Dear Pax Christi USA Member,

Greetings of peace! One of the gifts of being the director of communications for Pax Christi USA is getting to know firsthand the breadth and depth of our members’ witness to peace. Whether in putting together the news updates from around the nation for this newsletter (pages 6-7), posting articles which feature the work of regions and local groups on the website, or compiling the monthly web feature “On The Line,” which highlights Pax Christi members and groups in the news—it is encouraging to know how each of our candles contributes to a “tremendous light” (see the quote from Sr. Thea Bowman on page 8).

Each member of Pax Christi USA has their story, and I believe that in sharing those stories, we give strength to one another, especially for those of us who labor in fields where solidarity and companionship are sometimes hard to find. On pages 2 and 3, you’ll read the stories of 2 people who embody so much of what our movement is all about: Ruben Garcia, this year’s Teacher of Peace Award recipient, who has been standing alongside our immigrant sisters and brothers and welcoming the stranger for decades; and Rev. Jim Gower of Pax Christi Maine, one of the true ambassadors of our movement, who helped to spread the message of Pax Christi from coast to coast.

I’m writing this to you about 6 weeks before you’ll actually be reading it—so much can happen in the interim—but the recent big news has been the response of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) to the assessment they received from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Their response showed the grace and dignity and respect all of us know to be true of women religious in this country, individually and corporately. On page 4 you can read the letter that Pax Christi sections and member organizations from around the world have signed in support of the Sisters.

Even though it is the middle of summer, I am sure that many of our 250 local groups are already planning for the fall. Lori in the sales office has chosen some great books to discount for you to consider as resources for prayer, study and action (see page 8). And don’t forget to check out the “Just Peacemaking Initiative,” an outstanding resource offered through JustFaith Ministries, crafted by Pax Christi USA National Council member Scott Wright. You can order it on their website. Bishop Gumbleton writes about the resource, “I hope that every Pax Christi group in the country makes use of this valuable tool.”

Also in this issue, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Bill Quigley has an excellent piece on drones that would make for good group study (see page 5).

The end of the summer and on into the fall will see Pax Christi USA’s national leadership team on the road, meeting with members and groups from New York to California in a series of regional dialogues. A complete list of regional dialogues is on the website, and we hope you’ll try and attend one that is close to where you live.

As always, all of us in the national office are so grateful for your faithfulness and support. If you have the means to do so, we hope you’ll fill out the form included with this newsletter and send in a contribution to help grow the influence of our movement to impact the issues you care about. Thanks, and may the peace of Christ be with you!

In peace,

Johnny Zokovitch
Editor, The Peace Current
Ruben Garcia, Pax Christi USA’s 2012 Teacher of Peace

By John Zokovitch, Director of Communications

Washington, D.C.—Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace movement, has recognized the life and witness of Ruben Garcia, naming him the 2012 recipient of the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award. Pax Christi USA first gave the award to Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, in 1978 and has since recognized some of the most significant U.S. Catholic activists for peace and justice of the past 3 decades, including actor Martin Sheen; poet and priest Daniel Berrigan, S.J.; and Dead Man Walking author Sr. Helen Prejean, C.S.J. Garcia is one of the founders and the current director of Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas.

During his career at Annunciation House, Garcia has personally welcomed more than 100,000 migrants to his home and community, putting into practice and personally embodying the radical hospitality that Jesus exemplified to the poor, the marginalized, and the excluded. In his nomination of Garcia, Scott Wright, author and biographer of Archbishop Oscar Romero, wrote that Garcia “teaches peace by embodying peace, welcoming the stranger, and inviting others to share in this community where the least have a place at the table. From the experience of welcome and hospitality, comes an awareness and a commitment to address the root causes of injustice that push migrants to flee from the political violence in their countries, or conditions of economic disparity that condemn their families to die in conditions of extreme poverty and misery.”

“PCUSA is pleased to be honoring Ruben Garcia with the 2012 Teacher of Peace Award. For more than 35 years, he has been an inspiring teacher of peace, exemplifying by his life witness the teachings of the Gospel and the spirit of the Beatitudes,” stated Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. “Ruben’s faith continues to be an inspiring witness to the best of Catholic traditions, social teachings and practices.”

