

EDITORIAL

With great pleasure we introduce this special **Europe edition of IFOR in ACTION**. This issue's focus is on BGAs of greater Europe. 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 Spring issue of IFOR in ACTION will focus on IFOR BGAs from the **Americas**. We now invite contributions from our Americas members, of which we're sure will be just as plentiful.

We call on all our Americas Branches, Groups and Affiliates to send in their contributions by **Friday, 7 March, 2008** for the IFOR in ACTION #46 Spring Issue.

An Armistice Day Legacy

by Olga Bonfiglio

"He had blood on his hands," said Elly, "and didn't feel he could be a priest."

Elly and Bob Nagler grew up an ocean apart but their commitment to peace has strengthened them throughout their 50+ years of marriage. Neither of them stands out particularly in physical appearance. In fact, you might even miss seeing them at local peace vigils, but they're there-every week, twice a week-since October 2002 before the war in Iraq began. And there's no mistaking their devotion to the cause of peace and the depth from which it comes in all that they do and say. It began through their fathers who both fought in World War I.

Elly Nagler's father was a Bavarian soldier and a prisoner of war in France. He had hopes of becoming a priest but the war dashed that ambition.

"He had blood on his hands," said Elly, "and didn't feel he could be a priest." Instead, he became a writer, an organizer and eventually secretary for the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a non-governmental inter-faith organization founded in 1919 in Bilthoven, the Netherlands as a response to World War I. IFOR was the first organization of its kind in the world to be committed to peaceful nonviolence in favor of healing and reconciliation.

According to its Web site (www.ifor.org), "the founders of IFOR formulated a vision of the human com-



Photo: H Sandy, taken 08-Nov-2002

munity based upon the belief that love in action has the power to transform unjust political, social and economic structures."

Elly's father established a branch office for IFOR in Vienna and operated from there until 1938 when Hitler took over Bavaria; then the office had to close. After the war he re-established the same Vienna branch office. Today IFOR flourishes with a presence in more than 40 countries.

Elly's sister, Hildegard Goss-Mayr, later took over her father's work at IFOR and became an international figure. A prolific writer and speaker, the Vatican

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The Apple of Peace Journalism

by José de Vries

“If we forget half of the population, how can our society ever develop and progress?”

Imagine the following; you have one nice, green, juicy apple. Two children in front of you, a boy and a girl, are fixing their gaze on the apple, switching only to look you right in the eye and then staring again at the apple. They're hungry and they want it. Both. What would you do? What would you do?

My first thought was: “That’s an easy question, just cut the apple and give the two children each a half of the

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apple. Everybody's happy and no problems. Next question please.” However, the older lady, sitting in the front row during the training, said that she had often been in this situation with her grandson and –daughter. She replied that she always gave the whole apple to the grandson. The reason for doing this was not more than, “I don't know, he is older and he is a boy. I never asked myself why I do that.” And with this answer, all of a sudden, the question did not seem so simple anymore. So many different alternative answers exist to this question, each with its own specific consequence. Some may decide to give the apple to one person, while others would decide not to give it to anyone, since the other would be disappointed if (s)he wouldn't get anything. Somebody else might tell the children to fight for the apple. Others, however, would try to look for another apple before giving both children an apple. One can also decide to make a strudel from this apple and divide this among the children. A 'green-minded' person might want to plant the seeds of the apple together with the children, to be able to benefit later from much more apples. Many alternative answers exist and the list may not even have a limit. A creative person could think of many more alternatives to this 'simple question'. A question which could provoke conflict and violence, but also solidarity and growth, depending on what alternatives one can think of and what one wants to teach the children.

This example shows that there is never one plain answer to a situation. The answer not only depends

on the interpretation of the situation of the observer – the context and framework the observer is willing and capable of seeing – but also on the message that one wants to communicate. It is awareness of this perspective that Natasha Dokovska tried to give to her audience in a training on peace journalism and UN Security Resolution 1325, taking place from 7-9 December 2007 in Ohrid, Macedonia.



Natasha Dokovska is sitting in the front.
Picture: JCWE

Alexandra Radesvka is training on conflict resolution. This training was supported by IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program (WPP). WPP works to support and strengthen women's peacemaking initiatives. Part of its activities are to give annually seed funding to nonviolent and peace education and training projects from preferably women grass roots organizations, often in (post-) conflict areas. WPP also strengthens itself for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 worldwide, which was passed unanimously in 2000 and addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

Natasha Dokovska is the director of Journalists for children and women rights and the protection of en-

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Staff Update: IFOR is happy to welcome José de Vries to its Women Peacemakers Program team. José will be working as the WPP Program Assistant at the International Secretariat in Alkmaar; she adds this about herself...

