

International Fellowship of Reconciliation

Annual Report



2010

ifor



International Fellowship of Reconciliation
Internationaler Versöhnungsbund
Mouvement International de la Réconciliation
Movimiento Internacional de la Reconciliación



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Cover: Photo courtesy by *Tudur Dylan Jones*. The picture shows Marika Fusser, Coordinator of *Cymdeithas y Cymod* (FOR Wales), during the annual pilgrimage to Mynydd Epynt, an upland area in Wales within the county of Powys. In 1941 the British Army forced a Welsh speaking farming community of 219 people to leave in order to enable the establishment of an army training area. This year the focus of the pilgrimage was to raise awareness of the use of “drones” (unmanned robot aircraft) test flying to the military training range at Epynt from the Aberporth air base in western Wales. Over 100 members attended the nonviolent protest and wrote the names of innocent civilians killed by the drones on the false graves in the mock village built by the army on the Epynt range. The peace flags were then raised over this empty village used to train in urban fighting.

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When love starts

When love starts.
Human beings will reach the stars.

When guns stop killing and talking.
When Gandhis start walking.

When on earth war ends.
When social and economic justice become our friends.

When compassion starts.
Human beings will reach the stars.

Nonviolence is a way of life.
When smiles tell us that we are all alike.

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October 2011

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About IFOR

Introduction

Founded in 1914 in response to the horrors of war in Europe, IFOR has taken a consistent stance against war and its preparation throughout its history. Perceiving the need for healing and reconciliation in the world, the founders of IFOR formulated a vision of the human community based upon the belief that love in action has the power to transform unjust political, social, and economic structures.

Members

Today IFOR counts 80 branches, groups, and affiliates in 48 countries on all continents. Although organized on a national and regional basis, IFOR seeks to overcome the divisions which are often the source of conflict and violence. Its membership includes adherents to all the major spiritual traditions as well as those who have other spiritual sources for their commitment to nonviolence.

Vision

IFOR members share a vision of a world where conflicts are resolved through nonviolent means, where systems that foster fear and hatred are dismantled, and where justice is sought as a basis for peace. While coming from diverse spiritual backgrounds, IFOR members share a common belief in the transforming power of nonviolence and reconciliation.

How IFOR works

IFOR members carry out public education efforts, organize training programs, and coordinate campaigns. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation provides encouragement and support to people throughout the world who are promoting nonviolence in their home communities and nations.

Its members primarily work together through their local branches and groups. Representatives from these organizations meet every four years at an IFOR Council in various countries (last held in Baarlo, the Netherlands, November 2010), to decide on policies and develop international programs. An elected International Committee meets regularly

between Councils to oversee the implementation of these decisions.

The IFOR International Secretariat in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, coordinates communication among IFOR members, links branches to capacity-building resources, provides training in gender awareness (through WPP), and helps coordinate international campaigns, delegations and urgent actions.

IFOR has extensive working relationships with like-minded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society initiatives around the world. IFOR's nearly 100 years of expertise in active nonviolence is recognized and respected by these NGOs and many others.

**Say Yes!
to Active
Nonviolence!
and
Support IFOR.**

(see page 47)

Representation

IFOR maintains permanent representatives at the United Nations (UN) in New York, Geneva and Vienna who regularly participate in conferences and meetings of UN bodies, providing testimony and expertise from different regional perspectives, promoting nonviolent alternatives in the fields of human rights, development, and disarmament. IFOR has had special consultative status to the United Nations with ECOSOC since 1979 and is also represented at UNESCO.

Nobel Peace Prizes

IFOR has six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates among its former and present members. Jane Addams (1931), Emily Green Balch (1946), Chief Albert Luthuli (1960), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964), Máiread Corrigan-Maguire (1976), and Adolfo Perez Esquivel (1980) who have all been or are actively contributing to dissemination of the teaching of Nonviolence.

Foreword



The UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World ended in 2010. It was also the final year of the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence, proclaimed by the World Council of Churches and covering the same period (2001 - 2010).

According to the Civil Society Report on the Decade, the top priority of civil society organizations throughout the world's regions was the promotion of a culture of peace through education. This corresponds to the first area mentioned on the UN list of activities for promoting a culture of peace. Peace education programs in many forms have multiplied everywhere. No less than 1054 organizations have reported, 147 of whom are international organizations. There are countless more across the world and acting locally.

Looking at the reports of the Decade, one is compelled to ask why it is that education has received such high levels of attention whereas democratic participation and sustainable economic and social development are the lowest on the list. Ironically and thankfully, developments beyond the control of governments and NGOs have led to a significant increase in attention to democratic participation: uprisings in North Africa and the so-called Arab Spring on the one hand, and Wikileaks on the other, have brought home the fact that the ways nations are being run and ruled must and can change. We began to learn before the Decade that the world is unconquerable, and we realized during the Decade that war is still high on the list of many rulers and businesses. One of the conclusions is that it is not so much because people hate each other that there is war, but because it serves the interests of a few who are controlling and exploiting many. One is compelled to ask whether and in what way peace education has contributed to overcome war.

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation is one of the oldest collective actors against war, as its origins go back to the days right before World

War I. IFOR's original aim and ambition was high: overcoming war and promoting reconciliation through active nonviolence grounded in love and complete respect of human rights and dignity. IFOR's members believe that active nonviolence and reconciliation are essential parts of building a culture of peace. That is far more than telling children and adults to be friendly and tolerant, although these two are important in a culture of peace.

IFOR's branches and associated groups across the world are indeed involved in promoting a culture of peace through education, as this annual report documents. But they also are involved in promoting human rights, an effort that cannot be disconnected from promoting democratic participation and sustainable development. The latter is today not inhibited by natural disaster but by war economies and lack of democratic and participatory process. Both of these are more necessary for a sustainable future.

The Civil Society Report on the Decade also states that the International Criminal Court has largely been inspired by civil society engagement. That is encouraging and an indication that real and essential change is instigated from below. Democratic participation requires transparency. Those in power, be it political or economic, are to be held accountable.

Whatever the achievements of the Decade, the work of building a culture of peace, or better, cultures of peace, has really only begun. It takes more than a thousand NGOs working on peace education to accomplish it. IFOR as a worldwide network, embodying indeed a large number of individuals and groups committed and engaged locally, plays a significant role not only in promoting peace, but in acting as participants of civil society and in applying the rule of law and the practice of love.

Hans Ulrich Gerber, President of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation

1 AROUND THE MOVEMENT

1.1 Statement of Purpose

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is an international, 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 nonviolence as a way of life and as a means of personal, social, economic and political transformation. By the end of 2010 IFOR counted 80 member-organizations in 48 different countries, on all continents, among its membership.

1.2 IFOR Council and New Members

In November 2010 IFOR's Quadrennial Council met in Baarlo, the Netherlands where representatives of IFOR Branches, Groups (by invitation) and Affiliates (BGAs) met together. The international Council is the main governing body of IFOR. During Council a new International Committee (ICOM) and Representative Consultative Committee (RCC) were elected (consult Section 5.1 and 5.2 for more details).



Council Participants 2010


It is not often that we have the opportunity to welcome new members to the IFOR family. During the IFOR Council in 2010, we joyously celebrated the induction of two members obtaining branch status.

1. **Association Tchadienne Pour la Nonviolence (ATNV)**, Chad.
ATNV was founded in 1991 and is a human rights organization in Chad which is very active in contributing to the process of reconciliation and in offering for instance trainings on citizenship, nonviolence or human rights.
2. **Organization for Nonviolence and Development (ONAD)**, South Sudan
ONAD follows a vision of “a nonviolent society where every person has access to basic rights and a life in dignity”. As such, the organization “works with marginalized people to

reduce poverty, promote Human Rights and combat HIV/AIDS through training and advocacy”.

Additionally, during Council three members obtained an affiliate status which are:

1. **Peace and Development Foundation - Africa**, Uganda
Founded in 2007, the vision of Peace and Development Foundation - Africa (PDF) is to create a: “A Reconciled, Developed Harmonious Society and Ecosystem”. Their mission is “Building Sustainable Peace through promoting a culture of Nonviolence and Reconciliation”.
2. **Trauma Healing And Reconciliation Services**, Burundi
“Trauma Healing And Reconciliation Services (THARS) is a group of psychosocial practitioners and peacemakers who contribute to healing and peacemaking in Burundi and the Great Lakes Region of Africa.”
3. **Doopsgezind Wereldwerk**, The Netherlands
The Dutch Mennonite Organization for Solidarity and Peace Foundation changed status from a branch to an affiliate of IFOR.



Consult
<http://www.ifor.org/becomemember.htm>
to become an IFOR member or send an email to
office@ifor.org

In the following section an overview is given of the different activities, events and programs organized or initiated in 2010 by some IFOR BGAs from different parts of the world. For a full list of IFOR BGAs please consult: <http://www.ifor.org/members.htm>

1.3 Branches

AFRICA

Association Tchadienne pour la N-V – ATNV, Chad

Activities in 2010 were aimed directly at ATNV departmental officers, farmer leaders, women’s organizations and youth. The indirect beneficiaries were cattle breeders and crop growers. Within the framework of the mediation program between breeders and growers, ATNV organized knowledge building meetings which provided a wealth of information on the conflicts facing breeders and growers in Chad.

Regarding this peace work, it was observed that 80% of the conflicts have been well managed in 2010. On the 382 conflicts recorded, 305 are now resolved. The arrival of new breeders coming from within the authorities and the military prevented the resolution of some of the conflicts.

The reconciliation process which has started in 2005 in the Baté region is still a current issue. ATNV hoped to succeed in reconciling the fighting brothers in 2010, but nothing has changed. However, there is a positive development as, on the one hand, the people of the two sub-prefectures (Koyom and Kim) visit each other on the occasion of a death or wedding, and on the other hand, the people of Kim go without fear to the Koyom hospital. This acceptance of the other has promoted a common meeting based on dialogue between the officials of the Ministry of the Interior and the Administration of the Territory.

ATNV intends to shift strategies of action by organizing an inclusive forum consisting of inhabitants of the region of all social and professional categories, regional and national authorities, religious authorities and other players in the field. The aim is to make constructive recommendations and proposals which will contribute to a move forward in achieving reconciliation. Therefore, ATNV has planned a meeting in 2011 with the chiefs of different villages in a neutral area, in order to redefine the needs and promote an effective reconciliation.

Populations in general and in particular women know their rights as a result of trainings and claim their rights. A direct effect of the trainings is the high participation of women leaders of women's organizations in the general elections of February 2011. Their main challenge is to get the Persons and Family law to be passed, which has been left on the shelf for years. This law will open the door to women's development in Chad.

A commitment within the youth was also observed. The creation of ambassadors of peace clubs in schools and the frequent visits of young people to the Martin Luther King Centre to lead social and educational activities are some good example.

To conclude:

- 109 persons were trained on citizenship and human rights (84 men and 25 women);
- Over 800 women and 1200 men were reached through theatre plays on women's participation in public affairs;
- 300 girls and boys participated in the festival of a culture of peace through music;
- 20 young boys (sons of breeders and crop growers) participated in the peace camp.

Fikambanana Entanin'ny Fampihavanana (FIEFA/MIR-MAD, FOR Madagascar)

2010 has been a year of renewal for FIEFA/MIR-MAD, despite the socio-political crisis as a consequence of the coup d'état leading to poverty, violence, crime and affecting as well the educational system. At the beginning of the year, FIEFA had 7 Regional Committees (RC) throughout Madagascar. These committees had around 4 to 10 members only, as the political disputes which divided families and communities since two years made it difficult to recruit new members. However, FIEFA has tried to hold as far as possible the regular quarterly meetings of the National Board.



