainable" in a country with the water and biodiversity wealth and climatic vulnerability of Panama. The mining area is located in the middle of a protected forest in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Donoso Protected Area.

The region is already facing deforestation, drought, mangrove destruction and the pollution of freshwater sources. It is estimated that the corridor loses 400,000 hectares of forest annually.

According to REMAM's statement, the contract "contains contradictions" with existing environmental and constitutional legislation. These contradictions cannot be glossed over, for as Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*, "the protection of the environment is in fact an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it."

REMAM and others raised concerns that this infringes on the nation's sovereignty, especially given that a major shareholder of the company is the Chinese state-owned Jiangxi Copper.

The main argument used by the government to garner support for the project was that it would be an increased source of income for the nation. Details of the contract, however, reveal that is far from the whole truth. The contract allows the annual payment to be reduced for multiple reasons such as a drop in the price of copper in the international market or unforeseeable cost increases. In addition, the company is allowed to deduct in its income

tax return the loss in value of the deposit on the land as a result of its exploitation. What this means, in effect, is that the Panamanian people would actually end up subsidizing the company.

At an even larger level, concerned citizens and environmentalists are questioning whether the promised profits will come anywhere near to compensation for the real damage to water sources and biodiversity.

According to Clara Meza, member of REMAM Coordinating Team and National Coordinator for Panama, "we cannot support this form of extractivism ... God does not give life and life in abundance when this only benefits the economy of a few, harming many vulnerable brothers and sisters.

On the recent radio program *Palabras Compartidas*, the author of REMAM's statement, Father Padre Jorge Salsaneda, posed the hypothetical question based on the words of Jesus: *What good would it do a society to gain the whole world if it loses itself? What do we gain by becoming a mining country if we lose our biodiversity, our water capacity, our governance?*

The concerns of REMAM echo those of the bishops of Panama who declared at their annual conference in February "we are concerned about the future of the communities and towns where mining extraction is taking place, the effects of which are harmful to human life and the ecology.... There is no money in the world that can compensate for the damage that mining extraction can cause in the short, medium and long term."

While Panama's government council approved the contract on June 14, it must still be sent for approval to the Comptroller General of the Republic and then to the Panamanian National Assembly for the legislative term that begins July 1. REMAM concludes its statement calling on the legislative body of Panama "to a serious and deep reflection so that they do NOT accept the signing of this contract that seriously harms not only our sovereignty but also the future of the Panamanian people and our Common Home." §

Sudan: War Resumes

Two generals vie for the vast resources of Africa's third largest country; ordinary people are caught in between.

After a brief truce, the brutal Sudanese war resumed on June 20. The United States and Saudi Arabia negotiated the three-day truce to enable delivery of humanitarian aid to the beleaguered civilian population.

The war first began on April 15 between a rebel group, Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, popularly known as Hemedti, and the government troops headed by General Abdel Fattah-al-Burhan. The RSF is an independent militia that evolved from the fierce Janjaweed group, founded by the deposed dictator Omar al-Bashir, that ravaged Darfur Province some twenty years ago.

The RSF aligned itself with the main government army and cooperated in the 2021 coup that overthrew the democratically elected government. That cooperation appears to have soured in a dispute between the two generals over control of mineral resources, particularly the lucrative gold mines in Darfur.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, since the outbreak of hostilities, more than three thousand people have been killed; 2.48 million people have fled their homes, over a half million to neighboring countries as refugees; and an estimated 25 million, over half of the country's population, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. In neighboring Chad, Doctors Without Borders said at least 600 people arrived from Sudan with gunshot wounds.

The United States attributed the violence primarily to RSF and affiliated militias, which have been accused of looting people's homes in the city of Khartoum and other towns in central and western Sudan, as well as looting hospitals, causing extreme medical care scarcity. Water and food are also running scarce. Corpses have been left on the streets for days as family members are too afraid to retrieve them.

The horrific fighting between the two armies and the impunity with which soldiers engage in gross violations of human rights led to the representative of the UN Human Rights Council to declare: "What is going on is as bad as anything I have ever seen in conflict zones over the course of my long career."

United Nations experts expressed fears that Sudan was on course to being a failed state. Volker Turk, the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the UN, stated, "This is a reckless, senseless conflict taking place in a context of total impunity. It is a human rights and humanitarian crisis unfolding at an alarming rate and on a devastating

scale with a complexity not seen before in Sudan."

Attempts by the United Nations to mediate were rebuffed by de facto ruler General Burhan, who claimed that the UN envoy Volker Perthes had exacerbated the conflict when Perthes criticized both sides. Burhan asserts that the RSF are rebels, and he is justified in putting down the rebellion. He likewise objected to attempts from Kenya to negotiate a long-term ceasefire, claiming that Kenya's president William Ruto is "biased" for saying that both generals are complicit in creating the conflict. Burhan has also rejected face-to-face meetings with Hemedti.

