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International Partner Organizations

Events, Publications, Web Tip

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KOFF – swisspeace

Links

- [Small Arms Survey: „Beyond Janjaweed: Understanding the Militias of Darfur“](#)
- [Sudan Platform](#)

Since the Roundtable followed [Chatham House Rule](#) there are no references to specific organizations or speakers.

Further information:
swisspeace [David Lanz](#)

Sudan Roundtable Discusses the Role of Arab Tribes in Darfur

On September 15 the biannual KOFF Sudan roundtable took place at swisspeace. The topic under discussion was the role of Arab tribes in Darfur. The common narrative of the Darfur conflict describes Arab groups as perpetrators of a genocide spearheaded by the infamous Janjaweed militia and supported by the Sudanese government in Khartoum. This narrative is problematic insofar as it brushes over the fact that many Arab tribes remained neutral during the escalation of the war in Darfur in 2003-04, and it also ignores the historic marginalization of Arab tribes in Darfur that made them vulnerable to government manipulation. Today, as the intensity of the Darfur conflict has diminished, some Arab militias have joined the rebellion, and an increasing number of intra-Arab clashes with considerable casualties are taking place in Darfur.

It was highlighted during the discussion that in order to understand the rapidly evolving situation in Darfur, there is a need to better understand Arab communities. A number of recommendations emerged in order to address the exclusion of Arab groups from international assistance and engagement in Darfur. Humanitarian organizations, for example, could do more to encourage the employment of representatives of local Arab tribes, who are currently underrepresented among local staff. Moreover, international mediators should promote the inclusion of the concerns of Arab tribes in the Darfur peace process.

15.09.2009

In order to consolidate the different activities of swisspeace on Sudan and to provide a more useful resource base for peacebuilding organizations in Sudan, swisspeace created the [Sudan Platform](#). The Platform features a comprehensive compilation of books, articles, reports and news on Sudan as well as an updated list of Swiss actors in Sudan.

Links

- [KOFF Websites on Gender](#)
- [Academy for Conflict Transformation](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Cordula Reimann](#)

Gender Training at the Academy for Conflict Transformation

At the beginning of September, KOFF conducted a two-day training course on „Gender, Conflict and Conflict Transformation“ at the Academy for Conflict Transformation, Königswinter, Germany. The emphasis of the course was on the most important gender-specific dimensions and fields of tension in violent conflicts and conflict transformation, as well as the Do’s and Don’ts of gendersensitive peace efforts. The participants were graduates of the Academy’s qualifying course „Peace Expert/Conflict Consultant“ and staff of German and international non-governmental organizations.

09.09.2009

Links

Further information:
swisspeace [Didier Péclard](#)

Way Out of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire

On 22 September swisspeace hosted a conference with Alfred Babo of the University of Bouaké on the situation in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in the run-up to the elections, due to take place on 29 November following the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement of March 2007. This agreement was the result of direct negotiations between the parties to the conflict. The elections will be an important step towards peace and stability. Despite the campaigning now taking place and the mobilization of civil society it cannot be excluded that the elections be postponed yet again, since the electoral process faces important technical and financial difficulties.

In the current lengthy process, which aims to bring about peace based on consensus and mutual trust, elections have a great potential for conflict that needs to be taken seriously. Allegations of irregularities in the drawing up of electoral lists are not an encouraging sign. Furthermore the former combatants have not yet been disarmed, nor have the militias been demobilized. A peculiar feature of the Côte d'Ivoire case is that the rebels do not participate actively in the electoral process, remaining apart as observers. This could have a stabilizing effect. The period after the elections remains one of uncertainty nonetheless and will above all depend on whether or not the losers comply with the democratic rules. 22.09.2009

Links

- [KOFF Websites on Dealing with the Past](#)
- [Servicio Paz y Justicia - América Latina](#)

