

## ***Pax Christi Australia (NSW)***

### ***Convenor's Report***

***June 4, 2018***

**May 7, 2018 Pax Christi Meeting**

**May 9, 2018 NSW Ecumenical Council Peace and Justice Commission, Edmund Rice Centre**

**May 11, 2018** Philippine Consulate General to present **Statement of Support for Patricia Fox** and with approximately 500 signatures.



**May 19, 2018 Presentation** at OLSH Provincialate, Kensington, for teachers from Victoria, South Australia and NSW – **Justice-Passion of God's Heart**

**May 21, 2018 Letters to on behalf of the Asian Human Rights Commission**

President Republic of the Philippines;  
Secretary Department of Justice;  
Chairperson Commission on Human Rights;

**Catholic priest allegedly killed for his advocacy in Cagayan, Philippines**

Name of victim:

Fr. Mark Anthony Ventura, 37-years-old. Catholic priest from the Diocese of Tuguegarao. Fr. Mark heads the Migrants Desk of the Diocese. He was known for being an anti-mining advocate and supporting indigenous peoples.

Names of alleged perpetrators: unidentified assailants

Date of incident: 29 April 2018

Place of incident: Brgy. Pena Weste, Gattaran, Cagayan

I am writing to voice my grave concern regarding the killing a Catholic priest, Fr. Mark Anthony Ventura

On 29 April 2018, Fr. Ventura was shot dead by unidentified assailants. He had just finished celebrating mass at a gymnasium in Brgy. Pena Weste, Gattaran, Cagayan, when he was gunned down. He was shot twice in front of children and choir members.

Fr. Mark headed the Migrants Desk of the Diocese of Tuguegarao. He was known for being an anti-mining advocate and supporting indigenous peoples in the area.

Last December 2017, 71-year-old Fr. Marcelito Paez was also gunned down after he helped facilitate the release of a political prisoner in Nueva Ecija.

I urge you to conduct an immediate and impartial investigation into the priest's killing.

I trust that you will take appropriate action in this.

Yours sincerely,

Father Claude Mostowik msc

Australia

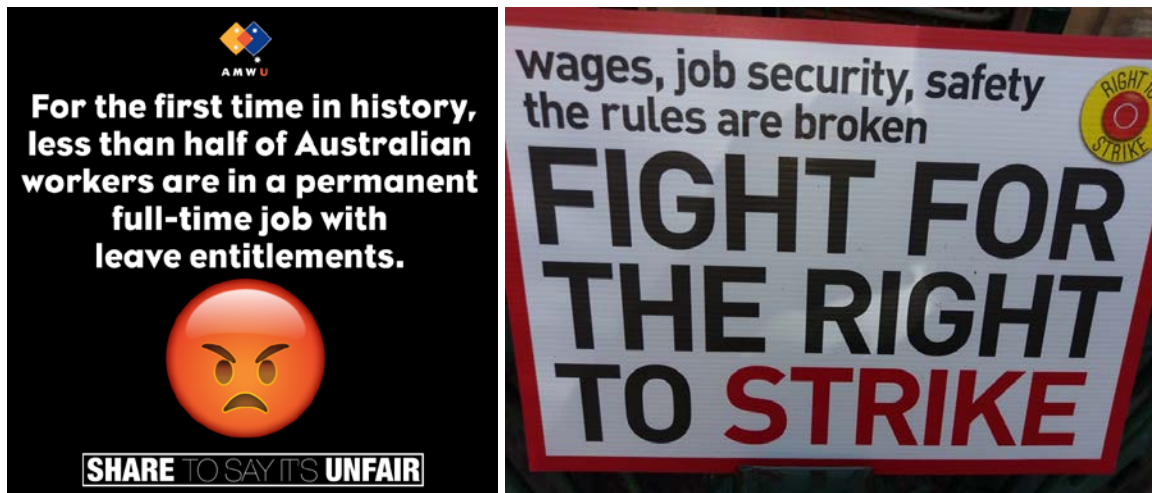
**May 23, 2018 Catholic Nonviolence Initiative** (Skype) with Gill Burrows, Anne Lanyon, Ruth Crowe (The Grail), Brendan McKeague (Perth). This group had not met for some months. Discussion of how we further promote this initiative. There seems to be lack of interest amongst the church leadership in general. Bishops are not engaging or listening. Need to work more in schools and other grass roots groups. Will seek to map the scene around the dioceses through social justice coordinators to understand what is already being done.

