

EDITORIAL

With great pleasure we introduce the special **AFRICA edition of IFOR in ACTION**. This issue's focus is on BGAs from the AFRICAN continent. As was mentioned in IFOR in ACTION #42, this new approach is to take a closer look at the work done in different regions of the world and of the challenges faced by environmental factors.

The Winter issue of IFOR in ACTION will focus on IFOR BGAs from the European continent. We now invite contributions from our European members of which we're sure will be just as plentiful.

We call on all our European Branches, Groups and Affiliates to send in their contributions by **Friday, 16 November, 2007** for the IFOR in ACTION #45 Winter Issue.

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**Impacts Of Gun-related Conflicts On Gender In Africa:**  
**A CASE FOR TRADITIONAL METHOD OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION**  
By David Tola Winjobi (Ph.D)

In the world today, there are between 639 and 650 million small arms and light weapons including handguns and assault rifles to shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles with nearly 60 per cent of them in the civilian hands; most of them men (Amnesty International et al, 2005; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2004). According to Small Arms Survey (2003), among the 44 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, there probably are no more than 30 million million firearms which is about five percent of the global stockpile, including all civilian, insurgent, and government owners.

The devastating effect of small arms misuse is great and a grave concern as more than 500,000 civilians are estimated to die each year as a result of suicide, accident (accidental discharge), or homicide involving conventional firearms. All this violent or gun-related death has some implications for gender development.

The home is the bedrock of the society, and whatever acts enacted in the latter is a prologue of the former. Violence against women is not a novel malady in any society. The grave and bewildering dimension introduced to the social malaise is the threat and the actual use of guns by not only the husbands but also armed robbers. At war, the number of men being killed outnumbers the women's, whereas at home women as victims of family killings as a result of guns, outnumber men, the latter being the killer most of the time or other male relation. Paradoxically, the home that is supposed to be a safe haven for both men and children has turned to be a den of killer husbands exposing the whole family to socio-psychological, physical and sexual agony. There are copious literature reporting situations where husbands have threatened, maimed, and indeed

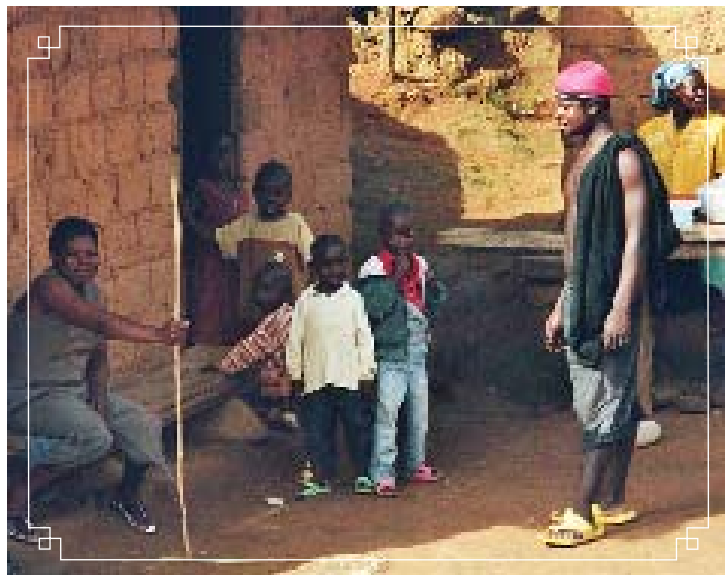


Photo: IFOR stock, Françoise Petremand

killed their wives with guns in Africa and elsewhere in the world. According to Amnesty International et al (2005).

'.....in 2001, the French Ministry of Health reported that on average six women a month die at the hands of their current or former partners. In South Africa, the Medical Research Council calculates that on average a woman is killed by a current or former partner every six hours. In El Salvador between September 2000 and December 2001, 134 women were murdered; an estimated 93 per cent were killed by their husbands or partners'.

It is sad to note that African society itself condones or approves of such a dastardly act against women. More sad it is to note that in Nigeria, for example, that the federal government is an accomplice in this women fascism as it

**...cont. on page 9**

# Darfur Insurgencies Desperately Seek Common Ground

By René Wadlow

Of all sad words, of tongue or pen, the saddest of these: It Might Have Been

On 4 August 2007, representatives of some of the factions of the Darfur insurgencies are starting to meet in Tanzania in order to try to develop a common program to negotiate with the Government of Sudan. This meeting comes just after the 31 July 2007 resolution of the UN Security Council authorizing the creation of a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur, Sudan. The Darfur insurgencies are increasingly divided along ethnic-clanic lines and have no detailed common negotiating position other than a vague desire to receive a share of the oil revenue now starting to come through Sudan's oil sales to China and a desire for a greater share of positions in the central government. Developing such a common position is a vital first step toward negotiations between the insurgencies and the government.

As with many insurgencies in the world, Darfur's insurgencies want to overcome what they consider to be years of neglect, but they have few common ideas about the future. They face the Sudanese central government which also has few ideas, but knows that it wants to share neither money nor government positions.

An analysis of how armed men with no vision chose violence over reason is a moral tale for our time. It is the oft-repeated warning that negotiations need to be undertaken early before violence breaks out. If reasonable and realistic discussions concerning the aspirations of people are put off for too long, these aspirations will express themselves in violence, usually to be met by counter-violence. After many people die and lives are ruined, the compromises at the end are usually worse than what could have been the result of early negotiations. The plot of this oft-told tale is familiar; only the setting and the characters change.

Darfur (Home of the Fur) is an area about the size of France with some 6 million people, over 2 million of whom have moved because of the fighting. Administratively, Darfur has been divided into three provinces in 1994, Northern Darfur, Western Darfur, Southern Darfur, but the administration is no closer to the people than before when it was administered as a single province. Darfur has always been a neglected area as far as government-led development is concerned and has the lowest infrastructure in terms of

schools, health, roads or development projects. Darfur is the western edge of Sudan, its longest foreign frontier is with Chad but communication with Libya is easy for camel herders and gun runners. To the south lies the Central African Republic — a state with an unstable government which feels the fallout from the Darfur conflict.

