

**INTERFAITH DECLARATION AND APPEAL TO WORLD PEACE
IN SUPPORT OF ARMS TRADE TREATY**

10 June, 2012

To
All the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of Asia,
The Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences

Your Eminence/Your Grace/Your Excellency

SUB: Appeal to the world leaders for Global Peace through Arms Trade Treaty

Greeting of Peace to you from the FABC Office of Human Development! We are writing this important and urgent letter to get your support to appeal to the world leaders towards Arms Trade Treaty. The arms trade is a major cause of human rights abuses. Some governments spend more on military expenditure than on social development, communications infrastructure and health combined. Global military expenditure and arms trade is also the largest spending in the world at 1,000 billion dollars, annually.

Holy See acknowledges the many initiatives undertaken by the United Nations...to avoid the race in armaments, to promote mutual trust between states through cooperation, information exchange and transparency in possession and purchasing of arms...The possession of weapons, production and trade have deep ethical and social implications and they must be regulated by paying due attention to specific principles of the moral and legal order. (*Statement of the PCJP on ATT presented at the 61st UN General Assembly at the 1st Committee on Disarmament, 13 Oct, 2006*)

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children...Former US President Eisenhower, in a speech on April 16, 1953.

The Campaign for ATT calls for the following

- No arms for Atrocities, genocide, or violence against humanity
- No arms for violation of Human Rights or Humanitarian Law.
- Responsible Transfers of weapons with transparency and accountability
- Respect for sustainable development and peaceful coexistence.

The Campaign for ATT will ultimately benefit the millions of poor and enhance their welfare. Your support with signature will strengthen the interfaith network that strives to influence the world leaders to sign the ATT at the forthcoming UN decision in July, 2012. Please circulate this to all the Bishops in the Episcopal Conference. In keeping with the mind of the Holy See and in support of the Vatican Stand on ATT, we request you to kindly sign the attached form and send a copy of the scanned document to us, (nithiyas@gmail.com, didier.destremau@secours-catholique.asso.fr). The Original Could be sent by post to **Fr. Nithiya, OHD-FABC, Mathias Church, 23, Kamaraj Salai, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083, India.**



Archbishop Charles Bo
Chairperson, OHD-FABC



Fr. Nithiya Sagayam, OFM Cap.
Executive Secretary, OHD-FABC