

EDITORIAL

With great pleasure we introduce *IFOR in ACTION #52*, "Africa" edition. This issue focuses on *IFOR* actions and 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 *Europe*, we're sure they will be as plentiful. We now call on all our Branches, Groups and Affiliates to send their contributions by Friday, 6 November 2009 for inclusion in *IFOR in ACTION #53*.

— Stan Morris, Editor

**PEACE IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL**

by Makios Phiri

*Peacemaker's perspective*

Walt Whitman once wrote, "Peace is always beautiful". Indeed where there is peace, there is an air of beauty that can not be put in black and white neither can be expressed by any human language.

PEACE IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL.

The challenge arises when one realizes that there are people who have died without experiencing this beauty, we have a generation which might die without experiencing this beauty. More so we have communities and nations who have hardly witnessed this beauty. Still the point remains, Peace is always beautiful.

To think of the bombings taking place in the world, wars that are sprouting like grass, guns being manufactured daily, warlords who make a living out of wars, and poverty that has led many a person to sacrifice peace at the altar of survival, one ends up wondering whether we shall ever experience this beauty called peace.

I write from a background of being destitute of social peace. I have witnessed the most gruesome of human violence where you actually think that trained animals are much better, because they go only as far as their training programs them. Human beings can be so innovative in scheming ways of destroying this beauty called peace yet in public they put on another face of a peace lover.

Even then the point remains, peace is always beautiful. I need it, you need it, and we all need it.

A simple survey of the daily electronic and print media will give an impression that this beauty called peace is being gradually distorted and one wonders if we fail to keep it now what will happen to our children and our grandchil-

dren to come.

It makes me think of Ronald Reagan's one time speech where he says we have a meeting with destiny. If we do not correct things now what will our children say. If they ask us where were we when the beautiful peace was being distorted, what are we going to say. The question of today is for how long we will stand on the terraces while the beautiful peace is being disfigured. It does not need a million people to bring transformation, it does not need a thousand people to bring a shift, it needs a small group of self sacrificing, passionate people to make transforma-

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*Photo: Grandcanyon-Webshot*



*Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe*

*Peace is always beautiful...*

tional history. It needed people like Martin Luther King to have a dream, and history was put in motion. Those in the Christian Pentecostal movement know that it took a group of people in a street called Azusa to bring about the Azusa street revivals that technically brought about the Pentecostal movement.

It takes people like you and me to rise up and protect our beautiful peace. Methinks we are stewards who can not pretend all is well when it is not well.

The crisis is that peace work and peace building appears to have been politicized and commercialized and is now revolving on money and capital. Great social achievements were not made because people had money, were not made because resources were plenty, great social achievements were made because people had a passion and were ready to sacrifice all they had for a cause. My subscription is that peace is a cause worthy of some sacrifice.

e-newsletter

I write from a country that was engaged in a bitter revolutionary war of liberation that took years and took lives, limbs, wealth and property. History tells us students would run away from school to join the war and workers would leave their jobs and professions to go and join the war. What motivated them was not immediate reward but realization of a cause. What we need is to create the passion, to motivate our communities, to explain to our children and a friend how beautiful is peace.

From my background I know what the absence of peace means. Food is not a substitution of peace, wealth can not substitute peace, and education means nothing in the absence of peace.

How true it is, "Peace is always beautiful." I still have a dream.

An effective organization for world peace will be established not through political diplomats around a peace table, but through small concerted community efforts around the world.

PLEASE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER STARTING A SMALL COMMUNITY EFFORT THAT WILL WORK TOWARDS PEACE.

PEACE IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL.

*Peacemaker's perspective is a periodical article written by Makios Phiri, a senior Pastor with a community church in Warren Park, Harare, Zimbabwe and a coordinator of Fellowship of Reconciliation Zimbabwe's Nonviolence Education and Training Program*

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## Praying at Auschwitz

by Richard Deats

On the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War I I, and the beginning of the atomic age, August 1995, the Nipponzan Myoholji, a Japanese Buddhist religious order sent out a call for an eight-month "Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life" that would begin at Auschwitz and end at Hiroshima.

Auschwitz was the nerve center of Hitler's demented plan to exterminate the Jewish people (ninety per cent of the one and a half million persons who died there were Jewish). Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the targets of the first use of atomic bombs—both cities wiped out in lightning flashes that ushered in the atomic age and the nuclear arms race that has spread like a malignant growth across the world.