I was born in a small town called Halsteren, located in the south of the Netherlands. Later I moved to Amsterdam, and began to study Psychology. During my studies, I travelled to Asia twice to teach English in India, Nepal and Thailand to children from different backgrounds: private school, street children and mentally and physically disabled children. These experiences taught me the value of contributing positively to lives of people in developing countries, in a practical way.

Returning to the Netherlands, I did my internship and Ma-thesis research within the national centre for medical-psychological treatment for members of the resistance and victims of war and organized violence. This period taught me the cruel consequences of violence and displacement visited on the human being. After my graduation, I decided to study International Development, to learn more on international development and its politics. With the experience of the refugees in the Netherlands in the back of my mind, I decided to do my Ma-thesis research on urban refugees in Kenya, specifically on the link between coping strategies and mental health problems.

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José de Vries, WPP Program Assistant
Photo: IFOR Stock

Years after the violence, one might still experience physical and mental health problems. Understanding mental health problems linked to violence and working within an NGO in Nairobi providing legal aid to urban refugees, I strongly felt that I wanted to contribute to a non-violent world. Feeling committed to non-violence, I applied for a position as a volunteer with IFOR/WPP. Then, having already worked with IFOR/WPP as a volunteer for a while, I started working as a Program Assistant.

Being a woman myself and seeing the inequalities between men and women, I feel committed to women's empowerment and gender equality. Therefore, I feel 'at home' working within IFOR/WPP.

Raising awareness of women's involvement in peace work, through documentation, newsletters and interviews I can give a voice to the unheard voices of women activists. I feel raising awareness of non-violent methods to deal with conflict is a practical means of contributing to a non-violent world.

and conflict-areas experience. I feel that women often have 'their own' specific and sensitive manner of addressing and dealing with conflict in a non-aggressive manner. Since the world consists of both men and women, this should be reflected in the peace movement as well.■

Since women can positively contribute to peace, their voices should be heard. Women understand the specific problems women in war

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IFOR in ACTION

IFOR in ACTION #46 will appear in April of 2008, a special edition on peace and nonviolence initiatives in *the Americas*. We are 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 Branches, Groups and Affiliates located in the Americas.

Contact Stan Morris for guidelines (s.morris@ifor.org)

THIRD EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY

Submitted by Paolo Candelari

To men and women delegated to THIRD EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY gathered in Sibiu, 4th-9th Septembre 2007.

We men and women joined in prayer in Vicenza today, 6th August 2007, 62nd anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing:

- We love peace in justice and we are convinced that it can be only achieved through active nonviolence; and we aspire with strength to a society in which persons are in harmony with creation and every living being.

- We identify ourselves with a culture that places the basis of acting in the coherence between ends and means; in order to build peace we are disposed to use only pacific instruments.

We feel deeply, truly and vitally the values and the engagements contained in the CHARTA OECUMENICA, and the fruit of that process to conciliate that which we are involved in, particularly where it says:

- We want to stand up for the dignity of the human person created in God's image and, as churches together, contribute towards reconciling peoples and cultures.

- We commit ourselves to work for structures of peace, based on the non-violent resolution of conflicts. We condemn any form of violence against the human person, particularly against women and children.

- We commit ourselves to support church, environmental organisations and ecumenical networks in their efforts for the safeguarding of creation.

We address to all of you that we feel as brothers and sisters walking on the same path of commitment to local, national, and international reconciliation, fruit of justice and truth; and that from our Christian root we wish to work for humanity and social Europe, based on the respect and promotion of human rights and values of peace, justice, freedom, tolerance, participation and solidarity.

We are really worried of the presence on our continent of a huge number of nuclear devices, each of which being much more destructive than those exploded in Japan at the end of world-wide conflict. We are worried that these are accepted by the institutions that would be responsible for cohabitation of our peoples, hiding not only the highly destructive power, but also the uselessness of the deterrent power, because they could be "useful" only in the so called offensive "first strike."

