

Publisher:
Center for
Peacebuilding KOFF
Sonnenbergstrasse 17
CH - 3000 Bern 7
Tel: +41 (0)31 330 12 12
www.swisspeace.org/koff

KOFF – swisspeace

- Annual meeting of KOFF member organizations
- Social integration of Roma and non -Serb minorities in Kosovo
- The Swisspeace Annual Report 2007

Focus

- Peacebuilding also means dilemma management

News from Swiss NGOs

- Caritas Switzerland takes all due precaution in Aceh resettlement project
- Appeal for collaboration with an APRED research project on „countries without armies“
- PWS joins delegations visiting southern Mexico
- HEKS Office of the peace project, an ongoing concern
- Biofuels: the latest threat to human rights?

News from Swiss Government Agencies

- New Human Security Advisor in Indonesia

International Partner Organizations

Events, Publications, Web tip

KOFF – swisspeace

Links

- [KOFF NGOs](#)
- [KOFF Steering Committee](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Anita Müller](#)

Annual meeting of KOFF member organizations

More than 50 people representing nearly two thirds of KOFF non-governmental organizations (NGO) members participated in this year's meeting on 20 May. In the section of the meeting devoted to statutory business KOFF Program Director Anita Müller reviewed the most important developments of the past three years. She then considered a number of questions which the Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF) must address in the context of further development and the new medium-term strategy. The members present said that the platform events, training sessions and information services provided by KOFF are much appreciated. They expressed an interest in boosting networking opportunities to meet the needs of specific member categories, and in more and better information on the consulting services KOFF is able to provide.

The AGM was also an occasion for election to the Steering Committee (SteeCom). Lini Culetto (Women for Peace) leaves the committee after three years of solid commitment representing member organizations in the Peace Organizations category. Elected to replace her was Sabine Ziegler of Peace Brigades International. Cécile Bühlmann (The Feminist Peace Organisation cfd), who has been a member of the SteeCom since 2006, was re-elected for another two years.

In the second part of the meeting Norbert Ropers of the Berghof Foundation for Peace Support talked about his many years of experience with conflict transformation in Sri Lanka. The Focus article in this edition of the Newsletter is devoted to his views on the challenges and dilemmas involved in this area. 20.05.2008

Links

- [KOFF Southern Europe](#)
- [SDC Kosovo](#)
- [SDC Roma](#)
- [Caritas Switzerland](#)
- [Caritas Kosovo](#)

Social integration of Roma and non-Serb minorities in Kosovo

Representatives of Swiss governmental and non-governmental organizations discussed the above-mentioned topic at the South Eastern Europe Roundtable on 15 May. Alfred Fritschi of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Gerhard Meili (Caritas Switzerland) reported on their projects in the region. The SDC operates at a variety of levels including education, assistance with structural problems and migration partnerships, as well as heightening of conflict transformation sensitivity. Caritas Switzerland on the other hand provides support for community building projects including the creation of kindergartens and the development of other small-scale infrastructure. A Do no Harm approach is a must for the development of cooperation between the region's minority groups and the dominant Albanian community.

Rainer Mattern, who is responsible for the Kosovo country analysis at the Swiss Refugee Council stressed the importance of in-country protection as a prerequisite to repatriation and integration. Without a minimum of protection and a place to go to, repatriation of the many displaced persons could well lead to serious destabilization in the areas concerned. One point made in the discussions was

- [Swiss Refugee Council](#)
- [Swiss Refugee Council:](#)
country analysis
„Zur Lage der Roma
im Kosovo“

Further information:
KOFF [Christian Gebhart](#)

that integration must not be confused with assimilation. In addition to external factors such as the lack of political will on the part of the Kosovo government and the uncoordinated, short-term commitment of certain NGOs, there are internal factors that make efforts to improve local living conditions difficult. These include the absence of a sense of community between the RAE ethnic groups (Roma, Ashkali, and „Egyptian“) and their concomitant disinterest in either social or political participation.