I joined with two hundred others from many nations who came for the Convocation. For eight days Japanese Buddhist monks and others prayed and fasted on the selection platform where World War II arrivals at Auschwitz- Birkenau met their fate: immediate death or slave labor. At this place of immense cruelty and suffering, the monks prayed during cold December days for an outpouring of great compassion to counter the hate and violence in the world.

On the last night of Hanukkah, to the mournful beat of Buddhist drums. we slowly processed to the infamous entrance to the Auschwitz camp, where the sign over the gate says, "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work brings freedom). In a deeply moving Hanukkah service, German priest Herbert Frohlich played the flute and Julius Lester, African-American Jewish professor, sang a mournful nigun (a wordless Hasidic chant). We lit menorahs—over one hundred of them—and placed them in front of the gate. As the tiny lights blazed in the dark, Rabbi Everett Gendler of Massachusetts reminded us that "the soul is the candle of the Lord" and that all believers are called to let their lights shine to banish the darkness of the world.

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## FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION ZAMBIA

by Kabale Ignatius Mukunto

CONTRIBUTION TO IFOR IN ACTION No. 52

FOR-Zambia is currently implementing an ambitious one year nonviolence project called 'Nonviolence, Sensitisation and Awareness Project [NSAP]. The initiative seeks to contribute to peaceful and culturally nonviolent students and young people in Zambia by increasing Nonviolence Skills and Techniques awareness among students through teacher's empowerment with information. The project is an off-shoot from two successful prior activities implemented by FOR-Zambia in 2007 and 2008, namely Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation [NVCT], which was initially incepted to empower young people and students from the Northern [Copperbelt Region] of Zambia with Conflict Transformation and Nonviolence skills through Training and Information Dissemination.

Two Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation Workshops held in 2007 and 2008 saw a number of Teachers and Students equipped with Active Nonviolence skills and knowledge from its philosophy to practice. The Workshops culminated into the development of a Resource Books for Teachers from Basic and High Schools in the region. Titled Nonviolence: A Practicable Tool - Handbook for young social activists the compilation [currently a working draft] has been developed as part of additional resource for the beneficiaries of the Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation Workshops. Therefore the overall goal of the current Nonviolence Sensitisation and Awareness project is to popularise it and actively engage the teachers as key stakeholders in the institutionalisation of nonviolence as philosophy and practice, especially within the institutions of learning. Further, FORZA has deemed it imperative to concretise teacher's [as custodians of the initiative]'s participation in passing on information to larger populations of students in schools.

Thus far, under the NSAP project, FORZA has held two Intensive Awareness and Consultation Seminars for Teachers from the Copperbelt Region and FORZA Members.

These have been aimed at reviewing and get acquainted with the content of the active nonviolence handbook as well as dealing with all the unanswered questions from the teachers following their use of the materials. Teachers were given the draft resource book early this year. The outcomes from these meetings have been inspiring and stimulating; teachers in the region have provided valuable feedback on the content and mode of delivery and overwhelmingly welcomed the production of the final Nonviolence Resource Handbook and called on FORZA to expe-



Photo: FOR Zambia / NVCT Workshop

dite the editing and/or revision of the publication. FORZA hopes that feedback from other teacher and stakeholders will contribute to the production of a final copy of the handbook in the nearest future. It is anticipated that a fully completed Nonviolence: A Practicable Tool Handbook will be out by 2010 and FORZA hopes to share the publication with other IFOR BGAs in Africa.

The next activity under the NSAP project is a one day "Peace and Nonviolence, Exhibition Day" to be held in July/August 2009. It will be an event for the for schools [participating in the project] based in Kitwe District to come together and exhibit their Peace and Nonviolence skills and knowledge acquired through their teachers who have benefited from the resources by FORZA. The purpose of this day is will be to assess and gauge how effective the proliferation of the Peace and Nonviolence knowledge has been by the teachers and the assimilation by the youths. The presentations will take various forms, including songs,

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**FOR Zambia...**

drama/acting, poem recitals and short visual or pictorial presentations. It is hoped that the one-off activity will bring together students from at least 7 schools to participate and compete in the event and Participating schools will be awarded prizes.

All the activities since 2007 under FORZA's Nonviolence Education and Training Programme including the current NSAP Project have been held in collaboration with the Fellowship of Reconciliation England [FoRE]. Nonviolence activities run alongside another major project by FORZA namely the two year Gender and Peacebuilding Awareness Project [GPBAP] covering activities among others Gender Awareness Workshop for marriage initiators; Gender Perspectives Radio Programme and Gender Sensitisation Seminars for Teachers from Basic and High Schools based in the Copperbelt region.