In recent years churches have condemned without reservation the use of atomic weapons. We think, nevertheless, that at this moment it would be important for churches to confirm with their authoritative voices the total damnation of the possibility that any government might decide to use them.

Thousands of women and men in Italy committed to the peace movement feel the urgency to act in opposition to "global war," to awaken public opinion about this grave situation, with the aim to arouse a mobilization for "preventive, peaceful nonviolent efforts."

Today we ask all you to receive our fraternal appeal, so that the delegates of all Churches will say no to war, to preventable war, to terrorist strategies and to rearmament:

- Declare nuclear military strategy a crime against the humanity.

- Sign a common declaration in which, re-assuming the experience and the spiritual and moral research of the Christian Churches along the decades of the atomic era, they proclaim with utmost clarity that not only the use and threat, but also the building, proliferation and simple possession of nuclear weapons constitute a serious sin against God, Humanity and Creation.

- Commit in all levels, from lay organisation to religious institutions to the top of hierarchies, to constant denunciation of that which we think to be the grav-

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THIRD EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL... cont.

est violation of every civil and political human ethics, that no right to defence could logically and morally justify.

- Offer to society their service for peace, promoting and supporting initiatives for nuclear disarmament, unilateral, too; growing popular knowledge about risks of atomic proliferation and of militarization, in a spirit of humility and collaboration with all the men and the women of good will who have committed themselves to peace, striving to make this topic common to all religious traditions.

e-newsletter We address you, brothers and sisters in faith, that we feel share our same desire for peace and long-lasting justice, in the hope of having the same exhortation and determination :

“Let your light shine like that in the sight of men. Let them see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven.” (MT 5,16)

Vicenza, 6 agosto 2007

i movimenti sottoscrittori

Beati i costruttori di pace
coordinamento “fermiamo chi scherza col fuoco atomico”

Cipax - Centro intercofessionale per la pace
FCEI - Federazione delle comunità evangeliche italiane

Gavci - Gruppo Autonomo di Volontariato Civile in Italia

Mir - Movimento Internazionale della Riconciliazione

Pax Christi

Tavola valdese

Ucebi - Unione Cristiana Evangelica Battista d'Italia

Paolo Candelari is a member of MIR Italia, the IFOR branch in Italy

FOR Switzerland

by Ueli Wildberger

Report from Forum für Friedenserziehung – Swiss German branch of IFOR

Somali Project: Training for Somali facilitators within the Swiss diaspora, a weekend of training for young people from different Somali regional groups of Rajo (an umbrella association of Somalis in the Swiss diaspora), was held in July. It was the first of a series of training events that are part of Rajo's new two-year programme. Participants in the training learn how to deal with violence and conflicts, and they discover various ways of solving conflicts without resorting to violence, all modeled on the traditional Somali way of peace making. In the context of their own cultural identity, they also learn to accept differences and recognize and overcome prejudices. The training was conducted by Ueli Wildberger of the Forum für Friedenserziehung.

The goal of the project is to train people who will then offer trainings in their own regional groups. In this way it is hoped that Somalis in Switzerland will acquire a better understanding of how to deal with conflicts and violence. This could be helpful in dealing with integration problems, and could also lead to a better understanding and cooperation with their fellow countrymen. We hope that this will ultimately benefit the peace process in Somalia. The project receives financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as from Caritas Switzerland and the "Stiftung zur Förderung von Randgruppen." Rajo IPDS and the Forum für Friedenserziehung first worked together in 2003, organizing a training cycle for Somali elders that contributed to the build-up and networking of 9 regional groups in Switzerland.

Our Swiss branch, is involved in many activities in implementing the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence 2001 – 2010. For the past four years the Reformed Church in Zurich in collaboration with our branch has dedicated 10 days each November for Decade activities, and invited local parishes to participate under the theme of "Overcome violence." A rainbow flag was designed and displayed on many church spires. Many parishes celebrated special peace services and held inter-cultural meetings. For 2008 a peace march with a 1000 confirmations is being organised .

To commemorate the newly declared International Day of Nonviolence our branch organised on the 2nd of October in St.Gallen a street event with music and theatre, and a distribution of Gandhi posters and flyers. The days events were followed in the evening with a film. After viewing a video with historical pictures of Gandhi and his live guests participated in a lively discussion about nonviolence today.

