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KOFF – swisspeace

- Intensifying International Work on Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP)
- Gender Roundtable on UN Security Council Resolution 1820
- KOFF Offers Introductory Course on Dealing with the Past
- BEFORE Organizes Workshop on Peacebuilding in Guinea Conakry

Focus

- Civil Society and Peacebuilding

News from Swiss NGOs

- Geneva Peacebuilding Platform: „Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict“
- Helvetas Links Development Measures to Peace Initiatives in Sri Lanka
- Pestalozzi Children’s Village Foundation Promotes Intercultural Education in Guatemala
- Palmyrah Increases Support for Trauma Work in Sri Lanka
- Serbian Delegation Visits Institute of Federalism

News from Swiss Government Agencies

- Peace Mediation Course 2009
- Private Military and Security Companies Commit to an International Code of Conduct

International Partner Organizations

Events, Publications, Web Tip

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KOFF – swisspeace

Links

- [KOFF Conflict Sensitivity Websites](#)
- [CDA: RPP](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Cordula Reimann](#)

Intensifying International Work on Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP)

In collaboration with CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, KOFF organized a two-day training session and a week-long Training of Consultants/Advisors (ToC) in „Reflecting on Peace Practice“ (RPP). Both events addressed the question of how peacebuilding activities can be planned and implemented so as to support processes of social change in the most effective and sustainable way.

The trainings were in the hands of three professional consultants with international experience: Diana Chigas and Peter Woodrow (both from CDA), and Cordula Reimann (KOFF). Participants were from Swiss and international NGOs, development agencies and the relevant offices of the Federal Administration.

The two-day training (11 - 12 June) in Bern with Woodrow and Reimann used peacebuilding projects from the Burundi region as examples of RPP methodologies and know-how, as practiced in the field. The principles of systemic conflict analysis and a results-oriented approach were studied in the context of the Burundi conflict.

The subsequent Training of Consultants/Advisors in Boldern near Zurich provided an opportunity for more in-depth study of the various concepts and hands-on practice with the RPP instruments. The participants dealt intensively with systemic conflict analysis, theories of change and the criteria for measuring results, applying these in a variety of contexts. The RPP instruments were discussed with the help of programs and projects in Liberia, Kosovo, Ethiopia and the Middle East. Among the challenges discussed were the time sequencing of various RPP instruments and the question of how RPP can be combined with other methods and tools of conflict analysis and conflict transformation.

The second part of the ToC is due to take place in Basel in November, and will focus on some of the themes dealt with in the first part, notably systemic conflict analysis and the measurement of results.

19.06.2009

Links

- [KOFF Gender and Peacebuilding Websites](#)
- [UN Resolution 1820](#)
- [UN Resolution 1325](#)

Gender Roundtable on UN Security Council Resolution 1820

In response to many requests, KOFF relaunched its Gender Roundtable on 24 June. Celebrating the first anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1820, representatives of various non governmental organizations and the Federal Administration as well as a number of academics looked into the question of whether or not this resolution will be an effective instrument against sexual violence. On 19 June 2008 the supreme organ of the United Nations for the first time in its history condemned sexual violence as a tactic of war, affirming that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide. Ursula Keller of cfd

- [cfd](#)
- [Amnesty International: Stop Violence against Women](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Rahel Fischer](#)

introduced the background to Resolution 1820 in a speech on gender-based violence and local initiatives in Africa's Great Lakes region. Cordula Reimann of KOFF placed Resolution 1820 in the context of experiences with UN Resolution 1325 and offered a critical evaluation. Finally, Stella Jegher of Amnesty International reflected on its applicability as an advocacy instrument. This address was followed by a lively discussion on the likelihood of successful implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820, and the difficulties involved.

Future Gender Roundtables will, as in the past, focus on topics requested by KOFF member organizations together with issues of current interest to the international community. These roundtables are meant to be a platform of exchange among actors in the areas of peacebuilding, development cooperation and research with an interest in gender issues.

