

Nuremberg, April 9, 2025

*Open letter*

## **Solidarity and responsibility**

One week after the imprisonment of Jesuit priest and climate activist Dr. Jörg Alt SJ, confreres from all over the world as well as representatives from science and civil society address the public: Father Alt's warnings of climate collapse are real, climate protection is not only a “humanitarian necessity” but “directly serves German interests”

Dear brothers and sisters in Germany,

since 1 April our Jesuit brother, Jörg Alt SJ, is imprisoned as a consequence of a civil disobedience climate protest: on 16 August 2022, one month after the German Federal Minister for Transport and Infrastructure refused to fulfil requirements prescribed for his department by the German Climate Law, Fr. Alt supported the protest of mainly young activists by joining a road blockade in front of Nuremberg's Main Railway station. This has been judged to constitute a criminal offence, therefore he received a fine of 500 Euros. This fine he in turn judged to be unjustified, therefore he refused to pay. For that, he has now to spend 25 days in prison.

### **Perspective of the Global South**

Fr. Alt works for the Jesuit development assistance organisation *jesuitenweltweit*. With his acts of civil disobedience, he wants to draw attention to those regions where the developing climate catastrophe is already much more present than it is in the Global North. The Global North, including Germany, has been using fossil fuels since the beginning of industrialization. It was (and still is) the basis of its wealth.

The Global South suffers under the consequences of this use, without sharing in the wealth generated. So, while the Global North prospers economically, it is the Global South suffering from an increasing number of heat waves, droughts, floods and other extreme weather events that already now endanger lives and the wellbeing of millions.

We are aware that parallel to the imprisonment of Fr. Alt, in Germany there are negotiations to form a new government. As Pope Francis stresses in his writings *Laudato Si*, *Fratelli Tutti* and *Laudate Deum*, addressing climate change has to be a top political priority, as well as providing humanitarian assistance and other forms of aid for the Global South.

### **Nobody wishes to become a “climate refugee”**

Mitigative and adaptive measures to combat and deal with climate change are measures that preserve wealth, security, stability, civility and humanity. Currently in Germany, migration is a hot topic in political debate. Nobody in the Global South wishes to become a “climate refugee”. We all love our homes. But if developments continue as science predicts, hundreds of millions, without being responsible for it, will be forced to move away from their traditional residences in order to survive by the second half of this century. Investing in mitigation and adaptation is a humanitarian necessity, but it also more directly serves the German interest while advancing global human interest at the same time.

### **Living at the expense of the Global South and future generations**

With all due respect, we believe Germany has the moral responsibility to cut its emissions more quickly and to push ahead with a social-ecological transformation of its economy. According to empirical data, Germany’s fair equitable share of the remaining global CO2 emissions budget that might still limit global warming to 1,5 degrees has now already been used up. This means Germany now already “lives” at the expense of the Global South and future generations.

Therefore it’s fair to consider that Germany it’s called to pay its fair share for the damage caused by the use of fossil fuels since the beginning of industrialization. Germany, the largest economy of the European Union and one of the largest in the world, can definitely use its influence to advance the transformation both in the European Union and worldwide.

We ask you to understand the plight of your brothers and sisters from the Global South, joined by Jesuits and partners from the Global North. And to act responsibly and fairly.

Thank you so much, may God bless us all.

## General Curia of the Jesuits (Rome), Society of Jesus worldwide

**Rev. Roberto Jaramillo Bernal SJ**, Secretary for **Ecology and Social Justice of the Society of the Society of Jesus CERAS**, **Br. Jérôme Gué SJ**, chairman of CERAS

**Entrecultur**, NGO within the Social Sector of the Jesuits in Spain, we work on issues related to education, human development, and social justice, with a particular focus on the Global South, **Unai Sanz Llorente**, Madrid, Spain

**GIAN on Migration (Global Ignatian Advocacy Network) of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat in Rome**, **Javier Cortegoso**, Coordinator, Rome

**Global Ignatian Advocacy Network on the Right to Education (GIAN Right to Education)**, c/o **Fr. Dani Villanueva SJ**, Coordinator, Bogotá, Colombia

**International Federation of Fe y Alegría**, **Fr. Dani Villanueva**, SJ, General Coordinator, Bogotá, Colombia

## Jesuit Conference Asia and Pacific (JCAP)

**Institute for Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC)**, **Pedro Walpole SJ**, Director for Research, **Sylvia Miclat**, Director for Operations. Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Philippines