Nonviolent trainings: In the course of 2007, Hanna Maeder helped our trainers with revision and standardization of our training modules in Nonviolent Conflict Resolution, Civilcourage, Dialog, Integration and Reconciliation. In the last years we have been experiencing a decrease in the demand for nonviolent trainings. We hope with our revised modules to effect a change in this trend.

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FOR Italy / MIR Italy

By Paolo Candelari

What we are doing in Italy

In Italy we are promoting a campaign for total nuclear disarmament and respect of non-proliferation treaty.

This campaign arise from fears about new wars in the Middle East, particularly between USA and Iran, with the possibility of use of nuclear weapons.

Many documents from U.S. think tanks and plans from the Pentagon say that this tragic eventuality is realistic.

In front of this apocalyptic scenery there is a lack of consciousness in the public opinion.

People think that after the end of the latest "cold war" nuclear war is no longer a threat.

Last year Alex Zanotelli, a priest committed to many nonviolent campaigns about peace and social justice, launched a first appeal "to do something."

Some association (Mir, Pax Christi, Beati I costruttori di pace, LDU, etc) began to discuss the possibility of a campaign with specific goals and with the purpose of arousing public opinion.

The above mentioned associations wrote an appeal called "Fermiamo chi scherza col fuoco atomico" (Stop those who play with atomic fire") in which they establish the following points:

- immediate application of NPT, beginning with Italy and Europe;
- to contest the presence of US atomic weapons in Italian territory (there are 90 of them distributed in Aviano, Ghedi and Camp Derby)
- to oppose military strategy adopted by NATO, and propose the transformation of the armaments from offensive to strictly defensive in the direction of a civil no-arms and non-violent defense
- to promote a conscious objection of scientists involved in military research, and a conversion of the military industry
- because the representatives of people of every religious tradition declare that nuclear war is evil, make such war a crime against Humanity with no justification

The Italian FOR branch followed up on this last point specifically. We organized with some other associations (Beati i costruttori di pace, Cipax, Gavci, Pax Christi, Union of battist communities) a day of prayer and meditation on the 6th of August, 2007 (the Hiroshima anniversary), where we launched an appeal to Sibiu ecumenical assembly for a declaration in reference to the above cited point.



Photo: Paolo Candelari

We didn't obtain the declaration from the Sibiu assembly, but a document submitted by Italian delegates contains our declaration (the text of our appeal to Sibiu is at the end).

In September we began a petition for a law banning the deposit and transport of any nuclear weapons on Italian territory (in Italy it is possible for 50000 voters to present a bill that parliament must discuss and vote on). The petition is supported by a network of different peace associations.

At the moment, the Italian IFOR branch is strongly committed to this petition. At the same time we are involved in opposing the expansion (to double it's current size) of a US army base in Vicenza. In our every action we try to involve Christian and religious association.

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*A moment of the day of prayer and meditation in Vicenza.
Photo: Paolo Candelari*



Image: FOR Italy / MIR Italy

Armistice Day... cont.

asked Hildegard for her input on its important encyclical, *Pacem en Terris* (Peace on Earth), published in 1963. She has also conducted training programs on nonviolence in Latin America, Africa and Asia and has served as a consultant to leaders like Cory Aquino of the Philippines. As a result of her work, Hildegard was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times.

In comparison to her father and her sister, Elly doesn't consider herself a peace activist, but rather an "agitator for change."

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"I'm just a human being," said Elly, the mother of four daughters and a son. "We should have a responsibility for each other and do all we can to make the world a better place." She thinks that the only way to settle conflict is through nonviolence and living up to our possibilities.

Actually, Elly is no slouch when it comes to peace activism. In 1947 she joined the Quaker youth work camp movement in Austria, Sweden, Mexico and El Salvador to help rebuild houses in villages and to provide assistance in refugee camps that harbored Russians, Germans and Ukrainians.

"I lost half of my heart in El Salvador," said Elly. It's probably one of the reasons the Naglers were so active in the Sanctuary movement of the mid-1980s when they helped harbor a Salvadoran family.

Bob Nagler grew up in Iowa City, the son of a famous hydraulics engineer who consulted on the Hoover Dam and several Mississippi River projects. When he returned from World War I, Bob's father vowed always to make the world a better place through his work as well as through his commitment as a peace activist for the Methodist church. He wanted to rid the world of war and to promote nonviolence as a peaceful solution.