Archbishop Luís Miguel Muñoz Cárdbaba, Apostolic Nuncio to Sudan and Eritrea, describes the situation as "not a religious war, for the moment, not even a civil war.... It is a conflict between two powerful military groups, and in between is the civilian population who suffer dramatically as a result."

More than 400 miles south of the capital city of Khartoum, Maryknoll Fr. Tom Tiscornia reports of fighting in the Nuba Mountains where another major rebel group, the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army), seems to have allied with the RSF to attack Sudanese Armed Forces in the southern regions. "At our hospital here, the wounded are brought for healing," Fr. Tiscornia wrote.

Life must go on for everyday people, Fr. Tiscornia said. "With the rains, people are busy in their fields." But once things settle, there will be much to put back together.

"The churches are for the most part not functioning," Fr. Tiscornia said. "In our diocese of El Obeid, the parishes in Darfur have no presence of priests. Two who had been there have been assigned to come here to Nuba. Both are from Nuba."

Fr. Tiscornia commented on another piece of sad news. Former bishop of El Obeid, Macram Max Gassis, who was widely known for speaking out against human rights abuses in Sudan before a committee of the U.S. Congress in 1988, died on June 4. Bishop Gassis had been reportedly unwell for some time and passed away while visiting relatives in Pennsylvania. "He wished to be buried in Khartoum but had to be buried in Pennsylvania," Fr. Tiscornia said, due to the conflict. "Hopefully in the future his wish will be fulfilled." §

Rwanda: Genocide Survivors Speak

The Africa Faith and Justice Network hosted a discussion in Washington, DC, with the authors of a new collection of testimonies from survivors of the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Rwandan genocide survivors Claude Gatebuke and Delphine Yandemutso say they co-wrote the book “Survivors Uncensored,” to provide genocide survivors a platform to share insights into their experiences and showcase stories of resilience and humanity. Speaking at an event hosted by the Africa Faith and Justice Network in Washington, DC, on June 5, Gatebuke said, “Through this event, we endeavor to call attention to the need for healing, reconciliation, accountability, and peace promotion.”

Co-author Delphine Yandemutso opened the event by telling her story of surviving genocide in Rwanda. Her story begins in 1994 at age 10, when the killings came close to her home and her parents decided the family should flee to Zaire.

“We stayed in Goma for a short while, and I remember seeing so many dead people on the road. We didn’t stay there too long and we went to another area, but not for too long because there was a campaign by the government to get everyone in unofficial areas to go to refugee camps. We lived in Kitali Refugee Camp. We had to start over there, start going to another school, which was held outside. But that didn’t last for long. The fighters destroyed the camp. It was the start of another chapter.

“It’s so hard to describe but I will try to describe that night. They strategically attacked the camps during the night to minimize the casualties. I remember hearing the bullets but you can’t know where they are coming from. The bullets look like fire in the air and bombs coming from everywhere. People didn’t know where to go, what to take. We had to run away from the bullets and we ended up in the jungle. We were followed, people were killed and died of thirst.

“My family was my two parents and four children. I remember being together and being separated on and off until we eventually lost my older brother. We still don’t know what happened to him. At some stage we lost my dad as well. So it was just my mother and three children.”

Feeling vulnerable to middle-of-the-night attacks, Yandemutso’s family moved repeatedly and ultimately resettled in the capitol region where they rebuilt a normal life. “Sometimes when we talk about it, it is like we are reliving what happened,” she said.

“It’s hard but there is a reason why we survived. We didn’t survive to be silent. That brings me to the book. The process of putting the book together was not easy. The perpetrators who killed millions of Rwandans and

Congolese are in power and they don’t want our stories told.”

Co-author Claude Gatebuke went on to thank all the other survivors who bravely told their stories in the book. He explained why these stories matter:

“There is a singular, official narrative that the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front, the ruling political party led by Pres. Paul Kagame] wants you to tell which is that extremist Hutus started killing Tutsi out of the blue and then out of heaven came the heroic army, the RPF, that stopped the genocide. And Rwanda and the region and the world has been living happily ever after.

“But that’s not true. The RPF was in the middle of all of this. They had infiltrated the militia that were committing the genocide. They said this themselves, this is not my words. This is the words of the officials of the RPF. They had been doing this for years. The RPF had been gathering people in camps and massacring those people. The RPF was more systematic and smarter in how they killed people. They took them away from the crowds and they killed them in hiding and they burnt the bodies. The extremist Hutu militias who were civilians were just killing people with bodies piling up in the middle of the streets.

“If you listen to the RPF you will think every Hutu person is an evil person and every Tutsi person is a victim. That is not true. The people who saved so many people, despite what the RPF says, were actually Hutu people, including Paul Rusesabagina [who inspired the Hollywood film *Hotel Rwanda*] who was recently abducted and then released, under [international] pressure, by the Rwandan authorities.