From right to left: Botovao Faustin , Management of FIEFA ; Jacques Tronchon, who is a great supporter of FIEFA since its inception in Madagascar; Chantal Razafindravony, National President

Seeing the increasing violence across Madagascar, FIEFA developed a training project to revitalize the existing regional committees and emancipate the movement by creating new ones, through trainings on nonviolence and nonviolent communication to resolve conflicts. At first, FIEFA worked on analyzing the selected social groups to create the new committees, identifying their needs and calling on potential interested members. The project was funded by an international Franciscan organization (Missionszentrale Der Franziskaner, MZF). By doing so, the members of the National Board have also participated in trainings of trainers in order to guide local members in their respective regions.

In this way, FIEFA counts currently 11 Regional Committees: Majunga, Tamatave, Tananarive (includes 2 RC, one is in contact with IFOR Youth Working Group), Antsirabe, Ambositra, Fianarantsoa, Ihosy, Morondava, Soavinandriana and Ampasipotsy.

We hope that the General National Assembly, which is planned to take place at the end of July 2011, will agree on the emancipation of the FIEFA National, and gather the activities which will be undertaken in the regions to promote justice and peace throughout Madagascar. Our challenge will be to persuade donors to fund these activities.

Other activities:

FIEFA has published a quarterly newsletter called BIP (Bulletin Pour la Paix, Newsletter for Peace), to communicate and share experiences between the RCs. The National Board is in charge of the relations with civil society organizations defending human rights, joining their think-tanks and workshops.

FIEFA also collaborates together with organizations working on gender issues.

Participating to the IFOR Council in Baarlo has made FIEFA feel strong, seeing the solidarity shown by peacemakers from all over the world. And FIEFA is proud to have Chantal RAZAFINDRAVONY within the international organization, who has been elected as a member of the IFOR Representative Consultative Committee for Africa next to Moses Monday John from ONAD.

MIR Congo

During 2010, the engagement of MIR Congo remained influenced by the effects of the inter-communal wars that were a repetition of those that the country had known in the recent period of 1993 to 2006. The activities of our four local groups have been oriented accordingly towards reconciliation initiatives between diverse ethnic communities affected by hates and fears. At the same time, to avoid falling back into the armed violence of the pre-democratic era in addition to traditional violence, with other partners, MIR Congo also worked on the prevention of conflicts.

Education for reconciliation, nonviolence and peace

The Teams of Trainers (trained these last years in partnership with MIR France) met in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Kinkala and ran workshops on reconciliation, nonviolence and peace with a direct participation of 189 people.



Participants of a training session in Kinkala

Particularly in Pointe-Noire and Brazzaville, MIR Congo pursued the experiment of an "Education Program for nonviolence and peace in schools". 129 young pupils and students with some teachers participated in the initiation weekends. In Pointe-Noire, two weekends on the "nonviolent management of conflicts among groups" attracted 122 young people and adults from the parochial communities.

With other faith adherents, especially Moslem and traditional religions, MIR Congo produced programs that were broadcasted on Radio Maria (Point-Noire) calling for an end to any kind of violence and spreading the message that through love and nonviolence we can work together to resolve conflicts.

Alternative Nonviolent Projects

In Kinkala, which had been the scene of military clashes, the effort of reintegrating "ex child soldiers" continued with difficulties. A sensitizing seminar on "reconciliation and peace" was organized with 48 participants attending. In order to overcome violence in this poor and torn community in collaboration with international partners MIR Congo started an alternative project called "Champs de Paix" (Field of Peace) through a construction of "Mbongui". The objective of this integrated project is symbolized by "Mbongui" which traditionally means a place for meetings, communal dialogue, discussion (nonviolent resolution of conflicts), reconciliation and initiation of young people. The victims of violence and the aggressors, girls and boys, will meet there to create new collective relationships.

ONAD- ORGANIZATION FOR NONVIOLENCE AND DEVELOPMENT, South Sudan

The African proverb goes "*If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem*". In 2010 SONAD*¹ has played a more proactive role in reducing violence, promoting peace and justice in Sudan through its activities of Nonviolence and Interfaith Dialogue, Human Rights and Democracy Education, Gender, Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding. A booklet entitled

¹ In 2011, SONAD changed its name to ONAD- Organization for Nonviolence and Development, as it referred to the political Sudan (North Sudan).

“Transforming relations, peacebuilding experiences of SONAD in Sudan” was published as well as a documentary film entitled “Sudanese stories of Transformation” launched.

3,012 people were directly reached in both South and Northern Sudan. The implementation of these activities has resulted in bridging the gap between Christians and Muslims and I quote *“I had a negative opinion about Christians before and today, I discovered the opposite.”, says Najla Rabi after attending a 5-day workshop on Nonviolence and Interfaith Dialogue. On the other hand, Mona Peter (a Christian) reported “When I remember the demolition of churches in the outskirts of Khartoum and police harassments to South Sudanese in the name of religion I hated Muslims. Now I know there are good Muslims, too and that bad people use religion for their personal interest”.*

SONAD’s volunteers participated in voter registration, observation of the April 2010 general elections as well as a media campaign for peaceful elections with the message “Yes to peace and No to Violence”. Mrs. Betty Asianjo of Pageri Payam (South Sudan) felt elections held in April 2010 may not bring any positive change in Sudan and I quote her: *“I have heard about the coming elections, but I am not sure it will bring any positive change. SONAD’s workshop encouraged me to register, vote and be proud that I can choose my leader and someone to represent me in the parliament.”, she concluded.*

SONAD further worked with the minority groups of South Sudanese residing in Khartoum and Northern Sudanese residing in Juba to mitigate violence in the context of the referendum scheduled for January 2011. The concerns of the minority communities were made public in a press conference held in Khartoum.



*Press conference organized by SONAD,
in the centre: Moses Monday John, Executive Director*

Our beneficiaries not only acquired knowledge and skills, but were able to reach their communities and institutions with the same knowledge and skills. As a result a total of 3,686 (1,608 Female, 2,078 male) were reached through participations in both Northern and Southern Sudan.

In 2010 SONAD was nominated for the Aachen Peace Prize in Germany and was granted a branch status at the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR).

Challenges

Despite the achievements registered during 2010, there are other challenges that hinder SONAD's operation including: poor membership contributions as many members are either students, Internally Displaced Persons or of low income class. Limited sources of funding, poor staff salaries and publicity with especially a lack of regular website updates.

Youth Forum for Peace and Justice (FOR Zambia)

FOR Zambia's Women Peacemakers Programme (WPP) continued to be a key driver of the group's major activities implemented in 2010. Through WPP, FOR Zambia was invited to run a two day Gender Awareness Workshop (GAW) for leaders and pastors from the Brethren in Christ Church (BICC) of Choma in Southern Zambia. The training covered topics ranging from introduction to Gender based violence to coping with conflicts in homes, communities and church.

WPP with support from WPP Africa Desk in Ghana ran a Gender Mainstreaming and Peacebuilding (GMPB) initiative which was aimed at creating awareness among the organization's stakeholders, policy makers and staff on gender equality. Three major activities were earmarked and implemented under GMPB namely a *Gender and Peacebuilding Awareness Workshop* for board members; *Gender Sensitization Seminars for key stakeholders* and a *formulation of a gender policy*. The project was implemented between March and May 2010 and drew participants mostly FOR Zambia senior members, together with key beneficiaries of past activities and stakeholders.

The Second round of the Gender and Peacebuilding Awareness Project (GPBAP II) launched in 2008 by WPP and supported by Bread for the World came to a close in June 2010. The overall objective and goal of GPBAP was to contribute to enhancing and building the capacity of traditional marriage initiators and school teachers to assist in reducing incidents of gender based violence and discrimination against women in Zambia with a particular focus on the Copperbelt region. The project contributed a reasonable degree to the overall objective through the beneficiaries' use of the knowledge acquired in their own settings – schools and communities.

FOR Zambia's Youth Empowerment and Children's Rights Programme (YEP/CR) held a series of short (one day) Leadership Training for School's Peace and Justice Clubs from different districts of the Copperbelt region. At the beginning of 2011, as part of the 2011–2015 strategic plan, FOR Zambia will launch revival/strengthening of Peace and Justice Clubs including enhancing participation of young people in national politics and decision making.

During 2010, FOR Zambia launched consultations on the development of a five year strategic plan. The coordinated participatory process involved broad representation of all stakeholders including FOR Zambia members, staff, volunteers and partners in other Civil Society Organizations. The process and the final development of the plan were concluded in November 2010, and though the implementation has already started, the official launch will be held in August 2011.

AMERICAS

FOR USA



Founded: 1915

In 2010, the U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation maintained its grassroots local, national, and global work for active nonviolence, while passing a new five-year strategic plan that thematically centers our campaigns toward "Demilitarizing Life

and Land” (www.forusa.org).

FOR-USA focuses its programmatic efforts in three areas: (1) domestic racial, economic, and social justice; (2) Latin America & the Caribbean; and (3) the Middle East. Each program includes several campaigns that FOR organizes or participates in through coalition work.

Domestically, we exemplify our commitment to conscientious objection, especially through FOR’s “I Will Not Kill” campaign, in which young adults pledge to resist military service, oppose war, and take a stand against violence. FOR’s historic commitment to addressing the national epidemic of gun violence and systemic attacks on people of color and economically restricted communities is a reemerging priority. In 2010, FOR members and allies in several communities – including Chicago – helped lead local anti-gun efforts, and in 2011 we are expanding that work by organizing to end the sale of U.S.-produced guns into the violence-torn Mexico border and build a network against the illegal resale of guns within the United States. FOR is part of a U.S. human rights movement to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia.

FOR’s Latin America solidarity work deepened in 2010. At the request of Colombian peace communities, we continue to maintain a team of human rights volunteers in the war-torn rural region of San José de Apartadó to provide protective accompaniment. We also published, with the support of other NGOs, a major report titled “U.S. Assistance to the Colombian Army and Extrajudicial Killings.” Through our campaign to end U.S. military aid, our research, and our networks for closing overseas U.S. military bases, we are a lead partner in a global effort to close those bases, highlight the ways war impacts human rights, and transform the relationship between Colombia, its neighbors, and the United States.

FOR’s Middle East work contracted in some areas and grew in others. Due to political instability, we only sent one civilian diplomacy delegation to Iran. However, we cosponsored advocacy and strategy campaigns on Iran, including pressuring against sanctions and belligerent foreign policy initiatives by the U.S. government. We participated strongly in coalitions opposing the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, cosponsored the Gaza Freedom March, and FOR staff traveled to Afghanistan, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Iran to meet with allies. We also fiscally sponsored creative new initiatives like Iraq Memorial to Life (iraqmemorialtolife.org), the Global Days of Listening (globaldaysoflistening.org), and the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (ourjourneytosmile.com).



Afghan youth from “Our Journey to A Smile” with U.S. Ambassador Karl W. Eikenberry (center)

Other key areas of FOR-USA work in 2010 included: leading an interfaith presence at the U.N. International Conference for Nuclear Disarmament; helping develop the first Truth Commission on Conscience in War; publishing *Fellowship*, the nation's oldest spiritually-based peace journal; launching a new website (forusa.org); and facilitating interfaith collaboration between national religious peace fellowships – particularly with Christian, Muslim, and Jewish groups in creating the “Community of Living Traditions,” an intentional residential community committed to the study of the principles and practices of nonviolence. The community is housed at a conference centre in Rockland County, New York, close to FOR-USA's national headquarters.

ASIA

JFOR, Japan

The fiscal year of JFOR is from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. Thus, our report covers the occurrence of the big earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear accidents since March 11, 2011.

Out of deep regret for damaging other nations as well as our own people during the World War II, Japanese accepted the Peace Constitution, especially Article 9 which renounces war and the use of arms to resolve any international conflicts.