In 1933 Bob attended the Epworth League's summer youth camp on Clear Lake, Iowa, a part of the Southern Methodists' religious education program. The theme that year focused on peace and the Oxford Pledge. The children learned that the pledge was derived from the world's first peace movement started

in England during the late 1920s as a response to the disastrous global conflict of 1914-1918. Students at Oxford University had taken a pledge that they would "not fight for king and country" as their fathers had in World War I where 40 million people died, half of them civilians.

Bob was among half of the 200 kids at the camp who signed the peace pledge. Part of the reason the pledge has "stuck with him" to this day was because his father died less than three months later, leaving ten-year-old Bob, his mother and two younger siblings.

"My father was my hero," said Bob who sought to remember him by making the Oxford pledge his father's legacy to him. Eventually Bob became a Quaker. His father had worked with them and he knew they lived lives of peace and nonviolence. Besides, they helped other people in need, like his own family.

In 1943, while in the middle of his junior year of college, Bob was drafted into the Army. However, because of his Conscientious Objector status, he was assigned to a Civilian Public Service base camp in North Dakota under the direction of the Quakers. He later volunteered for a starvation experiment in Minnesota and an infectious hepatitis project in Philadelphia, where he became a human "guinea pig" and contracted hepatitis. His work with the Army led him to a career in science and he eventually became a chemistry professor and helped to start a chemistry program at Western Michigan University.

During his tenure at the university, Bob participated in a USAID science training program in Nigeria for a couple of years, which he found to be "the most fulfilling thing I ever did." He worked with the top five percent of all students there.

During the Vietnam War, Bob advised WMU students on Conscientious Objector status and participated in peace demonstrations. Of course, he was under F.B.I. observation for his activities, but he was undeterred. Bob has also worked with the local and national environmental councils and with the Physicians for Social Responsibility. Today, he writes monthly letters to his congressman, a Republican who always

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Armistice Day... cont.

votes with the president. Nevertheless, Bob continues to convey his concerns about the war in Iraq and about science, particularly those issues involving the environment and stem cell research. What keeps the Naglers going after all these years? That's easy, they say: the consistency of their actions for peace and their concern for the world.

(Elly Nagler's sister is Hildegard Goss-Mayr)

"You can make an impact on the world with your persistence in doing what you think is right," said Bob. "It is symbolic of your conviction."

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Bob dreams that the United Nations will evolve into the meaningful peace organization it was meant to be.

"I'm not discouraged or encouraged about the world's situation," he said pointing out that there are now hundreds of organizations all over the world working for peace, educating people and publishing books on peace.

"Some of this will rub off. Peace activists are responding to those who make war more readily. They know that violence escalates itself and they want to stop it. They realize that other people have rights and opinions and that peace is a constructive activity."

"You can never give up on hope," said Elly, who has seen the total devastation of cities in her youth-twice-through two world wars.

"But we Americans and Europeans need to come off of our superiority complex," said Elly. "We need to realize that human beings have value. We take it for granted that total inequality exists because we don't know how to go about making the world where we see people as our equals. This will take much education."

Olga Bonfiglio is a professor at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and author of Heroes of a Different Stripe: How One Town Responded to the War in Iraq. She has written for several national magazines on the subjects of social justice and religion. Her website is www.OlgaBonfiglio.com. Contact her at olgabonfiglio@yahoo.com.

The Apple of... cont.

vironment in Macedonia (JCWE) . This organization started back in 1996, with the support of Roma street children. Since then, they have undertaken many different activities. For instance, they have done projects on women, empowerment of child soldiers, environment, trauma and stress, and on raising awareness of UN 1325 and the value for its implementation in Macedonia. They also provide language and business courses for certain groups. They're quite active in several networks, such as International Action Network of Small Arms (IANSA).

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Considering the special role that both journalists and NGO's could play, not only in raising awareness of UN 1325 and peace processes among the public, but also in encouraging the Macedonian government to ratify the resolution, these groups were invited to the training in December. JCWE had printed the resolution in both Macedonian and Albanian language, so participants from different backgrounds were able to read and discuss it. The fact that many participants were unaware with this resolution, though it had been passed seven years ago, shows the need for trainings such as these.

International awareness of this resolution and its purpose in serving as a catalyst for women all over the world in their efforts to achieve equal participation are needed. Participants discussed the need for women's voices to be heard in peace-building processes, to address specific needs that women have and the role that women can play in rebuilding of their societies.