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

Nobel Peace Prize Winner on Dealing with the Past in Latin America

Reconciliation is not possible without the right to truth and the right to justice. This point was emphasized at a recent KOFF Roundtable on Dealing with the Past by Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and Ana Juanche. The former is the international President of „Servicio Paz y Justicia – América Latina“ (SERPAJ – AL) and the latter its international coordinator for Latin America. SERPAJ – AL promotes non-violent methods for social justice in Latin America. Nobel Peace Prize winner Pérez Esquivel also stressed the fact that Dealing with the Past requires political will, independent institutions and a tenacious civil society. Despite some significant results including considerable progress in criminal prosecutions, efforts to reform the security forces, and admittedly half-hearted reparation programs dealing with human rights violations by dictators and in the context of war, the situation in Latin America remains precarious. This has been again made clear by recent events in Honduras. „Nunca más – Never again“ is a utopia, says Pérez Esquivel, warning that the process of democratization and peacebuilding is likely to be a lengthy one. 28.09.2009

Focus

Links

- [swisspeace Working Paper: Motivating and Impeding Factors for Corporate Engagement in Peacebuilding](#)
- [Media release: Tourismus als Friedensförderer](#)
- [arbeitskreis tourismus & entwicklung: swisspeace Studie zu den Strategien von Tourismusunternehmen bei Gewaltkonflikten](#)
- [Rwanda Tourism Value Chain Case Study \(USAID 2008\)](#)
- [Bad Guys, Good Guys, or Something in between? \(Feil et. Al. 2009\)](#)
- [Post-conflict Economic Recovery: Enabling Local Ingenuity \(UNDP 2008\)](#)
- [Local Business, Local Peace \(International Alert 2006\)](#)
- [Private Sector Development in \(Post-\) Conflict Situations \(GTZ 2008\)](#)

Tourism and Peacebuilding in Rwanda

Due to its vulnerability to conflict, it is in the interest of the tourism industry to contribute to peacebuilding efforts. However, the tourism sector's corporate engagement in peace promotion remains mostly indirect. This is the conclusion of a study carried out jointly by swisspeace and the Cologne Business School, and financed by the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF). It looks at the role played by tourism enterprises in the violent conflicts in Sri Lanka, Rwanda and Croatia. The results from Rwanda show that tourism has an important role to play in post-conflict reconstruction.

Despite being one of the world's largest industries, tourism is extremely susceptible to violent conflicts and their repercussions. Nevertheless, the impact tourism development can have on violent conflicts remains largely unexplored. This study analyzes the commitment of tourism enterprises to peace efforts based on the assumption that it should be in the interest of these companies to help resolve conflicts in tourist destinations.

Tourism grinds to a halt

One of the case studies focuses on the role which tourism actors have played in Rwanda. During the civil war (1990-93) and the genocide (1994) the number of tourists visiting the country dropped to virtually zero. The Volcanoes National Park – which is home to Rwanda's main tourist attraction, the mountain gorillas – was used by both government and militia groups as a hiding place and training ground. Civilians also took refuge in the national parks, surviving on what they could find. Hotels were used both by the organizers of the genocide for meetings and training purposes and by refugees for protection.

In order to restart the industry after the conflict ceased, marketing campaigns, service and infrastructure development and shifting the focus to new target groups were among the strategies adopted by the tourism industry. Attempts have also been made to develop alternatives to gorilla tourism such as birdwatching and safaris in the other two national parks and visits to village areas.

Peacebuilding during the reconstruction period

Since then, the security situation in Rwanda has stabilized and tourism has been rebuilt. The historical inter-relationship between tourism promotion and protection of the national parks has been a major factor in the relatively fast recovery of tourism following the conflict. Conservation organizations returned to Rwanda shortly after the genocide, helping with demining and exerting political pressure for the protection of the national parks.

Since the end of the conflict, tourism companies have been making an indirect but substantial contribution to peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. They have been contributing to job creation and income generation, thus improving the standard of living of the local population. They have also promoted environmental conservation and cooperation between former enemies in the conflict,

helping to improve the general image of Rwanda internationally. Some private tourism companies are using profits to support the development of local communities by helping, for example, to build schools and homes for the economically disadvantaged, including orphans. Women's cooperatives sell „peace baskets“ to visitors as well as on the international market, supporting the livelihoods of unemployed women. So far however there has been no concentrated effort to create tourism activities for the explicit purpose of peacebuilding.