For the price of becoming free from the US occupation, the US-Japan Security Treaty made in 1952 allowed the US military bases to remain in Japan, mostly in Okinawa. There is unbearable noise made by US bombers taking off and landing at the airport which can happen more than 100 times a day. The soldiers' sexual violence cannot be handled by Japanese police. The Japanese government agreed to pay the expenses of the US military bases which is ¥3.370 billion a year amounting ¥1 trillion, ¥6,600 billion for five more years. The Okinawa citizens cry out against the violation of rights of the citizens who should live in a safe environment as promised by the Article 25 of the Japanese Constitution. The spirit of nonviolent resistance advocated by an early JFOR member, S. Awagon, is preventing the Okinawa citizens from using violence. However, they are about to explode. This issue is a very urgent matter for JFOR.

Every year JFOR holds an Annual Meeting in April, a National Conference in August and various other meetings by local FOR groups. In 2010, the 60th Annual National Conference was held in Nara, the ancient capital 1,300 years ago. Right after the conference, we co-sponsored the inter-religious, ecumenical meeting to uphold Article 9 for World Peace. Many young people participated in these meetings which encouraged us and our efforts to let younger generations to grow.



Participants of the Annual National Conference

JFOR carries out its activities in a democratic manner. The members pay an annual fee which helps us to publish the monthly magazine *YUWA*. The publication has now reached its 668th issue. The English translation can be found on JFOR, [URL:http://:www.jfor.jp](http://www.jfor.jp).

As members of the "Peace and Constitution" working group of IFOR, we urge the UN to adopt "Human Rights for Peace," which is in the spirit of Article 9, and incorporate it in the UN Declaration. JFOR has tried to promote Article 9 by translating it into 8 language post cards so far (Japanese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese). We hope to translate it into all languages used by the BGAs of IFOR.

At the moment, JFOR is working on "No More Hiroshima, No More Fukushima." We encourage more governmental support for natural energy usage, and also the prevention of the abandonment of Article 9 which would allow Japan to re-arm again.

The urgent task of JFOR is to increase younger members and to encourage them to become interested in the spirit of nonviolence, symbolized by Article 9.

FOR India

FOR India, has been continuing to conduct programs and meetings which touch matters dear to us and our faith-based spirituality. Monthly meetings are held that are attended by people of different faiths, and every month a speaker of a different faith is given the responsibility of speaking on an aspect of his or her religion which expounds the necessity of peace as understood from their religious perspective. We have reports of almost two score meetings of community and inhouse meetings which are mostly for reflection and prayer and for deepening of faith from different parts of India. We are glad that several of the members who participate in these meetings have in turn organized programs on their own that promote nonviolent peace building. Following requests from participants over 150 workshops on conflict management and peaceful conflict resolution were organised by the Fellowship over the past few months.

Reconciliation is one major focus of our members. While we resist and struggle against violence and make our voices heard against oppressive and unfair gender and caste practices, we stress on rebuilding new practices of peace and reconciliation.

FOR India members are clear that reconciliation is not a compromise. Our Women's Wing has organised over 150 workshops on Gender and Women's Empowerment. Programs on UN Resolution 1325 are also organised along with programs on rehabilitation of women and the teaching of life and social skills.

Several of our members hold positions in civil and government authorities and invariably we have reports from them that are very encouraging and delightful.

The Fellowship continues with its thinking on alternatives that will create a society that is based on love and forgiveness as essential for peace.

EUROPE

Cymdeithas y Cymod (FOR Wales)



Cymdeithas y Cymod (FOR Wales) expanded its work through working in partnership with a number of other peace and justice organisations in Wales and beyond.

Campaign against Drones

There has been close cooperation between FOR Wales and FOR England on a Campaign against unmanned aircraft called "Drones" which have been used in the Afghan war. Members of FOR Wales ran a workshop at the Drones Conference organised by FOR England in London. FOR Wales organised a protest outside the Aberporth site in June 2010 where the Drones are flight tested over inhabited areas of Ceredigion.

Appointment of Coordinator

Marika Fusser was appointed as FOR Wales Coordinator and helped to organise events as well as design the website and publish our newsletter. She has also been coordinating activities such as a "letter circle" which involves members writing letters to the Welsh Government to create awareness on a range of peace subjects.

National Eisteddfod

At our National Eisteddfod we had an information stall and held a service at the *Cytûn* (Churches Together in Wales) tent, and remembered Hiroshima Day.

Campaign for a Wales Peace Institute

The campaign to establish a Peace Institute in Wales in partnership with our MEP Jill Evans continues with lobbying the Welsh Government.

Campaign to save S4C

We joined in a partnership of Welsh Language organisations called "*Mudiadau Dathlu'r Gymraeg*" to campaign to save the Welsh TV channel S4C which is a nonviolent campaign of resistance. It involves not paying the television licence and sitting in broadcasting studios and mass demonstrations.

Annual Vigil

Our Annual Vigil was held at Pentre Ifan when we were given a tour of the places which inspired the poet of peace and Quaker Waldo Williams. The tour was led by two famous poets Dr. Mererid Hopwood and Dylan Tudur who gave their interpretations on his poems were realized.

FOR England

In 2010, FOR England:

- Appointed a new Director, Millius Palayiwa
- Saw Peace House became a well used "hire centre" for other peace groups, asylum seekers, family breakdown mediation and people of other faiths
- Produced and launched the report: "Convenient Killing: Armed Drones and the "Playstation" Mentality"
- Through the Youth Education and Campaigns Programme: put on an interactive art installation of the Israel "Wall" at the Greenbelt performing arts festival; 6 talks and workshops on peace and nonviolence; a university speaker tour for the anti-drones campaign; and a training event in Leeds for women peacemakers.



FOR England youth join with UK NGOs to oppose nuclear weapons at the General Election hustings.

- Through the International Peacemakers Fund: contribution of £6,920 to “grass roots” nonviolent peacemaking groups in India, Israel/Palestine, Pakistan, Ossetia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

FOR Scotland

FOR Scotland attended several speaker meetings which included a well attended meeting addressed by the Chairperson of Fife Pakistan Association entitled “Afghanistan – the unending war”.

Internationaler Versöhnungsbund (FOR Austria)



Active peace policy:

1. The introduction of **Civil Peace Services (CPS)** as an instrument of civil, nonviolent conflict resolution was again the main aim of the Austrian network CPS in 2010. Furthermore, Austrian Peace Services and the Austrian branch of IFOR play an important role in the European CPS cooperation.
2. Lobbying for **Arms Trade Control**. The Austrian branch has worked together with other national and international NGOs for years on this trade control. The aims have been the improvement of the control and the reduction of the international arms trade in general and the Austrian participation in it in particular.

Youth Activities:

Decisive steps in youth work were taken in 2010:

1. **Connecting Peace – connecting Active Nonviolence:** This was a training for 35 young people from 11 countries, which was not only meant as an instruction in nonviolence, but also as an impulse to give the youth a platform to become active members of IFOR.
2. One result of the training is the publication of an **Online Peace Journal** with peace news from around the world.
3. A **monthly Jour Fixe** in the office in Vienna offers the framework for the activities of the youth for continuous participation in peace work.
4. The Viennese youth group practices an intensive **cooperation with the IFOR Youth Working Group** and it was authorized by Council to found an IFOR Youth Office in Vienna.



Impressions of IFOR youth activities

Nonviolent Education and Training:

1. Our **one year course in nonviolence** which began in 2000 as a contribution to the UN Decade of Nonviolence was held for the last time. For this course we have kept inviting facilitators from other IFOR branches throughout the years with the aim of making the participants experience (our) internationality and to intensify the contact within IFOR.
2. **Global education English project weeks** teach grammar school students English and make them familiar with nonviolent conflict transformation, mediation, fair trade, etc.

Throughout the year our branch offered workshops, trainings and lectures – many of them given by **Hildegard Goss-Mayr** who keeps spreading the message of Nonviolence as convincingly as ever.

International solidarity:

1. **Colombia Peace Presence.** Marion Hiptmair spent the year in Columbia supporting the delegates of FOR USA in accompanying and protecting the peace communities in San José de Apartadó (see picture below).



Marion Hiptmair, Columbia

2. We again helped to prepare the **Olive Campaign in Palestine**, supporting the farmers with the olive harvest in the region of Salfit in the West Bank.
3. In cooperation with Pax Christi and the Diakonie we supported the **EAPPI** of the World Council of Churches and were successful in sending the first volunteer for a three month mission to Jayyous in the West Bank in December.
4. **Work for Peace and Reconciliation in the Western Balkans:** With a grant from the Austrian development Agency (ADA) a new project was set up to support the training at the Centre for Nonviolent Action in Sarajevo and Belgrade lasting from 2010 to 2012.

Internationaler Versöhnungsbund e.V. (FOR Germany)



The highlight of the year was our **Annual Conference** with 220 people attending, 60 of them children, teenagers and young adults. In 2010 we explored “Migration and Refugees” and the reasons why people leave their country; wars, civil wars, economic and ecological reasons and structural violence.

Demilitarisation

We are part of the activities at the military base in Büchel, where the US Air Force is still storing nuclear warheads in Germany. It is the last base to have nuclear weapons, all others were removed. Matthias Engelke, our new Chairperson, has been involved in this for many years. Last winter he was sentenced for trying to enter the base as part of a nonviolent action.

Since compulsory military draft has been suspended, the army seeks cooperation with schools to have access to children aged 14. They have institutionalized those contacts, which we oppose and we have worked together with other organizations to campaign against the military in schools.

Working Groups

- Middle East: Our most active working group. Clemens Ronnefeldt is our paid Peace Secretary. The main focus of his work is on Israel/Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq. He is networking, lobbying, giving lectures, publishing – publicly acknowledged as a profound resource person. We are co-founder of a German organization coordinating 14 organizations and 15 regional groups in their work for and with Israel and Palestine. Discussion of the Kairos Palestine Document has brought to light, that we cannot speak united on the boycott of Israel. We have to consider our history.
- Gender: In September 2009 we offered a “Gender Workshop”, but only with few participants. We have to look at other ways of trying to reach out. Within the German branch the Gender Working Group conducted a survey. Results will be presented at our annual conference.
- The young people have started to meet as the “Youth Forum” at our annual conference for some years and are planning to have a youth conference in fall this year to consider topics which are special concern to them. Young people are being included in our structures and decision making, since they have representatives on our governing board and have established a Youth Council for the work between annual meetings.

Linking with Uganda

In 2010 Beatrice Amony from Uganda joined us at our annual conference and spoke on “Child Soldiers” and her work with them. Our branch is now supporting the work of PDF (Peace and Development Foundation – Uganda) on a regular basis and wants to establish institutional links between the two organizations.

Coalition building

We joined Church and Peace officially as a member. We are working together more closely with Pax Christi and other faith-based organizations trying to support each other and create synergy.

Funding

Funding has become more difficult. We fund our work only through contributions and donations, with no financial support from the government, and very little church contributions which allows us to be in a position to speak independently.

Last year we decided to start a process of organizational development. We began to identify areas where we want and need to make adjustments, because our structures, processes and functions seem not to be adequate any longer.

Since May 2010 we have a new Chairperson, Matthias Engelke. Ulrich Hahn is now our President.

IFOR Schweiz – MIR Suisse, Switzerland

The year 2010 was marked by two main developments: Ueli Wildberger had been part-time General Secretary of the Swiss German branch since 1998 and he reached his retirement age. The Forum für Friedenserziehung (FfF) was looking for a new General Secretary and on May 1, Hans Ulrich Gerber began in overlap with Ueli, who took his retirement at the end of July. The transition also meant moving the office after many years, and restructuring the ways of working. Special emphasis was given to exploring new collaboration with other Swiss organizations working on peace and nonviolence.

The second major emphasis in 2010 was the preparation of merging the two Swiss branches into one. The general assembly 2010 approved the plans for a merger and asked the board to engage on a process of integration with the French branch MIR Romand. The FfF had about 230 members, the MIR Romand about 130. The process went well so that a general assembly was planned for early 2011 where the integration was formally adopted by both associations. The new, single Swiss branch of IFOR is called IFOR Schweiz - MIR Suisse. It's website can be found under www.ifor-mir.ch

The Swiss IFOR branches hosted the EUFOR meeting in April 2010, where there was a lot of discussion and debate about the status of IFOR. The preparation of the IFOR Council was taken seriously and followed closely, given the IFOR Vice-president Françoise Pétremand was a member of the then MIR Romand.