In addition to his work at Annunciation House, Garcia has welcomed and met with hundreds of delegations to the border, teaching by inviting them into the world of the poor and the migrant, and allowing them to see and hear firsthand the stories of immigrants. He invites them to commit themselves to address the root causes that deny to the immigrant the justice that is due to them in their homeland and in the United States.

“Ruben’s commitment to the radical hospitality of Jesus, welcoming all to the table, with preferential option for migrants, teaches peace moment by moment,” stated Cathy Crosby, Pax Christi USA National Council member and chair of the Teacher of Peace committee. “The PCUSA National Council celebrates the opportunity to recognize Ruben’s many years of humble service. We hope that the work of Ruben and Annunciation House continues to inspire others to work for justice and peace, as we each recognize the countless small ways we are called to build God’s kingdom here and now.”

The Teacher of Peace award will be presented at a special ceremony honoring Garcia in September in Washington, D.C. Please check the website for more details.

This year, Pax Christi USA received seventeen nominations for the 2012 Teacher of Peace Award, stated Cathy Crosby, Pax Christi USA National Council member and chair of the Teacher of Peace nominations committee. Pax Christi USA wishes to recognize and thank all of the nominees for their witness to the peace of Christ in our world. Nominees were John Dear, S.J.; Marie Dennis; Fr. Michael J. Doyle; Archbishop Harry Flynn; Ruben Garcia; Jack Jezeel; Jim Keady; Sr. Maureen Kelley, OP; Judith Kelly; Mary Logan; Dr. Megan McKenna; Camilo Mejia; Sr. Jane Morrissey, SSJ; Kimberly Redigon; Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ; Dr. Terrence Rynne; and Fr. Jerry Zawada.
Remembering Jim Gower, the first PCUSA peace ambassador

Jim Gower—Rev. James Manley Gower—should be remembered by Pax Christi USA before he is altogether gone from us. Jim, 90, now resides in a nursing home, suffering dementia.

A direct descendant of the “noble Gower,” the medieval poet celebrated by Shakespeare, World War II Navy veteran, and long-time Portland, ME, diocesan priest, should be remembered as an exemplary witness, in Maine and nationwide, to the nonviolent Jesus and to the priest in service to his community. He should be remembered throughout the country because his recognition of the centrality of peace in the Gospel and alarm at the madness of mutually assured nuclear destruction occasioned him becoming—after Dorothy Day, the perpetual peacejourney—the first PCUSA peace ambassador. Shortly after his discovery of Pax in England and Pax Christi’s foundation here, in the early 80s, Jim met a need of the fledgling PCUSA movement. He took a two-year leave of absence and visited any parish, school, or seminary anywhere that would give him a hearing about Pax Christi as an instrument of peacemaking. He made two coast-to-coast-to-coast circuits, clocking 25,000 miles, living hand to mouth, asking only gas money to the next stop. Years after, early Pax Christi members would ask anyone from Maine if they knew Jim.

On return, Jim founded PC Maine, starting groups around the state. He served for 30 years as PCM’s chief peace witness, inspiration, and friend to all, always encouraging and helpful.

But Jim’s commitment to Pax Christi was not his first major peacemaking act. In 1968, lunch with an old Bar Harbor schoolmate, at which Jim asked what they could do for the community, prompted their effort with two other friends to found Acadia Peace College. Three years of planning evolved, instead, into creation of the College of the Atlantic, located at the entrance to Acadia National Park, with a commitment to human ecology (the human-environment relationship) that put it in the forefront of academic ecological studies centers.

Jim’s strength in science and physics, love of the outdoors and his mother’s encouragement prompted his matriculation at Notre Dame to become a civil engineer. He graduated an ROTC squad leader in 1944 and joined the Navy, serving at sea, as a diver, a dangerous volunteer duty, for two years.

Intellectually restless, Jim returned to Notre Dame for a Philosophy degree. He worked briefly for GE, then attended Georgetown Law School for a year while interning for Maine Sen. Wallace White. Considering a public service career, he concluded that politics required too much compromise. One day, at coffee, he announced that he would become a priest.

Throughout his priesthood, Jim emphasized what he had learned from his mother—whatever you do, do good—and the importance of family life. In retirement, he sought opportunities to encourage parents to gather their families for a weekly Shalom dinner.