Darfur served as a buffer area between the French colony of Chad and English-held Sudan until 1916 when French-English rivalry was overshadowed by the common enemy, Germany, in the First World War. Darfur, which had been loosely part of the Ottoman Empire, was integrated into Sudan with no consultation either of the people in Darfur nor those of Sudan. Thus Darfur was always the neglected child in Sudan — a child no one had asked to be there. Only after 1945 were some development projects undertaken, but basically Darfur remained an area of pastoralists — some tribes specializing in camels and others in cattle — and settled agriculturalists largely doing subsistence farming. Camel and cattle-raising tribes from Chad would move into Darfur and vice-versa. There were frontiers between tribes, but they did not correspond to state boundaries.

On the eve of Independence from England, civil war broke out in Sudan in 1956 basically on the basis of a North-South division. The North is Muslim and Arabized; the South follows traditional tribal religions with southern leaders largely Christian and educated in English, southern Sudan having been largely administered from Kenya during the colonial period. The first phase of the civil war lasted from 1956 to 1972. Then there were 10 years of relative peace, but the causes of the civil war were not adequately addressed. Fighting began again in 1982 and continued to 2005 when a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed. The civil war absorbed the attention and energy of the Government of Sudan, and reforms and development programmes were not carried out.

In May 2000, intellectuals and government civil servants from Darfur, calling themselves The Seekers of Truth and Justice, had written *The Black Book: Imbalance of Power and Wealth in Sudan*. The study ended with specific recommendations for governmental and social action. While the book was widely read, it produced no new initiatives at sharing power or wealth. Some leaders in Darfur had the impression that the government was withdrawing services,

*...cont. on page 11*

## Volunteer News

IFOR Publications is happy to welcome Stan Morris to its team. Stan is a BVS volunteer with Versoehnungsbund and IFOR's new Communications Officer...

To begin with, I want to express my appreciation to FOR Germany and the IFOR International Secretariat for welcoming me into the IFOR family. And I also want to thank Naomi Bolderhey for coming in on her weekend to brief me on my duties as the new Communications Officer. Naomi's dedication and excellence in producing publications such as IFOR in Action and developing a better website will be surely missed.

For twenty-five years I was the sole entrepreneur of a small business in Sacramento, California. During the latter eight years of this period, I began a part-time Web publishing project, GoHAWK.com, and partnered with Clear Channel Sacramento on two talk-radio market websites. As Special Reports Editor for KFBK.com, a major Northern California radio station website, I often came into contact and explored worldwide news events. This awareness spurred my interest into becoming more active in human and civil rights issues. Business had been so important to me, I enjoyed every day of it, but now I wanted to do something new, something where I could be more involved in the world that I had been reporting on for the last five years as Special Reports Editor with KFBK.com.



# e-newsletter

During the summer of 2005 I volunteered to tutor young adults in English grammar and math at a local non-profit, SACA Community Learning Center, near my home in Sacramento, California. At the same time, I was exploring the possibility of a full-time volunteer commitment and happened to discover the Peace Corps... applied, interviewed and was soon accepted. Having grown up in Placerville, CA, then living in Key West, FL for three years and in 1978 moving to the Sacramento metropolitan I had been planning an early retirement to experience life outside the US.

While preparing for a two year commitment in the Pacific Region with the Peace Corps, their medical team changed my status to "deferred." They didn't want the risk of a back injury I had sustained two years earlier, and I was referred to Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) as a possible alternative.

I completed three weeks of BVS orientation in New Windsor, Maryland along with 20 other volunteers (all much younger than I), and was assigned to a new BVS project called AHEAD. Located at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, AHEAD "works with energy-poor communities to assemble the resources needed to develop local energy services." My one year commitment with AHEAD was fulfilled on 18 August, 2007 and I was considering another year. A month earlier, I had received an offer through BVS from the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a 90 year old "peace and human rights" NGO, to come to the Netherlands and serve as their publications editor.

Although I had enjoyed working with AHEAD in developing a Greenhouse Gas initiative, and being a member of the team had been exciting, an opportunity to work with IFOR was too important for me to pass up. Now I'm looking forward to spending the next several years serving as a volunteer with IFOR, and I plan on being very busy working with FOR Germany / Versoehnungs-bund e.V. in Minden, Germany and making frequent visits to the IFOR International Secretariat in Alkmaar, NL to further develop and manage IFOR's many publications, website and communication activities. ■

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IFOR in ACTION

IFOR in ACTION #45 will appear in December of 2007, and will be a special edition on peace and nonviolence initiatives in *Europe*. I am looking for contributions in the form of articles, interviews, upcoming events, recent activities organized, resources, photos, important dates, and absolutely anything else you wish to share with the rest of the IFOR movement. The International Secretariat warmly invites you to contribute to the next issue of IFOR in ACTION. We are especially hoping to hear from our new IFOR Branches, Groups and Affiliates in located Europe.

**Email Stan Morris for guidelines: [s.morris@ifor.org](mailto:s.morris@ifor.org)**

# Focal Point - Zimbabwe

By Nick Chavasse

Zimbabwe is never out of the news headlines these days, and tragically for all the wrong reasons. With the highest rate of inflation anywhere in the world – currently at 13,900% - the economy has been in free-fall for several years, creating massive social unrest and chronic food shortages. Millions have fled the country in search of work, and the great success story of modern Africa has been reduced to one of the worst humanitarian crises on the continent. With elections due in 2008, and the opposition MDC (Movement for Democratic Change) Party now split into two camps, the danger of escalating political violence is imminent.

e-newsletter

At the heart of this chaos, The Fellowship of Reconciliation Zimbabwe has created an exciting new project known as Focal Point, and is engaging Zimbabwean Youth in a unique combination of both Active Nonviolence and Poverty Reduction Training. In 2005/06, veteran Peacemaker, and former IFOR President, Akadim Chikandamina, along with nonviolence trainers Makios Phiri and Nhamo Sithole, held workshops in the Epworth, Glen Norah, and Gweru Communities, and established Youth Peace Clubs in each area as part of the ongoing Nonviolence Education Training Program. FORZ have been working on election monitoring and nonviolence training for a number of years, and FORZ member Netsai

Mushonga has also developed a programme on gender-based violence as part of the Women Peacemaker Program.

This year, FORZ have selected some 25 young men and women for training in garment making, book-binding, and metal fabrication. FORZ provides materials, pays for school fees, and helps with transport for the students. FoR England's International Peacemakers Fund has provided some financial support for the last 2 years to meet these costs, and continues to raise funds for this essential work.