The challenges going forward are clear. How can the minority groups, with the support of the Kosovo government, achieve an identity as citizens, complete with all the rights that go with citizenship? What can Switzerland and its European partners do to ensure that these „RAE societies“ become more integrated at the European level? And how can human rights be promoted more vigorously in this region? On one point there is unanimity: only a realistic approach to these problems will bring a brighter, sustainable future to the region. 15.05.2008

Links

[swisspeace
annual report 2007](#)

The Swisspeace Annual Report 2007

The swisspeace annual report for the year 2007 is now available. It summarizes the foundation's activities over the past year. The successes – in the areas of Business & Peace, Mediation, and „Dealing with the Past“ and an increase in federal subsidies – are in net contrast with the forced termination of the FAST political early warning program. 29.05.2008

Focus

Links

- [Berghof Foundation for Peace Support](#)
- [Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies in Sri Lanka](#)
- [KOFF Sri Lanka](#)

Peacebuilding also means dilemma management

This year's meeting of KOFF member organizations was devoted to the subject of „Conflict transformation in war and peace: experiences from seven years of involvement in Sri Lanka“. Guest speaker Norbert Ropers, Director of the Berghof Foundation for Peace Support (BFPS), drew the lessons from his many years in the field and described the basic challenges that BFPS has had to confront in Sri Lanka.

When BFPS began work in 2001 at the invitation of the government of Sri Lanka, and launched the „Resource Network for Conflict Studies and Transformation“ (RNCST) project, the country was still in the throes of war. With the project due to end in 2008, Sri Lanka is again in a state of war. What remains after seven years of conflict transformation, in war and peace? What were the main challenges faced by BFPS? These are the questions Norbert Ropers addressed in his initial assessment for the KOFF AGM.

Conflict transformation in a changing political context

The aim of the RNCST project was to strengthen capabilities for dealing with the conflict, and to promote dialogue. When the project was launched Sri Lanka was in a situation of military stalemate, with both sides ready to consider negotiations. Between 2002 and 2004 the Berghof Foundation fostered the peace process at the negotiating level (Track 1.5). The negotiations failed however and at the end of 2004 the tsunami and the subsequent involvement of international aid brought the conflict into a new dimension. Between 2005 and 2006 there was a change of government, and by the end of 2006 it had become clear that it would seek a military solution. Confronted with fierce criticism from the Sinhalese nationalists the RNCST team did its best to defend the established structures within the partner organizations and the approach adopted in the search for a peaceful solution. In the Spring of 2008 however the team had no choice but to prematurely terminate the contract with the government, and all work in the field comes to an end as of July 2008. In the meantime the war has entered a new phase of escalation.

Dilemma of peacebuilding

Norbert Ropers and the Berghof Foundation were confronted with certain basic dilemmas in Sri Lanka which other peacebuilding actors may find relevant to their own work. Below, three of these dilemmas are reviewed in an exemplary manner.

Principles and their implementation

The RNCST team operated from the beginning on the basis of certain conceptual principles: multipartiality, inclusiveness, avoidance of the public condemnation of activities of the parties to the conflict, and constructive but critical collaboration with the various groups. Particularly difficult to implement was the principle of multipartiality, in a conflict in which the power and legitimacy of the various parties are distributed in a very asymmetric way. At a time when a new govern-

ment was questioning the basis for the peace talks of 2002-03, Berghof's efforts with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) also came in for criticism. But while holding fast to the multipartiality principle rendered the situation of the Foundation increasingly difficult, dumping it would inevitably have resulted in a loss of credibility. This question — how to adapt parameters determined at the start of a project to changed circumstances without losing credibility — is one that is certainly relevant to many peacebuilding projects.

Roles and their compatibility

In order to provide legitimacy for facilitation of the negotiations on Track 1.5, the Berghof project took on various capacities right from the start: as well as providing consultation with persons of influence, the Foundation offered capacity building and financial support for partner organizations. Furthermore it made state-of-the-art knowledge available in areas that seemed important for this peace process. During the peace process from 2002 to 2004 capacity building was in great demand, notably in relation to power sharing, State reform and federalism. This fact greatly influenced the external perception of the project. The elite of Sri Lanka soon began to associate the Berghof Foundation with federalism and power sharing concepts. At a later stage, when the political framework conditions had changed, this type-casting proved detrimental to the efforts of the RNCST. To have altered the program in a way that was against the convictions of Berghof and its partners — that questions of power sharing are of prime importance if there is to be a sustainable solution of the conflict — would again have resulted in a loss of credibility. This example shows how important are considerations on the compatibility, or incompatibility, of various roles.