His posting as chaplain at the University of Maine in 1972 brought Jim’s experience of Depression poverty and war and commitment to Church peace and social teaching to the fore as the 60’s Vietnam war and student protests continued. Several of his student parishioners died in Vietnam.

When Jim learned of Pax Christi, he was ready, and early PC Maine retreats with Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy, Fr. Dan Berrigan, and Fr. Bill Callahan, SJ, provided a solid grounding in Gospel nonviolence. He regularly sought further nourishment from solid reading and peace conferences at U. Maine and elsewhere.

Jim’s homilies often ranged wide, usually settling on Gospel nonviolence and frequently discomfiting the comfortable, who did not hesitate to advise him (some of them notable Washington summer residents) to talk about something other than U.S. imperialism and Gospel nonviolence. Requests to substitute for a Sunday Mass might carry a plea not to rile the folks in the pews. Jim was not an accomplished speaker, but the force of his witness to nonviolence and manifest warmth and care invariably won his congregation’s assent—and love.

A published Bar Harbor celebration of his 50-odd years of service declares that “he will be remembered for his unconditional love for mankind and his mission of peace and justice for all humanity.” Jim’s love was all-encompassing, for Creation and everyone he met. He warmed every room he entered, every gathering. He envisioned the peace of Christ and engendered it, as all who shared the Eucharist with him at PC Maine’s annual retreats recognized.

For the Pax Christi Maine community, Jim was not an ambassador. He has been and continues to be a saint in our midst.

A longer version of this article appears on the PCUSA website. Search “Jim Gower” in the search box on the website to find the article.
Following the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) response to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) report, Pax Christi sections and member organizations from around the world joined together in releasing a letter of support to LCWR. Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, National Council Chairperson, and Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director, signed the letter on behalf of Pax Christi USA. The letter was circulated, at Sr. Patty’s request, to PCUSA regional leadership with an invitation to also sign. The letter was released on June 8. As Pax Christi International Co-Presidents Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling wrote, “In the United States and in many other corners of the world, women religious have been at the heart of Pax Christi’s work for peace. Their faithful presence, deep theological grounding and remarkable leadership have made an extraordinary contribution to our movement.”

The Holy See’s recent disciplinary action against the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) has greatly saddened members of Pax Christi International around the world. Women religious in the United States have been deeply committed to promoting the peace of Christ. They are at the heart of our movement, proclaiming with clarity and love the possibility of peace. Theological training and rich experience in grassroots communities dealing with terrible violence, are helping to articulate a new theology of Catholic peace-building.

To this great Gospel witness of U.S. women religious, we believe that LCWR has made a faithful and extremely valuable contribution. Catholic women everywhere are grateful to these mature Catholic women leaders. Pax Christi International women and men, lay people, religious, priests and bishops around the world hold them in the highest regard. We believe that their experience of faithful discipleship has much to offer the institutional Catholic Church in terms of building right relationships, respectful dialogue, theological reflection and the ability to honour the gift of diversity.

We pray that, rather than scrutiny, humiliation and reprimand, the Holy See will give the LCWR and women’s religious communities in the United States the respect and gratitude they so richly deserve. For this, Pax Christi International members around the world will be praying.
Five Reasons Drone Assassinations are Illegal

By Bill Quigley, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace

U.S. civilian and military employees regularly target and fire lethal unmanned drone-guided missiles at people across the world. Thousands of people have been assassinated. Hundreds of those killed were civilians. Some of those killed were rescuers and mourners. These killings would be criminal acts if they occurred inside the U.S. Does it make legal sense that these killings would be legal outside the U.S.?

The U.S. has used drones to kill thousands of people in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. But the government routinely refuses to provide any official information on local reports of civilian deaths or the identities of most of those killed. In Pakistan alone, the New America Foundation reports U.S. forces have launched 297 drone strikes killing at least 1,800 people, three to four hundred of whom were not even combatants. Other investigative journalists report four to eight hundred civilians killed by U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan.

Very few of these drone strikes kill high level leaders of terror groups. A recent article in FOREIGN AFFAIRS estimated “only one out of every seven drone attacks in Pakistan kills a militant leader. The majority of those killed in such strikes are not important insurgent commanders but rather low level fighters, together with a small number of civilians.” An investigation by the Wall Street Journal in November 2011 revealed that most of the time the U.S. did not even know the identities of the people being killed by drones in Pakistan. The WSJ reported there are two types of drone strikes. Personality strikes target known terrorist leaders. Signature strikes target groups of men believed to be militants but are people whose identities are not known. Most of the drone strikes are signature strikes.

