

PLANET 3 DIGEST . . . APRIL 2013

Incorporating UNAA (SA) Newsletter No. 25

THE BARBARA POLKINGHORNE AWARD PRESENTED TO CYNTHIA JAMES , International Women's Day, 8 March 2013

We offer our congratulations to the 2013 Award Recipient Cynthia James. Cynthia has been recognised for her constant and tireless work for over 40 years in encouraging the full and equal participation of women, social justice for all, respect for human rights (including the Convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women—CEDAW) and work toward building a culture of peace, especially for the United Nations Association of Australia (SA Division) and for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (SA Branch).

Now 90 years of age, Cynthia graduated from Melbourne University in 1944 with a Masters Degree in Science and worked for the CSIR (now CSIRO) in Canberra from 1946 to 1950. She had to resign when she married in 1950 as CSIR, along with the Commonwealth Public Service, did not employ married women. Cynthia actively promoted women's engagement in scientific work, supporting early campaigns for equal pay for women and the right for married women to work. She married and raised four children.

Cynthia became involved with WILPF SA Branch in the mid 1960s and participated in the in early anti-Vietnam War marches in Adelaide. Cynthia has been actively involved in WILPF's peace work for over forty years. Now 90, she is currently their archivist, organiser of peace education material, WILPF librarian, manages our merchandise and fund raising stalls as well as historian, while also regularly attending our meetings and events.

Cynthia was WILPF rep on the UNAA Board for many years.

For some 28 years Cynthia volunteered one day a week at the UNAA(SA) Adelaide office, taking on the role of Librarian—providing peace education and UN material to schools, organisations and individuals. Her knowledge of the UN system and its programs, annual projects and campaigns has been most valuable. Both our organisations endorse this nomination. We have been privileged to have the dedicated, reliable services of Cynthia James for so many years. Cynthia works quietly in the background. We have benefited enormously from her lifelong dedication and commitment to our goals, her organisational skills, wisdom and knowledge, especially her interest in conflict resolution methods and removing all forms of discrimination. We welcome the public acknowledgment of Cynthia's contribution in the award of the Barbara Polkinghorne Memorial Trust Award.



Ruth Russell, Cynthia James, John Crawford and Peter Faulkner
at the presentation outside the Library on North Terrace. .

The Barbara Polkinghorne Memorial Trust Award

The Award is directed at acknowledging a South Australian woman who in her field of endeavour promotes the rights of and advancement of the status of women.

In memory of Barbara Polkinghorne's (1914 — 1988) brilliance as a writer and her passionate commitment to social and political commentary, the Award's primary purpose is to recognise a contribution to literature, the media, the arts and sciences. However this will not prevent the recognition of women in other fields where their work and passion has made a difference to the lives of other women.

Barbara spent her life advocating and working for the rights of women and the need for child protection and education. For many years Barbara wrote a column in the South Australian Women's Electoral Lobby Newsletter entitled "Cassandra's Column".

In order to commemorate her life and commitment to feminism the Barbara Polkinghorne Award in was established in 1989. Past winners have been historians, newspaper and technology writers, media journalists, scientists, botanists, poets, publishers, and language specialists and historian-genealogists amongst Aboriginal women.

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West Papua Seminar

What should be done about human rights abuses right on our doorstep? What is really happening? These are questions that UNAA SA members grappled with at this seminar and what should an organisation like ours do? Our main resource person was Franciscus Eweng, a member of the UNAA SA executive committee representing the Australia West Papua Association.

Franciscus came to Australia to represent his people at conferences and meetings around the country. Fearing the consequences on returning to Indonesia, he finally sought refugee status, spending time on a temporary visa before finally becoming an Australian citizen. Before coming to Australia he had spent more than 10 years in Indonesian prisons simply because he had circulated a paper exposing the injustice of the 1967 “act of free choice”, unfortunately accepted by the United Nations a short time later.