“Those are the stories that we have in the book. But also stories of resilience and hope,” Gatebuke said. “Anybody who wants there to be militaristic leaders are in for a fight [with] Africa’s youth and the rest of the world that is compassionate and wants peace. It starts with sharing our stories.” §

Faith in action:

- Watch the book discussion at <https://mogc.info/AFJN-Rwanda-book-talk>
- Purchase the book at <https://mogc.info/SurvivorsUncensored>

Korea: Peace Action Seeks End to War

Seventy years after armistice, Korean Peace Now! Grassroots Network and Women Cross DMZ are working to see the official end to the war.

This July 27-28 in Washington, DC, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns will co-sponsor Korea Peace Action: National Mobilization to End the Korean War, hosted by Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network and Women Cross DMZ. This year marks two important anniversaries: 100 years since the arrival of Maryknoll missionaries in Korea, and 70 years since the July 27, 1953 armistice that ended major combat in the Korean War.

No formal peace treaty was ever signed, and so the Korean War never officially ended. Today, the Korean Peninsula remains divided, tensions remain high, and the stakes have only heightened through the nuclear brinkmanship between North Korea and the United States.

The first week of June, MOGC joined Women Cross DMZ and others across the country in lobbying Congress to end the war as part of Korea Peace Advocacy Week. The Korea Peace Action will build on those advocacy efforts, bringing people together on the July 27 Armistice anniversary for a press conference at the Capitol with Korea peace champions and Members of Congress, a grief ceremony, a rally at the White House, a march, and a faith vigil at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall, followed by an all-day conference July 28 at George Washington University.

In particular, participants in Korea Peace Action will be raising Congressional and public support for the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act (H.R.1369) currently before the House of Representatives.

Organizers note in the event press release that the historic gathering of peace advocates will take place in the context of “tensions rising dangerously on the Korean Peninsula—including the U.S. and South Korea holding the largest ever live-fire drills and a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine arriving in South Korean waters a day after North Korea resumed missile tests.”

The statement continues: “Korea peace advocates have made significant strides in challenging the mainstream narrative about the ‘Forgotten War,’ as it is often referred to in U.S. history textbooks. That war—which killed 4 million people in just three years, mostly civilians—remains the defining trauma of the Korean people, both on the peninsula and in the diaspora. Most Americans don’t realize that the Korean War never technically ended, or that the Korean War is the longest-running overseas U.S. military conflict.

“The broad coalition of organizations involved in this

mobilization are calling for a permanent peace agreement between the United States and North Korea—the only two parties to the war that have not declared peace or normalized relations—to replace the 70-year armistice. The current U.S. approach toward North Korea, defined by hostility and isolation, has failed to achieve positive outcomes and has only prolonged continuing tensions and hostilities between the two parties. This has resulted in the extreme militarization of the Korean Peninsula and continued division of families.

“Geopolitical and military experts agree that an official end to the Korean War would reduce tensions and build confidence, providing the foundation upon which to more effectively engage on issues such as denuclearization and improved human rights. It would be a step toward shifting resources away from endless wars and toward more basic human needs at home, including housing, healthcare, food security, and climate action.”

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers arrived in Pyongyang in what is now North Korea in 1923, followed by Maryknoll Sisters in 1924. In the next decades, the conflicts between foreign powers on the peninsula and between the communist north and United States-allied south resulted in many Maryknoll missionaries in Korea being expelled and even martyred.

While missionaries have never been able to return full-time to North Korea, Fr. Gerry Hammond, MM, has made over 70 visits, delivering tuberculosis medicines with the Eugene Bell Foundation. He draws a direct relationship between such humanitarian engagement and hope for peace: “We act as a bridge between the two Koreas, so we try to create a climate of trust that can facilitate the work of those who will come after us.”

In addition to support for the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, MOGC lobbied in June for the revival of the Enhancing North Korea Humanitarian Assistance Act, which has yet to be reintroduced during this Congress, in hopes that work like Fr. Hammond’s can continue paving the way for peace. §

Faith in Action:

- Register for Korea Peace Action in Washington, DC July 27-28 at <https://www.koreapeaceaction.org/>.
- Urge your Member of Congress to become a Korea peace champion by co-sponsoring the Peace On The Korean Peninsula Act (H.R. 1369) today: <https://mogc.info/HR1369>

Philippines: Impact of Doctrine of Discovery

S. Lily Mendoza, a Filipina woman and professor at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, writes about the influence of the Doctrine of Discovery on the Philippines. Read the entire blogpost on the Doctrine of Discovery website: <https://mogc.info/PH-Doctrine-of-Discovery>.

The Philippines has over 14-17 million remaining Indigenous peoples belonging to an estimated 110 ethnolinguistic communities (between 10-20% of the total population). It also boasts of some of the most progressive legislation in the world when it comes to protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. One such law is the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as its implementing arm.

Yet despite such legislation, the Philippines is notorious for having one of the highest rates of murder of Indigenous land protectors in the world (alongside Brazil), not to mention, the incidence of dispossession and displacement of tribes that happen to be “in the right of way” of mining, dam-building, tourism, and other development projects.