Limiting factors

The study shows that many private sector enterprises lack the know-how that would enable them to assess the impact their activities have on conflicts or to develop active peacebuilding strategies. The findings also suggest that in some cases violent conflicts may even serve the interests of certain companies, taking into account political convictions as well as economic considerations. In Rwanda, a segment of the private sector elite, not exclusively from the tourism sector, supported the genocide with money and the supply of arms. Support from the state favorable to entrepreneurs ensured the loyalty of these economic actors. The lack of an open, critical political space and a fear of violence in Rwanda both before and during the civil war and genocide was likely to have prevented other private actors from engaging in peace promotion. Even in the post-conflict period, the dependency of Rwanda's tourism sector on the government-run „Rwanda Office of Tourism and National Parks“ (ORTPN) impedes the sector from developing its own perspective. Some peace and conflict experts who were interviewed on the role of tourism in peacebuilding were therefore critical. In their view the government uses tourism as a marketing instrument, to influence external perceptions that the country is peaceful, stable and an ideal investment opportunity, while ignoring its current problems.

Recommendations

Reconstruction has been promoted in Rwanda thanks to foreign, domestic and private efforts. It is important nonetheless to point out certain remaining challenges and potential factors that could lead to renewed outbreaks of violent conflict: deep social divides, unequal land distribution, poverty, a distorted account of the past, and socially constructed ethnic identities. The policies of tourism companies must take these issues into account for future activities.

The authors of the study recommend the adoption of a code of conduct for the tourism sector highlighting opportunities for peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive activities. Furthermore, tourism enterprises need to be aware of the possible impact of their activities. Existing tourism initiatives with peacebuilding components should be supported in such a way that they will not only benefit certain ethnic groups, but also those segments of the population with the greatest need of assistance. Governmental and non-governmental organizations active in peacebuilding should make a special effort to involve such enterprises as partners and take steps to ensure that they have both a political and an economic interest in bringing peace to a given country or region.

18.09.2009

Further information:
swisspeace [Rina Alluri](#)

The Working Paper on
Rwanda is due to be
published soon. [To order.](#)

News from Swiss NGOs

Links

- [PeaceNexus Foundation](#)

Further information:
PeaceNexus Foundation
[Xenia Dormandy](#)

Introducing the PeaceNexus Foundation

PeaceNexus, a Swiss foundation, is a newly-created private non-profit organization based in Prangins. The mission of the PeaceNexus Foundation is to promote integrated solutions to peacebuilding challenges with emphasis on the interfaces between development, democracy and security, by providing multi-disciplinary expert teams to peacebuilding actors.

Expertise is drawn from respected and knowledgeable partner organizations covering all relevant geographic and thematic areas of peacebuilding, including security provision, state-building, development promotion and democratization.

The foundation primarily acts as a catalyst and provides a framework for engaging and guiding this expertise. It builds a bridge to promote the exchange and compilation of knowledge from qualified partner groups and individual experts, using the wide range of peacebuilding instruments and best practice.

PeaceNexus advises mostly governmental organizations (inter-governmental, regional and state institutions including parties to conflict) and also key actors in the non-governmental sector (foundations, associations, and research institutions).

28.09.2009

Links

- [Interpeace: Program in Timor-Leste](#)

Interpeace Partner in Timor-Leste Stage First National Forum

Over 200 people from across Timor-Leste, representing all sectors and levels of Timorese society, came together for a two day conference to agree on the main obstacles to peace. Due to the country's tumultuous past, divisions run deep, and can quickly erupt into violence. The conference, held in Dili mid August, represents an important step for Timorese society as they work towards building their new nation.

Opened by the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate and President of Timor-Leste, H.E. President José Ramos-Horta, senior political leaders from the Timorese government, opposition, justice, army and police actively participated alongside representatives from academia, the church, youth, martial arts groups, internally displaced people, women, business leaders and other NGOs. They were joined by delegations from each of the 13 districts ensuring that there will be a connection by the local population to the overall peacebuilding process.

Over 30 'burning issues' were discussed. These issues came out of the facilitated workshops and consultations the Interpeace local partner, the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD), have been holding across the country for the last 18 months.