While grounding the students in the principles and practice of Active Nonviolence, the project will enable them to start their own businesses, rather than struggle to find employment in an economy where 80% are unemployed. Students come from poor families, who could not otherwise pay for an education, or whose parents have fallen victim

to the HIV/Aids epidemic that has left 1.6 million orphans in Zimbabwe. The garment-making group will graduate in November, and the other two groups will work as apprentices in industries by the end of the year, before coming back for their examinations in 2008. The project's goal is to free the students from the crushing poverty and economic exclusion that can lead to rising youth violence, and will give them the economic independence and nonviolent skills to transform their communities.



Glen Norah Workshop, Harare



Poverty Reduction Training Group

The International Peacemakers Fund continues to raise funds for Focal Point, and work in partnership with Akadim and his team to deliver this project in extraordinarily difficult conditions on the ground. There is a desperate need for an intensive, systematic, and co-ordinated training program, and huge steps have been taken to establish a curriculum, and lay the foundation for a national Nonviolence Training Program - to not only create a culture of peace & nonviolence, but also to remove a culture of docility and fatal passivity by nurturing these youths as tomorrow's nonviolent leaders.

In 2007 and 2008, the Focal Point team will build on the considerable experience to date of creating and delivering an active nonviolence curriculum in Zimbabwe, and create local partnerships with church groups, other NGO's, and Trade Unions in Zimbabwe –as well as existing partners such as the Zimbabwe Election Support Network; Women Peacemaker Program Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Christian Alliance; and Chahwira College & Technical Train-

ing College-Harare.

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To download a Peacemaker Briefing on Zimbabwe, visit:  
<http://www.for.org.uk/resources>

## MIR CONGO

PRESS RELEASE ON THE SECOND SESSION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE congolese Branch OF IFOR(MIR CONGO)

The MIR Congo's national Council held its second ordinary session on the 14th to 16th September 2007, at the Foyer of Charity of Liambou (located at 25 km of Pointe-Noire).

Nineteen (19) delegates from Brazzaville, Nkayi, Sibiti, Dolisie and Pointe-Noire made thanks to God who, by his presence mysterious, gave them the strength and joy to meet and share about the theme: "Together, we will build a world of peace by non violent action".

The analysis of political, socio-economic, cultural and religious realities in the Congo today has highlighted complex situations of inequality and serious injustice in which are living more and more of the Congolese people. Our traditional and usual violences have been amplified by the fratricidal wars that have arisen in the country in recent decades. With poverty which appallingly keeps expanding its circle, these untold attacks to physical and moral integrity, and to the life of humans have done to show new forms of violence they where yesterday still untold.

By identifying the root causes and the reasons that produce violence in us and in our personal, social and family relationship, we are rediscovering yet that the Congo is not condemned to the violence. Our past and present violence is not a fate, still less a inevitable scourge. In turning to the future, through initiatives which have already allowed us to get out of crises, the Congolese people have always shown their legitimate aspirations to a harmonious cohabitation, to a more just and more humane society where value is yearning for peace. Many people confess differently their wish to be examples of God's Love in their daily activities. All these signs give us hope that reconciliation and peace are possible between individual and social groups in the land of the Congo.

We are confident at the same time to go further, to overcome violence and build a lasting peace, build a Congolese society which gives everyone the opportunity to realize her/his human vocation. It is necessary that men, women and young peoples, concerned by such discriminations and these injustices, first, bring themselves to consciousness to take their own destiny in hand.

MIR Congo has renewed its commitment to contribute to the preparation of its citizen's able awareness to resist the temptation of defeatism, hatred and the violence in all its forms, to refuse war and on the contrary to act concretely for reconciliation and non violent transformation of tragic and humiliating situations in their own lives.

We are aware that effectiveness of the commitment of our movement will depend on people working for reconciliation, justice and peace in Congo and elsewhere. It will also depend on our own capacity to adopt new attitudes and behaviour, and to develop new ways, to serve our populations.

Therefore, to achieve our mission, our movement commits humbly and resolutely to the following goals for the next four years (2007-2011):



Photo: Françoise Pétremand

1. Strengthening Facilitation or local MIR Congo groups;
2. Continue training members and the public in the culture of nonviolence and peace;
3. Increase public opinion on the situations of violence and on the peace initiatives;
4. Participate in the implementation of the UN Decade for the culture of nonviolence and Peace (2001-2010);
5. Contributing to the promotion of the truth, fairness and reconciliation;
6. Support the strengthening of democracy and rule of law;
7. Contributing to the mobilization of women against violence and to the promotion of their rights and those of children
8. Participate in a work of solidarity and international covenant in favor of justice and peace
9. Securing the spiritual healing of our commitment
10. Ensuring regular funding of our activities.

Nine (9) Work Groups have been created to support the work towards justice and peace through non violence inspired the gospel.

Because of the demands of the current development of the movement, the Council decided to modify the Statutes of the association, and has put in place a new National office thus composed of:

President Coordinator:	Jean Pierre Massamba
First Vice-president:	Florian NACKOUNDILA
Second Vice-president:	Marcel KOMBO-KISI
Secretary National:	Jacques Dieudonné POATY
Secretary National Assistant:	Dieudonné BADIATA
Third Vice-Chairman:	Christelle MOUELE
Treasurer General:	Berthe LOEMBET-SAMBOU
Treasurer General Assistant:	Daniel BAKEKOLO

Then the Council adopted several important resolutions, one of which requested a proposal to have MIR Congo host the 2010 IFOR Council. Another resolution was on the restructuring of teams of local Groups.

We were reminded of the fundamental principles that form the foundation of a strong civil society and service to others, creativity, independence, networking, as well as the spiritual base in IFOR since its founding in 1919, especially the evangelical values of justice, dialog, reconciliation, nonviolence and peace, that the National Council underlined in its closing of the session.

Made in Liambou (Congo Brazzaville) on the 16th of September 2007-10-07

The National Committee

The congolese IFOR Branch (MIR Congo) was founded in June 2004.

Its headquarters are at Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo ([mircongo@yahoo.fr](mailto:mircongo@yahoo.fr)).