Photo: FOR Zambia / FORZA Group Work

*The Fellowship of Reconciliation Zambia [FORZA] is a non-profit, non-political and nongovernmental organisation. It is a national, spiritually-based movement of people who, from the basis of a belief in the power of love and truth to create justice and restore community, commit themselves to active non-violence as a way of life and as a means of transformation, personal, social, economic and political.*

FORZA is a branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation [IFOR] based in Alkmaar, the Netherlands. The organisation, initially accepted as the Youth Forum for Peace and Justice [YFPJ] in 1999, was forged to equip men and women with peacebuilding skills and non-violent approaches to conflict resolution in three core areas: Non-violence Education and Training [NVETP], Women Peacemakers [WPP] and the Youth Empowerment and Children's rights [YEP/CR] programmes.

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## WPP AFRICA DESK IN MOTION (2009)

by Euphemia A. Dzathor

*"The International Colloquium sought to empower women to be more effective leaders..."*

The Africa Desk of Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) was established in Accra, Ghana in July 2007, following a decentralizing process within IFOR-WPP, to contextualize the program to the peculiar needs of the African continent. The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding has been the

March 2009. The event was graced with the presence of a wide array of dignitaries including Michelle Jean (Governor-General of Canada), Luisa Dias Diogo (Prime Minister of Mozambique), Angela Merkel (Chancellor of Germany), and Veronica Michelle Bachelet (President of Chile).

The International Colloquium sought to empower women to be more effective leaders by linking with their peers from around the world and sharing and implementing best practices on economic empowerment, influencing climate change and sustainable development. The Colloquium was also conceptualized to promote progress on women's leadership on peace and security and women's leadership

e-newsletter



Photo: WPP African Desk / FROM RIGHT TO LEFT - Isabella Geuskens (Programs Manager – WPP, Netherlands), Euphemia Akos Dzathor (Regional Coordinator – Africa Desk of the WPP), Lucy Awuni (deputy-Minister for Upper East Region: Ghana); SEEN BEHIND 1ST ROW – Crystal Tettey (Program officer – WPP Africa Desk)

proud host of the African Desk to date.

The Desk has been engaged in empowering African women through initiating activities around active nonviolence to provide women with skills to increase people power to demand effective change.

In March of this year the Africa Desk made a grand showing at the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, which was co-convened by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Finnish President Tarja Halonen. The colloquium was held in Liberia from the 7th to the 8th

and empowerment in general.

The specific goals of the 2-day meeting were to

- Empower women to be more effective leaders by linking with their peers from around the world and sharing best practices.
- Support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Contribute to the Achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women including building the capacity and resources of government and non-governmental institutions to work for

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*WPP African Desk...*

women's rights and economic empowerment.

- Demonstrate the clear gender dimensions of climate change, environment protection and sustainable development.
- Launch the Angie Brooks International Centre on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, Peace and Security in Monrovia to support the implementation of action emerging from the Colloquium through, inter alia, training research.

Highlights of the Monrovia Colloquium included the sod-cutting of The Angie Brooks International Center (to serve

Aimee Esperance Matungulu (Coordinator of COFERD) in DR Congo dwelt on her organization's contribution to curbing rape and other forms of sexual and gender based violence going on in the DR Congo. With support from WPP Africa Desk she had held several training to raise the consciousness of the police and other security agencies to enable them understand the issues of rape as a war tactic and how to handle both victims and perpetrators appropriately.

Jeanne Bitsure, a Burundian educationist and facilitator, provided participants with an overview of the context of the



*Photo: WPP African Desk / Participants at the Annual Consultation Meeting – held in Nairobi*

as an implementation mechanism for the program of action emerging from the Colloquium). The Liberian National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 was also launched.

The Desk organized a side event in the Peace tent coordinated by International Women's Tribune Centre. Four women of the WPP Africa Desk network delivered presentations on their contributions to peacebuilding in their respective countries.

Lucy Awuni who is also Deputy-Regional Minister in Ghana spoke about how local women are using nonviolent techniques to contribute to peace building in the over eighty-year ethnic and chieftaincy conflict in the Bawku District of her region.

Burundian conflict. She then spoke on her organization of workshops and training sessions (such as a "Workshop on the Evaluation and Capitalization of the MDG Awareness Project" and a "Gender, Active Non-Violence and environment" training, and her active involvement in overall grassroots sensitization and empowerment of women in Burundi. She also spoke on the challenges and successes in the implementation of peacebuilding and security action plans in general, and in particular the WPP / Burundi Action Plan, which has for its objective the promotion of Gender, Active Non-Violence and Environmental protection.