In Yemen, there have been at least 34 drone assassination attacks so far in 2012, according to the London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism. Using drones against people in Yemen, who are thought to be militants but whose names are not even known, was authorized by the Obama administration in April 2012, according to the Washington Post. Somalia has been the site of ten drone attacks with a growing number in recent months.

Civilians deaths in drone strikes are regularly reported, but more chilling is the practice of firing a second set of drone strikes at the scene once people have come to find out what happened or to give aid. Glen Greenwald of Salon, a leading critic of the increasing use of drones, recently pointed out that drones routinely kill civilians who are in the vicinity of people thought to be “militants” and are thus “incidental” killings. But the U.S. also frequently fires drones again at people who show up at the scene of an attack, thus deliberately targeting rescuers and mourners.

Here are five reasons why these drone assassinations are illegal.

One. Assassination by the U.S. government has been illegal since 1976. Drone killings are acts of premeditated murder. Premeditated murder is a crime in all fifty states and under federal criminal law. These murders are also the textbook definition of assassination, which is murder by sudden or secret attack for political reasons. In 1976 U.S. President Gerald Ford issued Executive Order 11905, Section 5(g), which states, “No employee of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, political assassination.” President Reagan followed up to make the ban clearer in Executive Order 12333. Section 2.11 of that Order states, “No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination.” Section 2.12 further says “Indirect participation. No agency of the Intelligence Community shall participate in or request any person to undertake activities forbidden by this Order.” This ban on assassination still stands.

The reason for the ban on assassinations was that the CIA was involved in attempts to assassinate national leaders opposed by the U.S. Among others, U.S. forces sought to kill Fidel Castro of Cuba, Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, and Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

Two. United Nations report directly questions the legality of U.S. drone killings. The UN directly questioned the legality of U.S. drone killings in a May 2010 report by NYU law professor Philip Alston. Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, said drone killings may be lawful in the context of authorized armed conflict (e.g. Afghanistan where the U.S. sought and received international approval to invade and wage war on another country). However, the use of drones “far from the battle zone” is highly questionable legally. “Outside the context of armed conflict, the use of drones for targeted killing is almost never likely to be legal.” Can drone killings be justified as anticipatory self-defense? “Applying such a scenario to targeted killings threatens to eviscerate the human rights law prohibition against arbitrary deprivation of life.” Likewise, countries which engage in such killings must provide transparency and accountability, which no country has done. “The refusal by States who conduct targeted killings to provide transparency about their policies violates the international law framework that limits the unlawful use of lethal force against individuals.”

Three. International law experts condemn U.S. drone killings. Richard Falk, professor emeritus of international affairs and politics at Princeton University thinks the widespread killing of civilians in drone strikes may well constitute war crimes.

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Pax Christi Michigan hosts statewide conference on power
Nearly 250 people attended the 31st Annual Pax Christi Michigan State Conference. Our featured speakers, PCUSA Ambassador of Peace Tom Cordaro, and Sr. Patricia Chappell, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, complimented each other perfectly – Tom with his challenging instructional style and Sr. Patty with her prophetic call to action. The event was held at St. Anastasia Church in Troy, MI on April 21st. The conference theme was “Power: Who Lies? Who Dies? Who Pays? Who Profits?” with workshops focusing on economic justice, racism, immigration, clothing with a conscience, welfare rights, civil resistance, costs of war, jobs with justice, and emergency managers attack on democracy. The 9th Annual Young Adult Peacemaker Award went to African American Samantha Przybylski, a student at Grand Rapids Community College, who led her first protest/petition when she was just 10 years old. The 21st Annual Purple Ribbon for Peace Award was presented to lifelong PCM member activists Doreen and Neville D’Souza of East Indian origin, who literally raised their four sons in the Pax Christi Michigan community.