Information provided by: Françoise Petremand, IFOR VP, MIR Romand ■



Photo: Françoise Pétremand

## Peace Makers Society Hosts Francoise Petremand Vice President of IFOR

On the 30th of June 2006 to the 13th of July P.M.S — Cameroon played host to IFOR Vice President who was on evaluation. Four of the conflict situation in the North West Province the visit took her to Kumbo, Fundong, Wum, Nkambe, Santa, Ndop, Babanki and Mbengwi.

She however had an audience with the Governor NWP Koumpa Issa, Ni John Fru Ndi and a cross section of North West focus. She also visited partner NGO'S that work for peace and justice at the grass root.



Photo: Francoise Petremand

### OUR MISSION

At PMS, we believe that conflict is normal, unavoidable and necessary. A community without conflict is both static and suppressed. A conflict first becomes destructive when the actors involved misuse or lose control over the conflict's dynamic. Our vision is of a world where the positive functions of conflict are maintained while the destructive potential is managed in an effective and democratic way. We work with communities to motivate and enable them to take responsibility for the processes and methods that give positive control over the energies of conflict.

By designing and implementing learning activities which empower the ability of both the individual and the group to handle conflicts in a creative and sensitive way, PMS hopes to be able to contribute to peace in the communities in which we work. We work on both micro and macro levels. Our partners are often people who find themselves in turbulent situations where the destructive potential of the conflict has got, or is in the process of getting the upper hand. Examples of situations where PMS can make a positive contribution are:

- o Political conflicts
- o Labour conflicts
- o Community conflicts (e.g. neighbour disputes, tensions in camps, youth gangs)
- o Conflicts in schools
- o Change processes
- o Human rights
- o Evaluation
- o Building Peace & Ending Gender-Based Violence
- o Advancing Health, Sexual & Reproductive Rights
- o Expanding Civic & Political Participation
- o Ensuring Economic & Environmental Justice
- o Increasing Access to Education
- o Fostering Social Change Philanthropy

We do not claim that we - or any external actors - have all the answers. The necessary knowledge, experience and competence most often lie with those involved in the conflict. For this reason our work is process orientated, with a focus on learning. Such processes include:

- o Communication and Dialogue
- o Negotiation
- o Relationship and Confidence Building
- o Facilitation Reconciliation and Mediation
- o Empowerment, Self and Organisational Development
- o Democratic Practices
- o Peace building
- o Good Governance
- o Project Development, Management and Control
- o Administration
- o Human needs

We can contribute to our partners' abilities to handle conflicts themselves by designing and implement learning programmes, all the time in consultation with the client to ensure full participation, possession and effect. We help the community to produce its own conflict managers.

Upon request, PMS provides guidance and evaluations, and designs development programmes. We also engage in our own research and development work.



Photo: Françoise Pétremand

#### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THEIR TARGETS.

- 1- CUT BY 2015 HALF WORLD POPULATION WHOSE INCOME IS LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR A DAY AND HALVE THE POPULATION UNABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO PORTABLE AND SAFE DRINKING WATER.
- 2- ENSURE THAT BY 2015 BOTH MALE AND FEMALE CHILDREN EVERYWHERE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLING AND HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION.
- 4- REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY BY  $\frac{3}{4}$  AND UNDER FIVE-CHILD MORTALITY BY  $\frac{2}{3}$ .
- 3- PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN ORPHANED BY HIV/AIDS.
- 5- HALT AND REVERSE THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER MAJOR DISEASES.
- 6- BY 2020 ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVES OF AT LEAST 100 MILLION SLUM DWELLERS.
- 7- PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE WOMEN AS WAYS TO COMBAT POVERTY, HUNGER AND DISEASE AND STIMULATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
- 8- DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES THAT GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE A CHANCE TO FIND DECENT AND PRODUCTIVE WORK.
- 9- ENCOURAGE THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY TO MAKE ESSENTIAL DRUGS MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL WHO NEED THEM IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
- 10- DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION IN PURSUIT OF DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION/ERADICATION.
- 11- ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES-ESPECIALLY INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES- ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL

Peace Makers Society works for the "empowerment of local communities with a target on youth, women, and disadvantaged groups through capacity building training programs and community development programs" (organization summary). Most of their work is being conducted in the Northern region of Cameroon.

**IMPACTS... cont.**

appears its arms are tied and can do nothing about a penal code pontificating that a husband has the right (and therefore not an offence) to hurt his wife for the purpose of correction. For those who may be interested in this religious code, you may refer to Zamfara State of Nigeria, Shari'ah Penal Code Law, January 2000, Section 76 (1) and 76 (1) (d) which provides that, 'Nothing is an offence which does not amount to infliction of grievous hurt upon any person and which is done (inter alia)...by a husband for a purpose of correcting his wife.' This provision clearly contradicts not only the Nigeria's Constitution but also some international treaties such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Article 5, and African Charter on Human and People's Rights Articles 4 & 5; all to which Nigeria is a signatory and the provision of some she has domesticated.

Security officials are equally culpable in the misuse of guns against women whether in time of peace or in time of conflict. Law enforcement operatives such as police, military, immigration, customs, CID, SSS, border guards, paramilitary and other hordes are, as a matter of fact, given power to carry arms and use them when necessary at least for security reasons. It has been discovered that some of the time, these law enforcement officials abuse their positions by turning SALW to instruments of repression, oppression, torture and rape. For example, Olujic (1998) reported that some 20,000 women were raped at gun point by Bosnia Serb soldiers as part of a deliberate pattern of abuse where sexual violence fulfilled a strategic purpose. Similarly, according to Amnesty International 2004 in the Wire, a woman from the Solomon Islands has this to say,

'I was 14 years old then.... One of the policemen came one night around 10 p.m., pointed a gun at me and ordered me to follow him to see the other men.... The Commander.... pointed his gun to me and raped me. I suffered pain and bleeding...'

Our Nigerian security operatives are not spared in this wanton killing escapade. Still fresh in our memory was the November 1999 merciless razing down of Odi community near Yenagoa by armed soldiers at the behest of Mr President. Before the bombardment, while many children were not spared, many women were openly raped by the trigger-happy khaki boys who were having with impunity a field day over their preys. Until today, the authorities provided no information about those killed or arrested and no inquiry was instituted. Or have we forgotten so soon the reprisal killings of October 20 2001 in Zaki Biam in Benue State where 19 soldiers had been reportedly killed two

weeks earlier? Soldiers had been stationed in the area to quench inter communal violence between TV and Junkun ethnic communities. According to some reports, two days after, not less than 150 civilians including men and children were deliberately pounded by the military in reprisal for the killing of soldiers.