In previous writing, I have noted how the only relation imagined by the Philippine state with its Indigenous populations is that of assimilation, never recognition of their autonomous rights or sovereignty. I have tracked how the government-sanctioned imperative to “keep up” with the rest of the civilized world actively (re)produces such populations as wards of the state, in need of incorporation into the national polity, celebrating their otherness only for tourism purposes.

And even among well-meaning and justice-oriented Filipino academics wishing to “indigenize” the schools’ curriculum, the prevailing sentiment tends still to be that of patronage, with the driving impetus being that of “helping rescue our exploited tribal kin” out of their impoverished conditions that, perchance, they, too, might benefit from the fruits of progress and technological advancement “just like the rest of us modernized Filipinos.” And as the nation-state presses forward—climate chaos notwithstanding—in its determined drive to achieve economic growth and development at all cost. Indigenous dispossession becomes expedient and necessary “for the sake of the greater good.”

Such stark policy disconnect and contradiction cannot be accounted for merely by reference to “lack of good governance,” i.e., the notion that if only the right people were elected into office, then the implementation problem would be taken care of. The roots of the problem run much deeper—reaching back not only to the foundational land and tenure laws arbitrarily instituted in the country as part of colonial era legislation but, I would argue,

to the very emergence of the Philippine nation-state—post-independence—not as a liberatory force for good, but, unwittingly, as a continuing armature of domination and conquest, this time, vis-a-vis its own indigenous populations.

This it does in its unqualified adoption of the notorious Doctrine of Christian Discovery (DOCD)—known as the Regalian Doctrine in its Spanish iteration—that served as Europe’s instrument of colonial genocide and theft of Indigenous territories around the globe.

Despite the DOCD being nothing more than a legal fiction and a religious contrivance conjured literally out of thin air, its material and symbolic power continues to grind on inexorably in many places around the globe as a destructive force majeure, its supremacist and expansionist ideology exploding worlds and introducing a death dynamic on the planet.... Referred to by scholars as “a perfect marginalization tool,” it is one that has yet to be challenged in any meaningful way up to the present moment.

I submit that a continuing source of aggravation in state-Indigenous relations in the Philippine case is the entrenchment of the logic of the DOCD in the country’s land and property laws in the form of the Regalian Doctrine or *Jura Regalia*. The term “regalia” derives from the Spanish crown’s assertion, upon its takeover of the islands beginning in the 1500s, of its right to ownership of all lands by sheer dint of “discovery” and conquest.

The institution of such a legal fiction of possession and ownership by the subterfuge of “discovery” and conquest did not stop with the ending of Spanish rule in the wake of a nationwide revolutionary uprising that lasted from 1896 to 1898. Rather, it was merely carried over and reinforced by the United States colonial administration upon its spurious “acquisition” (from Spain) of the Philippine archipelago at the turn of the 20th century.

Worse, it was subsequently adopted in toto by the post-colonial Philippine government with the enshrinement of its tenets in the country’s constitution, with the state taking over as successor administrator, thereby resulting in the effective negation of the nation’s Indigenous cultures and heritage. §

A Letter from Churches for Middle East Peace

Dr. Mae Elise Cannon wrote a letter to supporters of Churches of Middle East Peace on June 23, 2023.

I woke up almost every morning this past week and heard distressing news from Palestine and Israel. It is hard not to be discouraged. Below highlights much of the ongoing trauma and tragedy—especially in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).

But in the midst of such news—we must remind ourselves that even when we cannot immediately see tangible results, our work continues to provide critical education, advocacy, and engagement in response to violence and oppression. We are motivated by our faith not to give up hope but to remain steadfast and diligent.

I continue to say... “Despair is the luxury of the privileged.” If our friends, colleagues, and partners in the Middle East continue to remain in situations of conflict and as they continue to pursue peaceful responses to human rights violations and violence—who are we to give up hope?

While we remain committed to our work, including outreach to churches and Christians across the United States and education and advocacy in Washington, D.C., several things have happened in the region that have captured our attention. We should be aware, in prayerful reflection, and committed to strategically responding to these current realities. We hope that you will join CMEP in taking action!

On June 6, we had news from the Palestinian village of Nabi Saleh near Ramallah about the shooting and the killing of two-and-a-half-year-old Mohammed al-Tamimi. I have spent a lot of time in Nabi Saleh over the years and witnessed the community’s engagement in social resistance and the high cost the family has paid of injuries, trauma, and even death in their efforts to resist the effects of settlement encroachment and occupation.

Last year, we wrote about the “Cost of Change” and the movements of social resistance in Palestine, including Nabi Saleh. Last November, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) issued a call for the protection of children and the violence to stop. From the start of this year (as of June 6th), 27 children in Palestine were killed due to the ongoing occupation. Just this week, on Monday, June 17, two teenagers were killed after the incursion into Jenin in the West Bank—a 14-year-old girl, Sadil Ghasan Ibrahim Nagnaghieh, and a 15-year-old boy, Ahmed Saqr. UNRWA published a statement, “Deplores the Killing of Two UNRWA Students in Jenin Refugee Camp.”

