

EDITORIAL

With great pleasure we introduce the Africa edition of IFOR in ACTION. This issue focuses on IFOR BGAs of Africa. In using this new approach we take a closer look at the work being done in different regions of the world, and the challenges faced due to environmental factors.

The Winter issue of IFOR in ACTION will focus on Europe. We especially invite contributions from our members in Africa, we're sure they will be as plentiful. We now call on all our Branches, Groups and Affiliates to send their contributions by Friday, 28 November, 2008 for inclusion in IFOR in ACTION #49, Winter Edition.

— Stan Morris, Editor

OPEN WOUNDS

by Fellowship of Reconciliation Zimbabwe (FOR Zimbabwe) Nonviolence Education and Training Programme *

“Political violence in Epworth, Harare, Zimbabwe after the March 2008 harmonized elections.”

Zimbabwe African National Union -Patriotic Front- ZANU PF and Movement for Democratic Change- MDC are the main political players in the Zimbabwean political field. A breakaway group from the mainline MDC headed by Professor Arthur Mutambara adds flavor to the political arena as a minor but still noteworthy player. Simba Makoni, a former finance minister in the ZANU PF government decided to part way with ZANU PF just before the March election but failed to make much impact as a presidential candidate.

This essentially leaves MDC which has a majority in parliament and ZANU PF which has lost its parliamentary majority as the two main political players.

A brief look at these two political players gives an insight on the prevailing political climate.

ZANU PF has a history of violence. It is the revolutionary party that brought independence to Zimbabwe but through a very violent and vicious liberation war that left many dead, displaced and maimed. Soon after independence the ZANU PF government entered again into a violent conflict that saw the Matabeleland region becoming a war zone as political strife between ZANU PF and Joshua Nkomo lead Zimbabwe African Peoples Union-ZAPU went unabated until 1987 when a unity accord was signed. Throughout its reign, ZANU PF has thrived on violence and instilling fear in the people. Most of its heroes are regarded as gallant fighters, a term that has a violent tone and appreciation. It was then no surprise that it led a violent seizure of commercial farms and still less surprising to those in the know was its violent retribution after losing the March elections,



Photo: Blogflict, the official blog of iConflict.com

part of which constitutes this report.

On the other hand MDC has a labor movement umbilical code that can not be easily cut off. Labor movements in Zimbabwe in the early eighties had strong links with ZANU PF until early to mid 90s when the relationship began to get strained as the workers slowly realized their vulnerability. With the seemingly arrogant attitude of the government, the labor movements and a number of civil society groups eventually gave birth to MDC and ZANU PF can not forgive them for that. It has labeled them sell outs eager to reverse the gains of liberation struggle. It is the general perception that had our electoral system been truly free and fair MDC would have been in power as long back as 2001.

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Open Wounds...

It is against such a background that Zimbabwe found itself in yet another election in March 2008 in which the MDC won a majority in parliament and the MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai won the presidential race but officially failed to get the requisite majority to be declared the president. This necessitated a run off for the top two presidential candidates, MDC Morgan Tsvangirai and ZANU PF Robert Mugabe. The idea sounded noble but it all turned sour as ZANU PF, using state machinery and its well oiled grassroots network embarked on unprecedented violent campaign that saw many losing life, limbs and property. So violent was the campaign that Morgan Tsvangirai eventually pulled out of the elections. One of the worst affected areas was Epworth, a peri urban area in Harare where all hell broke loose. It is what happened in Epworth which is documented here. The report is not reporting everything that occurred but all that we managed to know and see for the purpose of information and for use in the second part of the project which will be an Active Nonviolence Campaign and Reconciliation Process in Epworth.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN BASES

Political campaign bases were centers established by ZANU PF in Epworth following a pattern which was national.

These bases were manned by youths led mostly by war veterans, (war veterans are former liberation war fighters). Every night people were forced to go and attend political rallies in their sections and every household was supposed to be represented. These rallies comprised war songs, political speeches, and propaganda. It is at these bases that judgment was passed on perceived MDC supporters. Many lives were lost at the hands of these militias at the bases. Many limbs were lost at these bases and the whole electorate was intimidated during these rallies at the bases.

The rallies would go all night at the bases with the base commanders taking the law into their own hands. The police had no control whatsoever over the bases and what was happening at the bases. It was total anarchy as the commanders at the bases assumed all civil, political and judicial authority in Epworth.