Interaction with the political framework conditions

When in 2007 it became clear that the parties were primarily interested in a military „solution“ to the conflict, the political framework conditions for a continuation of Berghof's efforts were brought into question. The Foundation had to decide whether or not to bring the project to a premature end in view of these developments, or merely to suspend it. However, collaboration with local partners and the desire to promote communication between the various conflict parties in this difficult period and safeguard chances for peace initiatives at a later date, made both project leaders and donors reluctant to rush into a decision to terminate. Ropers feels that there is need for a basic rethinking on the duration of peacebuilding projects on Tracks 1.5 and 2: should they not either be short term and adapted to a specific stage of peace negotiations, or spread over 10 to 20 years for a more in-depth approach?

Thoughts on effectiveness

The aim of the RNCST project was to create problem-solving capacities within the political elite, to promote all-party networks and in this way to open a window for communication and negotiation. The project did indeed manage to create such networks and to stimulate thinking on key aspects of a peace process. There was no escaping the fact however that even a project as ambitious and relatively all-embracing as the RNCST remains entirely subject to the opportunities on Track 1.

Article contributed by:

KOFF [Rahel Fischer](#)

Further information:

Berghof [Norbert Ropers](#)

The „Resource Network for Conflict Studies and Transformation“ project was unable to achieve the critical mass necessary for political and social change. Summing up the lesson to be learned from the experiences in Sri Lanka, Norbert Ropers concluded that efforts to build up so-called „peace constituencies“ (local peace actors and alliances) in a society as deeply divided as that of Sri Lanka almost inevitably lead to a parallel strengthening of the „war constituencies“. The Berghof Foundation plans a thorough investigation of these and other aspects of systemic conflict transformation, the dilemmas and their „management“, to be treated in a series of publications.

20.05.2008

News from Swiss NGOs

Links

- [Caritas](#)
- [KOFF Indonesia](#)

Further information:

Caritas [Bettina Iseli](#)

Caritas Switzerland takes all due precaution in Aceh resettlement project

Caritas Switzerland is currently involved in infrastructure, construction and livelihood projects in areas of the Indonesian province of Aceh devastated by the tsunami of 26 December 2004. The biggest project involves the resettlement of some 1,000 families at a new site in Meulaboh. A systematic understanding of the context is necessary for the successful implementation of this resettlement program in a conflict-sensitive way and with full awareness of the risks so as to be able to forestall potential negative impacts. With this in mind Caritas Switzerland, in collaboration with the Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF), organized a course in Do No Harm (DNH) and Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) for those responsible for implementation in Meulaboh. The course was in two parts: Part 1 explained the DNH and LCP concepts at the theoretical level, while in Part 2 the same instruments were considered in relation to the resettlement project. In this way a concrete course of action emerged from the learning process. For example people living in the resettled area will in the future be able to address their questions, suggestions and conflict-related thoughts to Caritas by means of a special letterbox. The Meulaboh Livelihood Team plans to monitor the situation in the resettled area on a regular basis to ensure „early warning“ about any points of friction arising from the project, so as to be able to take whatever action is necessary to prevent an actual conflict.

14.05.2008

Links

- [APRED](#)

Information on collaboration with the study, or for advance orders of the publication

APRED [Christophe Barbey](#)

Appeal for collaboration with an APRED research project on „countries without armies“

The Association for the Study and Practice of Non-militarization and Demilitarization (APRED) is an institute for participative research in areas including human rights, peace zones and non-militarized countries. Thanks to various contributions it has been possible to organize a major research project dedicated to the so-called „countries without armies“. Publication of the results in English is planned for the end of 2008. APRED published its first findings on this topic in 2001. The new study considers ways in which countries without armies could further develop their efforts in the area of peace policy, and will include a number of recommendations.