We have seen the cycle of violence continue this week, as four Israeli settlers were killed near the Eli settlement

in what appeared to be a response to the Jenin incursion. These deaths were then followed by brutal settler rampages in Turmus Ayya and Urif, which resulted in the death of a young Palestinian father and the injuries of 12 Palestinians. Denouncing the riots, an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson said about the settler attacks that the incident “creates terror and escalation, and takes the population that isn’t involved in terror and pushes it [toward extremism].”

On June 21, an Israeli drone strike killed three Palestinians who were allegedly involved in a shooting incident just hours after the rampage on Palestinian villages. This week saw the first use of air warfare in the West Bank since the second intifada two decades ago. In addition, the Israeli government responded to the Eli settlement attack by saying they will move forward with expanding the settlement, and we anticipate this will only add to the escalations and perpetuate this cycle. While the U.S. has identified settlement expansion as an “obstacle to peace,” there seems to be no deterrent to further expansion and the subsequent human rights abuses of Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In addition to the increased violence, the Israeli government and Prime Minister Netanyahu announced this week that they will continue with the proposed overhaul of the judicial system. Earlier this year, the proposed changes provoked global demonstrations, and tens of thousands of Israelis took to the streets. These “active steps” in the proposed judicial overhaul have been criticized as eroding Israeli democracy. Palestinian activists have said the movement is about maintaining democracy “only for Jews.”

What does all this mean? Violence begets violence. Unless the violence of the occupation of the Palestinian people is brought to an end, further war and destruction seem inevitable. CMEP supports a different way—nonviolence and activism in response to injustice. That is why those of us continuing to call and work for peace cannot give up. \$

Faith in action: Tell Congress to support the Palestinian Children and Families Act at <https://mopc.info/HR3103>

The UN Adopts New Urban Agenda

The global population living in urban areas is expected to double by 2050. Proper development of cities will need to account for health, environmental, and climate impacts.

Cities are the refuge for 60% of the people fleeing natural disasters and civil conflict, with a projected number of three billion living in inadequate housing by 2030. UN Habitat states: “Populations, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities, and these pose massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources, in addition to other factors.”

Already cities and urban territories are major culprits in climate change. They emit 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. City particulate pollution is heavy, especially in the poor, socially marginalized districts constituting not only an environmental problem but also a social justice issue.

The World Health Organization states that: “For the approximately one billion people living in urban slums and informal settlements a combination of crowding, pollution, noise, inadequate lighting, lack of green spaces and other environmental factors exacerbate mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, violence and other forms of social dysfunction.”

Against this backdrop, the second session of the UN Habitat Assembly (UNHA) convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 5-9 and adopted ten resolutions to set on course urban transformations needed to meet environmental challenges of the new century.

Resolutions adopted by the UNHA include:

- Formulation of international guidelines on people-centered smart cities, by an inclusive involvement in digital literacy, which can also create economic opportunities through innovation and equitable activities;
- Acceleration of the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030; (UN-Habitat recommends ten key actions, among which are participatory governance, spatial planning, diversified financing, adequate housing, recognizing the social function of public and private land, and advancing skills and education.)
- Designation of September 20 as World Cleanup Day, beginning in 2024;
- Creation of biodiverse and resilient cities by mainstreaming biodiversity in urban and territorial planning;
- Enhancement of the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience by operationalizing the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation

(SURGe) launched at COP 27 in Egypt;

- Advancement of the goal of adequate housing for all, for which UNHA will establish an expert working group to accelerate progress towards the universal achievement of safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing;
- Development of a global digital platform for holistic urban planning and sustainable infrastructure;
- The creation of a Risk Reduction and Crisis Response framework; and
- Equitable financing and effective monitoring.

The United Nations addressed urban problems in prior conferences, in 1976 and 1996, resulting in the UN creation of the Centre for Human Settlements, which in 2001 was replaced by the UN General Assembly with the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat.)

Number 11 of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, approved in 2015, aimed to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” by 2030. Targets of this goal included affordable housing for all, provision of basic services, expansion of public transport with special attention to people with disabilities, more robust urban planning and management, reduction of adverse environmental impacts (particularly poor air quality and waste management,) and universal access to green spaces.

Given the elevated priority, UN-Habitat was further strengthened in 2018 by establishment of the UN Habitat Assembly as an independent UN entity, based in Nairobi. The latest Urban Agenda reported in this article was the product of the second-ever session of that assembly.

Despite all the focus on housing and urban development over the past decades, a stark report by the UN General Assembly in 2022 reveals that member states are far behind in meeting the goals of SDG 11.

The latest UNHA conference criticized prior urban agendas for being primarily aspirational, without clear strategies and measurable milestones to guide implementation. Other challenges of previous iterations included lack of funding and organizational capacity.

Noting these challenges, UNHA committed itself to an ambitious plan of action, including strengthening the role of UN-Habitat as the UN’s focal point for sustainable urbanization and the advancement of multilateral engagement and international cooperation on a range of urban and housing issues. §

Montana Youth Climate Lawsuit Raises Hope

Environmentalists await a verdict from the first climate lawsuit of children versus their government to go to trial.