Pax Christi New Mexico participates in Nuke Free Now!
This year New Mexico Pax Christi invites PCUSA members to join them in participating in Nuke Free Now, a weekend event Aug. 4-6th in Santa Fe and Los Alamos, N.M. We will transform the nuclear narrative in the public consciousness and inspire a life-affirming future. Alaric Balibrera, whose father was the film documentarian for Los Alamos Labs from 1967 to 1982, realized his exposure as a child to nuclear contamination and the terrible consequences of nuclear weapons. He will be hunger striking from July 16th to August 6th to increase awareness to the mounting nuclear crisis that threatens all nations on this planet. Ellie Voutselas of Pax Christi New Mexico has pledged to join his hunger strike from July 16-22. Others are invited to join in this action. Please visit the website www.nukefreenow.org for complete information.

Pax Christi Long Island recognizes peace contributions
Journalist and writer Susan Perretti and Bethpage High School teacher/advisor Jacqueline Jill Rito were given the Pax Christi Long Island Peace Award for 2012 in April. Susan and Jacqueline, members of PCLI, were honored for their work in bringing the message of peace from the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers to Long Island. The AYPV developed the Global Days of Listening program, which enables conversations between ordinary people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Israel, Egypt and an expanding list of other countries. Also honored were three students from Bethpage High School, Leila Dastgheib-Beheshhti, Holly Josephs and Shawn Mehrzad for their efforts in presenting the Global Days of Listening at their high school, at Adelphi University, and at the United Nations.

Pax Christi Illinois hosts Mass before NATO Summit march
On Sunday morning May 20th in Chicago, prior to the March for Justice and Reconciliation organized by the Iraq Veterans Against War (IVAW), nearly 100 members of Pax Christi USA, the Catholic Worker and 8th Day Center for Justice gathered in Grant Park for a Eucharistic Liturgy. Presiding at the liturgy was Fr. Bob Bossie, SCJ, a long-time Chicago peace activist. After Mass the group joined the IAWV rally and marched with thousands from around the country who were saying “no” to NATO’s ever-expanding mission and ever-increasing costs that serve the strategic goals of the 1% while forcing austerity at home and destitution and death around the world.

Pax Christi Lansing studies Occupy, immigration
Pax Christi Lansing’s Lenten mini-series, “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me...” drew nearly 100 people to hear presenters and share in the ensuing dialogue. Part I of the series, “The Occupy Movement: Working for the Common Good of All,” focused on the ‘stranger’ as ‘occupier’ and featured speakers from both Occupy Lansing and Occupy Detroit. Fr. Peter Dougherty, co-founder of Michigan Peace Team and life-long member of Pax Christi Michigan, offered the spiritual grounding for the Occupy Movement and shared his recent experience with Occupy Iowa – where he and others had been arrested at the first-in-the-nation election caucus. Part II, “Immigration: Telling Our Stories of Struggle and Hope” featured an update on immigration issues at the local, state and national levels by Max Anguiano, Chairperson, C.R.I. Task Force of Action of Greater Lansing. This was followed by the personal, heart-rending stories of recent immigrants and members of Lansing’s Cristo Rey Center on p. 7...
Church, whose pastor, Fr. Fred Thelen, is actively engaged in developing and facilitating leadership in the immigrant struggle.

**Pax Christi Metro New York celebrates peacemakers**

On Sunday, June 3rd, Pax Christi Metro New York honored this year’s Peacemakers who were sent into the world and have borne much fruit: Rabbi Michael Weiss for his transforming love and interfaith outreach; Bud Courtney for his peacemaking on the lower east side of Manhattan, in Iraq, and at the Arizona/Mexico border; and Carla DeYcaza for her work for human rights, transitional justice, and nonviolent conflict resolution in Africa.

**Pax Christi-Phoenix works to abolish the death penalty**

Thus far in 2012, the Pax Christi model of Pray-Reflect-Act has been put into overdrive in Arizona due to the execution of 3 of our Arizona brothers. PC members have been busy writing letters to newspapers, speaking at clemency hearings, holding prayer vigils on the eve of the executions, and bearing witness at the federal prison on the days of execution. In February, PC-Phoenix co-sponsored a speaking tour by Sister Helen Prejean. Abolishing the death penalty is just one of several peacemaking activities of the 7-year old PC-Phoenix organization. Arizonans are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings held at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Franciscan Renewal Center. For more information, please contact Dan & Margaret Wolford at wolford2102@centurylink.net.