At the seminar Franciscus spoke about a possible resolution of the on-going conflict by peaceful dialogue and protest, with an international mediator such as the United Nations, and the involvement of other players such as the Netherlands, United States, New Zealand or Australia. Franciscus is hoping for the restoration of human rights by the application of equitable justice. It was suggested that the United Nations had all the more reason to become involved because of the dubious role the body had played in the past and this might be a way of making amends.

Franciscus referred to Benny Wenda’s visit to Australia as part of a tour of some of the Pacific nations such as the Solomons, Vanuatu and New Zealand. In Australia he met with Greens Senator di Natale. Rosemary McKay, a member of the Australia West Papua Association, explained that Benny Wenda’s position is somewhat like Jose Ramos Horta’s in the context of Timor Leste, that of a roving diplomat. Not surprisingly, Indonesia had a red alert placed on Benny Wenda with Interpol, which was later withdrawn because it was found to be a total fabrication. Franciscus informed us of the change of prime minister in Papua New Guinea over the issue of collusion with Indonesia but the consequences for West Papua are unknown. The former opposition leader has become prime minister.



Benny Wenda is on a mission: Free West Papua

It was agreed that the problems of West Papua were not so much with the Indonesian people as such but more with the military. Franciscus said that West Papuans have a great fear of the military. It was interesting to learn that peace groups in Indonesia are urging for the military to be fully accountable. Meanwhile, the West Papuans are taking a non-violent approach, a stance which the military find hard to understand and therefore have difficulty in responding to appropriately.

We were able to view recent videos secretly taken in West Papua, for example the very recent Al Jazeera documentary, highlighting recent killings, especially of Mako Tabuni, which followed two earlier deaths, those of Hubertus Mabel and Natalis Alua. The Australian Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Carr has recommended that the Indonesian authorities conduct an inquiry into the most recent of these killings of these West Papuan leaders.

It was Franciscus’ view that the way forward was through peaceful dialogue and protest at home and gaining support from abroad. Documents that Franciscus brought to the meeting showed how human rights organisations, such as the Asian Human Rights Commission and Franciscans International have appealed to the UN Human Rights Council to help promote peaceful dialogue to end ongoing violence in Indonesia’s West Papua province.

“We call on the Human Rights Council to urge the government of Indonesia to actively engage in peaceful dialogue under neutral mediation ... to find a sustainable solution for all people living in Papua,” they have said in a joint statement. Their call echoes that of Lambert Pekikir, head of the main Papuan independence movement, who maintains that the conflict in West Papua can only be resolved with UN involvement. These rights groups claim that the persecution of activists under the cover of antiterrorism measures since last year has resulted in arbitrary arrests and the fabrication of charges aimed at silencing human rights defenders. Father Neles Tebay Keadabi, who just recently received South Korea’s Tji Hak-soon Justice and Peace Award, emphasised that improving dialogue between Jakarta and Papua is the best and most dignified means of seeking a just and peaceful solution to violence in West Papua.

John Crawford, UNAA SA president, explained that over the years UNAA SA had submitted a number of resolutions concerning West Papua to the UNAA federal council, including the 2012 meeting in Brisbane. At the moment, we are following up on the outcome of these resolutions. Ruth Russell, a strong peace activist with the International League for Peace and Freedom, commented that it is difficult for Australia to become involved in Indonesian internal affairs because of the Lombok Treaty signed during the Howard era.

Franciscus referred to the presidential elections that would take place in Indonesia in 2014. The current president, Susilo Bambang Yudihoyono, twice elected, is unable to stand again. According to Franciscus, the West Papuan have aligned themselves with the Melanesian Spearhead Group advocating economic development.

