

Overleaf; FAX CHRISTI FEATURE, plus a short editorial on the current situation



NONVIOLENT NEWS



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AMNESTY IN NORTH GET FULL TIME WORKERS

Amnesty International, Northern Ireland region, has appointed two full time workers; Patrick Corrigan as development officer and Patrick Loughrey as fund-raising officer. They are based at temporary office accommodation; 138 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HH; phone 01232 - 313192, fax 315721. Good luck to 'the Patricks' in developing Amnesty in Northern Ireland.

CHRISTIAN NONVIOLENCE GROUP ANNUAL 40 DAY FAST

This begins 1 July and ends 9 August (Nagasaki Day). People are invited to join this fast, for the truth of Christian and gospel nonviolence, in any way suitable to themselves (e.g. liquids only fast or some other way). An information leaflet is available putting fasting into the context of ancient church practice, repentance and prayer. For further information contact Mairead Maguire at Fredheim, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE. Phone Belfast / 01232 - 647106.

KILCRANNY HOUSE PROGRAMME

Kilcranny House, Coleraine, programme for the summer still to run includes 'Dealing with conflict in families', July 18 - 20; 'Nonviolent responses to violence', 25 - 27 July; and 'Utopia workshop' 1 - 3 August, exploring the dream of society you want. Facilitator for these workshops is Ulrike Laubenthal and the fee is £35, £25 low income, families £40. Kilcranny House also offers meeting space, community relations workshops, group work and nonviolence training etc. Details; Kilcranny House, 21 Cranagh Road, Coleraine BT51 3NN. Phone 01265 - 321816.

PEACE PEOPLE

Paddy Corrigan has left his post as coordinator of the Peace People to work for Amnesty International developing their work in Northern Ireland. Peace People chair Pauline Hart is currently in the USA attending Peace Jam board meeting and meeting FOR etc. Youth for Peace is currently running exchanges to Austria and the Aland Islands, studying issues of democracy, sectarianism and conflict; during the summer camps are also arranged for Israel/Palestine and Germany. Peace People, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE. Phone 01232 - 663465.

IF NATO'S THE ANSWER, IT'S THE WRONG QUESTION

The War Resisters International (WRI) says 'No to NATO with a 'WRI' smile. No longer able to justify itself in terms of the Soviet threat, NATO clings to old nuclear war-fighting policies and even insists that new members accept these. NATO's experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina has transformed its operations, making them more efficient, and establishing a new relationship with bodies such as the United Nations. In WRI's view, NATO remains what it has always been - a military structure, pursuing military measures in pursuit of power-political ends - only now it's becoming bigger, and more prepared to act 'out of area'. WRI's 1997 appeal focuses on NATO, pointing out its drawbacks, and showing the solidarity between WRI members and affiliates in areas of conflict. INNATE is a WRI-associate. If you'd like to make a financial contribution to WRI, or receive a copy of the excellent monthly international publication *Peace News* (produced in association with WRI), contact; WRI, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX. Ph. +44 171 278 4040; Email warresisters@gn.apc.org

TROUBLED STORIES

An area of conflict engenders stories about the various events and figures connected with it as Aliza Shenhar, Professor of Folklore in Haifa, has pointed out in her book *Jewish and Israeli Folklore* (New Delhi 1987). Such stories have important functions, for instance, to enable people to come to terms with tragedy. Little investigation of stories connected with the last three decades of violence here has so far taken place, however I hope to redress this by making an appeal now to you all to send me in any that you have come across. A story such as the one of the ghost patrol at Narrow Water is the kind of story in question. If you can contribute please contact; Fionnuala Williams, Institute of Irish Studies, 8 Fitzwilliam St, Belfast BT9 6AW.