A training course was offered jointly with the reformed church in Zürich, and a night for catechism students was held. The FfF also participated in an anniversary event remembering Red-Cross founder Henri Dunant, with Johann Galtung as a guest speaker. Of course, other annual events, such as the Easter Monday March for Peace, anti-nuclear events, as well as solidarity events were also on the program.

A support group for SERPAJ was able to raise some funds for SERPAJ Brazil and was beginning to plan a solidarity and learning tour to Costa Rica.

The regional group in St. Gallen again organized the annual peace week, which has a tradition of over 20 years, with a series of events under the theme "Worldwide for Peace".

In December, the Swiss IFOR branches were co-organizers of a national event marking the end of the Decade to Overcome Violence and the sending of the Swiss delegates for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica.

Kerk en Vrede (Church and Peace), The Netherlands

As in previous years, the work of Kerk en Vrede is basically in a peace policy, church related and interreligious realm. With respect to each theme one main activity is described here.

The main subject we are working on in the peace policy related activities is the “Europe, Energy and Conflict” project. It originated from Kerk en Vrede’s involvement in the “Stop NATO” coalition of 2009 in which we envisioned an increasing tension with Russia on energy security issues and a new role that NATO would be willing to play in this field, illustrated by the appointment of former Shell CEO Jeroen van der Veer as co-chair of NATO’s advisory committee on a new Strategic Concept. We presented our thoughts on Europe, Energy and Conflict and a peace policy that is an alternative to the dominant military approach, at a meeting of the People Building Peace coalition in the Netherlands, at a conference of the Dutch Platform for a Sustainable and Solidary Economy, at the EU-FOR meeting last year and at the Church and Peace conference, both in Switzerland. At the end of the year, we established a coalition with other peace and environmental organisations to start a wider campaign on this subject that has become increasingly relevant these days.

With respect to the church related realm, Kerk en Vrede’s main activity was on the Dutch preparation of the Kingston convocation on Just Peace. In 2009 Kerk en Vrede initiated a special taskforce within the Dutch Council of Churches to work on the “Initial Statement towards an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace” with Kerk en Vrede’s General Secretary Jan Schaake as the convenor. This taskforce collected all the reactions from the Dutch churches on the document, published a Dutch version of the document to be used in local churches, organized several public events (one of them on the role of religion and the churches in the conflict in Sudan) and invited local churches and activists to “tell your story of peace” which were also sent to the drafting committee of the World Council of Churches. As result of this involvement, two Kerk en Vrede members, Kees Nieuwerth and Janna Postma, were invited to participate in the Ecumenical International Peace Convocation in Kingston in May 2011.

On the subject of interreligious peace work Kerk en Vrede participated in an interreligious excursion to Istanbul, organized by its partner organization Islam en Dialog. In turn, Islam en Dialog participated in the event “In the name of God? In the name of Peace!” that Kerk en Vrede organized on September 11, 2010 to discuss the letter of the 130 prominent Muslims to the Christian churches in which they stressed the importance of interreligious dialogue and understanding, especially between Christians and Muslims, for the sake of World Peace, an extremely relevant theme, given the recent political developments in Western Europe and especially in the Netherlands.

MIR Italia

State of the movement

- 150 members
- 7 local groups, at North Majority
- 1 national meeting every year
- 8 members in the National Council
- Election of the president every 2 years
- No staff, all volunteers

UN Decade

2010 was the last year of the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence. We organized a conference in October 2010 with the participation, among others, of Galtung. In that meeting we presented the work of the Italian committee, with the decisive contribution of MIR, a comic strip (“10 occasioni per diventare nonviolenti”, 10 different situations where the reader can choose different ways to test his/her attitude to nonviolent solution of conflicts). MIR Italy intends to continue the work beyond 2010, by creating a new committee on peace education that supports the international network. It has already had significant support from Pax Christi, some nonviolent

movements and some peace schools.

Reteccp

MIR Italy is a member of the Network for Civil Peace Corps (IPRI-Reteccp), whose aim is to organize activities of peace civil corps to show real possibilities of alternatives to the army. At the moment there is a project going on to create a school for civil intervention in Vicenza as a visible alternative in the most militarized town in Italy.

Anti-nuclear and Public Water

Upon the resumption of the nuclear option by our Government (2008) MIR took part in a campaign by civil society to oppose the decision, giving reasons against civilian nuclear power, and sought a new development model. We published a booklet on the subject to coincide with the referendum held this spring. We also collected signatures for the referendum calling for the maintenance of public water management.

Project: 10 years of peace

MIR Italy, together with the FOR Austria, International Coalition for the Decade, French committee for the Decade and the Hungarian Nyitokor Egyesület, promoted the project "10 Years of Peace", a "Grundtvig" project that started in 2010 (it will end in 2012), which aims to study the changes in Europe and the effects of the actions of the Decade.

Assembly

MIR Italy held its annual meeting in July 2010. The meeting lasted for a week and was organised in a camp style, on the theme "From Tolstoy to Gandhi, from passive resistance to satyagraha".

Summer camps

Like every year, MIR Italy organized 5 summer camps where we have theoretical input, sharing and solidarity with people who seek an alternative lifestyle. The MIR-MN, in collaboration with other groups and communities, organized some camps during the summer whose aim was to spread the message of nonviolence and practice it.

1.4 Groups

AFRICA

Dauphins Munzehir Wa-Kataliko (DMK), Republic of Congo

The group Dauphins Munzehirwa-Kataliko works together with well organized groups and organizations for peace through active nonviolence in the context of community life. DMK leads youth camps during holidays and in October every year. In Bukavu, martyrs are honoured during the month of October; bishop Munzehirwa was murdered on the 29th of October 1996 and bishop Kataliko died in Rome on the 4th of October 2000, after enduring outrages committed by rebels for defending the cause of the people.

Mouvement National de Réconciliation du Bénin, Republic of Benin

The year was devoted to trainings on financial management for two women groups, Missavo and Affossogobé miwa, and intermediation to get funds for their income generating activities. In Porto-Novo, Monar-Bénin had the visit of Mrs Maria Antonietta Malleo (IFOR representative at UNESCO). Her visit was an opportunity to share experiences.

A delegation of Monar-Bénin took part in a forum on the development of the city of Porto-Novo organized by the town council. This was an opportunity to put forward two major points of concern which are very important to us:

- Children admitted to voodoo convents in Bénin cannot go to school anymore after their initiation;
- Girls from villages are sent to the city to work as housemaids and are exploited by men acting as middleman between their parents and the persons employing them.

Concerning these two issues, Monar-Bénin has developed two projects: schooling for young girls admitted to voodoo convents and training of housemaids aiming at their social and professional integration. Financial contributions to these activities are needed.

ASIA

AKKAPKA-CANV, The Philippines

During the year 2010, the following activities under our **Formation Program** were conducted:

- Basic Orientation Seminars with 61 participants
- Deepening-of-the-Roots Sessions composed of 87 participants
- Integration Seminars (with Livelihood Component) with 68 participants
- 1 Core Group Seminar composed of 23 persons
- 1 Therapy/medical mission that serviced 36 clients
- 6 Recollections/Base Group Assemblies – participated in by 254 persons.

Under our Transformation Program, we undertook:

1. The Feeding Program – wherein our base groups in Alabat Island fed 1,923 children and 122 adults for a total of 2,045 persons;
2. Tree-Planting activities – our base groups, particularly the youth, planted a total of 5,953 trees – both in the hillside and barangays of Alabat Island and its coastal lines.
3. Livelihood Projects: With the assistance of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process or OPAPP, our base groups were able to carry out vegetable-growing, chicken-raising and solar-drying of fish projects to generate and/or augment family income.
4. Monitoring of illegal fishing, illegal logging, illegal drugs and illegal number games and reported these to the government agencies concerned for proper action.
5. Issues and concerns affecting women and children through our Task Force Kababaihan (Women).
6. Participation in seminars and fora reconcerns and issues on Family and Life.

Other activities:

- We supported in cash and in kind those who were in great difficulty because of the typhoons that wrought havoc in Alabat Island.
- We undertook the annual pilgrimage Dasal-Lakad (Pray-Walk) for Peace – a five-hour trek to the Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, Antipolo City, from Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, as a penitential offering for peace in the country and in the world.
We took part in the High-Level National Conference on the Land Use Policy organized by the Asian Network of the NGOs, government agencies and the Church. The Conference addressed the issue of the absence of a national framework and policy for the use of land that has affected indigenous people, informal settlers, farmers, peasants, fisherfolks, businessmen and the private sector thereby resulting in numerous problems with regard to ancestral domain, housing and land reform and others. The call for a national policy on land use has become ever clearer, louder and more urgent. (Our Director wrote a news article on the Conference which was published online by the CBCP News.)



During a workshop organized by AKKAPKA-CANV

- Our staff and base groups from Alabat Island took part in the fasting and prayer vigil organized by the CBCP, Radio Veritas and other lay organizations, including ourselves, for the purpose of petitioning the Lord for a honest, peaceful and clean national election.
- Our Director represented our organization in the quadrennial Council Meeting of IFOR held in the Netherlands.

Anando (Promotion of Culture & Youth Resource Development), Bangladesh

Anando is a NGO, with coverage in four Districts in Bangladesh. Established in 1997, it has been working towards community development interventions involving youth under the guidance of Klaus Beurle, a German priest with following interventions:

Integrated Program Components:

1. People's Institution Building Program
2. Creative Life Oriented Child Education
3. Community Health Care
4. Homestead Agriculture and Afforestation Development
5. Self-employment & Income generation

(a) Sectoral Program Components:

1. Peace Education
2. Vocational Training for Youth Resource Development
3. Student Study Support
4. Bio diversity conservation
5. Community- based Climate Change and Disaster Management program etc.

Anando implements the following interventions for community reconciliation

1. Community reconciliation through dialogue between Bengali settlers and aboriginals in the CHT ("Chittagong Hill Tract"²).
2. Peace promotion through moral ethics building in academic's youths
3. Youth animation promotion through social education

² Under the Chittagong division of Bangladesh, there are three hill districts: Rangamati, Khagrachori and Bandarban. These three districts are called "Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT)".

4. Peace camp involving youths
5. Networking of Anando with identical organizations in Bangladesh and abroad
6. Observance of national and international peace events/days
7. Staff, animators and teachers capacity building
8. Formation of Peace Supportive Initiative Forum (PSIF)

Enclosed an initiative of Anando's reconciliation for Peace Building towards CHT Reconstruction is shown:

Just after the peace treaty in 1997 for harmonious living of Bengalis and hilly aboriginals, Anando started relief and rehabilitation works. The main project target was awareness creation followed by building a harmonious community through dialogue and consultation. As the different racial groups traditionally do not interact with each other, it is not easy to motivate them to engage in various processes for reconciliation. Anando began purely as a peace education project towards harmonious community building.

Now people from different groups visit each other, though it is still with due carefulness. Anando serves as a mentor for peace building incorporating various peace seekers such as community elites, local governments representatives etc. During trainings organized by Anando where the rival groups met, Anando follows the following process:

- Making pairs incorporating heterogeneous or rival neighbors
- Introducing one to all by rest pair participant
- Forming discussion groups with rival and friend pair
- Distributing food among rivals and friends
- Conducting small sports events
- Cultural program preparation & participation

Recent riots versus Anando's Peace initiatives:

During the last massive incident after the peace treaty (23rd February – 5th March '10) between hilly aboriginals and the resettled Bengalis that resulted in the loss of at least six valuable lives from both groups, Anando conducted several rallies, workshops and seminars incorporating both rival groups (see photos).