**40th anniversary Advent Booklet goes to print soon**

Later this summer, Pax Christi USA will publish our 40th Anniversary Advent Reflection booklet – *Voices of Hope, Women of Wisdom*. Four amazing women on the forefront of faith-based peace and justice ministry have agreed to help us create a powerful, compassionate, thought-provoking and inspiring resource. Marie Dennis, Pax Christ International Co-President & PCUSA Ambassador of Peace; Mary Jo Iozzo, PhD, Professor of Moral Theology at Barry University and Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team member; Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, PCUSA Internship Director & PCUSA Teacher of Peace; and Cathy Woodson, non-profit community organizer, Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team member & PCUSA National Council member are our writing team. Call 814-520-6245 or visit our website for more information or to place your pre-printing order.

**Regional dialogues scheduled for summer, fall across nation**

Members of the national leadership team of Pax Christi USA will participate in a series of regional dialogues throughout 2012-2013. These dialogues will be an opportunity for national leadership to meet with, listen to, and dream with Pax Christi USA members throughout the nation at a variety of locations. The insights and ideas which come out of these regional meetings will be incorporated into the planning of the 2013 National Conference and our organizational plan for the years to come. Upcoming regional dialogues will happen July 28 in St. Louis; Sept. 15 in Atlanta; Sept. 29 in Illinois; Oct. 21 in Florida; Oct. 27 in Massachusetts; Nov. 3 in Metro New York/Long Island; and Nov. 17 in Southern California. Check the PCUSA website for details & contact information.
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“There are two fundamental concerns. One is embarking on this sort of automated warfare in ways that further dehumanize the process of armed conflict in ways that I think have disturbing implications for the future,” Falk said. “Related to that are the concerns I’ve had recently with my preoccupation with the occupation of Gaza of a one-sided warfare where the high-tech side decides how to inflict pain and suffering on the other side that is, essentially, helpless.”

Human rights groups in Pakistan challenge the legality of U.S. drone strikes there and assert that Pakistan can prosecute military and civilians involved for murder. While stopping short of direct condemnation, international law expert Notre Dame Professor Mary Ellen O’Connell seriously questions the legality of drone attacks in Pakistan. In powerful testimony before Congress and in an article in America magazine, she points out that under the charter of the United Nations, international law authorizes nations to kill people in other countries only in self-defense to an armed attack, if authorized by the UN, or if assisting another country in their lawful use of force. Outside of war, she writes, the full body of human rights applies, including the prohibition on killing without warning. Because the U.S. is not at war with Pakistan, using the justification of war to authorize the killings is “to violate fundamental human rights principles.”

Four. Military law of war does not authorize widespread drone killing of civilians. According to the current U.S. Military Law of War Deskbook, the law of war allows killing only when consistent with four key principles: military necessity, distinction, proportionality, and humanity. These principles preclude both direct targeting of civilians and medical personnel but also set out how much “incidental” loss of civilian life is allowed. Some argue precision-guided weapons like drones can be used only when there is no probable cause of civilian deaths. But the U.S. military disputes that burden and instead directs “all practicable precautions” to be taken to weigh the anticipated loss of civilian life against the advantages expected to be gained by the strike. Even using the more lenient standard, there is little legal justification of deliberately allowing the killing of civilians who are “incidental” to the killing of people whose identities are unknown.

Five. Retired high-ranking military and CIA veterans challenge the legality and efficacy of drone killings. Retired U.S. Army Colonel Ann Wright squarely denies the legality of drone warfare, telling Democracy Now: “These drones, you might as well just call them assassination machines. That is what these drones are used for: targeted assassination, extrajudicial ultimate death for people who have not been convicted of anything.”

Drone strikes are also counterproductive. Robert Grenier, recently retired Director of the CIA Counter-Terrorism Center, wrote, “One wonders how many Yemenis may be moved in the future to violent extremism in reaction to carelessly targeted missile strikes, and how many Yemeni militants with strictly local agendas will become dedicated enemies of the West in response to U.S. military actions against them.”

Recent polls of the Pakistan people show high levels of anger in Pakistan at U.S. military attacks there. This anger in turn leads to high support for suicide attacks against U.S. military targets.

Bill Quigley is a human rights lawyer who teaches law at Loyola University New Orleans and works with the Center for Constitutional Rights. He is a Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace. A longer version of this article is available on the PCUSA website.