Natasha, with an extensive background as a journalist and editor for newspapers and magazines and writer of a book on peace journalism, also discussed journalism and the role it plays in society. Nowadays, editors and owners of newspapers seem to be predominantly focused on making profit. "News is what sells," is the slogan for many. However, this has resulted in a situation in which journalism is transformed into sensationalism, without trying to objectively inform the public on important situations in the world. Profit, rather than ethics, has become the framework

for covering a story. Without turning this article into a philosophical one, in which the core of human beings is discussed, it should be acknowledged that human nature is such that a journalist can not give real objective information, since (s)he will always be affected by his/her own perception filters, developed throughout time, influenced by context, place, personality and



Picture: JCWE

experiences. However, a journalist should always try to be as objective as possible. This means that one has to be aware of his/her own perception filters and reflect on what is observed. A journalist should not take information for granted, but always check with other sources to determine the reliability of a given source. After this, the value of information and its possible consequences can be determined.

A journalist is sending a message through an article and this should be considered when writing. What message am I giving? Is it positive or negative? Who is receiving this message? Peace journalism does not mean covering a story on peace, neither is the concept of war journalism about covering war. Peace journalism is about making conscious choices about what stories to cover and how to cover them. It's a manner of sending positive messages and of editors and journalists asking themselves what they can contribute to bringing peace in their society (and the world).

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The Apple of... cont.

Natasha strongly believes that journalists have and should take the responsibility to educate people, and that they have a choice whether or not they want to be part of the current sensationalism in covering stories. Peace journalism covers different (social) sides of a story, showing goals and backgrounds of parties involved, including history and (in)visible effects of conflict and violence, without creating conflict between groups. It includes ethics in journalism. She emphasizes that media should never play a decisive role in politics and should not be involved in conflict and violence.

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Conflict in itself is not necessarily negative. It means that parties involved are in disagreement, which can be quite constructive for growth. However, emotional and psychological reactions influence the manner the conflict is analyzed and managed. Most people rely on a certain style of reacting to conflict (conflict-resolution style), such as avoidance, accommodation, force, compromise and collaboration. Understanding how people deal with conflict can help in seeing its arrival and in handling it more effectively. One's own reactions and behavior might also influence the other to adopt a different style. Women, often using constructive conflict resolution styles, should be able to truly participate in peace processes and the building of their societies. As Natasha explained during her training, "If we forget half of the population, how can our society ever develop and progress?" The media can not only play an important role in avoiding conflict and in building peace, but also in involving women in these processes. According to Natasha, journalists should make a conscious choice on what they write and how they write it, on how they deal with subjects. They should make a conscious choice on what to do with an apple.

José de Vries is the WPP Program Assistant.



Picture: JCWE

EVENTS

**Gender, peace building and de-militarization:
Transcend Peace University online course**

Admission for the next "Gender, Peace building and De-militarization" international, online course at TPU (Transcend Peace University) is now open for registration. Please see the details listed below:

Gender, Peace Building and De-militarization

Course Co-Directors: Gal Harmat, Yotam Ben Meir

Twelve (12) weeks of intensive education for peace activists, NGO and INGO workers, trainers, teachers, advisers and consultants, students, and women and men who would like to learn more about gender, peace building and de-militarization issues.

The course offers an introduction to gender studies, and an analysis of the complex relationships between gender and social constructions and gender and militarism. During the course the interdependency between gender and power, with a focus on theory and the practices of gender roles in different societies. The course will then focus on militarism, the war system and peace. It will demonstrate a direct connection between militarism and gender-based violence; gender based societal positions and violent society using examples from the Middle East, South East Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, with an emphasis on the Balkans and the US.

Gender identity will be examined, via dichotomies such as passivity vs. activity, hero vs. victim (heroism/victimization), femininity vs masculinity, strong vs weak and peace vs war. It will highlight gender issues related to war such as rape used as a tool of war, human and especially women's security, protection strategies, such as community based security, national and international intervention and peacekeeping operations in relation to gender-based power relationships. The course will further seek to explore how the understanding of gender-based social constructions can help in addressing gender inequalities and equities. The required readings for the course are 30-40 pages per meeting.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.transcend.org/tpu/courses.shtml?x=582>

Yours in peace,

Gal Harmat, Yotam Ben Meir

Course's Co-facilitators

TPU

**MIR TOGO: Non-Violence, Peace, Democracy
and Human Rights**

MIR TOGO has launched as part of its general programme a course on mediation (Non-Violence, Peace, Democracy and Human Rights). The course classes have started at the College Saint-Albert - le Grand, with the support of its staff manager. These courses are offered once per week within the time frame of FHR (Humanities and Religious Education), established since the inception of the Collège. Negotiations are also underway to run the same program in the College of Notre Dame, Africa (NDA) and the Institute Sacred Heart of Jesus by the same teacher instructing classes at FHR.