24.06.2009

Links

- [KOFF Dealing with the Past Websites](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Marcel von Arx](#)

KOFF Offers Introductory Course on Dealing with the Past

In June KOFF for the first time offered a course on Dealing with the Past (DwP) for young diplomats. Participants were informed about the conditions necessary for a lasting peace and reconciliation, using Nepal as an example. Since the peace agreement of 2006, Nepal has been striving to come to terms with the massive human rights violations which occurred during the 10-year civil war as well as under the authoritarian regime of the King (2005-06). The Joinet principles – right to know, to justice, to reparation and guarantee of non-recurrence – were illustrated with individual cases: Jitman for example, who defends the position that those responsible for human rights violations should be brought to justice. Sita, whose spouse is a victim of torture and who hopes to receive financial support. Eak who wants to know what happened to his missing sister. Bimala, a former Maoist fighter who looks forward to a new beginning in her village, Doramba. Excerpts from the films „Sari Soldiers“ and „Frames of War“ provided visual support for the course. KOFF also offers this introductory course to interested NGOs. Please contact Marcel von Arx.

09.06.2009

Links

- [BEFORE Project](#)
- [Alliance for Peacebuilding](#)
- [CDA](#)

BEFORE Organizes Workshop on Peacebuilding in Guinea Conakry

BEFORE, a joint project between swisspeace and the Alliance for Peacebuilding of the USA, organized a three-day workshop in Guinea Conakry at the end of May entitled „reflective workshop on a strategy of consolidation of peace in Guinea“. The idea is to create a space enabling local stakeholders to come together to carry out a conflict analysis and on that basis to develop a viable peacebuilding strategy.

Further information:
swisspeace / BEFORE
Project Director
[Heinz Kruppenacher](#)
Project Officer
[Nadina Diday](#)

More than 50 representatives from civil society and state institutions took part. The first step was to analyze and prioritize the causes, actors and dynamics of existing and potential conflicts in Guinea. Guidelines developed by Collaborative for Development Action (CDA) served as the basis for conflict analysis. The results indicate that the causes of conflicts are mainly due to shortcomings in the areas of governance, dialogue, the effectiveness of justice, poverty, and the absence of a fundamental basis for fair and transparent elections.

The second step involved the participants in efforts to devise strategies for effective conflict transformation. The resulting action plan placed the emphasis on organizing and carrying out the elections due to take place in the fall. In the view of the participants, free, fair and credible elections are a sine qua non for the return to a constitutional system. Apart from short-term solutions, the working group also proposed measures to tackle deep rooted problems, notably with regard to governance, political dialogue and the legal system. The decision-making bodies of BEFORE will decide in the coming weeks on the concrete future proceeding. 22.06.2009

Focus

Links

- [CCDP Working Paper „Civil Society and Peacebuilding“](#)
- [Thania Paffenholz / Christoph Spurk: Civil Society, Civic Engagement, and Peacebuilding](#)

Civil Society and Peacebuilding

What role does civil society play in peacebuilding? A recently completed research project of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva attempts to answer this question. Its findings were discussed at a panel organized by KOFF which included representatives of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and KOFF member organizations.

Civil society and peacebuilding are widely believed to be inseparably linked concepts. However, the significance of the role of civil society groups in peace processes is often based more on preconceived notions than on empirical evidence, as project leader Thania Paffenholz pointed out at the beginning of the panel discussion. She summed up the main findings of three years of researching the role of civil society in peacebuilding, recorded in 13 country studies.

Imbalance between activities and their relevance

The research identified seven peacebuilding functions that can be addressed by civil society: protection against violence; human rights monitoring and early warning; lobbying and advocacy; socialization to values of peace and democracy; activities promoting social cohesion between different groups; facilitation of dialogue between various actors; and service delivery – the latter often in the form of development or humanitarian projects. The relevance of the various civil society functions and their effectiveness depends on the stage of the conflict in which they apply.

One of the main and rather startling findings of the project is a significant imbalance between the actual fields of activity of civil society actors and their relevan-

ce to peacebuilding. Thus too much attention is given to peace education programs or to the promotion of social relations between conflict parties – for example by means of dialogue projects – in stages of escalating violence when such activities are less relevant and effective. In contrast, there is much less activity aimed directly at protection against violence, despite the fact that this would be much more relevant in stages of escalating violence.