## Jesuit Conference Afrika and Madagaskar (JCAM)

**Ecclesial network Alliance (ENA)**, **Rigobert Minani SJ**

**Réseau Ecclesial du Bassin du Congo (REBAC)**, **Rigobert Minani SJ**

## Jesuit Conference Canada and USA (JCCUS)

**Robert J. Castagna, J.D.**, The Catholic University of America, Class of 1975; Member in Good Standing, Oregon State Bar #750682, United States of America

**Rev. Ken Hughes SJ**, St. Peter Faber Jesuit Community, Boston, Mass

## Conference of European Jesuit Provincials (CEP)

**Luis Arancibia Tapia SJ**, Spain Jesuit Province - Social delegate, 28003 Madrid, Spain

**Rev. Filipe R SJ**, Social Delegate of the Jesuit Conference of the European Provincials, Brussels

**Fr. Klaus Vähröder SJ**, Delegat für das Soziale und Ökologische Apostolat, ECE-Provinz

**Fr. Pau Vidal Sas SJ**, Delegat for the provincial for Catalonia (Spain), Delegat Jesuïtes Catalunya, 08010 Barcelona, Spain

**Mariana de Mariz Rozeira**, Social Delegate of Portugal Province, Director of **Centro Comunitário São Cirilo**, Portugal

## Conference of Jesuit Provincials of South America and the Caribbean (CPAL)

**Amazonian Service for Action, Reflection, and Socio-Environmental Education (SARES), Sílvio Marques Sousa Santos SJ**, Director of SARES in Manaus, Amazonia - Brasil  
**Jesuit Pan-Amazonian Service, Sílvio Marques Sousa Santos SJ**, Secretary of the SJ-PAM Steering Team in Manaus, Amazonia - Brasil  
**Red Jesuita Con Migrantes, Javier Cortegoso**, General Coordinator of the **Jesuit Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean (CPAL)**

## Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA)

**Province Coordinator for Social Justice and Ecology Bombay Province, Dr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ**, India  
**Joe Vincent Albuquerque-Pastor**, Ambadi Road, Vasai.  
**Brennan Baptista S.J.** - Student of Theology, Jnana Deepa, Pune.  
**Rohan Brahmane S.J.** -Scholastic, Nashik,  
**Wesley D'Costa S.J.** - Director, Retreat house, Mumbai.  
**Francis De Melo S.J.** -Counselor, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.  
**Dr. Anthony Dias S.J.** - Research Affiliate, MPSM, Maharashtra.  
**Godfrey DLima SJ**, Jan Seva Mandal, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, India  
**Godfrey D'Lima S.J.** - Non-Formal Educator, Nandurbar.  
**Ambrose D'Souza S.J.** -Student, Centre Serves, Paris.  
**Joshua D'Souza S.J.** -Theology student, Vidya Jyoti, Delhi.  
**Lisbert D'Souza S.J.**-Professor of Philosophy and Spiritual Director, Mumbai.  
**Vincent Dsouza. SJ**, Assistant in the Holy Cross Church-Catholic Ashram, Laxmibai Tilak Chowk, Trimbak Naka, Nashik 422 002, Maharashtra, India  
**Florence Femandes S.J.** -Pastoral Leader, Vasai.  
**Dr. Rudi Heredia S.J.**- Sociologist, Mumbai.  
**Rev.Dr.S.M.John Kennedy S.J.**, St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Madurai – 625001, India  
**Arun Lobo S.J.** -Vinayalaya., Mumbai.  
**Thornson Lopes S.J.** - Doctoral student, Pontificio Instituto Biblico, Rorne.  
**David Lowli Zoneo Mao S.J.** - Colegio Bellarmino, Rome.  
**Dr. Fiorello Mascarenhas S.J.**-Spiritual Writer, Retreat Director, Mumbai  
**Jeevan Mendonsa S.J.** - Lectu'rer, Gregorian University, Rorne.  
**Malcolm Nato S.J.** - Principal, Manmad.  
**Dr. Konrad Noronha S.J.** -Medical Doctor and Counsellor, Mumbai.  
**Welington Patil** -Director, Snehasadan Horne for Children, Murnbai.  
**Anil Pereira S.J.** - Vinayalaya., Mumbai.  
**Roy Pereira S.J.** - Teacher U.S.  
**Vincent Pereppadan SJ**, Assistant Professor, Xavier School of Management, New Dehli, India  
**Noel Pinto S.J.** -Reach Education Action Program, Mumbai.  
**Joseph Pithekar S.J.** -Indian Spirituality Trainer, Vasai.  
**Thomas Reddy S.J.** - Vasai, Mumbai.  
**Gerard Rodricks SJ**, Pastor at Holy Family Church, Chakala, Mumbai, India  
**Andrew Rodrigues S.J.** -Holy Family High School, Murnbai  
**Constancio Rodrigues SJ**  
**Dr. Edwin Rodrigues S.J.** - Reader, Vidyajyoti College ofTheology, Delhi.  
**Luke Rodrigues S.J.** - Director Environment Office, Mumbai.