**May 25, 2018 Movement Against Tyranny Philippine Consulate General. Protest** the abuse and violation of human rights of activists, workers, peasants and indigenous people in the Philippines. Representative of various unions were present.



**May 28, 2018 Scheduled Pax Christi Asia-Pacific Facilitation Group** postponed because only Jasmin and myself were available. Trying for May 31.

**May 29, 2018 March from Town Hall and Rally** outside the Fair Work Commission re: right to strike.





### **May 30, 2018 Asian Human Rights Commission's Urgent Appeals Programme**

President Republic of the Philippines;  
Secretary Department of Justice;  
Chairperson Commission on Human Rights;

#### **Peasant leader killed for land rights campaign in Negros**

Name of victim: Jerry Turga, 56 years old. He is the Vice Chairperson of Guinpanaan Farmers Association, municipal chapter of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Names of alleged perpetrators: Three unknown assailants on a motorcycle.

Date of incident: 28 April 2018

Place of incident: Moises, Padilla, Negros Occidental

I am writing to voice my grave concern regarding the killing of a peasant leader in Negros Occidental.

On 28 April 2018, Jerry Turga, 56, was shot to death outside his store in Moises, Padilla, Negros Occidental. Jerry was shot 10 times in his chest and stomach, resulting in his instant death. The three unknown assailants were aboard a motorcycle.

According to witnesses, the gunman changed the magazine of the caliber .45 firearm and fired more shots at Jerry.

A bystander was also severely wounded in the shooting. His 14-year-old child was able to run inside the house and escaped the shooting.

I have learned that prior to the killing, Jerry's relatives and neighbors noticed suspicious elements, believed to be surveillance agents, in their community asking about Jerry's activities and whereabouts.

According to Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) Negros, they believe that local warlords and state security forces are behind the killing.

Jerry was the Vice Chairperson of Guinpanaan Farmers Association, municipal chapter of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP). He led land rights campaigns in their area.

I urge you to conduct a prompt and effective investigation into Jerry's killing and serve justice without delay. Also, ensure the witnesses and family of the victim are given adequate protection and the perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

I trust that you will take appropriate action in this.

Yours sincerely,

Father Claude Mostowik msc

### **May 31, 2018 Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC)-Independent and Peaceful Australia (IPAN)**

**June 1, 2018 Pax Christi Asia Pacific Facilitation Group.** This was to take place on May 28 but there was no quorum for the meeting. This time there was a representative from Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand and the Philippines. Representatives from Papua and Sri Lanka did not

connect. Discussed adding to the group to ensure that we have a quorum in the future and also because of the expertise of new members such as Caesar D'Mello (Pax Christi Victoria) and Archbishop Antonio Ledesma sj (Pax Christi Filipinas). Other organisations to be invited to join the group are the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of Thailand, SPARK (Rural Missionaries of the Philippines), Sr Filo Hirota, Hotline Human Rights Bangladesh, Bangladesh Inter-Religious Council for Peace and Justice and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk – The Association of Major Religious Superiors in Taiwan (JPIC-AMRS Taiwan). CAFOD is seeking to be a partner.

**June 3, 2018 GetUp! Sydney-Grayndler Social Gathering** at the Off Broadway Hotel, Bay Street Ultimo, under the Broadway Shopping Centre to share about pursuing environmental justice, human rights, democracy and economic fairness.