Identification of suitable partners

In the discussion Roland Salvisberg, Deputy Director of Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)), described the new study as an important reference, which should serve as a reminder to actors in the field as well as to donors that a careful analysis of context and requirements should be the basis for deciding on the appropriate civil society actors to implement activities. The study's findings on the effectiveness of dialogue and peace education projects may be alerting for many donors. Success also depends on the choice of actors. It would often be more effective to include not just reformists but also radical groups.

Salvisberg welcomed the fact that the study adopted a broad definition of „civil society“, but regretted that more attention has not been paid to difficult societal groups such as religious-political actors or war veterans. The inclusion of these so-called „difficult to reach“ is indispensable for sustainable peace. As far as PA IV is concerned, the study provides a number of important indicators that could help to reassess and optimize ways of dealing with civil society actors.

The strategic question

Scott Weber, Director-General of the Geneva-based organization Interpeace welcomed the fact that the study's findings had stimulated such a lively debate. In his view, however, the project's methodology and conceptual underpinnings – on both the process of peacebuilding versus violence reduction and the notion and reality of „civil society“ – call into question the conclusions drawn by the study. More fundamentally, however, the study is not posing the strategic question. The central question should not be what is the role and relevance of civil society to peacebuilding, but rather what are the core peacebuilding challenges in the given country. Secondly, it should ask what are the most effective processes of change to address those challenges and only then, which actors are relevant to playing a direct or indirect role in that process. Within this framework, the legal status of state or non-state actors is not the relevant issue. In Weber's opinion, the study gives the impression that focusing at the right time on the seven functions listed would make it possible to establish peace. Weber stressed the role of local actors, while defining the role of external actors as that of providing support to society's efforts to deal constructively with conflict.

Greater flexibility

The study's recommendation that civil society actors should give greater consideration to the different stages of a conflict and the changing context proved highly controversial in the plenary discussion. For while the demand for greater flexibility and regular adaptation of activities in an effort to improve their effectiveness can be fully endorsed in theory, in practice it is often not possible. The

Author:

KOFF [Daniel Bekic](#)

Further information:

KOFF [Anita Müller](#)

actors are contractually bound to conditions previously agreed with donors within a given time scale. Moreover, long term relations with partner organizations cannot simply be jeopardized to make way for an abrupt new approach with a short-term horizon.

KOFF Program Director Anita Müller, who acted as moderator, was skeptical as to how much can be learned by focusing on the term „civil society“, which lumps together the most varied groups of local and international actors. In conclusion, she expressed the view that the debate should be continued within the Center for Peacebuilding. The findings of the study will be published in a book at the end of 2009. 25.06.2009

News from Swiss NGOs

Links

- [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#)
- [UN Peacebuilding Support Office](#)

Further information:

GPP [Guerin Frédérique](#)

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform: „Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict“

On 22 June 2009, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) held a consultative workshop on the forthcoming UN Secretary General's report on „Peacebuilding in the immediate Aftermath of Conflict“, with the participation through video conference of Ms Sally Fegan-Wyles, Senior Project Director at the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in New York. Close to 40 representatives from the diplomatic, UN and NGO communities participated in the event.

The workshop was aimed at thinking collectively on the concrete implications of the agenda for action proposed in the report to facilitate an earlier, more coherent response from the international community in post-conflict countries. Ms Fegan Wyles championed the vision of peacebuilding as an in-country capacity-building process that must be planned and lead nationally with the support of a more accountable, coherent and competent UN-lead international community. The report's recommendations focus on three areas: effective support to an inclusive national leadership, early strategic planning with both immediate and long-term visions, and improved funding mechanisms.

The report was commented by three senior representatives of the NGO community, the UN community and the core peacebuilding community, and discussed with the audience. The approach adopted in the report was much welcome but regrets were expressed over the lack of reference to the core challenges of peacebuilding, reconciliation and trust-building. While peacebuilding is first and foremost about putting at work a range of actors that have not the ability of engaging together, the report's agenda focus almost entirely on mechanisms to improve relations within the international community.