Young girls were forced to go and cook for the militias at the bases and a number of rape cases were reported from these political bases but no action could be taken by police.

It was horror especially for young children who had to see people being beaten and killed while watching. It was here that people were told where to vote and for whom to vote. To prove that they meant serious business everyone perceived to be an MDC sympathizer was brutal-

ly beaten and in the process some lost their lives. Records of those not attending base meetings were kept and relative punishment was meted later.

Residents were forced to supply food for those manning the bases, this becomes very painful considering that Epworth is one of the areas where those most less fortunate reside, people who can hardly have a decent meal per day. The primary objective of the bases appeared to have been the creation of fear within the community of Epworth, a community that has voted for MDC ever since its formation.

At one of the bases in Epworth, in a place affectionately known as New Gada, seven people were killed and the community is still trying to come to terms with the level and nature of violence.

Inasmuch as the bases have now been dismantled, the trauma, the wounds, the deaths and the emotional scars left will be very difficult to erase. Most hurtful is the fact that some of the young girls raped may have to live with HIV as Epworth is one of the areas with a high HIV prevalence rate.

The questions still remain, was it worth to kill, torture, rape and disturb the social order just for a political cause which no longer has the national appeal, was it really necessary then to call for election in the first place when one is tortured for his/her political allegiance, is it the people who benefited or are we being forced to perpetuate a political legacy that has almost become irrelevant?

Probably one day these questions we will get answers, but the fact still remains that the political campaign bases may have been dismantled as of now but the experiences will take time to be dismantled in peoples' minds, hearts will continue aching for the loved ones who lost their lives at the bases, young girls will continue being haunted on how they lost their innocence as they were raped by militias, God knows how those maimed and beaten will be able to forgive and hopefully forget. Thank God time will tell.

HELL IN THE COMMUNITY

Day time was generally calm as the base commanders, war veterans and the youths did their plans and selected their targets. Those fortunate enough like the Shonhiwa family got information before it was too late and removed all their most important belongings from their houses and stored them somewhere before fleeing for their dear lives. Although they managed to save themselves, their two bed roomed house was destroyed to the ground. They are now staying with their in-laws and still trying to come to terms with the experience. Some were less fortunate like Mr. and Mrs. Moyo who had their house destroyed to the ground and all their belongings perishing during the process. for-

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fortunately for them they managed to escape without being beaten.

The beatings and destroying and burning of houses were mainly conducted during the night by youths mobilized at the bases. As we write Mr. and Mrs. Moyo are no longer living in Epworth.

Epworth had been declared a no go area for MDC people and the militia wanted to declare it a liberated zone.

Mr. Eunice has a totally different and more terrible experience he was struck in the leg with an axe together with his friend who was struck in the head. He survived but his friend died.

The level and nature of the violence varied, some were beaten with sticks, others with logs, some were beaten with fists, and some struck with axes and machetes, others burnt by plastics.

With Mr. Mususa, he was beaten during the night with sticks and baton sticks.

Reasons for beatings also varied. Some were simply perceived to be MDC supporters, others were beaten because their relatives were MDC supporters, and still others were beaten because they failed to attend rallies at the bases.

A rather pathetic case is one of Mr. and Mrs. Noriti who are both suffering from HIV AIDS. During the peak campaign period Mr. Noriti was sick and could not attend the meetings so was the wife who was attending him. Because they were not represented at the nightly meetings their house and all property was destroyed one night on the accusation of being MDC supporters. They are now staying with their grandmother but the wife, Mrs Noriti is now critically ill, a condition that seems to have a direct relationship with the experiences they went through.

In Overspill section of Epworth, one family's house was razed to the ground while their children were forced to sing as their house was being destroyed.

For Mrs. Bero it was rather a case of the past catching up with her. In 2003, she once dropped from her wallet an MDC membership card in the presence of colleagues at a graduation party for her son and that was now used as a reason to prove that she was an MDC supporter five years down the line. For her crime she had her house destroyed but was spared the beatings and still resides in Epworth. The violent political campaign also had a direct criminal element in it. The youths would seize any valuable property from the houses they would destroy. These would include mountain bicycles, radios, television sets, cell phones and any valuable gadget.