MIR TOGO has also created an agenda for establishing two clubs with a philosophical focus on the culture of Non-Violence, democracy, peace and human rights in two secondary schools.

We are keen to enter into relations with IFOR branches and affiliated associations, and want to make our actions more visible, especially within newsletters and publications in French.

MIR TOGO is a young branch of MIR -France, and has been active on the ground since 19 February, 2007 after the second session of consolidation of MIR-France. Our website is available at <http://www.mirtogo.wordpress.com>.

To all members of IFOR, in the union of prayer, we extend to you our profound gratitude and ask you to receive our best wishes and good will for the coming year.

Yves-Matthew AMEWU

General Coordinator CARC

National President of MIR TOGO

NEW BOOK

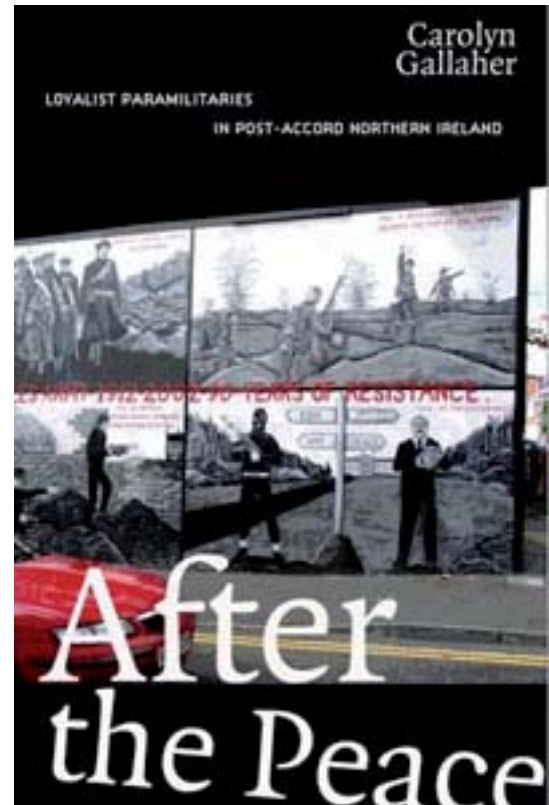
After the Peace: Loyalist Paramilitaries in Post-Accord Northern Ireland (Hardcover)

by Carolyn Gallaher

The 1998 Belfast Agreement promised to release citizens of Northern Ireland from the grip of paramilitarism. However, almost a decade later, Loyalist paramilitaries were still on the battlefield. *After the Peace* examines the delayed business of Loyalist demilitarization and explains why it included more fits than starts in the decade since formal peace and how Loyalist paramilitary recalcitrance has affected everyday Loyalists. Drawing on interviews with current and former Loyalist paramilitary men, community workers, and government officials, Carolyn Gallaher charts the trenchant divisions that emerged during the run-up to peace and thwart demilitarization today.

After the Peace demonstrates that some Loyalist paramilitary men want to rebuild their communities and join the political process. They pledge a break with violence and the criminality that sustained their struggle. Others vow not to surrender and refuse to set aside their guns. These units operate under a Loyalist banner but increasingly resemble criminal fiefdoms. In the wake of this internecine power struggle, demilitarization has all but stalled. Gallaher documents the battle for the heart of Loyalism in varied settings, from the attempt to define Ulster Scots as a language to deadly feuds between UVF, UDA, and LVF contingents. *After the Peace* brings the story of Loyalist paramilitaries up to date and sheds light on the residual violence that persists in the post-accord era.

"In *After the Peace*, Carolyn Gallaher presents a highly nuanced but also recognizable and sustained interpretation of Loyalism in Northern Ireland. The fundamentalist/political binary comes through as the key distinction within Loyalism. *After the Peace* is an excellent synthesis of debates on the role of identity politics and the deficiencies of cosmopolitanism as a solution to di-



vided societies."