The case of the refugees and the internally displaced people is equally tragic. The circumstances surrounding their plight have ascribed to them a new status that exposes them to more danger. The violent conflict in their respective countries made them flee while their country of sojourn poses uncertainty for their future. Even more danger and risk they face on their way to the so-called safe haven as they might be ambushed and subjected to sexual violence by security operatives and bandits at border posts and in the jungle. What of the situation at the refugee camps all over? According to Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (2004), many of the countries of sojourn of these hapless refugees are already over populated and impoverished lacking in basic amenities. As a result, refugee camps are likely to be dangerous and insecure places especially when their host communities do not enjoy access to educational and employment opportunities. Refugees therefore tend to find themselves in a precarious condition as there could be conflict emanated from their host residents or their resident security operatives or even from within the camp among themselves. For example on the 13th of August 2004 at the Gatumba refugee camp in Burundi, armed combatants massacred more than 150 Congolese civilians while over 100 others were wounded - many of the victims who were women and children were either shot or burnt (Human Rights Watch, 2004).

The situation in Oru refugee camp in Ogun States of Nigeria may not be as serious as in Gatumba but they also feel the pang of starvation and death in Oru. These individuals numbering over 4,000 fled their countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic republic of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Togo) as a result of wars only to find themselves in exile with little or no means of survival. The basic needs for human survival including health care, education, accommodation, and employment are not taken care of thereby making life more difficult and unbearable for these refugees. As a result of fighting for survival, some are involved in crime and face the risks of being lynched or shot at.

The case for gender in this scenario is that majority of the refugees are women and children who are helpless and prone to sexual violence even in the camps. By our organization's estimate, there are between 60 and 75 per cent female refugees in Oru out of a population of about

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**IMPACTS... cont.**

4,500 closely followed by children constituting a population of about between 25 and 35 per cent. Though the World Refugee Survey for 2003 indicates that there were approximately 13 million refugees and 21.8 million internally displaced persons at the end of 2002, we could not get the proportion of female to male refugee statistics as at the time of writing this paper.

From whatever perspective we might look at it, violent conflict usually produces more women refugees than men, and more child refugees than men. According to UN Security Council, civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected

by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements.

Finally, the landmark effect after armed conflict is usually indelible for years. The pain, the agony, the devastation, and the brutalizing effects are indescribable. Displacement, disintegration, deteriorating health, HIV-AIDS, widow hood, gender violence, gender insecurity, armed robbery, area boy syndrome, petty crime, prostitution, injustice, poverty, deprivation, inflation, corruption, intolerance, bad economy, gun running, utility break down are all products of violent conflict against which the stakeholders need to take drastic action. To be taken seriously is the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of both men and women combatants including child soldiers. Failure to do this in good time may threaten the fragile peace being experienced by the community as the ex-combatants' stock in trade is nothing but violence. Charlotte Abaka the Independent Expert on Liberia appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights rightly observed that after more than 10 years of conflict in Liberia, there were men and women and unfortunately also children, who had known only violence. The real danger, she added, was if they remained idle, they could regroup not only to destabilize Liberia but the whole of the sub-region (AI Index AFR 2004).

In conclusion, conflict may be necessary to achieve development but its resolution is indisputable in order to pave way for such development. While resolving conflict and building peace, it is necessary to mainstream gender into all peace processes, considering the untold gender disparity effect of the conflict. It is vital that women are active participants in the decisions that affect their lives before, during and after conflicts. The UN Resolution 1325 comes to bear in this regard. Resolution 1325 (Shelly, A.2005:15) reaffirms the

" ... important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflict and in peace building, and (stresses) the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion peace and security..."

It calls for gender sensitivity in UN peacekeeping mission, for women's equal participation in peace negotiations and for better protection of women and girls during armed conflict.

We may have to resolve our conflicts in African way where truth and justice are the guiding principles. The former Chairman of AU, Mr Olusegun Obasanjo, noted this Africanism in one of his responses to questions on Darfur crisis and Sudan conflict. The efficacy of the African various traditional methods of conflict prevention, management and resolution should be appreciated. Our various African legal system is defective. With the oath system that is not effective, a judicial system that is corruptible, a security investigative apparatus that is unreliable, and a justice system that is not certain in terms of duration and delivery coupled with greed and fraud, Africa is doomed unless we go back to our roots.

Western method of conflict resolution is more punitive rather than corrective; accusatorial rather than inquisitorial or investigative; judgmental rather than pacificatorial; adversarial rather than benevolent. At the end, there is no equity as such system of conflict resolution usually produces win-lose result, and thus promoting zero-sum game. Therefore, in order to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts in Africa since western methods seem to be failing, does it not stand to reason to trace our steps back to our African traditional methods of resolving conflicts? Otherwise, all exoteric efforts geared at resolving the African question might be a mirage while peace might continue to elude us till eternity.

*David Tola Winjobi (PhD) Principal Coordinator Childless and Family Survival Organization and Southwest Representative, Nigerian Action Network on Small Arms.*

† HARTMUT GRÜNDLER

Hartmut Gründler, M.A. (1930 - 1977)  
Commemoration ceremony to its thirtieth day of death on 17 November 2007, 15,00 - 22,00 o'clock, in Tübingen, Adolf Schlatter house, Österbergstr.4

Contribution to Gründler on the InterNet:  
[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartmut\\_Gr](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartmut_Gr);  
Wilfried Hüfler, Lodenbergstr; 23/1, 72766 Reutlingen, Germany; 07127/972353, fax... 972354;  
Wilfried Hüfler: wilfried.huefler@whfm.de

**DARUR... cont.**

especially in health and education. Schools were closed, and the number of children in school decreased.

After the failure of the intellectual efforts of *The Black Book*, the conviction that only violence was taken seriously started to grow among Darfur leaders. They started thinking about a strategy of a sharp and swift show of violent strength which would force the government to negotiate with Darfur as it was negotiating with the South. Thus, they started to watch the on-and-off negotiations between North and South to learn techniques for action.