Radio Interview Ruth arranged for John to be interviewed for her program on Radio Adelaide to speak about West Papua. On the Sunday following the seminar an interview on the subject of West Papua was broadcast with Ruth Russell talking to John Crawford. “Not a shining light in the history of the UN” was the conclusion drawn about the so-called “act of free choice.” The plebiscite was well below the standard that would be expected of the United Nations. Only 1000 Papuans were able to vote and they were told how to vote. As a consequence the issue of self-determination for West Papuans was raised as well as the rights of Indigenous people living in West Papua today. The picture at the present is a mixed population of Indonesians, Asians and Melanesian West Papuans who, largely as a result of transmigration, are now outnumbered in their own land. The West Papuans as a group are largely confined to remote areas.

The economic reality for West Papuans was bleak even though their territory contained the largest gold mine in the world – the Freeport Mine, which provides around 20% of Indonesia’s gross domestic product. Despite this, services to Papuans were of a low standard. Even more worrying are suggestions that one third of West Papua’s forests are targeted for palm oil production but the Papuan community is likely to gain little from this. Reports were mentioned where the military was used to enforce law and order. Around 35 000 military personnel have been deployed in West Papua, that is one soldier for every 33 West Papuans.

The maintenance of law and order appears to be done without attention to human rights as reports of arbitrary arrests and torture patently suggest. Obtaining facts is most difficult as non-government organisations are not permitted to visit the province. Even Indonesians human rights organisations who have great concerns over what is occurring in West Papua, are prohibited from visiting. Corruption and conflict are fomented so that army can stay. Such plans raise concerns about environmental rights.

The situation surrounding Benny Wenda was also raised, especially mentioning his being forced to leave West Papua 10 years ago and initially not being able to travel because of an Interpol “red alert”. Fortunately this has been lifted recently enabling his recent visit to the Pacific region and Australia as a spokesperson for his people to take place.

A case in point was made regarding the shooting and death of Marco Tabuni, a Freedom Movement leader. He was left to die of blood loss in a military hospital. It was claimed that he had a weapon, but this was denied by witnesses at the scene of the shooting. A conclusion was reached that the West Papuans were denied their rights and that they represent a substantial minority who are denied their voice.

Footnote: UNAA SA also has a copy of an MA thesis submitted to Utrecht University in 2012 entitled Invisible Victims: The effects of structural violence on Infant and Child mortality in Papua Barat, Indonesia in the context of Human Rights. Statistics from the thesis indicate an infant mortality among Papuans of 15 as compared to 5.6 for the rest of Indonesia.

US forces in Australia: 2012

In November 2011, Barak Obama and Julia Gillard announced a new level of military cooperation between the United States and Australia, including:

- The deployment of a 2500-strong US Marine Air– Ground Task Force (MAGTF) to Darwin.
- More use of Australian air bases by US aircraft: more visits, more frequently, by a wider range of aircraft.
- Both governments stress that US military will “rotate” through Australian bases, rather than set up US bases.

The new joint facilities in context

Australia–US military and intelligence cooperation has been gradually growing over the last decade..

New operational capacities at Pine Gap outside Alice Springs placed this Joint Defence Facility on the front line in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. With a new US space surveillance radar planned for North West Cape, Australia plays a key role in US missile defence and space operations.

Following the Obama visit, the Australian government confirmed plans for an increase in the number, frequency and type of US naval visits to HMAS Stirling at Perth, the only major naval facility on Australia’s west coast. The government also confirmed it was discussing the possible use of the Cocos Island airfield in the Indian Ocean by the US surveillance drones such as the Global Hawk.

US forces in Darwin

The first 150 Marines arrived in Darwin in March 2012. The full MAGTF complement of 2500 is expected to be in place by 2016. There will be 2500 Marines passing through on ‘constant rotation’, probably on six month tours. When complete the Task Force will consist of command, ground combat and air combat elements available for rapid deployment for expeditionary combat. The Robertson Barracks in Darwin will effectively be a permanent joint base, and the organisational heart of the Task Force. The port of Darwin is deep enough even for the largest US aircraft carriers. The NT government is eager for more defence spending, which already makes up 12.6 per cent of the Territory’s gross state product.