In order to resolve CHT problems through peaceful political means and to create a favourable atmosphere for free and fair elections, the international community should influence the present Government of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Military Forces to:

1. Start initiatives for speedy implementation of the CHT Accord that paves the way for peace and development in the region;

2. Prepare a voter list of the region only with the permanent residents of CHT as per CHT Peace Accord and allow international observers into CHT during the preparation of voter lists and the election as well;
3. Stop military atrocities and harassment of the indigenous peoples' activists and withdraw the cases filed against them, and release them immediately;
4. Stop the settlement programme of Bengali settlers and land grabbing and return them back to their cluster villages until and unless land disputes are resolved through land commission.

EUROPE

BOCS Foundation, Hungary



BOCS Foundation started in 1975 as a Catholic underground youth group and has been an IFOR group since 1995. Our long history (including conscientious objection) can be read on our website: <http://bocs.eu>.

BOCS Foundation deals with peace education in a multidisciplinary way (ecology, population, human rights, social rights, international development etc.). BOCS Foundation is focusing among other important issues, on the conflict of ecological footprints and on the basic role of population growth in conflicts (*see the Nobel Prize laureate Konrad Lorenz: humanity's number*

one deadly sin is overpopulation, because it leads to an increase in aggression, to more and more social disruption and makes everything more difficult.)

BOCS Foundation has been working on the Grundtvig project EXPECT together with FOR Germany, FOR Austria, Kerk en Vrede and other peace movement organizations.

We participated in the annual meeting of the communist dictatorship imprisoned Hungarian Catholic objectors to military service in Zsámbék on Conscientious Objectors' Day (see photo).



1.5 Affiliates

ASIA

BASTOB (Initiative for People's Self-Development), Bangladesh

BASTOB (Initiative for People's Self-Development) overall activity is defined in two categories: BASTOB Social Development Program and BASTOB Income and Employment Generation Program.

A. Social Development Program

1. Sultan-Sofa Pathshala (School)

The major objective of Pathshala is to prepare children for primary school at the age of six. The Pathshala is run by the surplus of Micro-finance and the assistance of Hope for Children UK who provide the children with the necessary stationary. Each year a total of 240 children get preprimary education from 8 Pathshala and 30 students in each class. BASTOB also runs 5 non-formal primary schools with 150 children in the Cox's Bazar district with the financial and technical cooperation of BRAC.

2. Women's Empowerment through Skill Development

This project is meant to increase skills for income and employment generation, increase mother and child health status, create awareness on education and increase farmers' capacity for modern and organic farming. The financial support is provided by "Hilfe fuer Bangladesh", an organization of Liechtenstein. The project has three major components: a Nursery School for 600 poor children, a Weekly Health Clinic for deprived patients and a Scholarship program for poor talented students.

3. WATSAN Program

Since 1999, BASTOB has been implementing the Water and Sanitation program (WATSAN) in the Dhaka region with the assistance of NGO Forum. BASTOB is providing awareness on basic health and hygiene issues. The Local Union Council is actively involved in the implementation of the project. BASTOB is the partner of NGO Forum both in the Dhaka and Chittagong region. Besides these awareness supports, BASTOB provided 50 deep-set water pumps and one school latrine as hardware support.



Impressions of BASTOB's Sanitation Campaign

4. Health Clinic

The treatment facilities are far from where the people live and sometimes are expensive. Considering the health status of the poor women, BASTOB has introduced Medical Treatment Facilities to its Micro Finance members and their families. Once a week, a MBBS doctor is prescribing medicine to the members and their families. Dr. Nilufar Kamorej Jaha, Board Member of BASTOB is providing voluntary services to patients under this program. A total of 163 patients received treatment under this program.

5. Capacity Building for ensuring safe labor Migration (CABSLAM):

Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and MJF provided financial and technical assistance to BASTOB to implement the project. Major activities of the projects were the Formation of the Migration Rights Projection Committee (MRPC), Coordination meeting with MRPCs, Counseling for interested migrants, Courtyard meeting for rural men and women, Teachers meeting, Religious/Imam meeting, and Students/School meeting.

B. BASTOB Income and Employment Generation Program

Micro-finance Program (MFP):

BASTOB started Microfinance in 1998. Financial and technical support is provided by Anukul Foundation and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).

BASTOB has five types of micro-finance products:

1. Rural Micro-credit for women
2. Micro-enterprise both for women and men
3. Micro-credit for Ultra Poor
4. Emergency Flood Restoration and Recovery Assistance Program (EFRRAP)
5. Seasonal Loan

In the year 2010, there were 10,184 members within 457 solidarity groups. BASTOB disbursed Bangladesh Taka 181,203,000 (US\$ 2,588,614.00) among 9196 members.

EUROPE

Doopsgezind Wereldwerk, The Netherlands

In 2010 we participated in several projects including:



- Every Mennonite congregation in the Netherlands was asked to organize a workshop with the theme: "Connecting Communication". The workshops were given by experts in nonviolence coexistence.
- "Justice and fair sharing": was the start of our involvement with the poverty problem in the

Netherlands.

- The participation in a microcredit project within the framework of 35 year Oikocredit.
- As a partner in IMO (International Mennonite Organization) we supported a number of projects in Latin-America and Africa.
- A special peace project during a week in Israel and Palestine was undertaken.

Last but not least, we participated in the appointment of professor Dr.Fernando Enns to the chair of "Mennonite Peace Theology and Ethics" at the Mennonite Seminary in Amsterdam.

Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education - INNATE, Northern Ireland

There have been considerable achievements for such a relatively small group who are active in INNATE (Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education), and we have a wider impact through relating to a broader and wider network.

INNATE was involved in supporting and publicizing an exhibition of quilts and arpilleras which our member Roberta Bacic curated at the Tower Museum, Derry, on the theme "The Human Cost of War".

In June 2010 INNATE ran a workshop on "En-gendering Violence", a mixed gender workshop on gender and violence. Other workshops were facilitated for different organisations. Rob Fairmichael, coordinator of INNATE, completed a WPP course 2009-10 for men on issues dealing with men, violence and nonviolence which took place in the Netherlands and The Philippines. In September 2010, we had the visit of Ali Gohar of Just Peace International for a short but varied programme including speaking about the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan at meetings in Belfast and Derry, and engagements on mediation and restorative justice.

We have continued to explore and work on a variety of other projects, and to support others working in the field. We produced *Nonviolent News* newsheet monthly in paper, e-mail and web editions. In 2010, we also distributed white poppies in remembrance of those killed in war. Our photo site continues to grow as an Irish peace and nonviolence record, accessible via the INNATE home page at www.innatennonviolence.org

** Please note: All BGA reports were edited to fit the format, in order to bring them into conformity with our editing standards. We thank all BGAs that supplied information and images on their organizational activities in 2010.*

2 DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

2.1 Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World

In 1997 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed that the year 2000 would be the International Year for a Culture of Peace. In 1998 the United Nations decided to adopt the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World 2001-2010 to give greater worldwide support for a Culture of Peace.

One of the many ways in which IFOR has supported the Decade is by encouraging IFOR members to support the Decade national coalitions and directly support the formation of the International Coalition for the Decade (ICD) to coordinate the work of national coalitions.

For more information on the International Coalition for the Decade (ICD), please visit: www.nvpdecade.org.

2.2 UNESCO Summary of Activities

In 2010, the IFOR representative at UNESCO, Mrs. Maria Antonietta Malleo, continued to work in the Joint Programmatic Commissions NGO-UNESCO on Youth and Human Rights.

- At the 184th session of the UNESCO Executive Board Committee on NGOs on "Violence in the Contemporary World", a written report on *IFOR's mission and the nonviolent response to violence and injustice*, with proposals and lines of action for education to a culture of peace was submitted for the "NGOs-UNESCO: history and stories of partnership" event.
- Participation with oral intervention to the conference "History, Memory and the Rapprochement of Cultures", in the framework of the International Year for the rapprochement of Cultures.
- Participation and speech on Nonviolent models of development at the 185th session of the UNESCO Executive Board Committee on NGOs on "Culture and Development: the role of Culture for sustainable development and economic prosperity" and "UNESCO's relationship with NGOs: from theory to practice, development of a strategy to enhance the practical cooperation".
- Written contribution to the UNESCO document of Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, with proposals for non-formal and participatory approaches to education, inclusion of minorities and indigenous groups in policy planning and design of alternative models of development, institutionalization of peace education, objectives for a culture of peace program, cooperation with civil society, gender equality and women's rights progress.

In cooperation with District 2110 of Rotary International, IFOR organized a one week training on nonviolent conflict resolution "Leader for Peace", with Amos Gvirtz and Zoughbi Zoughbi of the Israeli and Palestinian IFOR branches as main lecturers (see photo).



Second person from the left: Zoughbi Zoughbi, next to him: Maria Antonietta Malleo and second from right Amos Gvirtz

In the framework of activities for the Decade for Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, IFOR organized and moderated the conference "The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the challenges of Nonviolence". Panelists: Roberto Lagalla, Rector of Palermo University; Gianni Puglisi, President of the UNESCO Italian Commission; Amos Gvirtz, Israelis and Palestinians for Nonviolence, Israel; Zoughbi Zoughbi, Wiam, the Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre, Bethlehem; Nanni Salio, Centro Studi Sereno Regis, Torino; Francesco Di Benedetto, Palermo University.

In May, presentation on "Civil Society, UNESCO and the Nonviolent challenges of Nonviolence" to students of secondary schools in Italy and hand over of the "Rocco Campanella Award" with the participation of Jean Pierre Massamba, MIR Congo.



Moments of the prize-giving of the Peace and Nonviolence Education Award in memory of Rocco Campanella, one of the first Italian conscientious objectors, at the City Hall, Monreale, Italy, May 2010. In the middle: Jean Pierre Massamba.

In August- September Maria Antonietta Malleo visited the IFOR group Monar Bénin, civil society and church organizations in Benin. With the executive board of Monar Bénin in Porto-Novo a debate was hold dealing with UNESCO priorities: cultural diversity as a component of a culture of peace in the framework of globalization in Africa, education for nonviolence, children's rights and gender equality.



Visit to « Mouvement National de la Réconciliation Monar-Bénin » in Porto-Novo, September 2010. In the middle Rev. Elisabeth Ayizannon Akpò, Pastor of the Methodist Church and the President of Monar-Bénin, Toussaint Honvou.)

2.3 NonViolent Education and Training Program



Since 2007 **NVE** has been part of IFOR's NonViolence Education and Training Program (NVETP). As a joint initiative with Förderverein Kinder, Jugend und Kultur Grenzach-Wyhlen e.V. NVE was created as a contribution to the UN Decade for the Culture of Peace

and Nonviolence for the Children of the World. The program supports sustainable implementation of nonviolence/nonviolent education, peace education and violence prevention in compulsory kindergarten and school education and thus consequent implementation of Articles 19 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Children. NVE cooperates with researchers, practitioners, institutions and individuals contributing to innovation, synergies, supportive frameworks and implementation in this important field of education.

In 2010 NVE became expert partner in the EU ALLIES project by the University of Oulu in Finland. ALLIES – Teacher's and parent's alliance for early violence Prevention in Preschool - an international two-year (2010-12) research and development project is aimed at developing gender-sensitive caring, community-based measures to prevent violence in preschools and elementary schools. ALLIES is especially focusing on early forms of violence often hidden behind normalised interactions between peers, between adults and children and between adults in everyday life. Within the project Eva Füssinger, NVE program coordinator, took the responsibility of incorporating aspects of

- nonviolence,
- competence-orientation and
- sound education management

into the development and research work.

For further information you may visit <http://www oulu.fi/naistutkimus/allies.htm>. In 2012 results and inspirations from the project will be spread throughout IFOR and its network.