PAX CHRISTI IRELAND

Pax Christi Ireland (PCI) began in the 1960s and is still going strong. The AGM of PCI in April was attended by forty-two members and included Niall Crowley speaking on racism and Mgr Denis Faul talking on Northern Ireland. The major thrust of work this year has again been on landmines, where Pax Christi has led the Irish campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines and has also played a prominent role internationally through Tony D'Coste, PCI's general secretary. Work in the area has been extensive and varied and has included public meetings and press conferences - on blinding laser weapons as well as landmines - plus support to television programmes, an exhibition and many other things. If you would be interested in having Tony give a talk locally on the issue of landmines, along with an excellent slide show on the topic, please get in touch with the office. The Northern Ireland working group of the Irish Section is made up of members from North and South and has continued to meet regularly and there have also been a few meetings of the British and Irish sections to discuss common concerns. While PCI has members right around the country, branch activity has been restricted to Dublin and Tralee. Public meetings on issues have included UN NGOs, East Timor, nonviolence etc., in addition to liturgical events and participation in international meetings.

Pax Christi is an international Catholic peace movement which began at the end of the Second World war and now has a membership worldwide of a hundred thousand people; its activities are related to issues of security and disarmament, human rights, East-West contacts, North-South relations, peace education, peace spirituality, non-violence, faith, dialogue and reconciliation. If you'd like to join or get in touch with Pax Christi Ireland the address is; 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Ph 01-4965293, fax 4965492. Minimum subscriptions are £10 waged, £5 waged and £2 for school students.

PAX CHRISTI BRITAIN - Work on Northern Ireland

The British section has been engaged in work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland for more than twenty years. Members of the PC Northern Ireland Working Group have been active in the dissemination of literature and information throughout England and Wales with a view to educating people about the complexities of the problem. The Group has organised countless conferences, seminars and speaking tours which, as well as educating people in Britain, have also given a voice to marginalised individuals and groups from Northern Ireland.

Members of the Group have met representatives of the British government, as well as Loyalist and Republican groups. There have been numerous prayer vigils, talks, interviews and articles in relation to specific events and occasions. Submissions were made to the Opsahl Commission (1992) and the Dublin Forum for Peace and Reconciliation (1998). Concern for prisoners has been a constant feature of the Group's work, in particular, miscarriage of justice cases. Pax Christi also helps recruit volunteers from around the world for summer playschemes in Northern Ireland; local groups choose their own volunteers from applications which come in. Address: Pax Christi, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH. Ph. 0181-800 4612. Fax 0181-802 3223. E-mail; paxchristi@gn.apc.org

A SUMMER OF DISCONTENT; an editorial

As once more deaths become more frequent in Northern Ireland, including the killing of two policemen in Lurgan by the IRA, and the marching season approaches its climax, the question is asked with increasing desperation and urgency - what, if anything, has changed? Despite an enormous amount of work by many people, from mediation, church, community, trade union, peace, reconciliation and other sectors the answer would seem to be 'not a lot'.

But, much as some might like to draw lines in the sand, and say that other people have put themselves beyond the pale, we must never say never. Northern Ireland is like a collective juggling act. The 1994 ceasefire managed to get some of the balls in the air simultaneously; the republican ball was picked up too late by the British government and we have slowly slid backwards - a number of the brightly coloured balls which some people are really quite good at juggling lie on the ground, and some people have decided to give up juggling and go for the jugular.

The fact that different people are going in different directions makes it difficult to generalise. But Protestant and loyalist insecurity, coupled with republican reluctance to put all their eggs in the non-violent basket are key factors. So too is the actions and inactions of the British government; if the authorities of all kinds (police and Northern Ireland Office) had responded to the nonviolent protests on the Garvaghy Road in the late 'eighties and early 'nineties and attempted to broker an agreement at that stage we could well have avoided 'Drumcree's' 1, 2, and - this year - No.3. Avoiding a response to nonviolent protest led to violence and a massive threat.

It is already too late to pull some irons out of the fire this summer. The best we can hope and pray for is some anti-climaxes - and we have had those before too. Then, when it's all over it's back to the juggling. Some day we'll get it right. At least we're getting in plenty of practice. - R.F.

This is a June-July issue; the next issue will be in early August.

□ Nonviolent News is produced about 11 times a year by INNATE, an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education, 16 Ravenstone Park, Belfast BT6 0DA. Phone/Fax 01232-647106; your news welcome. Deadline for next issue; start of August. Subscriptions; £5 minimum or enquire for further details. Enquiries welcome about Nonviolent News or resources on nonviolence available through INNATE.