Sixteen Montana youths brought a groundbreaking constitutional climate lawsuit, *Held v. State of Montana*, against their state to protect their rights to a healthy environment, life, dignity, and freedom. They are suing over the state government's continued support and promotion of fossil fuel extraction and burning, which worsens the climate crisis.

Montana and neighboring Wyoming are home to the Powder River Basin, the largest coal deposit in the United States, and is responsible for more than 40% of coal production in the country.

The plaintiff's attorney, Nate Bellinger, urged Judge Kathy Seeley to strike down as unconstitutional a Montana law that prohibits state agencies from considering environmental effects when it weighs permits enabling the release of greenhouse gases. Their case hinges on the Montana Constitution, which guarantees the state's citizens the right to a clean and healthful environment.

The state has tried several times to have the case dismissed since it was first filed in 2020. The trial was allowed to go forward, however, and concluded seven days later, on June 19. Attorneys expect Judge Kathy Seeley to render a decision within 60 days.

This is the first youth-led climate case to make it to trial in the United States. The Montana case is part of a larger movement where young people are suing governments for failing to act on climate change.

Our Children's Trust, the advocacy group that organized the suit on behalf of the plaintiffs, has similar cases pending on behalf of children in other states, as well as the *Juliana v. United States* federal-level case, and a dozen similar cases overseas. A positive ruling by Judge Seeley could serve as a powerful legal precedent.

The lead plaintiff, Rikki Held, 22, testified to her family's ranch in eastern Montana being threatened by extreme weather, such as droughts, heat waves, wildfires, and floods. Plaintiffs Mika K. and Olivia V. testified to Montana's increasingly frequent wildfires that have exacerbated their asthma. "It feels like it's suffocating me, like, if I'm outside for minutes," Olivia said.

Pediatrician Dr. Lori Byron shared expert testimony about extreme temperatures, and the smoke of wildfires, causing permanent damage to the developing lungs and brains of children, in addition to the emotional trauma caused by such climate disasters.

Steve Running, co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change shared: "this is when our growing-season droughts get worse, and the final thing is when wildfires get more wild than we've ever seen."

"We are at a decision point about taking action on climate change," testified plaintiffs' witness Peter Erickson, a climate change policy researcher at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Seattle, Washington, "The world community has decided that we must."

The defense took only one day to testify. Montana assistant attorney general Michael Russell conceded that fossil fuels emit greenhouse gases, though he argued Montana cannot by itself have an effect on climate change since Montana's emissions are too minuscule to make any difference. "Climate change is a global issue that effectively relegates Montana's role to that of a spectator."

Attorney Bellinger responded, saying, "The defendants argue that Montana's greenhouse gas emissions don't matter, but irrefutable expert testimony affirms that Montana's emissions are substantial," he added. "Montana's contribution to anthropogenic climate change harms plaintiffs. The impacts of Montana's emissions are both local and immediate as well as global and long lasting."

Coal, such as that which is mined from the Powder Basin, is the most carbon intensive fossil fuel we can burn. Although that coal may not all be burned in Montana, it has its origins there. "The climate crisis that we are experiencing is being substantially contributed to by Montana," says Olson. If the plaintiffs win the current suit, the Montana DEQ would have to scrutinize future permitting at the basin, perhaps limiting the amount of extraction that takes place there.

The effects of a warming planet are already visible throughout Montana, as seen in the shrinking glaciers at Glacier National Park and a lengthening wildfire season, which pose threats to the state's outdoor pastime economy.

Environmental advocates believe a favorable outcome from the lawsuit could pressure government leaders in Montana and elsewhere to curb emissions. They are also hopeful that the judge could order the state to consider climate impacts when approving new projects.

Julia Olson, the executive director of Our Children's Trust, the environmental nonprofit that helped bring the Montana lawsuit, said the case has the potential to set a new course for a healthier and more prosperous future for the generations to come. §

Faith in action: Follow updates on the lawsuit at <https://mogc.info/HvM>

Letter from the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

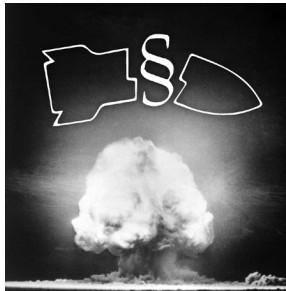
The following is the text of a letter to Dr. Bonnie D. Jenkins, the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, delivered on June 15 by the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.

Dear Under Secretary Jenkins:

We strongly support President Biden's reaffirmation of willingness to negotiate nuclear arms control issues, including a successor to New START, whenever the Russian Federation is willing to do so. However, because of Russia's irresponsible refusal to meet, negotiations remain at a standstill. Meanwhile, the danger is increasing, and precious time is being lost. We urge the Administration to take bold affirmative steps to break the current impasse.