There is a lot of knowledge and good practice in nonviolent upbringing and education within IFOR and its network. In 2010 IFOR members and network partners were asked to share their knowledge, experience and good practice about nonviolence, nonviolent care and education in kindergartens and primary schools. The call for papers resulted in nearly 40 articles sent in six different languages from researchers, teacher trainers, professionals involved in this field of work. Thanks to the committed work of Ingrid von Heiseler, FOR Germany member, and resources from UNESCO Participation

Fund, the majority of articles were translated within a short period of time and are now creating a base for a publication in English, German and French. This is thanks to the help of skilled professionals donating a huge



Impressions from a NVE- Partnerkindergarten

amount of voluntary work. In 2011 articles will be compiled, translated, proofread and finally published in a printed version and as an online-publication. NVE publication is a contribution to knowledge management allowing us to generate, document and spread IFOR's and its network's tremendous knowledge, experience and good practice in this field of education. It is hoped that the publication will help to promote

the utilization and further development of theory and practice of Nonviolence.

For more information about NVE visit IFOR webpage or go directly to www.nv-e.org or contact eva.fuessinger@nv-e.org.

3 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

Overall, 2010 has proven to be an exceptionally productive year for IFOR's WPP. From supporting activities following the WPP first ToT "Overcoming Violence – Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace" in 2009 in the Netherlands, through to a second ToT, this time organized in Manila.

3.1 Education and Training

A1. Skills Development Program: Pilot ToT "Overcoming Violence: Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace"

During 2009 WPP organized its first training of the pilot Training of Trainers (ToT) Cycle in "Overcoming Violence: Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace" in the Netherlands. In this training, 19 male trainees from 17 different countries participated. As part of the ToT Cycle, the trainees were expected to organize follow-up activities upon return home as to implement and disseminate ToT knowledge and skills learned, all this with the support of a female 'ally' – a woman peace activist from the country/region. The majority of the trainees' follow-up projects (18) were implemented during the first six months of 2010.

Some examples of trainees' follow-up activities include:

1. The establishment of men's groups to discuss men's role in eradicating violence against women and wider violence in society and the link between gender socialization processes and violence, such as the creation of the Congo Men's Network (COMEN) to involve men in addressing gender-based violence in the DRC;
2. The organizing of cross-gender and intergenerational dialogue sessions in the community.

2010 Training of Trainers:

The second training of the ToT cycle was held in July 2010 in Manila, the Philippines. The ToT program focused on:

- analyzing and evaluating trainees' country-level projects and consolidating trainees' learning;
- enhancing trainees' engagement and capacity as gender-sensitive allies on political levels (lobbying and advocacy);
- further deepening the participants' practical and theoretical understanding of gender-sensitive active nonviolence;
- in-depth sessions on gender and militarism; masculinities; UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, and 1889;

A2. Nonviolent Education and Training (NVET)

During 2010, WPP supported the following women's peace initiatives:

BALKANS: Ecumenical Women's Initiative (EWI) – Croatia: "Women's Pathways to Peace– Training for Women Community Activists"

The *Ecumenical Women's Initiative* (EWI) is a Croatian-based regional women's NGO active in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. EWI supports women as initiators and agents of change in faith communities and in wider society by supporting and connecting individuals and groups working in the fields of women's rights, peacebuilding and reconciliation, ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and cooperation.

The supported project consisted of a series of four two-day trainings taking place at different locations in Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia.

BALKANS: RAND – Croatia: “In search of equality promotion of nonviolence and women's rights in social change”

RAND is a Croatian NGO established in 2003, which focuses on training people in active nonviolence.

In a region characterized by a recent past of violent conflict and ongoing structural (patriarchal) violence, *RAND* underlines the need for critical reflection on current conflict resolution processes. The training was organized for this purpose.

CAUCASUS: Union of Wives of Invalids and lost Warriors - Georgia and The Association of the Women of South Ossetia for Democracy and Human Rights – South Ossetia: Joint project “Women for Peace”

Two organizations - *The Union of Wives of Invalids and lost Soldiers* and the *Association of the Women of South Ossetia for Democracy and Human Rights* joined hands to organize the Training of Trainers (ToT) “Women for Peace” for twenty women activists from Georgia and South Ossetia.

The main goal of the five-day training for was to enhance the trainees’ capacity on conflict resolution and mediation, to enable them to replicate this newly acquired knowledge on community-level.

Upon conclusion of the training, trainees formed groups to conduct trainings with women at IDP centres in Tserovani, Karaleti, Shavshvebi, Skra and Gori. These follow-up trainings were carried out with the support of the Swedish women’s organization Kvinna till Kvinna. As a result of these follow-up trainings, the Georgian women’s network “Women for Peace and Safety” was established, which right now has more than 1,000 women members.

The *Union of Wives of Invalids and Lost Soldiers* is currently working on recommendations for the development of a Georgian 1325 National Action Plan.

MIDDLE EAST: Jerusalem Centre for Women: “We Are Staying: A Practical Training for Palestinian Nonviolent Resistance in East Jerusalem”

The Jerusalem Centre for Women (JCW) is a Palestinian non-governmental women’s centre located in occupied East Jerusalem.

The nonviolence training took place during May 2010 and reached the following objectives:

- To **empower women** in East Jerusalem facing eviction and home demolition to become better advocates for their’s and their families’ rights;
- To **increase women’s involvement** in community mobilization while increasing the effectiveness of local Palestinian nonviolent resistance as a whole;
- To **empower women activists** within a local campaigning movement that is predominantly men-composed and -led;
- To form a **network of women** facing eviction and demolition in East Jerusalem who are prepared to launch a public campaign calling attention to housing as a human right, and to provide these women with the technical support to sustain the campaign.

LATIN AMERICA: FUNDACION MUJER, ARTE Y VIDA – MAVI - Colombia: “Escuela Politica de Mujeres”

Fundacion Mujer, Arte y Vida -MAVI-Colombia is a collective of Colombian organizations that work to promote active nonviolence and women’s rights. Early 2010, WPP decided to support some of its follow-up activities, including:

- The publication “*Women’s involvement in the peace process in Colombia*”; a collection of feminist voices for peace in the framework of the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325.
- A public campaign on women’s rights in the Colombian society.

Main outcomes of the 2010 work included:

- **Broad awareness raising on women's role in conflict prevention and resolution** through the strategic dissemination of the video and publication "*Women's involvement in the peace process in Colombia*", presented at the Colombian Feminist Event 2010.
- **Awareness raising on women's rights and GBV** through the campaign "*The fair of the independent woman*" organized in Cali with women living in the local IDP camp.

A3. International Orientation

Women peacemakers all over the world share a need to exchange their experiences, voice their concerns, and gain new insights in forums on peace and gender equality.

In order to facilitate women peacemakers' international exposure and capacity building, WPP:

- Provides seed funds to women peacemakers who wish to attend international meetings, trainings or conferences related to peacebuilding. These seed funds cover women's accommodation and travel costs, and if necessary, training fees.
- Organizes an Orientation Program at the IFOR International Secretariat (IS); to familiarize young women activists with critical international issues related to peacebuilding and gender equality.

During 2010 for instance, in the framework of supporting annual **South-South and North-South exchanges**, WPP supported the travel costs of three Asian women activists to the Asia Women Peace conference 1325; organized by the Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network (MWPN), Komnas Perempuan and ICRP (Indonesian Conference on Religion and Peace).

3.2 Networking and Building Regional Capacity

B1. Sustaining women's peace organizations in the field

A common need expressed by women peace activists is the need for networking, including links to information, organizational and technical assistance, and donors. A large component of the WPP work consists of providing groups and activists with these links.

To build regional capacity, ensure sustainable and culturally sensitive women's programming, and to strengthen South-South and North-South links among women peacebuilders, two regional desks for the promotion of gender-sensitive nonviolence training were established, one in Africa (hosted by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding in Ghana) and the other one in Asia (hosted by the Cultural Academy for Peace in India) in 2007. Both Desks were envisaged to be self-sufficient and sustainable by 2009. Late 2008, the WPP Africa Desk secured funding for the period 2009-2011. The WPP Asia Desk was not able to secure funding beyond 2008, yet continued as the WPP Asia Regional Network during the period 2009-2010.

In the framework of supporting the Africa region, WPP staff mainly provided technical support throughout 2010, with meetings taking place between WPP staff members and the Africa Board members and the desk's staff during 2010.

A roundtable meeting was organized with Asian women peace activists during the *Commission on the Status of Women* (CSW) in New York to further explore which direction the Asia Regional Network should take.

In terms of the regions which do not have a WPP regional support structure, WPP started to develop a regional strategy (5 regions) for the period 2011-2015. This strategy aims to produce:

- Increased **information exchange** amongst regional stakeholders;
- Regional **cooperation** on common goals (joint activities/ lobby and advocacy) to promote synergy and efficiency;
- Increased regional **capacity on GSAHV** (e.g. through regional Training of Trainers);
- **Regional solidarity** through sharing of obstacles/ best practices/ lessons learned;

- Increased opportunity for **fundraising**;
- Connections with stakeholders from **other regions** for exchange of lessons learnt/strategizing on a global level.

During the WPP 2009 planning sessions, the MENA region was prioritized as main region of focus for the period 2011-2015. Other regions will continue to receive WPP support through its various program activities.

B2. Documentation, Analysis, Dissemination

Since 2004, WPP has been producing monthly newsletters of the **WPP Opportunities e-list** which can be accessed via http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters_archive.html

In addition, WPP distributed three issues of the **WPP e-newsletter *Cross the Lines*** during 2010, in six different languages (in Dutch, English, French, German, Russian, and Spanish). Each edition of *Cross the Lines* (CtL) contained articles related to women's peacebuilding, as well as a list of new resources and publications and a calendar of upcoming training programs, seminars, and conferences. Editions can be accessed via: http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters_archive.html.

Additionally, in co-operation with the International Peace Bureau, WPP produced the **May 24 International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament Action Pack** ⁽³⁾. Since the 1995 UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, IFOR and IPB have published this pack to raise attention and support for women's peace initiatives. The pack can be downloaded via the WPP website: http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters_archive.html

During 2010, WPP produced several activity reports ⁽⁴⁾, which were distributed via the WPP e-lists and the WPP website, as well as during public events. The WPP website and Facebook page was regularly updated (once a week) with WPS-related information and WPP updates.

WPP was also approached regularly to participate in research activities and surveys, such as:

- During 2010, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP, of which WPP is a member) carried out a 1325 in-country and global monitoring project. The monitoring report *Women Count – Security Council Resolution 1325: Civil Society Monitoring Report* can be downloaded via <http://www.gnwp.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/in-country-and-global-monitoring-of-united-nations-security-council-resolution-1325>
- As a result of the WPP seminar on *engaging men for gender-sensitive peacebuilding* organized at the 1325+10 Peace Fair (see also C2), WPP was invited by the Strategic Policy and Development Section (SPDS) of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to contribute to the drafting process of its UN Police Gender Toolkit. WPP did so by providing resource materials.
- The Global Action to Prevent War, in collaboration with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (NGOWG) produced the publication *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict & Post-Conflict Societies*. Early 2010, WPP was approached by the publication's researchers to share its experiences and perspectives for the research. The book was launched at the United Nations University in Tokyo and at the United Nations in New York during the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

³ "May 24", or *International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament*, began in Europe in the early 1980s, when hundreds of thousands of women organized against the nuclear weapons and arms race.

⁴ These include the ToT reports.

To raise awareness in the Netherlands and abroad about the topic of Women, Peace and Security, WPP (co-)organized and participated in several public events over 2010. For example, on May 27, 2010, on the occasion of the International Women's Day of Peace and Disarmament (May 24), WPP organized the expert meeting "*Together for Transformation – Men, Masculinities and Peacebuilding*".