Depending on how one defines the borderlines between military, paramilitary and (police) security forces, the number of „countries without armies“ in the world today is somewhere between 20 and 30. The differences between them, and notably in the approach to the defense of national independence and security problems, offers an interesting field for research, notably into the methods used, and the ways in which peace can be achieved and maintained without the need of armies.

Students and researchers are invited to participate in this study, for example with country-specific case studies, on events or on more general topics such as the demilitarization process, neutrality, light weapons, peace treaties, disarmament or human rights.

19.05.2008

Links

- [PWS](#)
- [SIPAZ](#)
- [CCIODH](#)

PWS joins delegations visiting southern Mexico

Volunteers from Peace Watch Switzerland (PWS) joined a delegation on a visit to Chiapas, Oaxaca, Atenco, and another visiting Guerrero, and together with partner organizations analyzed the local human rights situation. The first visit, organized by the International Commission for the Observation of Human Rights (CCIODH), involved a group of some 50 people from nine countries. It was the sixth visit organized and included interviews with more than 600 people living in the conflict regions of Oaxaca, Chiapas and Atenco – victims of torture, political prisoners, and also the Governor of Chiapas and representatives of the Interior Ministry. The delegation, whose findings are contained in a comprehensive 460-page report, considers the human rights situation in the region as „extremely critical“. The government ignored the recommendations made after previous visits and the CCIODH „does not see any real interest on the part of the Executive when it comes to making human rights one of its priorities“. Development projects are one of the main challenges in Chiapas, including in the area of ecotourism. Many of these projects omit any consultation with indigenous townships, which results in confrontation within and between these communities. In Chiapas, Oaxaca and Atenco there is impunity even in the case of severe human rights violations by the authorities, including the rape of women in police custody

Further information:
PWS [Philipp Gerber](#)

in Atenco in 2006, among them two EU citizens. In these circumstances, and given the lack of independence of the judicial system, local populations have lost all faith in the institutions of the State, which as the CCIODH points out is an alarming development. For the time being the report has been supplied to all those interviewed. Meetings have been scheduled with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as with European MPs and authorities.

Two PWS volunteers also participated in a visit to the federal state of Guerrero organized by the international Service for Peace coalition (SIPAZ). In Guerrero, where political violence is particularly rife, impunity, militarization and the criminalization of social protest were the focus of the discussions. SIPAZ Director Marina Pages on Guerrero: „On the basis of our experiences in Oaxaca and Chiapas we fear that the window for dialogue is closing and the actors will soon opt for violent methods.“ PWS will be closely watching the local elections due to take place in Guerrero 5 October 2008. 20.05.2008

Links

- [Recruitment](#) of new manager for Office of the peace project: see under „Wer wir sind“
- [Evaluation](#) HEKS Office of the peace project

Further information:
HEKS [Esther Oettli](#)

HEKS Office of the peace project, an ongoing concern

Last year, at the end of a four-year first stage the Office of the peace project of the Humanitarian Service of the Swiss Protestant Churches (HEKS/EPER) was subjected to an external evaluation. The evaluator came to the conclusion that thanks to the Office, opened in 2003, project management is now much more conflict sensitive. Other improvements included increased HEKS networking in professional circles and an ability to go into greater depth with various peace-related topics (see KOFF Newsletter No. 63). In future the Humanitarian Service will focus more closely on early identification of potential conflicts and their prevention or transformation, particularly in the context of peacebuilding projects. In this context HEKS will concentrate on peacebuilding initiatives in a local or regional context. Whenever the occasion arises, HEKS will work in cooperation with others from civil society including at the supraregional level in an effort to contribute to peacebuilding.

Following the departure of Maya Krell in 2007 HEKS is now seeking a replacement to ensure that the various peacebuilding objectives will continue to be implemented in a professional manner. 02.05.2008

Links

- [PBI Switzerland](#)
- [RSPO](#)

Biofuels: the latest threat to human rights?

Given the limited supply of petroleum and problems associated with climate change biofuels were initially greeted as a panacea. Today however there is an ever growing chorus of critical voices as to the consequences to be expected from their utilization in the transport and heating sectors. This issue was debated by a number of interdisciplinary experts at the recent AGM of Peace Brigades International Switzerland (PBI).