The outlines of the North-South agreement were visible by 2003. The final negotiation stage for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which was signed in 2005 took longer than expected because of power and personality considerations. Thus those who were to lead the insurgencies in Darfur came to feel that 2003 was a 'now or never point in time' if they were to get their demands considered at the same time as those of the South.

However, the North-South agreement was largely due to the start of oil exploitation and the behind-the-scenes pressures of the Chinese Government which has the major share of the oil production. Oil revenue from the oil fields which are on the edge of the north-south division was an important incentive to reach an agreement. Continuing north-south armed violence could have damaged the oil installations or cut the pipelines. Oil revenue provides the bulk of the foreign earnings of the Sudan. There is no similar economic incentive to reach agreement in Darfur. Funds for development in Darfur can only come from revenue of the central government which is more willing to share in theory than in practice.

Thus, the insurgencies of Darfur began in the Spring of 2003. As Julie Flint and Alex de Waal point out in their useful history *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War*, "Darfur's rebels are an awkward coalition of Fur and Masalit villagers, Zaghawa Bedouins out of patience with Khartoum, a handful of professionals who dared to take on leadership...few of Darfur's guerrillas had military experience or discipline before they took up arms. The two main rebel groups are united by deep resentment at the marginalization of Darfur, but are not natural bedfellows and could easily be split apart...In the first months of 2003, these half-formed and inexperienced rebel fronts were catapulted out of obscurity to face challenges for which they were totally unprepared."

The insurgencies in Darfur are divided along tribal and ethnic lines — a reflection of the complexity of the ethnic,

social and economic tensions of the area. There is no strong leadership such as that provided by the late John Garang for the south in the North-South conflict. The insurgencies in Darfur were brought together by a common feeling that Darfur had been neglected in terms of political posts and economic development. The insurgencies took names that reflected hopes rather than realities: the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The Sudan Liberation Army takes its image from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) — the southern forces in the civil war.

The SPA is basically an alliance between the Fur, the largest ethnic group of the area who are agriculturalists and the Zaghawa who are armed nomadic herdsman. Moreover, President Idriss Deby, President of neighbouring Chad is a Zaghazwa and could be helpful to his tribal brothers in Sudan. The more ideological Justice and Equality Movement is more multi-tribal drawing its strength from people who were first in favour of the Islamic policy of the central Sudanese government — the National Islamic Front. When the JEM saw that the Islamic central government was going to take no development measures for Darfur, they turned against the government while conserving an Islamic ideology.

The government in Khartoum was also unprepared for the Darfur conflict. The government's attention as well as the bulk of the army was turned toward the civil war with the South. On 25 April 2003, a joint SLA-JEM force attacked an air base at Al Fasher, the capital of Northern Darfur and the largest city in the area. They destroyed bombers and helicopter gunships. In 23 years of civil war in the South the government had never lost such a large number of aircraft. The government reacted by turning the fight against the Darfur movements to its Security agencies — a narrow group of men uninterested in internal politics or external relations. These security men wanted to 'finish things off' as quickly as possible.

Since they had few army troops available — most of the military was in the south — they decided to use the air force along with organizing and giving a free hand to the Janjawiid, Arab militias from camel-herding tribes to which were added Chadians and Libyans who had been left wandering from Col. Gaddafi's Islamic Legion. Colonel Gaddafi had created in the early 1980s an Islamic Legion and recruited militiamen from lands as far apart as Mauritania and Sudan in his efforts to create a union of Chad and Libya — or to annex part of northern Chad. When his Chadian interests faded at the end of the 1980s, the Islamic Legion was left to look after itself and was ready to work for new paymasters.

*...cont. on page 12*

**DARUR... cont.**

Some of the Janjawiid had already been organized by the Sudanese government, in part for control of the Darfur area while the bulk of the regular army was directed to the civil war in the South, but also to be used on the edges of the southern war zone. Drought which began in 1972 and destitution embittered the Darfur pastoralists. Now, weapons and a self-asserting Arabist ideology called the Arab Gathering first developed by Col. Gaddafi gave them new confidence. The Sudan Security Agencies began to harness them as a proxy instrument of control. Khartoum's use of tribal militias was purely opportunistic: they were there; they had fighting skills, and they allowed the government to conserve its overstretched resources.

e-newsletter

In the fight against the Darfur insurgency, the government gave the Janjawiid air support by bombing villages. However, they did not pay the Janjawiid but told them to pay themselves off the land. Thus, the Janjawiid destroyed village after village, taking all that could be moved and destroying the rest. This destruction broke all the agricultural infrastructure; wells were filled with sand, and grains needed for new planting were deliberately destroyed. Among the Janjawiid were former prisoners from Darfur's jails who were released on condition of joining the militias. Rape of women and young girls was widely practiced both as a means of terror and as a 'reward' for the fighters since they were not paid.

Since the conflict in Darfur was costing the government little in money, there was no pressing need to bring it to an end. Since the original hope of the insurgencies that a sharp strike would force the government to negotiate proved wrong, the insurgencies continued but turned neighbours against each other with no visible end in sight.

Now everyone is increasingly divided and it is becoming a war of all against all. The Sudan Liberation Army has broken into ethnic units as has the Justice and Equality Movement. In addition the government-sponsored Janjawiid have started fighting each other since there are fewer and fewer villages to loot. All the factions have started to rob the humanitarian aid agencies, the only people with trucks, telecommunication equipment and food.

The overall situation is much worse than when *The Black Book: Imbalance of Power and Wealth in Sudan* was written in 2000. What might have served as a basis of negotiations then is less possible today. Divisions are greater; trust is less. However, without some common platform of economic, social and political policies no peace agree-

ment is possible. Without a peace agreement, the role of the UN-African Union peacekeepers is very unsure. Thus, the talks in Tanzania merit watching closely.

René Wadlow\*  
Gravières (France)

*René Wadlow is also editor of the online journal of world politics [www.transnational-perspectives.org](http://www.transnational-perspectives.org) and an NGO representative to the UN, Geneva. Formerly, he was professor and Director of Research of the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, University of Geneva.*

† NAN CROSS

Peace activist and conscientious objector

Long-time peace activist and committed supporter of conscientious objection during apartheid, Nan Cross, has died at 79. During the years of apartheid, she was a founding and active member of the Conscientious Objector Support Group (COSG) and active in the End Conscription Campaign (ECC). She also played a critical role in the Conscription Advice Service which provided much needed information to young men facing two years in the apartheid army.