In Cell Seven section of Epworth a family lost its radio and bicycle to a neighbor who is currently using them. Reason being they are MDC and the neighbor is a staunch ZANU PF supporter.

A young man Moses Guzha, suffered for the "sins" of his brother who is an MDC supporter. Because they could not find his brother they vented their anger on Moses who was beaten on two occasions and accused of being a sell out. Up to now the whereabouts of his brother are still unknown and the family is just hoping that he was never found as they fear he may end up being one of the many statistics of those who disappeared and never to be found again.

Mr. and Mrs. Marufu are now staying with friends in Braeside, a medium density area after they found themselves on the receiving end. Their biggest crime was their failure to attend meetings at the base.

Another group of people like Moira Ncube, never waited for the coming disaster and simply disappeared to save their lives although their houses were latter destroyed. Most of those in this group are those people who are known MDC supporters and who knew beforehand that their stay in Epworth had become risky.

THE DYNAMIC

While some suffered because they supported the MDC, others suffered simply because their relatives supports MDC while others because they are better off in terms of living standards, and some suffered as people took advantage of the prevailing anarchy to settle old scores. The whole episode disrupted the very fabric that makes our African culture a pride. In Africa we respect the old people and value the extended family system.

Young people as young as 17 years would beat up a man as old as 42 years. In worse scenarios, such young people would force an old woman to strip her clothes before beating her. It is taboo in our culture to see a naked woman, let alone an old one naked, worse still to beat her.

Such disturbances of the social and cultural order are very difficult to correct. In any case the whole system has dented the conscience of many a young man who now knows what it means to rape, kill and gain without work or consent. Such a culture is difficult to reverse.

Brother was coming against brother, sister against sister, as political and social scores were being settled under the guise of political campaign.

In Domboramwari section of Epworth two once closely knit families are no longer seeing eye to eye. Reason simply being a blood brother went and told the ZANU PF people that his young brother's family supported MDC. This led

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to the destruction of their house, property and pain as the young brother's family was beaten up. Right now they are living in a makeshift house still in Epworth just 200 meters from the person who sold them out as MDC supporters.

It had become a disadvantage to live a life that is slightly above the rest of the community as through outright envy and jealousy many people found themselves no longer with neither the property nor the houses they had because they would be destroyed on the accusations that they are MDC people.

NOT YET OVER

Interviews conducted with most of the people affected indicate a high level of anger, hate and a spirit of revenge. Such an atmosphere of animosity has never been experienced in Epworth with some vowing to settle the scores as soon as they get the chance.

Clifford of Domboramwari section has vowed to go and avenge for his lost property and destroyed house come what may, Esnath of Overspill section is adamant that it is not yet over with her.

Some like Mai Tatenda can not stand to see the person who killed her brother moving around freely in the streets of Epworth and has vowed to take the law into her own hands once she gets the chance.

MDC has the majority of Epworth residence on its side considering the numbers who always vote for MDC. MDC has been winning in Epworth ever since its formation. Considering such a statistical order one wonders what will happen if the dust settles down and they decide to revenge.

In fact at one time in Cell Seven section, the MDC once mobilized itself to go and attack a ZANU PF official in the area and did so until ZANU PF received reinforcements from the militia and state security. The situation is tense, highly volatile and a serious need exist to attempt to create, nurture and sustain a culture of nonviolence as a way of life and a means of transformation and to engage the community in a process of reconciliation and healing.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having successfully gauged the atmosphere and dynamics in Epworth we now intend to begin an Active Nonviolence Campaign and Reconciliation Process. Our primary partners in this project are community churches in Epworth whom we have been working with for the past years and to whom we will eventually hand over the project to be run on a continuous base as a conflict intervention and resolution community project.

Like the saying goes, where there is a will, there is a way.

** The above article was extracted from a full report submitted for reprint by Makios Phiri of FOR Zimbabwe. Please contact Makios Phiri at makios@yahoo.com for the report in its entirety.*

Acknowledgements

We are all humbled by the moral support we received from most of our fellow IFOR branches worldwide, many peace movements worldwide, and friends in and outside Zimbabwe.

Our acknowledgements will not be complete without mentioning Quakers Australia who went a step ahead and extended to us financial support that enabled us to undertake this high risk project which is the first phase of the whole project.