Margie Mavudzi (Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe) spoke about the campaign of the women to end the political stalemate in Zimbabwe.

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*WPP African Desk...*

**WPP AFRICA DESK CONSULTS WITH NETWORK AND BOARD MEMBERS**

An Annual Consultative Meeting for WPP Trainers, Trainees and Mentors was held in Kenya from the 30th of March to Wednesday, the 1st of April 2009. It was a large meeting of African women peacemakers. The 43 African women peacemakers were made up of

- Alumni of the ToTs held for the Greater Horn and Central Africa regions, (27)
- Mentors (3)
- Trainers (5)
- Board members (5)
- The African Rep on the IFOR International Board (Vololona Razafindrainibe) (1)
- Staff of the Africa Desk (2)

All together it was a meeting of women peacemakers from 12 of the 52 countries of Africa, namely, Sudan, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Rwanda, Eritrea, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

The main goal of the three-day meeting was to strengthen ongoing strategic networking and collaborations among participants in order to review past ToTs and document key lessons and best practices for future. Most importantly, the meeting culminated in the review of Desk's Training Manual

**WEST AFRICA ToT**

In line with the Desk's commitment build networks in all regions of Africa, to the enhance women's skills in gender and active non violence. To transform societies for peace, the WPP Africa Desk held yet another sub-regional Training of Trainers (ToT) in Gender and Active Non-violence, for West Africa, from the 4th to the 15th of May, 2009 in Accra, Ghana. This is the third Regional ToT held after that of the Central Africa was in Burundi in April 2008 and that of the Greater Horn of Africa held in Kenya in November 2007.

In all, 20 participants (19 women and 1 man) representing 11 West African countries namely Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Nigeria, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Benin.

Topics for discussion included Nonviolence and Gender, Fundraising skills, Women in leadership and International Bills and Conventions on the women's rights. Comparisons on country-by-country ratifications and applications of relevant declarations such as UNSCR 1325 also took place.

Participants developed training projects to replicate the training on their return to their respective countries. Sev-

enteen follow up trainings with mentorship support were carried out in the eleven countries in June 2009 as shown below .

- Ghana, 3
- Liberia, 2
- Cote d'Ivoire, 1
- Senegal, 1
- Guinea Bissau, 1
- Guinea Conakry, 1
- Mali, 1
- Benin, 1
- Sierra Leone 1,
- Togo 2
- Nigeria 3

Varied themes were handled such as "Gender and Non-Violence Training for Ogoni Women Leaders in Rivers State", "Gender and Non-Violence Training in Lagos State", "Leadership training for the Bewat women in Makurdi, Benue state" (Nigeria), "Empowerment for Grassroots women leaders" (Senegal).

**Networking and alliance building**

On the 2nd of June 2009, Euphemia Akos Dzathor, Africa Regional Coordinator participated in an International Video Conference to dialogue between Ghanaian women Gender advocates and their American counterparts. This conference was held on the premises of the American Embassy in Accra, Ghana.

Issues discussed focused on

1. The significance of the four United Nations' World Conferences on Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on Women's Development and Gender Equality
2. How the UN has served as a vehicle for global governance and global public policy on women
3. How the "Twelve critical areas of Concern" identified in the Beijing Platform of Action as Violence against Women, and Public policy / legislation enacted to address women's right to a violence-free life.

The WPP Africa Desk is expected to participate in the International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) Strategy session on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1820) on Women, Peace and Security to be held in New York on July 24th, 2009. The Desk Coordinator, Euphemia Akos Dzathor, will deliver a presentation on the current situation in Ghana and other parts of West Africa in relation to conflict and post-conflict related sexual violence.

Euphemia Akos Dzathor will also make recommendations

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**WPP African Desk...**

on response programs for survivors of sexual violence. Further, the WPP will have the unique opportunity to meet with IWTC's NGO partners including the NGO working Group on Women, Peace and Security

**Up coming activities**

Third quarter activities include

1-week international orientation internship visit for two young African women peace activists to overseas peace organizations (August 2009),

5-day Advocacy skills training for 20 African Gender and Nonviolence women peacemakers from 11th to 17th September, 2009. It is This training is aimed at increasing the number of African women advocating and lobbying to influence policies on peace and security issues at different levels of society (community, national and continental.

