

## A Tragedy of Monumental Proportions

In direct contradiction to the repeated verifications provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the advice of his own Secretaries of Defense and State, and the positions of U.S. allies, President Trump has announced his decision to end the United States' participation in the Iran Deal and begin re-imposing the U.S. nuclear-related sanctions that were lifted as part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

When it was negotiated in 2015, Pope Francis, the Holy See and the U.S. bishops welcomed the Iran nuclear agreement as a "definitive step toward greater stability and security in the region." Catholics joined people of faith around the world to support the agreement as an important diplomatic accomplishment, a critical step away from nuclear proliferation and toward nuclear disarmament. Top diplomats, scientists, national security experts and military officials described the Iran deal as technically sound and critically important.

We were hopeful that its successful implementation would be a turning point for all nations away from the acquisition, possession, or modernization of nuclear weapons and toward their abolition worldwide. For so many nations with different interests and perspectives to back the JCPOA following protracted negotiations was a great sign of hope. It strengthened the commitment of the international community to dialogue and negotiation rather than military force as a means of resolving conflict and gave us a new, nonviolent stage on which to engage the great global challenges of these times.

The rejection of the JCPOA by the President of the United States is a tragedy of monumental proportions, most immediately for the people of Iran, who will endure the horrendous consequences of sanctions. We are deeply concerned that this action will create even more tension in the Middle East and undermine delicate negotiations with North Korea by sending a signal that whatever agreement you reach with the United States will not be honored. Sustainable peace and security can only be achieved through the cultivation of shared norms and institutions. This United States government's increasingly capricious attitude to international agreements undermines the vision of a rules-based international order.

We strongly support efforts of the remaining signatories – Iran, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the EU – to honor and implement the Iran nuclear deal. We urge U.S. members of Congress to use their powers and influence to return the U.S. to the multilateral agreement.

As a worldwide community of faith, with Pope Francis, we reject "the narrative of fear...and the rhetoric of hatred." We will seek to shore up in every way possible the commitment of the international community to dialogue and negotiation and remain hopeful that a just, sustained peace on the Korean peninsula and in the Middle East is possible.

Further, we urge the nations of the world to sign and ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We are convinced that the only way to prevent nuclear proliferation is to reject the illusory status and unjust power imparted by the possession of nuclear weapons, building an even stronger norm against them by bringing the new nuclear ban treaty into force expeditiously.

June 2018

Organizational and Individual Signatures follow:

Catholic Organizations:

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Presentation Sisters, Lismore

Pax Christi Victoria

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart

Presentation People's Justice group.

Carmelite JPIC of Australia & Timor Leste

Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Australia and

Aotearoa New Zealand

Pax Christi Victoria

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace

Pax Christi Queensland

Broadway-Glebe Catholic Social Justice

Cyber Christian Community

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BELGIUM

Pax Christi International

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Pax Christi Flanders

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Pax Christi Toronto

Antennes de paix/Pax Christi Montreal

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Pax Christi France

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Pax Christi Germany

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Pax Christi Whangarei NZ

Sisters of Mercy New Zealand

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Pax Christi Peru

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Pax Christi Portugal

D.R. CONGO

Pax Christi Uvira

Pax Christi Butembo

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Pax Christi British Section

National Justice & Peace Network

Coventry Deanery Justice and Peace Group

St. Mary's Justice & Peace Group, Hexham,

Northumberland

Catholic Action for Animals

Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission

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We are all Church South Africa

SRI LANKA

Human Rights office

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Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Adorers of the Blood of Christ / US Region

Adrian Dominican Sisters

American Catholic Church

Benedictine Multicultural Center

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Benedictine University

CatholicNetwork. US

Church Women United in New York State

Climate Justice

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

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Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

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Congregation of St. Joseph of Carodolet	Pax Christi-Madison
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Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration	Peace and Justice Ministry, Resurrection Catholic Church, Woodstock, IL
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt Social Justice Committee	Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi
Dominican Sisters of Houston	Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dominican Sisters of Mission san Jose	Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael	Presentation Sisters S.F. CA
Dominicans of Sinsinawa	Presentation Sisters Social Justice Team
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Genesis Farm	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
Holy Cross International Justice Office	Roman Union Ursulines, Central Province
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC	Saints Mary, Pius X, and Anthony parishes
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National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd	Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
National Benedictines For Peace	Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity,	Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
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Pax Christi Dallas TX	Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
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Pax Christi Houston	St. Joseph University Parish Social Justice Committee
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Pax Christi Metro New York	St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
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Pax Christi Orange County	Ursulines of the Roman Union, Eastern Province
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Pax Christi San Diego	World Peace Now
Pax Christi Seed Planters	
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