To increase synergy, share work load, and optimize impact, the WPP also participates in several (national and international) WPS-related platforms; such as:

- **Platform WO=MEN**
- **Platform Women and Sustainable Peace (Platform Vrouwen en Duurzame Vrede)**

3.3 Engendering Peace

C1. Consultation: “(Inter)faith-based Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective”

With the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) approaching, WPP felt that the momentum was right to merit highlighting the work done by women peacebuilders from within the different faith traditions, as well as to support the inclusion of a gender perspective in faith-based peacebuilding. It was against this background that WPP decided to organize its International Consultation “(Inter)faith-based Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective” which took place from 13–15 September, 2010, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Using a gender lens, the participants analyzed the multiple roles that religion plays, both in terms of gender justice and within current conflicts. These, together with the Consultation proceedings and insights have been captured in a Consultation report, which can be downloaded via www.ifor.org/WPP.

C2. Engendering the Peace Movement

During 2010, WPP focused on monitoring gender mainstreaming within IFOR's structures. The results of a questionnaire distributed among IFOR BGAs - to which 17% of the BGA membership responded - revealed that among these respondents:

- On BGA leadership (board) level, women were **equally represented**, with a majority of the responding BGA boards having women in decision-making positions (President, Vice-President, Treasurer);
- On staff level, women were **equally represented** (though it is important to note here that IFOR is largely a volunteer-based, activist movement – with many member organizations operating on volunteer capacity);
- Over 50 % of the responding BGAs indicated that they have been organizing **trainings, workshops or other events related to gender / women's rights issues**.
- 30% of the responding BGAs stated that the 2006 IFOR Gender Policy **had not led** to major changes in the work and culture of the organization. Another 30% answered that the policy had shaped **some changes** on these levels, whereas 21% noted **considerable changes** within their organization.

Since the majority of the filled out questionnaires came from BGAs in Europe and North America, the results can not be viewed as representative for IFOR as a global movement.

In addition, during 2010, WPP co-organized and participated in several expert meetings, conferences, and joint lobby and advocacy efforts in the framework of the WPS agenda, which contributed to **further knowledge exchange and awareness raising on the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in peacebuilding**. This includes for example:

- During March 2010, the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place at the UN in New York. The 54th CSW undertook a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. WPP staff members attended the CSW sessions, as well as organized a seminar on the topic *“Working with men for gender justice in peacebuilding: Experiences from a women’s organization”* on March 5 at the UN Church Building.
- On June 7, 2010, WPP was invited by EPLO and the International Crisis Group (ICG) to take part in a CSO roundtable meeting on 1325. The meeting focused on efforts to encourage the European Union (EU) and its Member States (MS) to a further implementation of SCR 1325 and related WPS commitments.
- Between October 25-29, 2010, the Centro de Educación e Investigación para la Paz (CEIPAZ), Hague Appeal for Peace, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)/Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Peace Women, Peace Women Across the Globe, United Methodist Women, and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN organized the Peace Fair: *“Commemorating the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security”* at the UN Church Centre in New York.

WPP also organized a seminar on *engaging men for gender-sensitive peacebuilding* at the Peace Fair, which generated a lot of positive response. Following the events in New York, WPP staff attended the *“Women Peacebuilders’ Consultation meeting on UN Women”*, organized by the UN Civil Society Advisory Group on SCR 1325 (CSAG), the Institute for Inclusive Security (IIS) and the International Civil Society Action (ICAN) in Washington D.C. on November 1, 2010 ⁽⁵⁾.

In the framework of ensuring sustainability of the work, WPP staff cooperated with the **WPP Working Group**, which provided guidance and advice on WPP’s strategy and activities, as well as on the organizational relationship between IFOR and WPP. During 2010, the WPP WG met in Cyprus upon conclusion of the WPP Interfaith Consultation. The meeting discussed the final draft of the 2011-2015 WPP Strategic Plan, as well as WPP’s co-operation with Dutch donor Cordaid during its 5th Program Phase. Needs of the future WPP phase vis-à-vis organizational support structures were discussed, with as main conclusion drawn that WPP would best flourish upon further institutionalization of its work during Phase V. During the 2010 IFOR Council, the WPP WG submitted a position paper which recommended investigating further institutionalization of the WPP during its Fifth Program Phase (2011-2015).

3.4 Evaluation

All WPP activities were evaluated and monitored by means of standard reporting formats, oral/written evaluations and questionnaires. Inputs from these evaluations will be used for future planning of activities.

To engage in the ongoing examination of the effectiveness of the WPP work, WPP’s monitoring system was complemented by an independent external evaluation in 2010.

This external evaluation concerned the Pilot Training of Trainers (A1) and was carried out by consultant Heidrun Ferrari (Germany) between June-September 2010. The evaluation concluded that with its pilot ToT project, WPP had entered new ground, both internally, with regard to vision and approaches of the WPP and externally, as a major change agent promoting concepts of masculinities and of gender-sensitive nonviolence into peacebuilding initiatives of international, regional and national actors.

⁵ The first meeting was hosted by CSAG on October 28, 2010 in New York City, and involved a discussion between USG Bachelet and approximately 25 women peacemakers from across the world. The second meeting on November 1, 2010 was a Strategic Planning Session to identify priorities for advancing UNSCR 1325 in the next decade.

4 REPRESENTATION & WORKING GROUPS

4.1 Representation in 2010

IFOR maintains permanent representatives at the United Nations (UN) in New York, Geneva and Vienna who regularly participate in conferences or meetings of UN bodies. Since 1979 IFOR has had a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which is the United Nations organ in facilitating international cooperation on standards-making and problem-solving in economic and social subjects. IFOR is also represented at UNESCO in Paris.

Representation at the UN in Geneva

Jonathan Sisson serves as IFOR's main representative to the UN in Geneva, assisted by Michel Monod. Their activities are focused on the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) mainly dealing with the rights of conscientious objectors, the right to peace and freedom of religion.

Some activities at the UN in Geneva were:

- **DISARMAMENT**

Activities in relation to the **Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva have been interrupted due to the deadlock of the Conference. Michel Monod belongs to the **NGO Committee on Disarmament** as Treasurer representing IFOR.

- **RIGHT TO PEACE**

As far as the **Council on Human Rights** is concerned Michel Monod attended a working group of experts in December 2009 on the right to peace and had the opportunity to make two statements to the **advisory board** and to a **side event** to the Council on Human Rights on the same issue. A Spanish organisation has drafted a declaration which will be examined by the Advisory Board in January 2011 and presented to the Council in June 2011.

- **CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION**

Attendance to the 13th session of the **Council on Human Rights** in March 2010 and making a statement on the right of Conscientious Objectors to a civilian service. This right is included in the resolution 1998/77. The resolution has been adopted by consensus, but this right to a civilian service is not implemented in many countries. An intervention at the **Universal Periodic Review** concerning Eritrea to denounce the fate of Conscientious Objectors in this country has been made.

- **FREEDOM OF RELIGION**

Attendance to meetings of the **NGO Committee on freedom of religion and thoughts**.

Representation at the UN in New York

John Kim is the IFOR representative at the UN in New York and has attended many UN meetings as well as NGO meetings on issues of peace, disarmament or human rights, etc. He is currently serving as a board member of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, which is a coalition of many NGOs working on disarmament issues at the UN Headquarters.

Some highlights of his participation in the UN meetings in 2010 were:

- The 8th Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.
- Special Meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions
- Observance of the International Day of Nonviolence

Representation at the UN in Vienna

Pete Haemmerle continues to represent IFOR at the UN in Vienna with major themes in Nuclear Non-Proliferation and disarmament.

Activities at the UN in Vienna were:

- Supporting a *statement to the NPT RC 2010* for Abolition of all Nuclear Weapons by the “Mayors for Peace” and “Abolition 2020”, as well as participating in a Vienna Conference organised by the Mongolian representative to the UN on nuclear-free zones.
- Active participation in *commemorative days* like the yearly “Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Day” and the International Day of Peace ceremony at the UN.
- Participation of a FOR delegation and expert in the international conference on a comprehensive *Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)*, organised by the Austrian Foreign Ministry in February 2010.
- Additionally, Pete Haemmerle attended some meetings/presentations at the NGO Committee on Peace, and visited (with a Pax Christi representative) the Austrian MFA's leader of the Austrian delegation to the NPT Review Conference to support him/the Austrian position in this meeting.

Representation at UNESCO

Maria Antonietta Malleo has been the IFOR representative at UNESCO since 2003 and is an art history teacher at the University of Palermo, Italy. She has been in the steering committee of the Joint Programmatic Commissions of NGO-UNESCO.

For further details please refer to section 2.2 of this report.

Other Representations

Each year IFOR is represented in different councils, organizations or meetings by promoting actively a culture of nonviolence and reconciliation.

IFOR is a founding member of EIRENE and of the Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP), which promotes and implements unarmed civilian peacekeeping as a tool for reducing violence and protecting civilians in situations of violent conflict.

The following are highlights of **NP's** most recent activities as submitted by Eric Bachman, member of the NP International Governance Council for international member organizations.

Sri Lanka

Since 2003, NP core work in Sri Lanka has focused on the protection of advocates for individual rights and the groups with whom they work. There is particular emphasis on the protection needs of children/youth and former child soldiers, and on helping local communities in areas where there has been violent conflict and where self-protection mechanisms need strengthening. Now, in 2011, the work in Sri Lanka will be drawing to a close.

Mindanao (Philippines)

Local organizations working for peace and justice in Mindanao invited NP to join in monitoring the ceasefire between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). International team members work with local peacekeepers, contribute to their safety, help to maintain ceasefires and advance the peace process.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, our peacekeepers are working with communities to protect safe spaces for civilians, de-escalate tensions, and support local actors to solve conflict before it turns violent. They are bringing together leaders to talk through alternatives to armed conflict and are protecting children displaced by violence and at risk for abduction.

NP Explorations in the South Caucasus

The region south of Russia, north of Turkey and Iran, are composed of three internationally recognized states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and some territories whose independence is disputed (Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia) that have been involved in different armed conflicts in the last 20 years. To verify that conditions for an effective NP deployment are met, NP is engaged in discussions with South Caucasus' civil society in order to map out a possible deployment of unarmed civilian peacekeeping teams.

For more information visit www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Additionally, IFOR works with:

- the European Centre for Conflict Prevention,
- War Resisters International (WRI),
- the Global Partnership on the Prevention of Armed Conflict,
- Pax Christi International,
- the World Council of Churches (WCC),
- the International Peace Bureau (IPB),
- the Conference of European Churches (CEC),
- Church and Peace.

4.2 Working Groups

Currently, IFOR has the following Working Groups (WG):

- Africa WG
- Youth Working Group (YWG)
- Finance WG
- Roles and Responsibilities WG
- Communication Systems WG
- Decision-Making Processes WG
- Constitutional WG
- Fellowship/NGO WG
- WPP WG
- Diversity WG
- Peace Education WG

News from the Youth Working Group is summarized in the following paragraphs.

2010 was a year of change for YWG. In September some of the established members met for the first time in person at a Youth Training event in Austria, and new enthusiastic young people joined the group. Nina Perkowski, wonderful long-time YWG convenor and Youth Opportunities! Newsletter editor, handed over her office and duties to the new convenor-team, Bettina Schieraus (Co-Convenor, editor), Clara Hahn (Co-Convenor) and Lucia Haemmerle (Co-Convenor).

But 2010 was also the year a solid basis for all of the YWG's future work was laid. Some members of the YWG for instance attended IFOR Council in Baarlo, the Netherlands. During Council, the YWG offered networking workshops, gave insights into the work that is planned for the near future, promoted its wish for broader support of the youth work and aimed to attract new members from all around the world. The Council recognized the importance of youth issues and the involvement of young people by adopting a "Statement on Youth in IFOR". The YWG will continue its work to increase the number of young people involved with IFOR. FOR Austria offered to host an IFOR Youth Office that started a test run in December, with two volunteers working there two times per week. Other projects that are in the process of being created are the "Three Countries Meetings" – small networking meetings that should connect young people from different BGAs – and a training for young peacemakers.