*In order to build regional capacity, ensure sustainable and culturally sensitive women's programming, and to strengthen South-South and North-South links among peacebuilders, two Regional Desks have been established for the promotion of gender-sensitive nonviolence training.*



*Official Launch of the Africa Desk*

*The Africa Regional Desk became operational in June 2007. It has developed a three year Strategic plan. 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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**Praying at Auschwitz...**

While the candles burned, a few drops of rain fell like tears of God and of those who died there, calling us to cry out: Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it down. Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up. (Isaiah 45.8)"

Later in the week we visited the barracks and crematoria of the vast killing fields that stretched to the horizon. We remembered those who suffered and died in the Holocaust—Jews, Poles, Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others who incurred the wrath of the Third Reich. American Rabbi Sheila Weinberg said Kaddish (the prayer for the dead) at Crematorium III. As we sang and prayed and wept, candles of remembrance were lit "for my father, Julius Fleish"; "for a kind Gypsy woman who always gave people cigarettes"; "for my fellow Jesuits, fifty of whom died here"; "for my aunts Greta and Freda."; "for those with no one left to remember them"; "for all future generations who were not born." Rabbi Weinberg reminded us that "the one who destroys one life, it is as if he had destroyed the world; the one who saves one life, it is as if she had saved the world."

On a brass plaque at Auschwitz are the often quoted words of George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet our addiction to violence and war against one another and against the Earth has not been broken, nor has the callousness that turns away from the suffering of our brothers and sisters, whether across the hall, across the tracks or across the world. Let us pray that we will turn to compassion and make our lives a pilgrimage for Life.

*About the author:*

*Richard Deats worked for the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) from 1972 until his retirement on June 30, 2005. Richard's books include Nationalism and Christianity in the Philippines, Ambassador of Reconciliation: A Muriel Lester Reader, and How to Keep Laughing Even Though You've Considered All the Facts. ■*

## FOOL THAT I AM

by Amos Gvirtz

*The Bedouins in Israel have committed a terrible crime: they dared to be born Bedouins...*

For the past eight years, nearly, I have been taking an active part in the struggle for the rights of Bedouins in their unrecognized villages in the Negev, and yet I did not participate in the demonstrations protesting the Kahane racist-extremists' visit in Rahat (Bedouin town). On the other hand, I recently visited the Bedouin village Twayel Abu-Jarwal in the Negev, two days after its demolition for the n-th time by agents of the State, officials of the Ministry of the Interior and the Israel Land Administration.

el's governments will not let up until they leave - 'willfully'. Now I might be prosecuted for inciting against the State of Israel. After all, the government has never declared this as its purpose. It built them townships where they are entitled to build their houses legally, where they do have running water, electricity, schools, clinics, roads, sanitation etc. But all this they get after being expelled, for the most part, and dispossessed of their lands.

In order to bequeath them with all of its bounty, the State demolishes their homes and villages, destroys their crops, expropriates their flocks, denies them water, power, roads, etc. And these Bedouins – how foolish of them... – hold on to the remains of their lands and refuse to be urbanized. They do not realize that progress lies in those townships, and insist on maintaining their life in agrarian villages. And



Not the Kahanists expelled the Bedouins in 1948 and in the 1950s, but rather the agents of the Government of Israel, led by Mapai (Labor party). Not the Kahanists expelled the Bedouins from their villages, robbed their lands and enclosed them in the restricted 'Sayag' area, but rather the national leadership of the young Jewish State. Not the National Unity party led the government that denied the Bedouins their right to construct their homes, and be supplied with water, power, education, health services etc. – the government led by the Labor party did all of that. Not Kahanists are the ones conducting the current campaign of destruction of Bedouins' homes in the unrecognized villages – it is Israeli government officials who do that.

Not Kahanists destroy Bedouins' crops – Israeli government officials do that. Not Kahanists expropriate the Bedouins' livestock – Israeli government officials do that too. If Kahanists were to murder Bedouin citizens of Israel, officers of the Israel police would be assigned to flush out the perpetrators and bring them to trial. But when police officers are the killers, the Israel police are assigned to defend them and prevent their prosecution and sentencing at court.

The Bedouins in Israel have committed a terrible crime: they dared to be born Bedouins in the Jewish nation-state! And for this crime they are paying.

The persecution that Bedouins suffer at the hands of Isra-

those who have been fortunate enough to receive the blessings of progress from the state, in those townships, enjoy record unemployment and crime rates... How foolish.

And fool that I am, think that it is not progress that the State grants them, but rather dispossession of the remains of their lands, so that these lands finally pass over to Jewish hands. Because after all this is the Jewish nation-state in which we live. And the Kahanists merely yell out loud precisely that which the state has been carrying out on the sly. Not a single newspaper in Israel has publicized the demolition of an entire village for the 25th time in one of its inner pages. After all, these are merely Bedouins.

