

H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Smolenskaya-Sennaya Ploshad, Dom 32/34
119200 Moscow
Russian Federation

Brussels, 12 March 2012

Concerns: the critical situation in Syria and the mediation role of the Russian government

Your Excellency,

Pax Christi International is following the situation in Syria very closely, together with different Member Organisations of the movement active worldwide.

With great distress, we are observing the escalation of violence against civilians. We fear that the inaction of the international community marginalizes non-violent forces and that efforts to reach a negotiated solution lose ground.

We support the mediation efforts of Mr Kofi Annan, aimed at reaching a negotiated solution for all the citizens of Syria. We strongly believe that there is no alternative to a political solution. We also believe that your government can play a crucial role in this search for a peaceful solution. Therefore, we urge you to use all your diplomatic powers to end the violence and open the way for a political agreement.

Secondly, we would like to stress that humanitarian and medical teams urgently need to be granted safe access to the locations where victims of the violence need urgent treatment or basic supplies such as food and drinking water. Blocking this access is a violation of International Humanitarian Law, can result in new casualties.

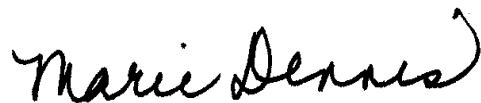
Thirdly, stop all arms supplies to Syria as long as grave and systematic violations of human rights continue.

We are grateful for your efforts to reach peace in Syria.

Yours sincerely,



Bishop Kevin Dowling
Co-President Pax Christi International



Marie Dennis
Co-President Pax Christi International