- [WAHLI](#)
- [Sawit Watch](#)
- [Migros:](#)
sustainable palm oil
- [EMPA study](#)
„Biofuel“ does not necessarily mean ecologically friendly

Further information:
[PBI Lise Corpataux](#)

The use of biofuels has been promoted by Swiss energy policy. Marcel Gauch of the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA) reported on a study into the ecological balance sheets of various biofuels. Some do indeed produce less greenhouse gases than fossil fuels. However, when the cultivation and processing of the raw materials are taken into consideration the ecological balance sheets are much less convincing. As of July 2008 therefore the import duty on biofuels from palm oil, soya and cereals will no longer benefit from preferential rates in Switzerland. In view of the limited amounts available at home, Switzerland has to import biofuels from other sources and notably from Indonesia, which produces large quantities of palm oil. Indonesia plans to develop the surface area available for cultivation of this crop to 20 million hectares by 2020. This is causing a rural exodus, and violations of human rights. The traditional livelihood of a number of different ethnic groups is threatened by the requisition of their land. PBI provides protective accompaniment to two organizations - WAHLI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia) and Sawit Watch - that are aware of the inevitable consequences of palm oil production, and oppose this use of the land and the resulting expulsions. These Environmental Human Rights Defenders are fighting for people's rights to the land, biodiversity and the protection of traditional livelihoods. For the time being PBI is devoting as much as 50 per cent of its time to helping these organizations.

Migros and WWF Switzerland are the first in the world to have developed criteria for the sustainable production of palm oil. As co-founders of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) their objective is to draw wholesalers' attention to the problems. According to Roger Keller of Migros Switzerland (Migros), manufacturers of washing powders and cooking fat, the RSPO guidelines ensure a responsible approach to production without unnecessary forest clearances. PBI is convinced that sustainable production can only be achieved in the presence of independent controls. Unfortunately, in countries with little or no access to information this is virtually impossible.

24.04.2008

News from Swiss Government Agencies

Links

Further information:
[FDFA PD IV](#)
[Roland Salvisberg](#)

New Human Security Advisor in Indonesia

The Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) has appointed a new Human Security Advisor in Indonesia, who took office at the beginning of May. This additional resource will enable PA IV to be more proactive in the area of conflict transformation and human rights. The Program for which the new Advisor Georg Stein is responsible includes the peace process in Aceh, and particularly such areas as dealing with the past, facilitation, and the transformation of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) into a political party. Promoting human rights dialogue with the Indonesian government's Directorate General of Human Rights is also part of the program.

21.05.2008

International Partner Organizations

Info

News from the 9 international KOFF partner organizations.

- [Berghof-Center](#)
- [CDA Collaborative Learning Projects](#)
- [Conciliation Resources](#)
- [European Centre for Conflict Prevention](#)
- [European Peacebuilding Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](#)
- [Gruppe Friedensentwicklung \(FriEnt\)](#)
- [International Alert](#)
- [Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung](#)
- [SPICE/GTZ](#)

FriEnt

- The Working Group on Development and Peace (FriEnt) has organized an [expert discussion](#) on the current crisis in Kenya. The focus will be on factors that may have been overlooked or misunderstood, and what influence these could have on renewed efforts in the field.

International Alert

- A new [report](#) explores the impact of conflict on the Colombian private sector. Based on a survey of local businesses in six Colombian cities it assesses the economic effects of the armed conflict, for example the impact of armed actors present in a company's operating environment, for example on company growth rates, and community relations strategies.
- The European Commission has awarded International Alert an 18-month contract to coordinate the training program for the European Group on Training (EGT) and other training activities in 22 European Union member states. Alert will help new EU member states in Eastern Europe to develop their own training for civilian peacekeepers and peacebuilders. It will also develop uniform training standards for international peace missions, and provide assistance to the African Union. Contact: [Tim Wallis](#).

Conciliation Resources

- Conciliation Resources (CR) has just published its latest annual review entitled [„Preparing the ground for peace“](#)
- CR is holding policy seminars in London and New York in June to discuss the findings of its recent Accord publication [Powers of persuasion: incentives, sanctions and conditionality in peace processes](#). [Further Information](#).