But when the Kahanists display their loud provocations, and require that the State do what it has been doing in any case, the media are full of them. And I, fool that I am, do not get it...

*Amos Gvirtz is an Israeli Peace Activist from Kibbutz Kibbutz Sheffayim on the Mediterranean, north of Tel Aviv. He is a founder of Palestinians and Israelis for Non-Violence, a former (2003) member of the Steering Committee of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and chairperson of the Committee Against House Demolitions.*

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**Secretariat  
UPDATE!**

*We are happy to announce a new column called the "Secretariat Update." In this section you will learn from IFOR's Executive Director John Schot more about what's happening at the IFOR Secretariat in Alkmaar, NL.*



by John Schot

Dear friend of the fellowship

As is becoming a habit, herewith update of the secretariat by its Executive Director. Most exiting news in the last month is of course the conference "Finding Common Ground" organized by IFOR especially with the help of its previous president Jonathan Sisson. Not only gained it a lot of publicity, it was also opened by his holiness the Dalai Lama. In the true spirit of the International Fellowship, Chinese and

Tibetan intellectuals were looking for common ground to re-start the dialogue between Tibet and the Chinese government. The conference took pace in Geneva, Switzerland. IFOR made valuable contact with Chinese civil society organizations, something we would like to move into in the



upcoming year.

In short, the Secretariat is doing well, it is in the process of compiling the follow-ups proposals of the Women Peacemakers Program as well as the Non-Violent Education program (managed by Eva Fuessinger). But to be honest, these are hard times. Less and less money becomes available for civil society organizations worldwide. More and more organizations seem to apply. Quality and impact is the buzz at the moment. With a peace building organization, it is not always easy to prove its effectiveness. The secretariat however continues its endeavors

Let me close off with welcoming the French trainee Emeline Boulanger in our midst. She will work for the coming four months on especially the translation of the Annual Report. It is good to have a native French speaker in regards to all our French BGA's.

Yours in peace,

Johannes ■



*Photos: Richard Juilliart / (above) John Schot pictured greeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama, (left) Jonathan Sisson.*

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IFOR in ACTION**

IFOR in ACTION #53 will appear in December of 2009, 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 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 especially hope to hear from Branches, Groups and Affiliates located in Europe.

**Contact Stan Morris, Editor ([s.morris@ifor.org](mailto:s.morris@ifor.org))**

BOOK WATCH

## Long Time Passing

by Susan Galleymore

### Mothers Speak about War and Terror

Author Susan Galleymore, the mother of a U.S. soldier made international headlines by taking the extraordinary and even dangerous step of travelling to Iraq to visit her son stationed on a military base in the so-called Sunni Triangle, north of Baghdad...

"As I wrote in Long Time Passing, when "my son was deployed to Afghanistan in 2003 I awoke from nightmares almost every night: the knock on the door, uniformed military personnel on the doorstep, "We're sorry to inform you...", images of my son disabled like the soldier in Johnny Got His Gun, bombs raining on a family's home while a mother screamed out her children's names...."

"My first real encounter with the vast horror that is war was meeting Holocaust survivors when I was a child. Then I had reacted by imagining how I would steel myself for hearing the worst news. But now, try as I might, I couldn't hold for more than a few seconds the thought of my own child's direct involvement: the pain was overwhelming. I couldn't imagine how mothers could—how I might have to—adjust to the unthinkable: the death or maiming of a beloved child, the nightmare vision of that child killing or maiming others."

"As an adult immigrant to the United States I didn't grasp that my own children were candidates for military recruitment. Surely, I thought, a volunteer military was, well, voluntary. I was unaware of, so did not consider, the marketing efforts and exorbitant amounts of money the US military poured into maintaining the veneer of "volunteer".

"It wasn't as if I didn't know about war trauma: my family has generations of conscripts: the British Raj, the Boer War, World War II, and the South African Defense Force. So, when my son returned from Afghanistan and three months later deployed to Iraq, I was determined to alert him to the psychological implications of war...and to learn from Iraqi families about their lives in a beloved land that had become a war zone.

"What I learned in Iraq in 2004 drove me to re-evaluate the various histories I'd learned ... and to adjust my worldview based on the realities that civilians described about the root causes and effects of war in their lands.