US forces: Northern Territory training grounds

The three main training locations for the MAGTF will be the Bradshaw Field Training Area, the Mount Bunday Training Area near Humpty Doo, and the Delamere Air Weapons Range, 220 km south-west of Katherine. Together they make up the ADF’s North Australian Range Complex (NARC). With Shoalwater Bay in Queensland, they are key locations for the multinational Talisman Sabre exercises. Bradshaw and Delamere were named as part of a Joint Australia–US Combat Training Centre (JCTC) in 2008. Bradshaw is a former cattle station (just smaller than Cyprus). During Talisman Sabre in 2007, US and Australian personnel constructed an airfield there, with a 1250 m runway which can take the largest US and Australian cargo aircraft. The NT government anticipates 7000 troops will visit Bradshaw every dry season. Delamere Air Weapons Range, over 3000 square kms, is the RAAF’s principal bombing practice and testing range. US fighter and bomber aircraft based in Guam and Japan have been using Delamere in exercises for many years.

A decade of growth in US forces

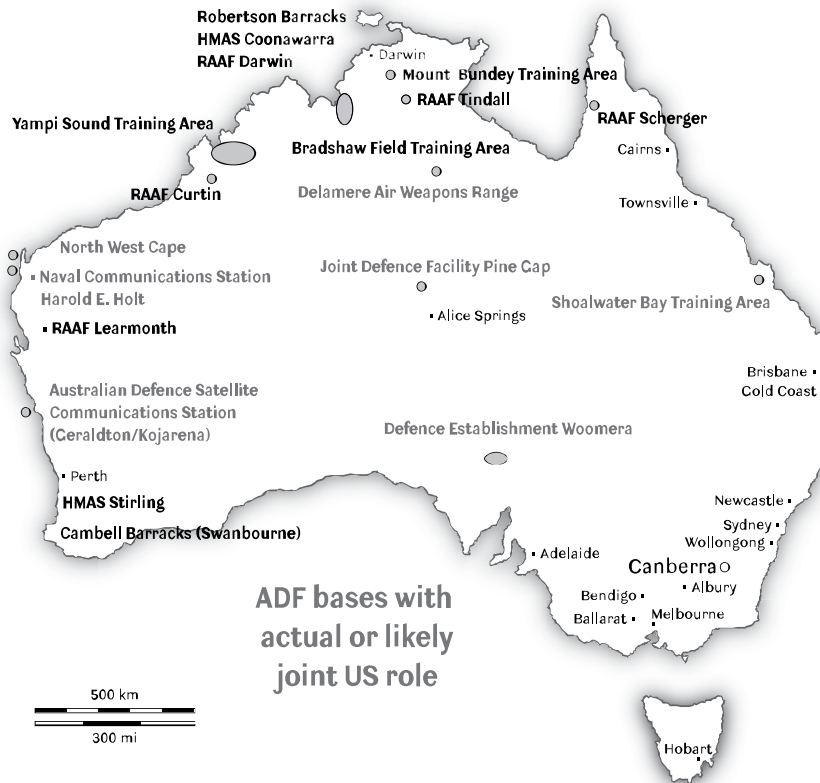
Announcements following the annual Australia–US meetings of defence and foreign ministers (AUSMIN) track how the US has been granted increased access to Australian facilities across a decade:

2004 and 2005: the Bradshaw Field Training Area, Delamere Air Weapons Range, Shoalwater Bay, the Joint Combined Training Centre, and Yampi Sound

2007: new joint facilities at the Kojarena Satellite Communications Station

2008 and 2010: new joint facilities at North West Cape

These bases have sophisticated electronic networking which link them to other ranges and with US and Australian command and training centres. The JCTC is planned to link into the US Pacific Command’s Pacific Warfighting Center and the US Joint Force Command’s Joint National Training Capability.