It is with a trembling heart that we recognize the effort by our monitors, these are the people who did the actual ground-work in gathering for us the information we here present. It was very difficult and dangerous for them, sometimes going without lunch, sometimes being threatened and verbally abused. To you peace workers, may God bless you.

Dedication

This report is dedicated to all those who lost their lives, limbs, property and houses. To those who survived, may you rise above the darkness and be a light by forgiving them that hurt you.

“It only takes good men and women to keep silent for evil to prevail, we refuse to keep silent!” ■

Photos: IFOR/WPP stock

WPP: Official Launch of the Africa Regional Desk

by Isabelle Geuskens and Dorothy Attema

21 August 2008, Accra - Ghana

On the 21st of August 2008, the first anniversary of the Africa Regional Desk was celebrated during its official launch at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The event was co-organized with WANEP (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding), Affiliate of IFOR and host of the Africa Regional WPP desk.



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The event was chaired by Kalie Sillah from WANEP, and included speeches and solidarity messages from Africa Desk Coordinator Euphemia Akos Dzathor, Africa Regional Advisory Board Chair Joy Mbaabu, IFOR's WPP Regional Development Officer Dorothy Attema, and IFOR's WPP Program Manager Isabelle Geuskens. Due to plane problems, Guest of Honour Betty Murungi, Executive Director from Urgent Action Fund Africa, was prevented from attending. The program was officially launched by Hajia Alima Mahama, Ghana's Minister of Women and Children's Affairs.

The audience consisted of representatives of eleven IFOR African member organizations, who had attended a three-day gender training in Accra prior to the launch.

Representatives from Ghana's civil society and the international donor community were also amongst the audience.

Euphemia Akos Dzathor, coordinator of the Desk, emphasized that during the next three years (2009-2011), the program will educate and train women activists in Africa in gender sensitive active non-violence activities. This will enable them to serve as peace trainers on the continent.

During her keynote address, Mrs Hajia Alima Mahama pointed out that gender equality is an integral part of achieving a peaceful society, and commended WPP for complimenting the government's efforts at ensuring peace and security in Africa.

The launch was covered in several newspapers, including The Daily Graphic (national newspaper of Ghana), with an article on the African Women Peacemakers Program and a more detailed analysis on the role of women as peace-builders in Africa.



IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) began in 1997 and works to support and strengthen women's peace-making initiatives. This is accomplished through an annual international training for nonviolence trainers, gender and non-violence trainings, campaigns such as the annual May 24 International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, and through the documentation of women's peace initiatives.

WPP is proud and very happy to announce that the Africa Regional Desk has received funding from the MDG3 Fund in order to continue the highly important work they are doing for the upcoming three years! The MDG3 Fund [a fund which has been created by the Dutch Minister of Devel-

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opment Cooperation in order to improve the situation of women worldwide] received 454 projects from all over the world and will support 45 projects which focus on violence against women, increase economic independence of women and their participation at decision-making levels. We heartily congratulate our Regional Desk with the recognition they receive for their great and hard work!

Please see ifor.org/WPP/networking_regionaldesks.htm to read newspaper articles that covered the launch of the Regional Desk. ■

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Africa Regional Desk and IFOR's WPP staff and invited guests.

Young Carpenters, Farmers, Cooks And Construction Workers Trained In Northern Uganda

by Marc Forget

IFOR member JYAK trains former young combatants and internally displaced persons in new skills/trades.

The historic 2006 cessation of hostilities agreement between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which was promptly converted into a formal ceasefire, has resulted in safe enough conditions in the northern part of the country for FOR-Uganda (Jamii Ya Kupatanisha, or JYAK, Swahili for Fellowship of Reconciliation) to establish training centres to help local people rebuild their lives.

While in Uganda at the end of March I had an opportunity to visit two of these training centres aimed at helping the social reintegration of young people whose lives have been disrupted by the 22 year-long war, one of Africa's longest and most notorious armed conflicts. The project, which is funded by a € 68,000



Lucy Akello with Beatrice Amony, sewing workshop at Koch Goma.