**Vincent Saldanha S.J.** - Academic Administrator, Murnbai.

**Lloyd Sambrya S.J.** -Teacher, Manmad

**Abhay Shirekar, S.J.**, Bombay Province, India

**Anm Simon S.J.** -Doctoral student, Paris.

**Joaquirn Tellis S.J.** -Pastoral Leader, Andheri, Mumbai.

**Seby Varghese S.J.** -Murnbai.

**Vivek Vinnarasan S.J.** -Diaconate Ministry, Manrnad.

## Jesuit NGOs worldwide

### *Bosnia-Herzegovina*

**JRS Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vedran Mihić**, Country manager, Sarajevo

### *Germany*

**Jesuiten-Flüchtlingsdienst Deutschland, Stefan Keßler**, Direktor, Berlin & **Dieter Müller SJ**, JRS Bayern

**jesuitenweltweit Deutschland, P. Christian Braunigger SJ**, Direktor, Nürnberg

### *Italy*

**JSN – Jesuit Social Network Italia Onlus, Paola Piazzì**, President, Roma, Italien

**Jesuit Social Network Italy, Mauro Bossi SJ**, Rom, Italy

### *Croatia*

**Jesuiten-Flüchtlingsdienst Kroatien, Stanko Perica**, Regional Director, Zagreb, Croatia

### *Serbia*

**Jesuit Refugee Service – Serbia, Miodrag Zivkovic**, Country director

### *Spain*

**Alboan Foundation, Mary Tere Guzmán**, Executive Director, Bilbao, Spanien

**Escuela de Ingeniería Agrícola y Agroambiental INEA**, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Fundación INEA,

**Félix A. Revilla Grande**, Valladolid, Spanien

**ASOCIACIÓN LOIOLAETXEAPARA PA INTEGRACIÓN SOCIAL, Marta Silvano Prieto**, Spanien

### *Luxembourg*

**JRS Luxembourg, Patricia Jamar**, Coordination, L – 1420 Luxembourg

### *Malta*

**Katrine Camilleri**, Director of JRS Malta

### *Austria*

**MENSCHEN FÜR ANDERE jesuitenweltweit, Mag. Katrin Morales**, Geschäftsführerin, 1010 Wien

### *UK*

**JRS UK, Michael Holman SJ**, chair of JRS UK, London, United Kingdom



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## Signing as an individual (A-Z)

### *Germany*

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Bauberger SJ**, Professor für Naturphilosophie, Hochschule für Philosophie München

**P. Dr. Martin Maier SJ**, Essen

**Prof. Dr. Patrick Zoll SJ**, Professor für Metaphysik, Hochschule für Philosophie München

### *Serbia*

**Jelena Kostic**, Jesuit Refugee Service – Serbia, Coordinator

**Maja Negrojevic**, Jesuit Refugee Service – Serbia, Integration and Communication officer

**Adrian Nikacevic**, Jesuit Refugee Service – Serbia, Financial manager

**Nataliia Radosavljevic**, Jesuit Refugee Service – Serbia, Cultural mediator for Ukrainian refugees

**Liudmila Simanovich**, Jesuit Refugee Service – Serbia, English language teacher and Tutor

### *Spain*

**Pablo Veiga SJ**, Parish Priest, Madrid

### *Portugal*

**Teresa Paiva Couceiro**, **Fundação Gonçalo da Silveira** – Jesuit Development NGO, Portugal

## Non-Jesuit organisations and individuals

### *Organisations*

**Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft e. V., Nürnberg/Franken**, Fritz Wittig, stellvertretender Vorsitzender, Nürnberg