Northwest Cape: Subs and satellites

The Naval Communication Station Harold E.Holt at North West Cape is currently a VLF (very low frequency) communications base. It was originally a US-only facility for communications with submerged US nuclear missile submarines, then a joint station. After the Cold War it was returned to Australia who used it for submarine communications.

Following a new treaty in 2008 it again has a primarily US war-fighting role, with two functions. First, Northwest Cape will support operations by US attack submarines, which could be nuclear-armed. Secondly, it is now proposed to build a new facility at North West Cape under a 2010 partnership agreement — a powerful US space surveillance sensor. Its publicised function is to locate space debris orbiting the earth and threatening the satellites on which our networked society depends. Its military purpose however is to detect objects in space for offensive and defensive aspects of warfighting in space.

Data from the sensor will go the US Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC), which manages the US Space Surveillance Network at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It will be part of a new Space Fence made up of US Air Force-operated radars, located at Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific or Ascension Island in the south Atlantic (or both).

Kojarena, WA: signals and satellites

The Australian Defence Satellite Communications Ground Station (ADSCGS) is at Kojarena, 30 km

east of Geraldton. It is operated by the ADF Defence Signals Division (DSD).

Kojarena station is a major DSD signals interception facility, and is part of a worldwide system of satellite communications keyword monitoring known as Echelon.

In addition, under a 2007 MOU with the US, the Australian government has built a separate facility in the ADSCGS grounds for Ultra-High-Frequency satellite communications, enabling secure all-weather and all terrain 3-G mobile telecommunications. Kojarena will be one of four such ground stations world-wide

Pine Gap

The Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap, near Alice Springs, remains the most important US intelligence facility outside the US.

Pine Gap is the command and control link to US signals intelligence satellites over the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, listening to ballistic missile testing and launches, radars, satellite communications, and microwave transmissions.

After the closure of Nurrungar in 2000 it also became a Remote Ground Station for US thermal imaging satellites, providing early warning of missile launches, including it as part of US and allied missile defence. Pine Gap has played a key role in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY PROFESSOR RICHARD TANTER IN ARENA MAGAZINE, MAY 2012

Government Urged to Release Children from Manus Island Detention



The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) has backed a call by Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers member Paris Aristotle for the Australian Government to urgently review the policy of keeping children in immigration detention on Manus Island. RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said the children arbitrarily detained on the remote Papua New Guinea island should be returned to Australia and be supported in community arrangements.

Mr Power said the call by Mr Aristotle for the Government to remove children from Manus Island echoed concerns raised by UNHCR after its officers visited the processing centre in January. “UNHCR described the mandatory detention of 34 children and their families as troubling and recommended the suspension of the transfer of children to Manus Island until legal and administrative safeguards were in place, including open centres,”

Mr Power said. “It’s clear that the Australian Government has not been able to, at this stage, implement the open centre model insisted on by the Expert Panel. “This leaves the Australian Government no alternative but to release children from Manus Island and to place them in community arrangements on the Australian mainland. A detention facility is no place for a child, let alone a vulnerable child already traumatised by war, conflict and persecution.”

Mr Power also expressed disappointment that no apparent progress had been made at the Bali Process ministerial meeting on building safer pathways to refugee protection through regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. “Regional cooperation on refugee protection was central to the Expert Panel’s recommended strategy to prevent deaths at sea. RCOA agrees with the Expert Panel that change will only occur when asylum seekers and refugees in the region can access safer alternatives to dangerous boat journeys in their search for protection from persecution and terror.

“The problems in the Asia-Pacific region which drive people to seek to enter Australia by boat remain unresolved and are so complex that they will not be resolved by any set of unilateral actions from Australia.

“While substantial effort has been invested into the interception and detention of people on the move in the region, we are still yet to see any apparent progress on addressing the issues that drive the movement of asylum seekers and refugees in the region.”