Robert Ojok (L) and Charles Opiyo (R), carpentry students at Koch Goma.

grant from the EU, operates training centres in six different camps for internally-displaced persons, and focuses primarily on former young combatants and other young people, many who have never experienced peace or known the village where they were born. The people enrolled in the different training courses offered in the centres are between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, and have all received amnesty certificates from the government. My visit to the two projects, which both lie within 90 minutes of the town of Gulu, was facilitated by JYAK staff Beatrice Amony, Richard Okwera and Bryan Halera.

The projects we visited are in Atanga and Koch Goma. These centres offer training in carpentry and joinery, agriculture, tailoring, catering (food preparation and serving), construction skills (building concrete foundations, brick laying, roof framing, etc.), and basic business skills. The instructors are fully qualified and experienced in their trades, and some have to commute on their small motor-cycles from as far as Gulu, over an hour away on a rough unsealed road.

The training courses begin with some theory, and quickly move on to practice, beginning with the proper use of tools. Because of the limited funding there are never enough tools, and the students often have to share wood working tools and sewing machines, or come in on weekends to have a chance to practice.

The centres produce clothes, beds, chairs, tables, doors, and roof trusses. It has been planned to donate to surrounding communities some of the products produced by the centre, and a few orders are taken for the production and sale of some of the more complex items such as doors. In addition, some contracts are negotiated with local individuals and businesses for the construction of small buildings. With the income earned from these contracts,

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the young men and women are able to buy basic necessities for their families.

In the 2 years covered by the current funding agreement with the EU, the centres will have trained 778 young people. This puts the cost per student at € 87.40, an astounding value.



Carpentry student at Koch Goma.

For more information please contact JYAK, at jyak@utlonline.co.ug

Mark Forget is a former Executive Director of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and presently IFOR's Field Officer. ■

UN REPORT

by John Kim

IFOR Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, 22 August 2008

"Our nations must be united in the struggle to democratize the United Nations, united in their determination to preserve the world for the sake of present and future generations from the scourge of war among Member States and acts of aggression such as those occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan."

(from Speech of GA President-Elect Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, Nicaragua, June 4, 2008)

I) New Officials at the UN

Several new officials have been elected or appointed for important positions at the UN in recent months. In June 2008, the Hon. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, a former priest and foreign minister of Nicaragua, was elected as the next President of the General Assembly's 63rd Session, which will open on September 16, 2008. The new GA President, probably the most progressive leader ever elected to the UN body, is expected to push for further reform of the UN system in favor of strengthening the power of the General Assembly. In July, the General Assembly approved the appointment of Navanethem Pillay of South Africa as the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, following her nomination by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

She is a former president of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and a current judge of the International Criminal Court. She will take up her new post on September 1.

In August, Secretary-General Ban made two other appointments: Patricia O'Brien of Ireland as the new Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the UN Legal Counsel and Jane Holl Lute of the United States as the next Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Office, which assists the work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

II) 2008 DPI/NGO Annual Conference

Under the theme of "Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60," this year's annual DPI/NGO Conference will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, September 3-5. IFOR is preparing a workshop for the conference, and is sending its Executive Director to the meeting.

For the first time, the annual conference is taking place outside of the UN Headquarters in New York. This is partly due to the renovation work of the UN building as

well as an effort of the UN Department of Public Information to attract new NGOs from Europe and Africa. This year's conference may be seen through the UN web-cast. Next year's conference is expected to take place in Mexico City.



III) A Buddhist-Muslim Dialogue

As if to fill the void created at the UN Headquarters due to the change in venue for this year's DPI/NGO conference, a Buddhist group, Global Family for Love and Peace (Founder: Dharma Master Hsin Tao), is preparing an interesting Buddhist-Muslim conference at the UN in New York, Sept. 3-4, under the theme of "Towards a Global Family: Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Discussion topics include 1) Buddhist and Islamic understanding and contributions toward human rights and peace; and 2) Buddhist and Islamic perspectives and actions on social inequality.

The Conference, co-sponsored by the Philippine Mission, plans to invite 12 religious leaders and scholars, including Shirin Ebadi, the winner of Nobel Peace Prize; Dr. Iman Faisal, a Muslim writer; and Ven. Thich Nhat Hahn. More info is available at www.gflp.org.

IV) Preparation for International Day of Peace (IDP)

On July 17, the DPI hosted a briefing on the preparation for this year's IDP, which will be observed on September 21. Prior to the panel discussion, a film, "The Day After Peace," was shown about the efforts of Jeremy Gillery, a British filmmaker, to establish IDP on Sept. 21 and implement the ideals of IDP—ceasefire and non-violence--around the world.

