

Peace and sustainable security

In several places around the globe Maryknoll missionaries have been drawn into processes of grassroots peacemaking and education in nonviolence. Many missionaries over the years have promoted an end to violence and respect for human rights while standing in solidarity with people who have been wrongly persecuted.

U.S. policy around national security is mostly thought of as building up systems to defend the nation against people who intend to do U.S. citizens harm. Maryknoll experience leads us to question whether national security can be viewed in a totally different way. If only U.S. politicians would see security more in terms of “human security,” emerging from the “globalization of solidarity,” U.S. policy could focus on guaranteeing access to food, clean water, healthcare, education and employment. U.S. international policy would more handily recognize the right of people to participate in important decisions that affect their own lives and respect the integrity of creation. With such a view of security, international cooperation could be promoted to preemptively manage conflicts before they turn violent, and peace would be more likely.

Statements and articles:

Found on the Maryknoll Global Concerns website, www.maryknollogc.org
[Alternative approaches to peace and security -- specific proposals to Congress](#)
[“U.S. withdrawal key to stabilization, self-determination”](#) Maryknoll leadership statement on Iraq, March 2008
[Israelis, Palestinians caught in never land](#), March 2008
[Amending Japan's Constitution's Article 9 could spur Asian arms race](#), May-June 2007
NewsNotes

Catholic social teaching on peace:

Found on the Office for Social Justice, St. Paul/Minneapolis, www.osjspm.org
[Quotations from Catholic social teaching about peace](#)

Found on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, www.usccb.org
[Diplomacy and responsible transition in Iraq](#), March 2008
[The two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#), February 2008
[Iran, nuclear nonproliferation and diplomacy](#), November 2007
[Japan and Article 9 of its Peace Constitution](#), March 2007

Links:

[Maryknoll Global Concerns' subpage on peace](#)
[American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court \(AMICC\)](#)
[Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\)](#)
[Foundation for Middle East Peace \(FMEP\)](#)
[East Timor Action Network \(ETAN\)](#)
[Global Article 9 Campaign \(Japan\)](#)
[Pax Christi USA](#)
[Pax Christi International](#)