Refugee Council of Australia
5 April, 2013

Discussion Evening

**Petra Ball, International Humanitarian Law Officer
for Red Cross South Australia.**

4 June 2013 at 7.30 pm.
UNAA(SA) Office
57/81 Carrington Street
ADELAIDE

As UNAA we have some understanding of the UDHR and other UN protocols concerning human rights, but realising we understand very little about the Geneva Convention, its history, and how the Red Cross operates in this field of human rights, we have asked Petra to come and speak with us..

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UNAA Status of Women Film Night

Film Night Double Feature

Sunday, 28th July, 2013

Wallis Theatre, 139 Richmond Road, Richmond

4.00 pm First Film begins, Interval meal with drinks, 8.30 coffee & cake

Admission \$25 (includes meal, drinks & supper)

Further details – Heather 8271 4433

Mali: UN force possible in July, senior peacekeeping official says



Malian refugees with their belongings after arriving at Goudebou camp in Burkina Faso.
Photo: UNHCR/H. Reichenberger

16 March 2013 – The United Nations could have a peacekeeping operation in place in Mali this July, with approval from the Malian Government and the Security Council, a senior United Nations official today said wrapping up his week-long visit to Mali.

“July could see the transfer of AFISMA to a UN stabilisation mission,” Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, told journalists in the Malian capital city of Bamako, referring to the African-led International Support Mission in Mali by its French acronym - AFISMA.

In December 2012, at the request of the Malian Government, the Security Council authorized AFISMA's deployment to support national efforts to recover the north, which had been occupied by radical Islamists. The conflict uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and prompted the Malian Government to request assistance from France to stop the military advance of extremist groups.

Mr. Mulet was in Mali assessing possible options for a UN presence. Speaking to media today, he stressed that any UN force would be limited and focus on supporting the Malian authorities and protecting civilians.

“The sovereignty of Mali is the main objective of this international support,” Mr. Mulet said.

“It is not to create a buffer between the north and the south. The members of the Security Council and the member states are very clear on the need for Mali to extend its authority over all its territory,” he added.

The 15-member UN Security Council would be required to vote on any UN presence in the country. That authorization is likely to be up for debate following a report from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon which was due on 27 March. Following Security Council approval, it would take approximately another two months to deploy a force to Mali.

Iraq, Afghanistan & Vietnam: all prove war is a failed strategy

In times of war, the first casualty is truth

In times of war, the first truth is casualties of all kinds.” Anon

Today, 20th March 2013, is the tenth anniversary of the start of the war on Iraq. That day, ten years ago, I was in Baghdad as a human shield, stationed at the Taji Food Silos to protect a humanitarian site that under the Geneva Conventions should not be bombed. There I saw the reality of modern war, witnessing horrendous deaths. The huge loss of sons fighting against invaders with innocent families caught up in the mayhem.

I believe all Australians need to reflect on the outcomes of the three most recent wars Australia has been involved in. All have resulted in huge losses of human life (remember agent orange, cluster munitions, land mines, depleted uranium, roadside bombs and now suicide bombers) losses that continue for years after the war has ended for combatants on both sides as well as civilians, while environments and infrastructure are also damaged. All this at an unbelievably high cost, robbing Australia of funds for health, education and infrastructure. War not only didn't achieve anything positive politically but left a terrible legacy of grief and destruction. Reports continue to expose the ongoing hardships for Iraqis and people of Afghanistan – specially women and girls.

Is there another way we could have worked with Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan to bring peace to our region? Were these wars perhaps not really for the defence of Australia but more offence at the bequest of the United States, whose record of wars in so many countries is long and dishonourable.

The good news is that YES, there is a better answer than future wars.

Australia is in a good position to take a leadership role in building genuine peace in our region. This starts with recognising that no-one wants any person, or country, to have power over them as this is as much a form of violence as war. Instead, we can change our whole approach to power with, working together, to ensure that everyone's needs are met – education, health, jobs, a clean environment, fair trade with women taking their rightful place beside men as decision makers. This is the future I want for myself, my children and grandchildren. I don't want to ever witness another war.