Along with Jeremy, the panel discussion featured Amb. Anwarul Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Chair of the NGO Committee on the IDP; Susan Manuel, Chief, Peace and Security Section, DPI; Michael Johnson, NGO Rep. for Pathways to Peace; and Deborah Moldow, NGO Rep. for World Peace Prayer Society.

Amb. Chowdhury explained that he met with Secretary-General Ban, asking him to issue a call for preparation of this year's IDP. On July 13, the Secretary-General issued a video message urging Member States and the civil society to begin preparations to observe the IDP. Ms. Moldow urged everyone to observe a moment of silence for peace on midday of Sept. 21. At the UN, IDP will be observed on 9/19 (Friday) morning with the ringing of the Peace Bell by the Secretary-General. Displaying the UN

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flag on 9/21 would be another way to observe the day.

Further information and suggested activities for the IDP are available at:
www.internationaldayofpeace.org or www.peaceday2008.org.

V) International Year of Reconciliation

This is to remind that the UN General Assembly designated 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation. Sponsored by some Latin American countries involved in conflicts such as Nicaragua, El Salvador and Argentina, the GA resolution (A/Res/61/17) was originally adopted in November 2006.

The Resolution states, in part, as follows:

“Recognizing that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world which have suffered or are suffering situations of conflict that have affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets,...

Aware that dialogue among opponents from positions of respect and tolerance is an essential element of peace and reconciliation,

Aware also that truth and justice are indispensable elements for the attainment of reconciliation and lasting peace,....

Invites concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including by holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue.” (underline added for emphasis)

Respectfully submitted,

John Kim
FOR/IFOR Rep. to the UN
August 22, 2008

Frank Ostrowski (USA) and John Kim (USA) are the IFOR representatives at the United Nations in New York. Iraq is still very much a major issue there. ■

Staff Update:

IFOR is happy to welcome Banafshe Hejazi, Franny Parren, Flora Quittau, and Rada Pejic-Sremac to its team. As interns or staff for the International Secretariat in Alkmaar, they have meant more productivity for us...

The pace of IFOR's staff activity quickened during the three month period between the summer issue of IFOR in Action #47 and this edition. In July three new interns and one returning staff member took positions in various capacities at the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Banafshe Hejazi, a previous full time staffer for the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP), returned to accept the position of WPP Program Assistant, and Franny Parren, with previous experience in peace and human rights work, joined us under the same title. Both have been working on publications and research projects and editing staff reports. We then added Rada Pejic-Sremac to the team under a part time, volunteer agreement to create our new Interfaith Dialogue Initiative.

On 6 July, Flora Quittau arrived at the IFOR Secretariat in Alkmaar from France to begin her duties as Communications Assistant. Flora began the arduous task of testing the validity of email addresses housed in one of the Secretariat's databases and updating information in both databases. That project completed, and Flora being a native French speaker, she then translated the English version of this summer's IFOR in Action #47 into French. Knowing that Flora was fluent in French, it had been in the planning that translating would consume much of Flora's time. Along with her work on MIR en Action Nr. 47, Asia édition, Flora also translated into French various emails and documents for staff, completed the voluminous French translation of IFOR's 2007 Annual Report, and assisted the Executive Director with getting the electronic version of the report disseminated. You can find both versions (English and French) of this years annual report on our website at <http://www.ifor.org/annual.htm>.

Flora also developed Web pages for some of IFOR's branches, FOR Zimbabwe, FOR Madagascar, FOR Congo, FOR India and FOR Bangladesh, to be placed on the IFOR website <http://ifor.org/>. This was especially helpful to us at the Secretariat and to these same branches that did not have a Web presence until then, and we hope will lend better assistance to our website visitors. At about the same time, Flora took on the responsibilities of answering the general IFOR email correspondence, answering incoming phone calls, producing the newsletter IFOR Youth Opportunities during the months of September and October, and before she had to leave at the end of her internship on 7th of October Flora even took minutes for IFOR's EXCOM and STICHTING meetings, both held here at the Secretariat.



