



**Pax Christi International Calls 28 governments
for Immediate Re-evaluation of RIMPAC 2024 Participation**

Brussels, July 26th, 2024

From June 27th until August 1st, 2024, twenty-nine countries¹ are participating in [Exercise Rim of the Pacific \(RIMPAC\)](#) in and around the Hawaiian Islands. During this period participants will take part in military exercises that cover all the sectors of the maritime domain and exercises in disaster response by involving 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, more than 150 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel.

The event opened up by stating that “The exercise’s purpose is [...] ultimately, contribute to the peace and stability in the vitally-important Indo-Pacific region”². **Pax Christi International asserts that the focus on weapons and warfare exercises directly contradicts the principles of Just Peace.** Such activities do not foster peace but rather perpetuate a cycle of militarisation and conflict.

We are deeply alarmed by the substantial allocation of public funds for these exercises. **These resources could be far more effectively utilised to promote disarmament education and initiatives that genuinely contribute to global peace and security.** The current allocation represents a **grievous missed opportunity to invest in long-term peacebuilding measures that address the root causes of conflict.**

Moreover, **we are particularly outraged by the participation of Israel in these exercises.** The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights has described Israel as having “a state policy of genocidal violence toward the Palestinian people in Gaza.”³ **The inclusion of Israel in RIMPAC raises profound ethical and moral questions, especially given its documented human rights violations.**

We urge that the 28 other governments participating in RIMPAC reconsider their involvement in an exercise that includes Israel's military. We call on these countries to refrain from actions that imply military collaboration with a state accused of severe human rights abuses. According to the latest ICJ opinion “all States are under an obligation not to

¹ Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America, Source: <https://www.cpf.navy.mil/RIMPAC/Participants/>

² Source: <https://www.cpf.navy.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/3822005/rimpac-2024-kicks-off-in-hawaii/>

³ Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/anatomy-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-situation-human-rights-palestinian-territories-occupied-1967-francesca-albanese-ahrc5573-advance-unedited-version>

recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They are also under an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel's illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory."⁴ **Withdrawal from RIMPAC would be a decisive statement against associating with policies and actions that violate human dignity and undermine the values of humanity and disarmament.**

Pax Christi International's effective advocacy effort relies in the multiple and worldwide voices that our members embody. We ask them to join us in this action by calling **on all participating countries to immediately realign their priorities towards true peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, and globally, which can only be achieved through nonviolent means, respect for human rights, and a steadfast commitment to disarmament.**

⁴ Source: <https://ici-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-pre-01-00-en.pdf> and <https://ici-cij.org/case/186>