Let's remind ourselves that ten years ago, so many thousands of Australians marched on the streets to tell John Howard that we didn't want war with Iraq. Let's not be discouraged that he didn't listen to us then. The important thing is that we knew what was right in our hearts and made the proper judgement, saying war is not the answer.

So where do we go from here?

There are some things that you can do in response to this ten year anniversary so that such horrendous death and destruction never happens again. Join the call for an independent inquiry into the war on Iraq - read the full report and support the petition – see www.iraqwarinquiry.org.au. Also, tell your local politician that any Australian involvement in war must first be passed by a majority in Parliament – not be the single decision of a Prime Minister. You may care to send my message of hope on.

Together we can create a better world

Ruth Russell Ph 08 8390 3456 or email ruth.russell788@gmail.com

UN passes 'landmark' Arms Trade Treaty, despite key abstentions



Delegates to the United Nations General Assembly on April 2, 2013 applaud the passage of the first UN treaty regulating the international arms trade (AFP Photo)

The United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly voted to adopt the first ever treaty regulating international arms trade. Nonetheless, abstentions from major exporters and importers may limit its effectiveness. 154 countries voted for the treaty in New York, while Iran, Syria and North Korea voted against, and 23 countries abstained.

The treaty – which will be open to signatories from June –encourages exporters to openly publish their trade deals to avoid conventional weapons falling into the arms of terrorists, unscrupulous middlemen and criminals. The deal contains no mechanisms for punishing those who do not comply with its terms.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron said the vote produced a “landmark agreement that will save lives and ease the immense human suffering caused by armed conflict around the world.”

The treaty was only taken to the floor after a UN arms conference on it – which required unanimity to pass the treaty collapsed last week. Objections were initially raised by Iran and North Korea, which are already subject to heavy weapons embargoes, who claimed the accord might be used to restrict their access to the international weapons market even further. Syria, which is in the midst of a civil conflict, later joined them.

Once a complete consensus was no longer required, other doubters emerged.

Russia and China – which both abstained during Tuesday’s vote –said that the vague criteria defined in the document may lead it to being manipulated for political ends, with various hostile countries defined as “human-rights abusers”. Russia also wanted the document to ban the supply of arms to non-state actors, such as rebels in the recent Arab uprisings.

India, another country that refused to endorse the treaty, and a major importer of arms, claimed the treaty gave excessive leverage to exporting states, who would be allowed to unilaterally break contracts for supposed ethical violations. The United States – the biggest exporter in a worldwide market worth \$70 billion dollars annually – did vote for the proposal, despite a sustained campaign from the National Rifle Association, which claimed that it would endanger the rights of Americans to bear arms (something the treaty text explicitly denies).

RT Com Published time: April 02, 2013 20:13

War resister's widow Franziska Jagerstatter dead at 100



Vienna Cardinal Christoph Schonborn officiated at the funeral of the 100 year old widow, Franziska Jagerstatter, who died on 16 March in the tiny village of St Radagund where she had lived all her life.

Her husband, war resister Franz was beheaded in on 9 August 1943 for refusing to fight in Hitler's army. He was beatified six years ago after a long campaign by Pax Christi and others to recognise his witness for peace.

Medieval Musical

A medieval Benedictine abbess is the subject of a musical production by three Adelaide women. Emily Sutherland, the narrator and script writer, has studied Hildegard's writings. She said the Benedictine abbess was a "remarkable composer, writer, preacher and well ahead of her time". She said the performance was a chance for Catholics and others to learn more about a "remarkable and holy woman".

Local musicians Emma Horwood (pictured) and Shona Benson have won high praise for their insightful portrayal of Hildegard of Bingen. This year, the Willunga parish invited the trio to perform on Sunday May 5 at 2.30 pm and there will also be a performance in St John's Anglican Church in Halifax Street on May 10 at 7.30 pm.