Events

Info

This section gives pointers to selected events in Switzerland pertaining to civil peace building.

- This year KOFF has organized four [training courses](#) on specific aspects of civil peacebuilding:
 - Working on trauma in communities affected by mass violence,
 - Reflecting on Peace Practice,
 - Do no Harm,
 - Theory and Practice of Dialogue Facilitation.
- A former volunteer with Peace Brigades International will speak on Guatemala („Guatemala – ein Land im Tumult der Wahrheitsfindung“) in the context of the [„Facing Peace - Face à la Paix“](#) exhibition at the Missionshaus in Basel 12 June at 19.00.

Other pointers to events and training courses are available through the [KOFF-Infomarket](#).

- Coinciding with UEFA EURO 2008 the „[Sport and Social Inclusion Symposium](#)“ looks at the potential of sport as an instrument of social inclusion. The symposium takes place 18 June between 9.00 and 18.00 at the Paul Klee Center, Bern, in collaboration with the Swiss Academy for Development. [Program and registration](#).
- The East-West Forum has organized a [panel discussion](#), with Erich Gysling as moderator, on the future course of Russian politics following the installation of Dmitry Medvedev as President. The discussion takes place 3 July 16-18 pm at the Restaurant Zunfthaus zur Waag, Münsterhof 8, Zurich.
- [Peace Brigades International Schweiz](#) and [Peace Watch Switzerland](#) have organized afternoon information sessions on 23 August in Zurich and on 30 August in Bern.
- [Peace Watch Switzerland](#) still has a few vacancies for training prior to deployment on human rights work in Palestine/Israel (18-21 September and 9-12 October) and Guatemala/Mexico (2-5 October and 16-19 October).

Publications

Info

- The publication may be obtained free of charge. [To order](#).

Peacebuilding and human rights work in Mexico

„Friedensarbeit und Advocacy zu Mexiko“ documents the experiences of the Humanitarian Service of the Swiss Protestant Churches (HEKS/EPER) in human rights observation and peacebuilding in Mexico. Tildy Hanhart, who was for many years HEKS media spokesperson, provides an assessment of the efforts on all sides in the period between 1994 and 2007. The brochure also includes commentary from the Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) as well as HEKS' Mexican partners and from the Swiss Bishops' Conference, plus an assessment by external evaluators. The publication provides a valuable insight into peacebuilding as a mutual learning process.

08.05.2008

Info

- Rolle und Significance of Religion and Spirituality in Development Cooperation
[Reader 1](#)
[Reader 2](#)

Role and significance of religion and spirituality in development cooperation

Religious and spiritual images and ideas are ever present in a development cooperation environment. At the same time however they have long been excluded from discussions among professionals, and in the approach to programs of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The SDC has now conducted a series of case studies on this topic, with the help of Swiss NGOs involved in development cooperation and their local partner organizations. Program managers evaluated their own experiences of religion and spirituality, the potential and the risks, the effects and the „dilemmas“ in specific fields. This

- [SDC Religion and spirituality](#)

work produced five case studies from Christian environments and four from Islamic environments, all of which are now available.

A former swisspeace staffer, Susanne Schmeidl, put together one contribution entitled „Collaborating with Religious Actors in Afghanistan“. A further Reader will appear in November 2008 and as well as other case studies will contain instruments for the monitoring of religious factors and a summary of the most significant results. This completes the SDC's „Development and Religion“ project.

19.05.2008

Info

- [To order](#)

Violence, Experience of Violence and Health

The latest edition of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Bulletin includes a number of contributions on violence and its impact on health facilities and international cooperation in this field. How do governmental and non-governmental organizations deal with people who have experienced violence? And what happens when NGOs themselves become parties to a conflict? This publication sheds light on these and other questions.

20.05.2008

Info

- [To order](#)
- [ASPR](#)

From cold energy strategies to hot wars over raw materials?