Flora Quittau

Flora says, "I would like to thank you all for these nice 3 months with you. It was a very interesting experience for me and I wish I could stay longer. I think I got a perfect internship and I would like you to

know I got 16/20 for my internship report thanks to the interesting tasks I was in charge of..." ■

e-newsletter

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IFOR in ACTION

IFOR in ACTION #49 will appear in December of 2008, a special edition on peace and nonviolence initiatives in *Europe*. 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 which 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 Europe.

Contact Stan Morris, Editor (s.morris@ifor.org)

BOOK WATCH

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and For All

By Gareth Evans

Hardback \$29.95 £16.99

349 pages

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR "THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT"

"The responsibility to protect is the most important and imaginative doctrine to emerge on the international scene for decades. No one is better placed than Gareth Evans to lead the debate about its scope and application to contemporary crises, such as Darfur, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe. And no one could have done it better than in this comprehensive and sophisticated book."

Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 2004-2008; Chief Prosecutor, International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, 1996-1999

Brussels, 12 September 2008: The International Crisis Group is pleased to announce the release of a new book by its president, Gareth Evans, *The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and for All*, published by Brookings Institution Press.

After the Holocaust, the world vowed it would "never again!" permit such atrocities to occur. Yet many mass atrocity crimes have since gone unchecked, from the killing fields of Cambodia to the machetes of Rwanda to the ongoing nightmare in Darfur. In this new book, International Crisis Group President Gareth Evans shows how the emergence of the new Responsibility to Protect (R2P) norm has fundamentally changed this landscape and can effectively mean an end once and for all to such large scale suffering.

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) concept was born out of the catastrophes in Rwanda and the Balkans in the 1990s and captures a simple and powerful idea. The primary responsibility for protecting its own people from mass atrocity crimes lies with the state itself. State sovereignty implies responsibility, not a license to kill.

But when a state is unwilling or unable to halt or avert such crimes, the wider international community then has a collective responsibility to take appropriate action, not

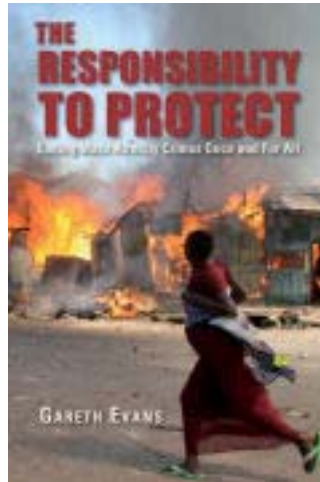
excluding the use of military force in extreme and exceptional cases.

R2P was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly at the 2005 World Summit. But many misunderstandings persist about its scope and limits, compounded by its use and misuse in debates about the appropriate reaction to recent events, for example, in Iraq, Darfur, Myanmar and Georgia. And much remains to be done to solidify political support and to build institutional capacity.

The book examines how big a break R2P represents from the past, and how, with understanding of its scope, and its acceptance in principle and effective application in practice, the promise of "never again!" can at last become a reality.

The Author

Gareth Evans has been President and CEO of the International Crisis Group since 2000, after serving eight years as Australia's Foreign Minister. Evans co-chaired the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty that initiated the Responsibility to Protect concept in 2001, and he was a member of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel in 2004 that successfully proposed its adoption by the 2005 UN World Summit. ■



EVENTS

Peacebuilding: Strengthening Policy and Practice

Birmingham, 17 – 21 November 2008

This course assists participants to identify constructive ways of engaging with the unpredictable and rapidly changing circumstances within which many relief and development agencies work. It focuses on the relationship between policy and practice in complex situations.

BRINGING THE CONFLICT CONTEXT INTO THE PROGRAMME CYCLE

e-newsletter

Responding to Conflict is offering three 2 day courses that will enable programme managers, coordinators and practitioners in the fields of development, humanitarian response, peacebuilding and conflict transformation to bring a conflict sensitive approach into the programme cycle in an easy and practical way.

These courses are designed as a step by step process, each building on the previous one - starting with the planning process, through implementation to the evaluation phase. In each phase, by drawing on the conflict transformation approach, the context will be linked directly with your programme, ensuring best conflict sensitive practice.

Step 1: From Context Analysis to Programme Planning: what about conflict?

London, 21 – 22 January 2009

Step 2: From Analysis to Intervention: what does conflict do to your programme implementation?