"For, each one of us is a sojourner on this earth...and it is up to each one of us to surface our basic assumptions,



evaluate our worldviews, and reach out to one another with open questions - and listen to and evaluate the answers - rather than simply accept policy positions, political strategies, and polemics."

—Susan Galleymore

*Susan Galleymore continues to share the stories of those affected by war as founder of MotherSpeak, host of Raising Sand Radio, and G.I. Rights counselor. With colleague Peter Dunlap, founder of Center for Political Development, she conducts workshops for effective progressive politics and leadership. She also conducts trips to the countries discussed in the book to meet local people, deepen cultural sensitivity and awareness, and create networks for peace.*

(c) 2009. Long Time Passing: Mothers Speak about War and Terror; 2008 - 2009

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<http://mothersspeakaboutwarandterror.org/> ■

EVENTS

**What are you doing on the International Day of Peace 2009?**

The 21st of September, the UN International Day for Conflict Prevention is coming up in less than two months. As in previous years, GPPAC tries to stimulate everyone to celebrate the day as they see fit, because we would like to spread the knowledge about the day as much as possible!

Have you already thought about doing something to celebrate the day? If you are arranging an event to commemorate the day, and you would like to share the idea with the rest of the world, please let us know your plans. We are getting ready to come out with this year's first e-bulletin dedicated to the International Day of Peace, and so we are collecting materials for it.

To have an announcement of your event on our webpage and in the e-bulletins, please send information about what you are doing, where and who is involved to me, Chiara Massaroni at [pbp@conflict-prevention.net](mailto:pbp@conflict-prevention.net).

Chiara Massaroni

Awareness Raising and Communication Unit European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) Global Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

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**World March**

The World March will begin in New Zealand on October 2, 2009, the anniversary of Gandhi's birth, declared the "International Day of Nonviolence" by the United Nations. It will conclude in the Andes Mountains (Punta de Vacas, Aconcagua, Argentina) on January 2, 2010.

The March will last 90 days, three long months of travel. It will pass through all climates and seasons, from the hot summer of the tropics and the deserts, to the winter of Siberia. The American and Asian stages will be the longest, both almost a month. A permanent base of a hundred people of different nationalities will complete the journey.

The moment has come for the voiceless to be heard! Out of agonizing and urgent need, millions of human beings are crying out for an end to wars and violence.

We can make that happen by uniting all the forces of pacifism and active non-violence worldwide.  
When

This is a march by and for the people, with hopes of reaching most of the world's population. For this reason we are asking all media to spread the word about this journey around the world for Peace and Non-violence.

What is going to happen

As it passes through cities there will be all kinds of forums, conferences and events (sporting, cultural, social, etc.) that will be organised according to the local initiatives that are emerging.

At this time hundreds of projects have already been set in motion by different individuals and organizations.

What are our goals and objectives

To denounce the dangerous world situation that is leading us closer and closer to nuclear war, which would be the greatest catastrophe in human history – a dead end.

To give a voice to the majority of world citizens who want peace. Although the majority of the human race opposes the arms race, we are not sending out a unified signal. Instead we are letting ourselves be manipulated by a powerful minority and suffering the consequences. The time has come to stand together and show our opposition.

To achieve: the worldwide eradication of nuclear weapons; the immediate withdrawal of invading troops from occupied territories; the progressive and proportional reduction of conventional weapons; the signing of non-aggression treaties among nations and the renunciation by governments of war as a way to resolve conflicts.

To expose the many other forms of violence (economic, racial, sexual, religious...) that are currently hidden or disguised by their perpetrators; and to provide a way for all who suffer such violence to be heard.

To create global awareness - as has already happened with environmental issues - of the urgent need to condemn all forms of violence and bring about real Peace.

Join a multitude of others in sending a clear signal, and your voice will have to be heard!

Website: [www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org) ■

e-newsletter

NEWS

**FORUM FÜR FRIEDENSERZIEHUNG**

Activities of FOR Switzerland, Swiss German branch, through autumn include:

1. Campaign 'Time for Reconciliation' (21.9. - 2nd oct 09)  
Forum für Friedensziehung took the initiative to assemble a coalition of Swiss peace organisations, which jointly launched the time for reconciliation project. We also publish a calender with different peace events of the participating organisations.

2. SERPAJ-Tournee. In the frame of this campaign Forum für Friedensziehung organizes a tournee with some SERPAJ-representatives - amongst them, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, nobel peace prize winner 1980 - in Basel, Luzern, Zürich, Bern and St.Gallen, between the 25 - 28th Sept. 2009.