For several years, scientists and technical experts have been warning that developments in military technology are increasing the danger of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation. The effect is to shorten the window of time in which an effective arms control agreement may be negotiated. As noted in a recent article by former Under Secretary of State Gottemoeller, "with advances in sensing technology states may soon be able to track and target their adversaries' nuclear missiles. Advances in big data analysis and quantum computing may enable real time tracking and targeting of mobile nuclear missiles and in the future even submarines." She notes that with such real time tracking and targeting "even the stealthiest and most well protected nuclear weapons may become vulnerable in the future." These facts have grave implications for the future of nuclear arms control negotiations: as the article further noted, "[c]onfidence in the survivability of second strike capabilities...has been a strong factor in maintaining the stability [sic] of mutual deterrence." Clearly "stability" is at best a relative term here, since the mutual deterrence system has several times brought us within minutes of accidental nuclear war, but it is certainly true that increases in the perceived vulnerability of second strike capabilities will worsen the risk of catastrophic escalation in response to a false alarm. It is critically important to break the logjam in negotiations before much more time is lost.

In a 2023 paper, the UN Institute for Disarmament Research has noted that arms control progress has sometimes been made, in the absence of formal treaties, through informal agreements, reciprocal unilateral initiatives, and confidence-building statements. For such progress to occur, however, the parties must at least be



communicating. (The UNIDIR paper also notes that progress can be facilitated by nongovernmental "expert discussions;" we understand that U.S. scientists have recently attempted to initiate such contacts only to find Russian and Chinese counterparts apparently unwilling to talk without government sanction.) One possible approach might be to seek a different venue.

It has been suggested that the United States could re-start the process by seeking to activate the "underutilized" P5 process, a forum for the five nuclear weapon states recognized in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to explore confidence building measures as to their nuclear forces. The author notes that a Chinese spokesperson has recently said the five NPT nuclear weapon states "should further enhance communication on such issues as strategic stability and reduction of nuclear risks." In his recent address to the Arms Control Association, National Security Advisor Sullivan also noted that the P5 process might be a possible vehicle for progress, and this idea should be pursued. Even if such talks did not immediately address specific arms limitations, they could pave the way for further progress.

Other alternatives should be explored. Both international law and the catastrophic consequences of failure require that efforts be continued and expanded until obstacles are overcome. The International Court of Justice, in its historic 1996 advisory opinion, unanimously held that under Article VI of the NPT "[t]here exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and *bring to a conclusion* [emphasis supplied] negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international supervision." The danger is too great, and the time is too short, to allow Russian obstruction to have the final word. §

Faith in action: Ask your U.S. Representative to support H. Res. 77, a resolution that calls on the United States to embrace the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and to adopt Back from the Brink's policy recommendations for preventing nuclear war. <https://mogc.info/HRes77>

Torture Is Not Past History

June 26 is the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Find ways to speak out against torture.

To commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Pope Francis named the abolition of torture as the intention for his monthly prayer video. (Watch the video at <https://thepopevideo.org/>)

“Torture is not past history. Unfortunately, it’s part of our history today,” Pope Francis says. Explaining the teaching of our faith to put the dignity of the person above all else, the Holy Father asked for prayers “that the international community commit itself concretely to abolish torture, guaranteeing support to victims and their families.”

During the week of June 26, staff of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns assisted torture survivors in attending meetings with staff of Congressional offices in Washington, DC. Survivors from countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Sudan shared stories of their life experiences and asked Members of Congress to stand strong against the use of torture everywhere.

The meetings were organized by the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), a Washington, DC-based social service and advocacy organization for healing and ending torture. The late Ursuline Sister

Dianna Ortiz founded TASSC in 1998, after surviving torture in Guatemala ten years earlier.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns also continues to support efforts to close Guantánamo Bay Detention Center, site of countless acts of torture by the U.S. government on the 780 people detained there since 2002. Thirty Muslim men are currently detained at the site in Cuba. Nineteen of these men have never been charged with a crime, and 16 of them have been cleared for transfer.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) invites all people to ask President Biden to immediately transfer all the men cleared for release from Guantánamo to countries where their human rights will be respected. Send a message Pres. Biden here: <https://mogc.info/NRCAT-Guantanamo>

NRCAT hosts monthly public vigils in cities around the country. Consider hosting a vigil in your community. With just three people, you can have two hold a banner, and one take some pictures to share with your local newspaper and on social media. Their website offers a litany and prayer written by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. To receive a “Close Guantanamo” banner, email tmorrow@nrcat.org. §

Faith Groups Support Global AIDS Relief

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns organized a letter signed by 44 faith-based organizations asking Congress to reauthorize the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

With the September 30 deadline approaching for congressional reauthorization of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), 44 national and international faith-based organizations, many with members working in ministries serving the needs of HIV and AIDS impacted individuals and communities around the world, sent an urgent letter asking Members of Congress to reauthorize PEPFAR, to ensure the continuation of its life-saving programs.