The discussion showed that the report, being primarily directed to the Security Council, will enable to attract attention on the need to refine international strategy in post-conflict countries; but it will need to be complemented with more strategic and operational work, some of which will be carried out within the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in close collaboration with the PBSO. 22.06.2009

Links

- [Helvetas: Sri Lanka](#)
- [Swisscontact](#)
- [SDC Sri Lanka](#)

Further information:
Helvetas [Esther Marthaler](#)

Helvetas Links Development Measures to Peace Initiatives in Sri Lanka

Helvetas, as part of a cooperation project with Swisscontact, aims at making a lasting contribution to peacebuilding in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the civil war. The „Development and Peace Sri Lanka“ (DPSL) project, financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is based on a strategy that functions at several levels, involves a number of actors and aims at both economic and social change. As a first step, Helvetas is helping to develop farmer's organizations (FOs) so as to enhance the livelihood of a people highly dependent on the agricultural sector and to ensure equal access to resources. Training in Good Governance and Do no Harm has already been successful in promoting cooperation between various FOs across ethnic boundaries. Moving ahead, the second step will promote the development of conflict transformation structures within the same village communities. Essential to this approach is the development of multiethnic „Peace and Co-existence Committees“ (PCCs) which will analyze existing conflicts and seek common solutions on the basis of participative methods.

The strategic linking of development measures and peace initiatives, while it has proven extraordinarily successful, still faces a number of challenges. The danger, now that the war is over, is that the population will tend to negate conflict and instead focus more on the elaboration of joint infrastructure projects. However the opposite outcome – entailing a growing commitment to peacebuilding and conflict transformation – is also possible. This would require a sustainable network of government institutions, civil society and other INGOs in order to monitor and address the basic needs of the population. 24.06.2009

Links

- [Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation](#)
- [Guatemala: Intercultural and Bilingual Education](#)

Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation Promotes Intercultural Education in Guatemala

Intercultural education and identity are the two main areas of focus for Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation projects in Guatemala. The Foundation's local partner organizations have undertaken to ensure that the history, language and culture of indigenous peoples are integrated in the school curriculum and that schools are run in a way that reflects the multi-cultural reality of Guatemala.

The Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation is currently providing support for an awareness raising campaign in Guatemala, which includes the five-year exhibition project of a local partner organization aimed in particular at teachers and students. This interactive exhibition entitled „Why we are the way we are“ focuses on the cohabitation of various ethnic groups in Guatemala, daily discrimination, mechanisms of oppression and exclusion as well as prejudices and stereotypes. The aim of the exhibition is to prevent a hardening into two opposing categories, „perpetrators“ and „victims“. Integration of the indigenous population and sensitization of the non-indigenous population should be the cornerstone for peaceful intercultural cohabitation.

Further information:
[Dagmar Wurzbacher](#)

In an effort to go deeper into the themes of the exhibition and to promote dialogue, a pedagogic kit is available, with teaching materials for primary and secondary schools and specific training for teachers. The kit is financed by the Foundation. 15.06.2009

Links

- [Palmyrah Association, the Bern-Jaffna/Sri Lanka Ecumenical Partnership](#)

Further information:
Palmyrah Switzerland
[Marie-Anne Pinheiro](#)

Palmyrah Increases Support for Trauma Work in Sri Lanka

The 7th Annual General Meeting of the Palmyrah Association, the Bern-Jaffna/Sri Lanka Ecumenical Partnership Project, was held on 9 June 2009. The political situation in Sri Lanka has dramatically worsened since the beginning of the present year, and despite the official end of the war many people are suffering great privation, in particular from lack of food and medical attention. Attacks on civilians by the Sri Lankan Army in recent months, as well as the by LTTE, in the „security zone“ between Chalai and Mullaitivu, claimed an estimated 12,000 lives. As many as 30,000 of the almost 300,000 internally displaced persons are seriously wounded and will be permanently disabled. Palmyrah Association has increased its support for trauma therapy projects – workshops, group and individual consultations – for women who are in poor physical and mental state due to multiple traumas from the war and tsunami. In addition to the 11 educational centers for women there are now eight places offering free child care and education.

In the second half of the meeting, Marie-Anne Pinheiro made a brief introduction about the situation as it now stands in Sri Lanka. She was followed by ethnologist Kathrin Thurnheer, who gave an address on the subject of „the everyday situation of families in the war zone of Eastern Sri Lanka in the wake of the tsunami“. She spoke about the increase in violence, the ever greater financial dependence of women on their husbands and the extremely difficult situation of war widows. According to Thurnheer, the exceptionally large number of children born after the tsunami is helping to strengthen family ties and provides a glimmer of hope in the precarious everyday conditions of Sri Lanka.