3. Report of our Reconciliation March on Easter 2009:

On Easter our branch took the lead to organize a large Pilgrimage March to remember a dark period in our history: Switzerland closed 1938 during the Naziterror its borders for Jewish refugees trying to escape from Hitlers Germany and Austria. Several thousands of persecuted people were refused and indirectly delivered to the Nazi Gestapo. But some courageous people and even the chief of police in St. Gallen, Paul Grüninger, disrespected the inhuman order and helped refugees to secretly cross the border. So more then 1500 people were saved. Paul Grüninger lost his job and was condemned for that, and only after his death some ten years ago was he rehabilitated.

In memory of the 70 years since, 350 people marched and visited the places at the border near the Rhein, where refugees passed the frontier.

Two eyewitnesses of helpers from the Austrian side told us, how they helped the Jews to get to the other side. But the marchers also stopped at a prison, where today refugees are incarcerated before sending them back to their countries.

Our former minister of government, Ruth Dreyfuss, called to act according to our own conscience, even recurring to Civil disobedience against unjust laws if necessary.

Ueli Wildberger

Website: <http://www.friedenserziehung.ch> ■

**INNATE**



**NONVIOLENT NEWS**

Nonviolence and campaigning news from INNATE

**Free Gaza boat hijacked**

There were two Irish people among the twenty-one on board the Free Gaza Movement boat 'Spirit of Humanity' bringing humanitarian supplies (medicine, toys and olive trees) to Gaza when the boat was boarded by Israeli forces while still in international waters on 30th June. Those on board were arrested (or kidnapped as it was still in international waters) and taken to detention in Israel, and the boat commandeered. The Irish people on board were Derek Graham from Co Mayo, the first mate, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead Maguire. See <http://www.freegaza.org> and also <http://www.indymedia.ie>

**Rosspport rumbles; arrestees denied bail**

The situation at Rosspport continues to rumble on. On 29th June seven Shell to Sea protestors were refused bail for minor public order offences despite the fact none had previous convictions (two others were allowed bail but have to stay out of Mayo); "five were arrested for a lock-on, one for a climbing a tripod, and three others for walking across a road". See [www.indymedia.ie](http://www.indymedia.ie) for details. Also if you are interested in going as a human rights observer contact [olavoice1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:olavoice1@yahoo.co.uk)

**Hiroshima Day in Dublin**

Irish CND plans to hold its annual Hiroshima Day commemoration on Thursday 6th August at 1.00 p.m. at the memorial cherry tree in Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Get in touch for more details - we would love to hear from new supporters. We can be reached by email at [irishcnd@gmail.com](mailto:irishcnd@gmail.com) or by post at P.O. Box 6327, Dublin 6.

**New Corrymeela Centre director**

The newly appointed director of the Corrymeela Community's centre at Ballycastle is Paul Hutchinson, in succession to Ronnie Millar. Paul is currently a Director of Im- agined Spaces which specialises in community relations work. He is a Senior Associate with Mediation NI, currently doing work in the North West of England and has been an Authorised Officer of the Parades Commission. He will be undertaking the post from around the start of August. See <http://www.corrymeela.org>

INNATE - the Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education

Email: [innate@ntlworld.com](mailto:innate@ntlworld.com)

Website: <http://www.innatenonviolence.org> . ■

e-newsletter

OPPORTUNITIES

**UNOY Peacebuilders**

CALL FOR INTERNS POSITIONS 2009

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is a network of youth organisations active in the field of peacebuilding. Its Secretariat is based in The Hague, The Netherlands and is run by an international team of interns and volunteers.

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

On an ongoing basis, we offer volunteer and internship positions. Please note that some of these positions may be combined. Below you find current internship positions that recently opened up:

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer  
Minimum: 16 hours a week  
Starting: as soon as possible  
Minimum: 5 months (September-January)  
Deadline: as soon as possible

Web Developer  
Minimum: part time or full time  
Starting: as soon as possible  
Minimum: flexible  
Deadline: September 2009

Database Volunteer (MS Access)  
Minimum: part time or full time  
Starting: as soon as possible  
Minimum: flexible  
Deadline: ongoing

African Desk Officer  
Minimum: 32 hours  
Starting: mid-August  
Minimum: 5 months (Aug – 31 Dec)  
Deadline: immediately!

Applications for the positions or questions should be directed by email [vacancy@unoy.org](mailto:vacancy@unoy.org) or telephone number +31-703-647799.

More info: <http://www.unoy.org/about/vacancies.html> ■

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**The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)** was founded in 1919 and now has member organizations in over 48 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](http://www.ifor.org).

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