London, 16 – 17 February 2009

Step 3: From Intervention to Impact Assessment: what is your programme doing to the conflict context?

London, 16 – 17 March 2009

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Email: rebecca@respond.org

Find out more about RTC at: www.respond.org ■

'What can I do for Peace?'

Fellowship of Reconciliation - Scotland

At work or at school, in my church or local community...
in my world

FOR Scotland's Annual Conference will take place from 29-31st May 2009 at St. Drostan's Lodge, Tarfside, Glenesk, Angus - in the heart of the most beautiful of the Angus glens.

The venue is family friendly and the conference programme all age. All accompanied children come free - students half price. The cost for adults is £65 for the weekend (Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime)

A full programme will be available in a few months time but please reserve these dates now - to reserve a place, send a non-refundable deposit of £10 to:

FOR Scotland Annual Conference,
9, Castle Street,
Brechin,
Angus DD9 6JW

Any questions - contact David Mumford at 01356 622708 or email at: dmumford3@btinternet.com ■

NEWS

Dauphins Munzehirwa-Kataliko

On 30 June 2008, the 48th anniversary of the independence of the DR Congo, the group DAUPHINS Munzehirwa Kataliko launched a campaign for the youth of Bukavu for a citizens' active participation in the reconstruction of countries emerging from war with These days more than 4millions ds dead.

A conference was held in the Catholic parish of Kadutu or debate on citizen participation of youth in the reconstruction has aroused concerns of youth engagement being hope of the nation.

A film projection took place on the same day Mungu consistent with this theme followed by a rich debate.

Other programmes are ongoing and began in octob.retenons that the youth of showing a concern accompanying this post-conflict period.

A framework for vacationers to come close in the hill-ISDR BUGABO in favor of 76 children from 7 to 13ans, from 17 July to 23 August 2008, and each time 8H at 13h from Monday to Friday.

Eight coaches coaches had to guide the children in games, lesbricollages, hits, songs and dances, film forum, and especially animation on Active Nonviolence.

Contact:+ 2243 998667132 +243 853144160 OU, dauphinsmk@yahoo.fr; dauphinsmunzehirwakataliko@yahoo.fr ■

World Council of Churches

END BAN ON AID, STIPULATE ECUMENICAL LEADERS HAILING ZIMBABWE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has joined with a coalition of church organizations calling for an end to restrictions which have banned humanitarian aid distributions in Zimbabwe. In a statement issued yesterday by the WCC, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, World Student Christian Federation, World Alliance of YWCAs and World Alliance of YMCAs congratulated Zimbabwean and African leaders involved in current negotiations for signing a memorandum of understanding to continue discussions over the future of Zimbabwe. At the same time the letter said steps need to be taken to end the ban on distributing humanitarian aid, end all forms of political violence and intimidation and create an environment for true healing and reconciliation.

Full text of the letter:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/?id=6159>

WCC member churches in Zimbabwe:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/?id=4654>

Additional information: Juan Michel,+41 22 791 6153

+41 79 507 6363, media@wcc-coe.org ■

OPPORTUNITIES

**UNOY Peacebuilders
INTERNS POSITIONS
Fall-Winter 2008**

UNOY Peacebuilders internships offer young people an opportunity to have work experience in the field of peace-building, join an enthusiastic international team, learn new skills and be in contact with youth and organizations from around the world.

Important notice: at this moment we can offer internships only to legal residents or citizens of the EU.

e-newsletter

Unpaid positions and internships: We cover simple lunch and small work related travel expenses within the Netherlands. Volunteers receive in house training and are fully part of the team in the office. Below some of our current positions:

Advocacy Programme
Officer
Minimum 32 – 40 hours a week
Minimum 5 months
Starting: as soon as possible

African Student Conference
Officer
Minimum 24 - 32 hours a week
Minimum 5 months
Starting: August-September 2008

Minimum 24 - 32 hours a week
Minimum 5 months
Starting immediately

NB: The above positions can be combined and do not exclude other possibilities for internships and/or volunteer activities, please contact us to find out more!

Applications with CV and letter stating your motivation and availability should be directed to:

Ms. Cristiana Conte, Tel +31-703-647799, E-mail: coordinator@unoy.org, www.unoy.org

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions! ■

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Netherlands

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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 non-violence, 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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