Changes have been made in the Palmyrah executive. Annemarie Waser has relinquished the Presidency to Catina Hieber and Mathias Hui who have been named Co-Presidents. Nathalie Peyer replaces Marie-Anne Pinheiro in the position of Coordinator in Switzerland. 09.06.2009

Links

- [IFF](#)

Further information:
[IFF Vanessa Rueegger](#)

Serbian Delegation Visits Institute of Federalism

The Institute of Federalism (IFF) in Fribourg hosted a 12-member delegation from Serbia in its visit (14 - 19 June) to Switzerland. The topic of the study tour was „Citizen’s Participation, Popular Initiatives and Referenda“. The visit was conceived and supported by the West Balkans section of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and is part of a major project for strengthening political rights and direct democracy in Serbia. The Serbian delegation consisted of high-ranking members of parliament, ministries, universities, local authorities and the NGO „Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities“ (SCTM) which has taken a proactive stance for the strengthening of political rights in Serbia.

The delegation was able to discuss the subject of people’s rights in Switzerland with members of the Swiss National Council, the parliament of canton Bern and the city government of Yverdon. The group got to know the various organizational steps required for a referendum and a people’s initiative, as well as the financial and organizational aspects of staging a referendum from the perspective of a political party. The study tour ended with a workshop under the joint leadership of IFF Director Peter Hänni and the Director of the International Centre Eva Maria Belser, in which the delegation and the two Swiss Professors discussed the first draft of a Serbian „Referendum and Initiative Act“. 19.06.2009

News from Swiss Government Agencies

Links

- [Peace Mediation Course](#)
- [FDFA – PA IV](#)
- [Mediation Support Project](#)

Peace Mediation Course 2009

Mediation plays an important role in ensuring the success of peace negotiations. As in the past, Switzerland finds itself confronted with a growing demand for mediators and experts for the support of peace negotiations. It is for this reason that Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) has for the second time offered a Peace Mediation Course in collaboration with the Mediation Support Project of swisspeace and the Center for Security Studies (CSS, ETH Zurich). The participants were made up of 10 nationalities and almost all had already worked in conflict countries. One quarter were employees of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and another quarter of the United Nations.

During the two eight-day sessions, the participants were introduced to subjects of special relevance to mediation in peace processes between states and armed groups. They were able to take advantage of the wealth of experience of various mediation experts, from Switzerland and abroad, who have been involved in peace negotiations in Nepal, Sudan, Guatemala, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Northern Ireland. The first module of the course, in March, focused on a number of key aspects of a peace process: Security Sector Reform (SSR), Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), Power Sharing, Wealth Sharing and Dealing with the Past. The second module introduced conflict analysis, the architecture of peace processes and mediation techniques. Both modules were

Further information:
FDFA [Murezi Michael](#)

based on an interactive approach. Participants were able to practice and apply what they had learned in role plays, and working groups allowed for in-depth discussions. On 20 June, at the end of the second module, a discussion was held with Ambassador Thomas Greminger, which among other things touched on the future role of Switzerland in the Darfur peace process. 20.06.2009

Links

- [Wilton Park](#)

Further information:
PA IV Business and
Human Security
[Nils Rosemann](#)

Private Military and Security Companies Commit to an International Code of Conduct

A conference on „Private Military and Security Companies: Working Towards an International Code of Conduct“ was held 4 - 6 June 2009 in Nyon. It was organized by Wilton Park and Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs). The purpose was to discuss the preparation of an international Code of Conduct that would commit private military and security companies to human rights and International Humanitarian Law. The conference was opened by Ambassador Anton Thalmann, Deputy State Secretary and Deputy Director of Political Affairs Directorate. The closing discussion was moderated by the Head of Political Affairs Division IV (Human Security), Ambassador Thomas Greminger.