About 75 per cent of the world's resources are consumed by just 25 per cent of the world's population, and as natural raw materials become increasingly scarce the question of their distribution acquires greater urgency. The potential for conflicts in many parts of the world that results from this problem is something few would dispute today. Furthermore, conflicts over resources are not infrequently aggravated by conflicts of a political or ethnic nature. Neither the seemingly insoluble Middle East crisis nor the civil war in Sudan can be fully understood without reference to the question of resources. Nor, in the opinion of Wolfgang Sachs co-author of „Von kalten Energiestrategien zu heissen Rohstoffkriegen?“, is it possible to understand the situation of refugees in Pakistan or the genocide in Rwanda if you are unaware of such problems as leaching of the soil and the disappearance of agricultural land.

Each year the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) organizes a summer academy on topics of current interest in the field of peace-related research. The book which has just been published (with a sub-title that translates roughly as „A game of chess for the world powers: between pre-emptive warfare and a sustainable raw materials policy in the age of global warming“) is an anthology of contributions from the academy in the year 2007. Its 20 papers look at different aspects of problems linking climate, energy and resources, and deals with such topics as the energy policy of the European Union, the battles for resources in the Middle East and Central Asia, and the „recolonization of Africa“. All questions that are certain to surface time and again in the context of peacebuilding work in the years ahead.

26.05.2008

Web tip

Info

- [Households in Conflict Network](#)

Households in Conflict Network

Despite the fact that violent conflicts have very dramatic consequences for private households in the regions concerned, relatively little research is done on the multiple interrelationships and mutual influence linking violent conflicts and households. „Households in Conflict Network“ (HiCN) has now stepped into this breach. The HiCN website contains much well researched information and summarizes the current state of knowledge on the subject.

All of the Working Papers prepared by researchers from universities and other institutions around the world in collaboration with HiCN are available on this website. Several reports are of particular interest and should be compulsory reading for professionals in the field. Examples include „Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks? Evidence from a Natural Experiment“ and „From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda“. The experiment in the first-named paper shows, against all expectations, that victims of indiscriminate violence are themselves less inclined to use violence than people in control groups.

HiCN.org also offers a platform for researchers to exchange information on their methods and for evaluation of current approaches to research in the area of households affected by conflict. The lessons learned are available on the site in the form of Research Notes.

19.05.2008

Publisher: Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF) / [swisspeace](#)

Address: Sonnenbergstrasse 17, CH - 3000 Bern 7
Tel: +41 (0)31 330 12 12; Fax: +41 (0)31 330 12 13

Editing: [Christa Dold](#)

Translating: [Eric Edgell-Grimley](#)

Publication dates: The KOFF Newsletter appears in German, English and French on the first day of every month (except August 1 and January 1). The newsletter is distributed electronically.

The KOFF is sponsored jointly by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the following Swiss NGOs:

• [Alliance Sud](#) • [APRED](#) • [BAHA'Í](#) • [Brücke Le pont](#) • [Caritas Schweiz](#) • [CASIN](#) • [cfd](#) • [CIMERA](#) • [DCAF](#) • [Fastenopfer](#) • [Fondation Hironnelle](#) • [Forum für Friedenserziehung](#) • [Frauen für den Frieden Schweiz](#) • [FriedensFrauen Weltweit](#) • [Gemeinden Gemeinsam Schweiz](#) • [Geneva Call](#) • [Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker](#) • [GSoA](#) • [HEKS](#) • [Helvetas](#) • [InfoSud](#) • [Intercooperation](#) • [International Association for Human Values](#) • [Interpeace](#) • [Interteam](#) • [LIPS](#) • [Medico International Schweiz](#) • [Medienhilfe](#) • [mission 21](#) • [MIVA Schweiz](#) • [Palmyrah](#) • [Peace Brigades International](#) • [Peace Watch Switzerland](#) • [Quaker United Nations Office](#) • [Swiss Academy for Development](#) • [Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe](#) • [Schweizerischer Friedensrat](#) • [Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk](#) • [Schweizerischer Katholischer Frauenbund](#) • [Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz](#) • [Service Civil International Schweiz](#) • [Stiftung Kinderdorf Pestalozzi](#) • [Swissaid](#) • [Terre des Hommes Schweiz](#) • [World Vision Switzerland](#)