— Brian Graham, University of Ulster.

About the Author

Carolyn Gallaher is Associate Professor in the School of International Service at American University. She is the author of *On the Fault Line: Race, Class, and the American Patriot Movement*.

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NEWS

e-newsletter

The fifth UNESCO Youth Forum

Referring to the Convention on the Rights of Child and the UN's World Programme of Action for Youth, the UNESCO Youth Forum strongly believes that children and young people should have the right and responsibility to participate in decision-making processes that affect their everyday lives... This participation is essential in obtaining a sustainable society where long-term and responsible decisions are undertaken. Following are excerpts from the report on the fifth UNESCO Youth Forum on education, economic and sustainable development (Paris, 12-13 October 2007), where 261 participants (delegates from 116 countries and observers from

NGOs) encouraged UNESCO and governments to involve youth and reduce the gap between where decisions are made and where they are implemented.

The meeting preceded the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and focused on issues such as:

empowerment of young people, access to quality education and lifelong learning, encouraging critical thinking and an environment of independence;

development of mechanisms to support entrepreneurship among youth and women, equal access to education for minorities group and for boys and girls, affirming that gender equality is a cornerstone of civilized societies;

brain drain of youth that are migrating from their communities in developing countries, recognition of non-formal and informal education in Youth-led NGOs;

and identification of best practices on how non-formal education can be integrated into formal education.

National Commissions of UNESCO have been recommended to organize youth consultations and to support youth-led, long-term sustainable and independent initiatives.

Maria Antonietta Malleo

Maria Antonietta Malleo (Italy) is the IFOR representative at UNESCO.

IFOR UNESCO Working Group Conveners: Maria Antonietta Malleo and Mathew George (FOR India)

The IFOR UNESCO Working Group focuses on UNESCO and how links between BGA's and UNESCO can be strengthened.

Final products of the ARCA Project

The Hungarian IFOR group, BOCS Foundation participated in an European peace training project (ARCA).

For more about this project and the results (especially a Peace Training Guide), please visit:

<http://www.peacetraining.org>

Simonyi, Gyula
president
BOCS Foundation
<http://bocs.eu>

Launch of the new website for the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

The Human Security Unit at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, which serves as a platform for the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), the Advisory Board on Human Security (ABHS) and for the work of the Unit as focal point on human security within the UN system.

The site has been entirely redesigned in order to enhance the user's experience, and includes new and upgraded features including a photo gallery, sitemap, as well as a worldwide overview of UNTFHS projects.

The address for the website remains the same:

<http://ochaonline.un.org/humansecurity>

This information was provided to us by:

OCHA - Human Security Unit
United Nations Secretariat
New York, NY 10017, USA
humansecurity@un.org

**A Climb for Peace -
Palestinian and Israelis
Climb Everest for Peace**

The Everest Peace Project is proud to announce that its history-making documentary - Everest: A Climb for Peace is now available for purchase on DVD.



Help support a wonderful organization - The Everest Peace Project - and purchase an incredible - educational and inspirational film...

Visit website: <http://www.everestpeaceproject.org/>

OPPORTUNITIES

International Youth Media Summit

Media Education Centre invites organizations, schools and other institutions working with media to nominate two young media enthusiasts, 15-22 years old, to participate in the 3rd International Youth Media Summit from August 20 to 27 in Belgrade, Serbia. The young participants must be candidates of Student Filmmakers and/or Student Diplomats. Beside the official delegates for the Summit, there are two more ways in which you can participate: as a guest and as a presenter.

International Youth Media Summit was founded by Ms. Evelyn Seubert from Cleveland High School, USA and Ms. Aileen Marshal from South Lanarkshire Council in Scotland. During July 21-30, 2006 the first summit was held in Los Angeles, USA and was presented by "Listen Up!" and "Learning for Life," as well as being mainly funded by IRMAS Charitable Foundation and HealthNet. The Second International Youth Media Summit was held in Sydney, Australia from 1 July to 7 July, 2007.

If you are interested in the 3rd International Youth Media Summit, please register on the IYMS Blog <http://www.roamingreporters.net/RRWP/>, click on 3rd International Youth Media Summit (left sidebar).

www.iyms.eu
www.mediaeducationcentre.eu

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 to register by January 10th
Some Scholarships available

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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

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