The event ended with a public avowal to respect human rights and norms of humanitarian international law by the three biggest industry associations present: Pan African Security Association; British Association of Private Security Companies and the International Peace Operations Association (USA). In this declaration, the industry committed itself to the preparation of an International Code of Conduct that addresses regulation, implementation and procedures in the case of violations. The next steps will include the development of a work plan in agreement with the partners, the drafting of the Code of Conduct and the preparation of implementation options.

The conference participants came, in equal proportions, from the industry, civil society, academia, and governments which included the United Kingdom, Russia, the US and Switzerland. The final declaration was adopted unanimously. At the same time it was recognized that although such a statement is no substitute for state regulation, it can help to bridge gaps in the regulations and avoid legalistic debates. A Code of Conduct for the industry is particularly important for two reasons: the standards would also apply to private contractors such as international organizations or private companies; and they would be a crucial instrument in countries where there is no rule of law – especially in conflict areas. 06.06.2009

International Partner Organizations

Info

News from ten international KOFF partner organizations.

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

GTZ

- The sector program of the German technical cooperation GTZ to promote equality and women's rights published an [Issue Brief](#) entitled „Virility and civil wars in Africa – new ways of overcoming sexual violence in war“. Author Rita Schäfer analyses the central importance of gender relations in the context of civil wars and identifies promising areas to begin effecting changes in post-conflict situations.
- In June, GTZ launched the new „[Crisis Prevention](#)“ section on its website. It provides background information in the cooperation's work in this field and introduces projects ranging from small arms control to education and conflict transformation.

Akademie für Konflikttransformation

- From now on, the Academy for Conflict Transformation of the Forum Civil Peace Service publishes a regular newsletter with information on the topics of qualification and the field of civil conflict resolution as well as its latest training offers. So far, it is only available in German but the English version will be coming soon. First [issue](#) or [subscription](#) of German version.

EPLO

- The latest edition of the [EPLO-Newsletter](#) reports about the [Eastern Partnership Initiative](#), launched in Prague on 7 May, after being signed by representatives of the European Union, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The partnership aims at speeding up 'political association and further economic integration' between the EU and the six CIS countries.

International Alert

- In order to improve the Conflict Sensitivity of its development projects in Nepal, the World Bank has requested assistance from International Alert to develop a „[peace filter](#)“. This instrument is soon to be incorporated in the World Bank's Sri Lanka projects, too.

Events

Info

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

- KOFF has organized five training [courses](#) on specific aspects of civil peacebuilding for 2009: Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP), Dealing with the Past in Post-Conflict Societies, Do no Harm, Evaluating Peacebuilding Projects (Parts1+2).
- The Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (IICP) will be holding its second [Summer Academy](#) on „Culture and Conflict“ in Bern, 12 - 17 July. Registration will be allotted on a „first come, first served“ basis.

- The 26th International Summer Academy of the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution ([ASPR](#)) takes place in Burg Schlaining 5 - 10 July. This year's theme is [Mercenaries, rogues, pirates](#): the privatization of security and the chaos of the „new“ warfare. The changing face of warfare and civil peace efforts will be studied in depth with the help of lectures, workshops and plenary discussions. [Information and registration](#).
- The theme of this year's [Annual Conference](#) of the Political Affairs Division IV, Human Security (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) is „Dealing with the Past“ (DwP). Its aim is to illustrate and discuss the importance of DwP in all phases of conflict transformation. Leaders and experts from different countries will share their ideas and opinions, reflecting on the various ways states address issues of DwP in the efforts to achieve lasting peace with the strengthening of human rights. The conference is being held at the Stade de Suisse in Bern on 15 October.
- The training cycle of the Forum für Friedenserziehung, „Konflikte wagen – gewaltfrei!“ (Dare to tackle conflicts – nonviolently) explores theory and practical exercises of non-violent conflict resolution. The training sessions will take place in Zurich over six Saturdays between October 2009 and March 2010. [Information and registration](#) (in German).