Many of the young men who became conscientious objectors during the apartheid years, drew inspiration and strength from her. In a moving tribute to Nan from Charles Bester, who was one of the youngest objectors at 18 years, he said: "this may sound old-fashioned, but she was someone to emulate, to look up to. She was a mentor of enormous courage and compassion." She regularly attended court when the law came down on them and gave support and solace to their families.

She will be sadly missed by all those who knew her and benefited from her counsel.

EVENTS

**IFOR-DMK OCTOBER 2007**

October for the Dauphins MUNZHIRWA-KATALIKO (DMK) is a special month. It was during the month of October that the Diocese of Bukavu lost the two Archbishops after whom our association is named:

October 29 1996: Archbishop Christophe MUNZHIRWA is shot. It was the beginning of a violent war.

Consequently, our association arose from it and was devoted to the objective of perpetuating the ideals of our two deceased archbishops MUNZHIRWA and KATALIKO.

These include:

- Love for others and our country
- Truth and reconciliation
- Resolution of conflicts by non violent means
- Social justice and human dignity

For Dauphins MK, October will then be called "MONTH OF PEACE" during which we are organizing specific activities.

For the year 2007 the following activities are planned for the month of peace:

- The dedication of a public place named: Place MUNZHIRWA (where Christophe Munzihirwa was shot),
- Exhibition of clothes of the two deceased Bishops, as well as some of their works,
- Publication of a cartoon that Dauphins MK have produced: "The last three days of Christophe Munzihirwa

These activities will last a week and will be accompanied by prayers and retreats. At the end of October DMK will produce a report on these activities.

Project MUNGANGA

Président

**GANDHI 2008 INTERNATIONAL**

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Gandhi's martyrdom the association GANDHI 2008 INTERNATIONAL (France) and the Indian Coordination Committee of Gandhi 2008 cordially invite organisations and individuals interested in the Gandhian experience to take stock of what Gandhi brought to humanity and to participate in the International Congress on Peace and Non-violence in Sewagram, Wardha, India, around January 30 2008 or to organize programmes and events in your own country or region: <http://www.acse.info/camino-gandhi2008.htm>.

Christophe Grigri - Coordinator  
Gandhi 2008 International Secretariat  
Email: [gandhi2008@gmail.com](mailto:gandhi2008@gmail.com)

**Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAP-WIP) Institute for Gender, Governance & Leadership!**

We are pleased to invite you to the 8th training on "Making Governance Gender Responsive (MGGR)", which will be held on November 12-19, 2007 in Manila, Philippines.

The course is designed for parliamentarians, middle and senior level government executives and officials, women and men in local governments, political parties, research and training institutes and civil society organizations and non-government organizations who are leading or participating in governance reform initiatives in their respective countries.

The objectives of the training are the following:

- Enhance their understanding of Gender and Development (GAD) and governance concepts;
- Gain appreciation of gender-related and governance issues and concerns;
- Identify gender biases in governance;
- Acquire skills in identifying and analyzing gender biases and concerns through case examples of strategies and practices to address gender biases;
- Identify gender biases in the participant's sphere of influence-A Change Management Approach; and
- Formulate Action Plans: Institutional and Individual

The course is composed of modules developed to enhance the participants' understanding of the link between gender and governance, as well as increase their awareness of gender biases in governance.

The registration fee for the eight-day training is US\$1,950 for single room accommodations and US\$1,650 for twin room sharing accommodations (two persons in one room). We are sending you the detailed information sheet and registration form in separate attachment. The training will be held on November 12-19, 2007. However, the participants are requested to be in Manila the day before, November 11, 2007 and leave Manila only on November 20, 2007. These extended stay are already included in the fee.

We hope that your organization can send participants to this training. Let us join hands in promoting gender responsive governance through transformative leadership and citizenship. We are looking forward to your participation.

You can also download the full information sheet and registration form for this training at our website: <http://www.capwip.org/training/mggr.htm>.

E-mail: [trainings@capwip.org](mailto:trainings@capwip.org);  
[capwip.trainings@gmail.com](mailto:capwip.trainings@gmail.com)

Web: [www.capwip.org](http://www.capwip.org);  
[www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org](http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org)

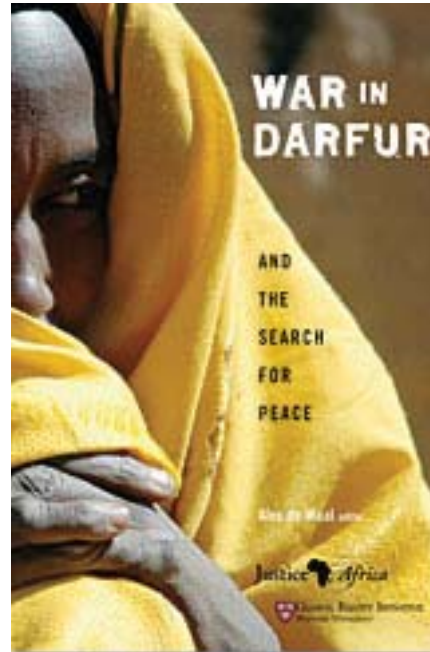
Dr. Jung Sook Kim  
President  
Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP)

## War in Darfur and the Search for Peace by Alex de Waal (editor), 2007

Since it sprang from obscurity to international headlines in 2004, the name “Darfur” has become synonymous with war, massacre, and humanitarian crisis. The crisis had, however, been brewing for far longer, its causes neglected by both scholars and Sudanese leaders.

War in Darfur and the Search for Peace is a series of essays by leading Sudanese and international specialists on Darfur, combining original research and analysis. The book provides in-depth analysis of the origins and dimensions of the conflict, including detailed accounts of the evolution of ethnic and religious identities, the breakdown of local administration, the emergence of Arab militia and resistance movements, and regional dimensions to the conflict.