5 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 International Committee

The International Committee (Icom) is the principal decision-making body of IFOR between Council meetings. Its members are responsible for translating the directions and recommendations decided on by the International Council into a program of work for the International Secretariat. They are also responsible for monitoring the Secretariat's program of work and for coordinating IFOR's regional activity and the operation of the IFOR Working Groups. In addition, the International Committee determines and approves the IFOR annual budget and decides on the size and shape of IFOR staff.

Icom members 2006 – November 2010:

President, Jan Schaake, Kerk en Vrede, IFOR branch in The Netherlands
 Vice-President, Françoise Pétremand, IFOR Schweiz – Mir Suisse, IFOR branch in Switzerland
 Treasurer, Vololona Razafindrainibe, FIEFA/ MIR-MAD. IFOR branch in Madagascar
 Richard Deats, FOR USA
 Nhamo Sithole, FOR Zimbabwe
 Stella Tamang, Bikalpa Gyan Tatha Bikas Kendra, IFOR branch in Nepal
 Zoughbi Zoughbi, Wi'Am Centre, IFOR branch in Palestine

Icom members November 2010- 2014:

President, Hans Ulrich Gerber, IFOR Schweiz – Mir Suisse, IFOR branch in Switzerland
Vice-President, Davorka Lovreković, Internationaler Versöhnungsbund e.V., IFOR branch in Germany
Treasurer, David Mumford, FOR Scotland
Lucas Johnson, FOR USA
Kyoko Iitaka, JFOR, Japan
Jean Pierre Massamba, MIR Congo
Lili Baxter, FOR USA



Members of the IFOR International Committee; From left to right: Hans Ulrich Gerber, Jean Pierre Massamba, Lili Baxter, Kyoko Iitaka, Davorka Lovreković, David Mumford and Lucas Johnson

5.2 Representative Consultative Committee

The Representative Consultative Committee (RCC) is composed of two representatives from each region and the members of the International Committee. The regional representatives are nominated and elected by the Branches, Groups and Affiliates of their respective region.

Its tasks are mainly consultative, which includes evaluation and advising:

- to give feedback and guidance to the International Committee on current aspects of its work;
- to hear and respond to the reports of working groups and regions;
- to look at the progress of IFOR work in relation to the decisions taken at Council;
- to review the current work of the Secretariat.

The members of the Representative Consultative Committee, elected during Council in 2010, are:

Africa:

Moses John (South Sudan)
Chantal Razafindravony (Madagascar)

Americas:

Gustavo Cabrera (Costa Rica)
LeeMcKenna duCharme (Canada)

Asia:

Beena Sebastian (India)
Zoughbi Zoughbi (Palestine)

Europe:

Marion Schreiber (Austria)
Kees Nieuwerth (The Netherlands)

5.3 Stichting IFOR

Stichting (Foundation) IFOR is the legally registered body in the Netherlands. It acts under the guidance of the International Committee.

The members are:

President, Hans Ulrich Gerber (Switzerland)
Treasurer, David Mumford (Scotland)
Secretary, Paul Kruyswijk (The Netherlands)

5.4 The International Secretariat

In 2010 IFOR's International Secretariat had the following paid staff members: Executive Director (100%) and Financial Administrator (80%).

John Schot worked as Executive Director from February 2008 to November 2010.

Arjan Dekker has worked as Financial Administrator since April 2003 supporting the general staff and the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP), as well as the NVE Program.

Meltem Başara has joined IFOR as a full-time volunteer in November 2010 to support the organization of IFOR Council. Since February 2011, she has been working (80%) as an interim officer in International Communications and Networking for IFOR.

IFOR is pleased that Musicians without Borders (MwB), continues to have two rooms in it's building. MwB was initially a cooperation with IFOR. The NGO is a group of musicians who show that music can be a powerful force for peace and reconciliation. For further information please consult their website: <http://www.musicianswithoutborders.org/index.html>

Other groups, such as Amnesty International and a local support group for asylum seekers, use the building regularly for their evening meetings.

5.5 Women Peacemakers Program

Isabelle Geuskens has worked as Program Manager (January to September: 80% and October to December: 100%). Dorothy Attema continued to work as Regional Development Officer (80%) and Merle Gosewinkel has been working as Program Officer (80%). José de Vries has worked as Information Officer (January to September: 80% and October to December: 100%).

5.6 Volunteers and Interns

- Stan Morris did work as a full-time volunteer through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) until January 2011 as IFOR's Communications Officer.
- Helga de Goede and Vera Cavic volunteer and work part-time as office assistants.
- Martha Djuikom worked as a part-time volunteer from March to December and supported IFOR's Council in organization.
- Lilian Peters worked as a volunteer for IFOR's quadrennial Council.
- Anja Damhuis volunteered part-time as assistant to the Executive Director from January to September.
- Kim Douwes joined IFOR as a part-time volunteer as communications assistant from January to September.
- Sara Sifri from Sweden worked from September to November as a full-time intern by helping with the organization of the Council and also by supporting WPP.
- Colin Labelle from France has been supporting IFOR in translations and for the Council from August to November as a full-time intern.
- Annemarie Bron is a long-term volunteer and supports WPP in some design work.

Our gratitude to their commitment and support for IFOR.

6 PUBLICATIONS


6.1 IFOR and WPP Publications

IFOR Website

The Secretariat's website, www.ifor.org, continues to be IFOR's electronic "front door" and is managed by IFOR Communications Officer.

IFOR in Action

In 2010, the IFOR International Secretariat started producing a quarterly newsletter under the name IFOR in Action™ available on IFOR's website. Accessible both in English and French, the publication features articles and reports of IFOR Branches, Groups and Affiliates from around the world. For the year 2011, a lighter version with frequent updates of IFOR in Action™ is planned.



**Subscribe to
updates from
IFOR!**

Send an email to:
office@ifor.org

YO!™ (IFOR Youth Opportunities)

YO!™, which is an initiative of the IFOR Youth Working Group, is the monthly electronic newsletter featuring news items or events relating to youth activities. Bettina Schieraus as co-YO!™ editor researches and produces the content and the design work. For more information on youth within IFOR, to subscribe to their newsletter or to submit youth news and information, please visit: <http://www.ifor.org/youth.htm> or contact them on their facebook page: **IFOR Youth**.

Patterns in Reconciliation

This series of books called *Patterns in Reconciliation* brings new thinking of the theory, practice and philosophy of nonviolence. The latest is Patterns #12 and entitled "Engendering Peace: Incorporating a Gender Perspective in Civilian Peace Teams".

For WPP Publications please refer to section three under WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM.

7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2010 accounts show a profit of € 1,776. The original budget as approved by ExCom was a deficit of € 13,541.

The difference between the budget of € 13,541 negative and the actual balance of € 1,776 positive is mainly caused by the following:

- Savings on Organizational Expenses and Information & Publications
- Higher income through BGA contributions, legacies and use of earmarked funds

The expenses on program costs were significantly higher than in 2009. The main reason for this was higher expenditure by IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) on their pilot project by the organization of the consultation "Interfaith Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective" in Cyprus in September 2010. Even though within certain subcategories WPP has sometimes overspent the budgeted amount, within the four major categories (Education & Training / Networking / Mainstreaming Gender / Evaluation) WPP's expenditure remained within budget. During the overall subsidy period MFS 1 (2009-2010) as sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WPP has spent a total amount of € 919,201, which meant it remained within the overall budget of € 974,172.

The NVE (Non Violent Education, "Pre-Study on Violence Prevention in the Educational Institution 'Kindergarten'- Present Approaches and Development Possibilities") had about the same expenses in 2010 as in 2009. One part was expenditure on a publication on NVE, which has been sponsored by UNESCO. The other part of the expenditure has been on a project which IFOR participates in with the University of Oulu in Finland.

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main donor for the IFOR Women Peacemakers Program (WPP). IFOR thanks the Ministry and other donors for their continuing support of the program. IFOR wishes to mention special thanks also to Cordaid, which was a funding partner in the organization of the Consultation "Interfaith Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective" in Cyprus in September 2010.

UNESCO and the University of Oulu were the donors in 2010 for IFOR's NVE project. IFOR thanks UNESCO, the University of Oulu and IFOR's partners in the project for their support to this project.

IFOR also wishes to thank the Eschaton Foundation in the United States of America, for their consent to IFOR to use part of the capital of the Third World Travel fund for the Council's travel-related expenses. This enabled IFOR to have many participants from the global south present at the IFOR 2010 Council in Baarlo, the Netherlands. The presence of these participants made a big contribution to the success of the above mentioned Council.

The building that IFOR owns at Spoorstraat 38/40 in Alkmaar was valued at €126,352 which considerably understates its current market value. The solvency and liquidity of IFOR remains satisfactory.

The company Zweers Wijbenga, has prepared the IFOR 2010 accounts.

If you would like further details about any item in the accounts (see appendix 1), a copy of the full report of the accountants and/or you have any other questions, please contact Arjan Dekker, the Financial Administrator, through the International Secretariat.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

STICHTING IFOR BALANCE

	<u>31-12-2010</u>	<u>31-12-2009</u>
	€	€
Assets		
Building	126.352	126.352
Equipment	4.087	5.887
Accounts receivables	53.621	33.736
Invested assets	123.988	346.152
Liquid assets	119.239	103.797
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets	<u><u>427.287</u></u>	<u><u>615.924</u></u>
Liabilities		
free capital reserve	206.160	204.384
<i>[increase: € 1,776 deficit in 2010]</i>		
foundation capital	45	45
provisions	52	52
<i>[funds under the control of IFOR]</i>		
earmarked funds		
<i>[funds to be used according to donor's instructions]</i>		
Freeman Trust	61.368	61.368
Third world travel fund	28.846	39.336
Women Peacemakers Program (WPP)	51.542	252.003
WPP Regional desk Africa	-	10.147-
WPP Regional desk Asia	-	18.527
University Oulu funding NVE.EU	3.553	
UNESCO Funding NVE.EU	-	6.917
WPP/IFOR projects	555	555
other earmarked funds	2.793	4.803
accounts payable	72.373	38.081
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	<u><u>427.287</u></u>	<u><u>615.924</u></u>

	2010	2009
	€	€
Expenses		
personnel	327.234	309.238
administrative expenses	63.609	9.353
housing	11.854	11.560
organizational expenses	19.943	22.559
information & publications	242	1.429
PR & Fundraising	1.854	4.471
program costs	523.245	405.930
networking & representation	3.505	4.574
miscellaneous expenses	-	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>
total	951.486	769.130
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Income		
BGA Contributions	109.324	99.033
IFOR Funds	521.079	401.136
donations	9.465	6.174
legacies	11.123	2.784
interest	2.906	11.849
reimbursements	295.079	230.054
income earmarked funds	4.102	4.901
miscellaneous income	184	158
	<hr/>	<hr/>
total	953.262	756.089
	<hr/>	<hr/>
result	1.776	13.041-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Appendix 2

IFOR Pledge Card



**SAY YES! TO ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE
YES, I/We want to support the**

**International Fellowship of
Reconciliation (IFOR)**

www.ifor.org

Name:.....

Address:.....

Country:.....

Email:.....

I/We contribute (amount):.....

Via:

a **check** in GBP drawn on a British bank

a check in USD drawn on a US bank

All checks to be made out to: IFOR

bank transfer: Account number 2704182
in the name of: Stichting IFOR, Spoorstraat 38,
1815 BK Alkmaar, The Netherlands

IBAN number: NL11INGB0002 7041 82

Bank's SWIFT/BIC Code: INGBNL2A

Name of Bank: ING

Address Bank: Postbus 810

City & Postcode: Amsterdam 1000 AV

Please do send an acknowledgement of this
contribution

Please do not send an acknowledgement of this
contribution

Thank you for returning
this card to:

**IFOR
Spoorstraat 38
1815BK Alkmaar
The Netherlands**

Or scan this card
and send it to:

finance@ifor.org

Thank you for your support!



International Fellowship of Reconciliation
Internationaler Versöhnungsbund
Mouvement International de la Réconciliation
Movimiento Internacional de la Reconciliación

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