Publications

Info

- [To be a negotiator: strategies and tactics](#)
- [CSS/ETH Zurich: Mediation Support](#)
- [swisspeace: MSP](#)

Strategies and Tactics for Peace Negotiations

Weeks before the beginning of real peace negotiations, mediators and negotiators in peace processes ask themselves a number of basic questions. What should be the venue for the negotiations? How can the experiences so far be put to good use in the process? What persons should be included in the delegation to ensure success? Lt. General Lazaro Sumbeiywo (rtd.), chief mediator in the peace processes between North and South Sudan, answers these and other questions in a new publication of the Mediation Support Project of the Center for Security Studies (CSS, ETH Zurich), and swisspeace. The Working Paper „To Be A Negotiator: Strategies and Tactics“ is based on lectures Lt. General Sumbeiywo gave during a training session on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Entebbe (Uganda) last July, for a splinter group of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM). It reviews the preparations necessary for peace negotiations including strategies and tactics for the actual negotiation stage, and outlines the characteristics of a good negotiator. General Sumbeiywo offers those interested in the negotiation of peace processes his own wealth of experience in a way that is clear and practical as well as modest. Mediators also need to understand how to negotiate, particularly in cases where mediation will provide support for actual negotiations. The 14-page publication can be accessed in pdf format on the websites of swisspeace and the CSS.

22.06.2009

Info

- [Bianca Schmolze & Knut Rauchfuss \(Hg.\): Kein Vergeben. Kein Vergessen. Der internationale Kampf gegen Straflosigkeit.](#)
- [Justice heals: The impact of impunity and the fight against it on the recovery of severe human rights violations' survivors.](#)

No Forgiveness – No Forgetting

Justice heals. Amnesties that protect the perpetrators of injustice make treatment of the traumata of victims and their families more difficult. Bianca Schmolze and Knut Rauchfuss, who are both publishers and authors of „Kein Vergeben. Kein Vergessen.“ (no forgiveness, no forgetting) show just how protracted international efforts to combat impunity have been, from the Nuremberg Trials until this day. Up to the end of the Cold War, the sovereignty of national jurisdiction was considered sacrosanct, and any effort to invoke supranational criminal prosecutions was hindered by the prevailing conflict between the two blocks. The policy for Dealing with the Past of most transitional governments following a war or dictatorship was to favor peace through reconciliation and the rehabilitation of guilty parties. The point of view of the victims was overlooked. It was not until the 1990s that institutions were created that made it possible to prosecute serious violations of international criminal law.

The authors have documented studies from 12 countries in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia and Europe. Their work is supported by a scientific study of the Medizinische Flüchtlingshilfe in the years 2004 - 2007 which describes the effect impunity can have on the health of survivors and the relatives of victims, on the basis of qualitative data from 13 countries. Schmolze and Rauchfuss focus on the strategies adopted to deal with the crimes of the past, at the end of dictatorships or wars. These range from civil society initiatives such as that of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo in Argentina to the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. This book provides a valuable survey of various strategies of Dealing with the Past. It is a valuable contribution to the debate on transitional justice, paying tribute to the efforts of those who have fought to end impunity.

15.06.2009

Web Tip

Info

- [swissinfo.ch: From Solferino to the Red Cross](#)

From Solferino to the Red Cross

The Red Cross celebrates three Jubilees this year: 150 years since the visit to the Solferino battlefield of Henry Dunant of Geneva, who then conceived the idea of the International Red Cross Movement. 90 years since the foundation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva. And 60 years ago the Geneva Conventions saw the light of day. Henry Dunant thus played a major role not only in the creation of one of the world's most important humanitarian organizations but also in the birth of International Humanitarian Law.

The multiple anniversaries have inspired swissinfo.ch to include a comprehensive survey of the history, activities and development of the Red Cross on its website. This interactive site can be consulted in 10 languages and includes reportages, interviews, as well as videos and photo galleries on the develop-



ment of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement over the years. It looks at the history of the Geneva Conventions, with an analysis of the progress made in humanitarian aid, and considers the challenges ahead. Through analyses and interviews with some of the main actors and experts, it looks at Switzerland's humanitarian tradition. In an interview, Federal Councilor Micheline Calmy-Rey gives her views on the importance of the Geneva Conventions in the context of current Swiss foreign policy. The multimedia reportages also cover various commemorative events such as the Geneva Jubilee Exhibition with photographs from wars currently raging around the globe, and include a reference to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Jubilee „Youth on the Move“ gathering scheduled to take place in Solferino, 24 - 28 July. 15.06.2009

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