



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**8 April 2017**

### **Pax Christi Australia Condemns US Retaliatory Air Strikes on Syria**

Father Claude Mostowik, president of Pax Christi Australia, a branch of the International Christian Peace Movement Pax Christi International, has condemned the missile strikes against Syria. We condemn the horrific gas attack on innocent civilians and we mourn for all those who have been caught up in the violence in Syria.

'Greater military action by the US or any of its allies is not the way to end the horrific carnage that has occurred in Syria, especially when there is still doubt as to who the perpetrators for this gas attack were', said Father Claude Mostowik.

Pax Christi worldwide has agitated for the end of the war in Syria. Further escalation which could involve Russia will not help the victims of this terrible chemical attack and will not bring this devastating conflict to an early end.

Father Claude said 'it is time again for the message of active nonviolence to filter through to all branches of the community. Governments will not do this without people mobilising to resist further unnecessary bloodshed.' He also called on religious leaders of all faiths, including all religious leaders, to raise their voices for peace.

Father Claude said, 'Pax Christi condemns the use of chemical weapons of any sort, at any time, by anyone, and those who do use them must be held accountable - as should the perpetrators who used depleted uranium in Fallujah in Iraq and Agent Orange in the American War against Vietnam.'

'Any escalation in the war will almost certainly cause more casualties, more injuries, and more dead children, women and men and prolong the war. It will not defeat ISIS or end terrorism. It will create more terrorists. Military action is no solution. We know this from history,' he said.

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**Pax Christi is a Christian worldwide movement for peace and disarmament. It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding and fosters the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.**