**Forum Ökologie & Papier**, Evelyn Schönheit & Jupp Trauth, Hamburg und Leipzig

**Gemeinschaft Christlichen Lebens (GCL) in Deutschland**, vertreten durch den Nationalvorstand, c/o GCL-Sekretariat, Bei St. Ursula 5, 86150 Augsburg, Dr. Daniela Frank

**GWÖ Deutschland, Gemeinwohl-Ökonomie Deutschland e.V.**, Jutta Hieronymus, 12109 Berlin

**Gemeinwohl-Ökonomie Regionalgruppe Metropolregion Bayern**, Anna Barth

**GermanZero Hamburg**, Dominik Wagner

**Initiative „Handeln statt Kriminalisieren“**, c/o Prof. Dr. Claudia Paganini, Privatdozentin für Ethik, Universität Innsbruck

**Missions-Benediktinerinnen, Priorat Tutzing**, Sr. Ruth Schönenberger, Tutzing

**Oberzeller Franziskanerinnen (Dienerinnen der hl. Kindheit Jesu OSF)**, Sr. Dr. Katharina Ganz, Generaloberin, 97299 Zell am Main

**OrdensFrauen für MenschenWürde**, Sprecherin Sr. Susanne Schneider, Missionarin Christi, München

**Scientists for Future München**, Münchner Zentrum für Nachhaltigkeit, Prof. Florian Hörmann, München

**Seebrücke Fürth e. V.**, Fürth

**Team 'Gerechtigkeit, Frieden Bewahrung der Schöpfung' der Mitteleuropäischen Provinz (ECP) der Steyler**

**Missionare (SVD)**, P. Franz Helm & Br Emanuel Huemer (GFS-Koordinator der ECP)



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### *Individuals*

**Anna Barth**, Unternehmerin humaQ gGmbH & Nachhaltigkeitsbeirat Stadt Fürth

**Prof. Dr. Michelle Becka**, Professorin für Christliche Sozialethik, Universität Würzburg

**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt**, Seniorprofessor für Menschenrechte der FAU und ehemaliger UN-Sonderberichterstatter für Religions- und Weltanschauungsfreiheit, Seniorprofessor für Menschenrechte Institut für Politische Wissenschaft, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

**Eva-Maria Brütting**, Seebrücke Fürth e. V., Fürth

**Dipl.-Päd. Franz Fisch**, Sonderpädagoge, Fürth

**Jutta Hieronymus**, Berlin

**Mattias Kiefer**, München, Sprecher der AG der Umweltbeauftragten der deutschen (Erz-)Bistümer (AGU)

**Prof. Dr. Ulrike T. Kissmann**, Sociological Methodology of Qualitative-Reconstructive Research, Department of Social Welfare and Social Work, University of Kassel

**Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski**, Öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen

**Karin Krapp**, Seebrücke Fürth e. V., Fürth

**Prof. Dr. Martin Kirschner**, Lehrstuhl für Theologie in Transformationsprozessen, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

**Johann Meindorfer**, BUND Naturschutz Kreisgruppe Straubing-Bogen

**Peter Meiwald**, Abteilungsleiter Afrika und Naher Osten, MISEREOR, Aachen

**Stefan Morbach**, Seebrücke Fürth e. V., Fürth

**Angela Ramsauer**, Kirchenmalermeisterin/Restauratorin/Baubiologin IBN, 94333 Geiselhöring

**Prof. Dr. Martin Schneider**, Professor für Moraltheologie und Sozialethik, School of Transformation and Sustainability, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

**Dr. Michael Stöhr**, Physiker, Gründungsmitglied von Scientists for Future (S4F) München, Vorsitzender der Bundesprogrammkommission der Ökologisch-Demokratischen Partei (ÖDP), Mitglied der Gemeinschaft Christlichen Lebens (GCL), München

**Prof. Dr. Joost van Loon**, Professor für Allgemeine Soziologie und Soziologische Theorie, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

**Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt**, Christliche Sozialethik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

**Sebastian Zink**, Umweltbeauftragter der Erzdiözese Bamberg

**Amishi Agrawal**, Research Officer at the Integral Ecology Research Network, University of Oxford, GB