The study also focuses on the search for peace, with contributions by those most closely engaged in local and international efforts to resolve the conflict. This includes documentation and analysis of the warring parties’ ideologies and agendas and how they have changed in the course of the conflict, and examination of the efforts made by Sudanese civil and political leaders, the African Union, and other international actors to bring the war to an end. ■



Edited by Alex de Waal  
Harvard University Press  
Copyright 2007

Alex de Waal is program director at the Social Science Research Council, a fellow of the Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University and a director of Justice Africa. He is author of *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan, 1984-1985* (Clarendon Press 1989) and co-author, with Julie Flint, of *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War* (Zed Books 2005).

NEWS

**Iran, the threat of the fundamentalist reign to the world community and the solution**

Approximately three decades Iran has been faced with a fundamentalist, dictatorial reign, which is by means of executions, torments, oppression and export of terrorism for governing. For this reason we, Iranian organize human rights organizations, a conference with as topic: Iran, the threat of the fundamentalist reign to the world community and the solution. During this conference these subjects will be explained.

Date: Tuesday 6 November  
Time: 12:30 - 14:00  
Address: Long planting 10, Nieuwspoor  
Place: The Hague  
Mina Lajmir  
Tel: 06 16 50 70 72  
International foundation for women

**Youth Participation in AoC Annual Forum**

Youth are a central stakeholder in improving cross-cultural relations between communities in the West and those in predominantly Muslim countries. Therefore, the AoC Secretariat has prioritized the participation of approximately 50 youth leaders in the AoC Annual Forum that will take place in Madrid from 15-16, January 2008. Youth participation is critical for the forum so that they can help frame the discussion; identify solutions to achieve greater understanding and tolerance between cultures; and participate in carrying this work forward after the forum.

Location: Madrid, Spain  
Date: Pre-Forum Orientation January 14, 2008 1-8pm  
Annual Forum January 15-16, 2008

Download Information: [http://www\\_ifor/articles/Youth Participation in AOC Forum.pdf](http://www_ifor/articles/Youth Participation in AOC Forum.pdf)  
Download Application: [http://www\\_ifor/articles/Application form AOC Youth Forum.doc](http://www_ifor/articles/Application form AOC Youth Forum.doc)

**Conclusions from Gender Working Group**

On September 13 to 15, 2007, the IFOR Gender Working Group (GWG) met in Alkmaar, and decided on an action plan in order to implement the IFOR Gender Policy adopted during the 2006 IFOR Council.

Gender Mainstreaming IFOR implies designing activities on different levels: Management level; BGA level; Program, policy, and activity level. The action plan activities will mainly focus on: Gender Analysis; Trainings; Communication and Documentation.

Gender Working Group members: Arfon Rhys, Maria Antonietta Malleo, Vololona Razafindrainibe, Suseela Mathew, Zoughbi Zoughbi, Cristina Reyna.

Isabelle Geuskens WPP Program Manager and Dorothy Athema regional desk officer were also present at the meeting. Minutes taken by Jose de Vries volunteer and Stan Morris Communications Coordinator.

**Advanced Trainings for Conflict Transformation**

We would like to draw your attention to our Advanced Trainings for Conflict Transformation. These courses in English are organised and held by KURVE Wustrow - Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action. These trainings addresses those working in peace initiatives or NGOs in area conflict zones or are in preparation of their assignment abroad. The Training Courses shall enable people to get a deeper understanding of Conflict Transformation with focus on special subjects and qualify for their peace work.

Please find further information about the training courses here: <http://ifor.org/articles/Advanced%20Trainings.pdf>

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05843-98 71-0 or -31

**Youth working for peace in Colombia**

Training new peace companions

Six candidates for FOR's Colombia Peace Team participated in a weeklong human rights training event in late August held at FOR's "Shadowcliff" national headquarters.

Traveling to Nyack from as far as Spain, Uganda, and Canada, this multicultural and multilingual group represents a talented, inspiring, and committed collective. These young adults offer great promise to FOR as we maintain our commitment to providing volunteer protective accompaniment to Colombian communities living in danger. The training also hosted a public event, engaging local Rockland-area residents in a dialog on effective advocacy skills to help change U.S. policy toward Colombia.

<http://www.forusa.org/>



OPPORTUNITIES

**CCRR's First Summer Camp**

This summer, CCRR held their first summer camp in Palestine. The "Know Your Country" camp ran for 15 days and 50 children were involved through a wide range of different organizations. The children were able to visit cities all over Palestine including Jenin, Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem.

The children were involved in many activities during the camp including, planting trees, drama workshops, singing, dancing and various arts and crafts activities. The camp concluded with a show where the children performed for everyone involved. Some put on plays, others presented a song and there was also a dance routine. All were of a high standard and it was clear that each member of the camp had benefited from the experience.

The Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation  
P.O.Box 861  
Bethlehem- Palestine  
Website: [www.ccr-pal.org](http://www.ccr-pal.org)

**Youth Arts & Action**

Counter-recruitment and anti-militarism delegation to Colombia

March 22-30, 2008

Four decades of conflict between armed actors in Colombia has entangled youth from all walks of life in a spiral of violence. There is not only a military draft for males over 18 to the National Army, but also forced recruitment by the so-called illegal armed actors - guerrillas and paramilitary. With few economic options and often dire consequences for not serving in the armed services, generations of youth have been obligated to join the conflict.

Join the Fellowship of Reconciliation on a powerful delegation as we share skills and learn with youth-led organizations who are fighting for the right to say no to armed conflict and are creating real peace and justice from the grassroots up.

Cost from Bogotá: \$1,000

Contact Susana at 415.495.6334  
or [forcolombia@igc.org](mailto:forcolombia@igc.org) to register by January 10th

Some Scholarships available

**IFOR in Action** is published 4 times a year, both in English and French by:

International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)  
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F: +31 72 515 1102

**The International Fellowship of Reconciliation**

(IFOR) was founded in 1919 and now has member organizations in over 60 countries around the world. IFOR supports the activities of these member organizations through worldwide programs, active nonviolence training, supporting and linking women peacemakers who live in conflict situations, empowering young people in making a contribution to nonviolence, and campaigning for disarmament. IFOR members are committed to active nonviolence and come from every major religious tradition. IFOR has consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO.

For more information about IFOR, visit our website at [www.ifor.org](http://www.ifor.org)

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*Please note: IFOR reserves the right to edit for clarity and content, some contributions have been edited.*

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