Emma Horwood.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) was one of the most influential women of her time in Europe. She produced major works of theology and visionary writings, composed liturgical music and founded a vibrant convent where her musical plays were performed. She was consulted by and advised bishops, popes and kings.

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI formally declared her a saint and a "Doctor" of the Church in May last year.

Hildegard of Bingen: Her Music, Her Vision, Her Life was performed for the first time to a sell out audience at the time of her canonisation.

Tickets will be available at the door of both the Willunga Catholic Church and St John's Anglican Church. For further information, email emilysutherland@internode.on.net

What I Have Learned So Far

Meditation is old and honourable, so why should I not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside, looking into the shining world? Because, properly attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion. Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labour in its cause? I don't think so.

All summations have a beginning, all effect has a story, all kindness begins with the sown seed. Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of light is the crossroads of -- indolence, or action.

Be ignited, or be gone.

Mary Oliver

POSTSCRIPT

West Papua Evening

We held our first discussion evening on Monday 25th March when Franciscus Eweng, our representative of the Australian West Papua Association on our Committee updated us about the human rights situation in West Papua. It was an interesting and wide ranging discussion. We owe a big thank you to Franciscus for sharing his concerns with us.

Discussion with Red Cross on International Human Rights.

As UNAA we have some understanding of the UDHR and other UN protocols concerning HR. But realising we understand very little about the Geneva Convention, its history, and how the Red Cross operates this area, we have asked Petra Ball, International Humanitarian Law Officer for Red Cross South Australia to come and speak to us on Tuesday 4 June at 7.30 pm in our UNAA(SA) office at 57/81 Carrington Street.

New members often ask how often we run information events. Our experience was that the attendance was never great enough for us to feel happy about asking someone to prepare a formal presentation for us. We are trying again with these bi-monthly discussion evenings, where we can have a visitor come and share their knowledge about a topic of interest, hopefully without them spending a lot of time in preparation for such a small gathering. Our office can only hold about 20 people in comparative comfort, and while I rather fear that it will be a squeeze if it proves to be too great a success, we have and offers of a larger venue nearby if it does take off. Our first meeting had 10 people attend.

The UN Year of Quinoa

As 2013 proceeds I am happily impressed at how much interest has been aroused by the UN Year of Quinoa. Apart from a certain difficulty in how to pronounce it (*Keenwah*). I have been surprised at the number of recipes appearing in the newspaper each week. One of our members has also mentioned that they occasionally eat Quinoa at home.

Our new EMAIL addresses.

For a number of years we have used a single UNAA(SA) address for all our email. We recently created some new addresses to use. The old address of mail@unaasa.org.au will be used mainly for information about activities in South Australia, and in the wider world of possible interest to our members. Ron Hall, our secretary, forwards interesting item from this email to our members. A new address of office@unaasa.org.au will be used for communications of a less public nature, enquiries, and day-to-day office issues.

We have also created addresses for the President (pres@unaasa.org.au), the Secretary (sec@unaasa.org.au) and the Treasurer (treas@unaasa.org.au). These automatically forward an incoming message to their private email addresses allowing a faster response than waiting for a volunteer to check the mailbox in the office.

UNWire

Some of our member receive UNWire by email from our office. We then circulate it to a list of our members have indicated their interest in being updated on UN matters through this very informative daily newsletter. We only have an opportunity to do this once a week, when Ron is looking at the email in the office.

If you look at the UNWire email you will see that there is an “unsubscribe” link at the bottom where you can ask to be removed from the list. By relaying UNWire through our office this link is broken and will not work if you have received our local SA relay version; to cancel it you need to email a request to our office.

I would like to propose that when a member indicates that they are interested in receiving UNWire we arrange for them to receive it direct from New York, and in that way can also use the unsubscribe facility.

It will then be received in a more timely manner as well, without us needing to maintain a circulation list.

John Crawford, President.