“Faith-based organizations helped to shape PEPFAR twenty years ago and have been central to its success,” said Susan Gunn, Director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. “We stand by the plan’s focus on prevention, care and treatment, and the role faith-based organizations play to reach those who are most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. We want Congress to know that, through PEPFAR, we uphold our shared virtues of compassion and mercy,

and our belief that all human life is sacred, and we are all God’s children, worthy of healing care.”

According to the U.S. Department of State, PEPFAR has enabled 25 million lives to be saved, as well as “supported antiretroviral treatment for 20.1 million people... enabled 5.5 million babies to be born HIV-free to mothers living with HIV... and provided critical care and support for seven million orphans, vulnerable children, and their caregivers so they can survive and thrive.”

The letter says “PEPFAR has helped to turn the tide in the global fight against AIDS, demonstrating U.S. leadership in saving lives and safeguarding human dignity of the most vulnerable people.” §

Faith in Action: Ask Congress to reauthorize PEPFAR for five more years. <https://mogc.info/nn-PEPFAR>

Resources

1. **Maryknoll Sisters Mission Institute Course by Marie Dennis:** “Nonviolence: Connecting the Thread in Our Work for the New Creation,” July 9-14. <https://mogc.info/MSMIC>
2. **Maryknoll Guatemala Immersion Experience:** Apply to join for an immersion July 11-19 in the rich culture and faith of our Guatemalan sisters and brothers. <https://mogc.info/GuatemalaTrip>
3. **Event: Korea Peace Action National Mobilization** to End the Korean War July 26-28, Washington, DC <https://www.koreapeaceaction.org/>
4. **Conference: Laudato Si’ and the U.S. Catholic Church** – hosted virtually by Creighton University and the Catholic Climate Covenant, July 11, 13, 19, & 25 at 8pm ET <https://mogc.info/CCC-Conference>
5. **Webinar recording “Growing Support for Nuclear Abolition”** with Rep. Jim McGovern hosted by the Back from the Brink Campaign <https://mogc.info/PNW-McG>
6. **Book: Survivors Uncensored** edited by Ribara Uwariraye, 100+ Testimonies from Survivors of the Rwandan Genocide <https://mogc.info/SurvivorsUncensored>
7. **Book website: “Ecomartyrdom in the Americas”** by Elizabeth O’Donnell Gandolfo tells stories of Latin American environmental defenders martyred for their cause. <https://ecomartyrdom.net/>
8. **Book: Rising - Learning from Women’s Leadership in Catholic Ministries** by Dr. Carolyn Woo, former president of Catholic Relief Services, profiling 16 women leaders and suggesting actions institutions and individuals can take to support women’s leadership in Catholic ministries. <https://mogc.info/Rising>
9. **Recording of Book Discussion:** “Who are My People? Love, Violence, and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa” by Emmanuel Katongole <https://mogc.info/AFJN-WMP>
10. **Pope Francis Address to the UN Security Council** about war and “a famine of fraternity,” June 14, 2023. <https://mogc.info/Francis-to-SC>
11. **Four Catholic Bishops Letter to G7** about nuclear disarmament, May 16 <https://mogc.info/PDE-G7>
12. **Statement about Mining in Ecuador** by Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM) <https://mogc.info/REPAM-Ecuador-mining>
13. **Statement by the Holy See to the UN Human Rights Council on the Human Rights of Migrants**, June 26, Monsignor John Putzer emphasized the need for safe migration routes and regular pathways, urging decisive action. <https://mogc.info/53RS-HRC-UN>
14. **Article “Canary in a Coal Mine: The Case of the Churches and the Status of Jerusalem”** by Anna Koulouris and published in the Palestine-Israel Journal April, <https://mogc.info/NN-Canary>
15. **Briefer: “How Should Financiers Align with the Global Biodiversity Framework?”** edited by the Friends of the Earth <https://mogc.info/FOE-5-Briefer>
16. **Guide to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, July 10-19, by the Justice Coalition for Religious. <https://mogc.info/JCoR-guides>
17. **Press Release: Maasai Delegation Ends European Tour**, June 2. Maasai Delegation met with European governments about eviction crisis in Tanzania. <https://mogc.info/NN-Masaai>
18. **Report: 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report** by the U.S. State Department <https://mogc.info/2023-Persons-Trafficking>
19. **Report: “Migrants, Refugees and Societies”** by the World Bank concludes that governments should expand legal pathways to facilitate the movement of migrants for labor purposes. <https://mogc.info/WDR-2023>
20. **Report: Tarnished hope - Crime and corruption in South Sudan’s gold sector** written by the Global Initiative <https://mogc.info/Tarnished-Hope>
21. **Maryknoll Lay Missioners Webinar** Join us on **July 6, 2pm ET or Aug. 12, 12pm ET** to learn about Maryknoll Lay Missioners and discern if mission is right for you. <https://mogc.info/MKLM-Webinars>
22. **Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Webinars:** on **Oct 11, 4pm ET**, join Fr. Stephen Judd, MM, as he reflects on his ministry in Bolivia. <https://mogc.info/MM-webinars>