Further information:

Interpeace [Renee Lariviere](#)

It was collectively agreed at the conference that the most pressing issues to be addressed are: Promotion of individual and party interests over the national interest; ineffective formal judicial system and the culture of impunity; lack of a thorough review of the occupation and resistance relating to independence from Portugal; Indonesian occupation and the struggle to create a nation and last but not least corruption, collusion and nepotism. 08.09.2009

Links

- [Go for Peace](#)
- [Romerohaus](#)
- [Bethlehem Mission Immensee](#)

Further information:

Go for Peace [Lotti Buser](#)

Course on Peace Work and Conflict Resolution Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The course of the Swiss Ecumenical Peace Program (SÖF) celebrated its 10th edition at the end of September. The Program was founded in 1995 by 19 organizations. The first training course in „Peace Work and Conflict Resolution“, held four years later. During these last ten years about 140 persons attended the course. In the meantime all of the founding organizations have backed out. Today the course is offered by the Bethlehem Mission Immensee and the Romero House and has been renamed „Go for Peace – Course in Peace Skills“.

As part of the anniversary celebrations those responsible for the course asked the 30 former participants who were present at the celebrations if and how they are today able to make use of what they have learned. They said that they continue to make use of what they learned in every day life, both privately and professionally. Many singled out the skills learned in non-violent communication as particularly valuable, but they also mentioned peer advice, small scale mediation, dealing with feelings and systematic project management.

Some work projects presented at the end of the course still bear fruit today. At the beginning of the school year a teacher still organizes a „peace week“ for her students to promote constructive relations inside the classroom. Another participant set up a project for senior citizens, in which retired men and women help children with religious education or homework.

At the same time the challenges linked to daily application have been considerable. Some of the alumni who are now involved in international aid efforts find it difficult to make use of what they learned in their professional lives. Employers often consider job performance to be more important, than to strengthen local partners involved in conflict resolution.

What would the participants like for the future? To deepen, refresh or extend what they have learned. 26.09.2009

Links

- [HEKS: South Caucasus](#)

Further information:
HEKS [Silvia Frei](#)

HEKS in South Caucasus: Reconciliation Through Dialogue

For a number of years, HEKS in collaboration with the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) of the Netherlands has supported an innovative peacebuilding and reconciliation project in the South Caucasus. Following the pilot stage an external evaluation aimed to promote the internal learning process was conducted by a KOFF collaborator and a Georgian expert on conflict, in an effort to refine and consolidate the program's strategy.

The aim of this joint initiative by the Armenian Round Table (ART) and INTERNEWS Azerbaijan is to promote the process of reconciliation by influencing the public discourse and offering an alternative to the negative stereotypes which are widespread.

Indeed, the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan is closed as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and there are almost no contacts between the two countries. Moreover the populations are subjected to negative propaganda by their respective governments, amplified by the media and by the people themselves.

In this tense environment, the program has conducted a campaign of sensitization in an effort to change people's perceptions of the neighboring country and establish a basis for trust between target groups such as non governmental and youth organizations. The two organizations have jointly produced short films on problems common in both countries. ART and INTERNEWS show these films during discussion sessions, distribute them to NGOs and youth groups and spread them through radio and the internet. ART and INTERNEWS also plan to organize a meeting in a third country to allow persons from the two countries, who are interested in this initiative, to develop new peacebuilding strategies. 24.09.2009

Links

- [IFF](#)

Institute of Federalism Summer University

The Institute of Federalism (IFF) held its 21st International Summer University from 24 August to 11 September on the subject of „Federalism, Decentralisation and Diversity: Division of Power and Democratic Governance in Multicultural Societies“, under the guidance of Eva Maria Belser. The 37 students from four continents were able to benefit from the knowledge of experts in the fields of administration, diplomacy, academics and practice. Topics included the basic concepts and principles of federalism, with the focus on Switzerland, but also referring to Brazil, Madagascar and the Philippines; the challenges faced by multicultural societies, with the focus on South Africa, India, the United States and Germany; multiculturalism, democracy and human rights, with the focus on the Arab world. Highlights included a lecture by Nico Steytler of South Africa, an expert on constitutional law who helped to draft his country's new Constitution. The Summer University broke new ground with contributions on the Arab world by guests

Further information:
IFF [Vanessa Rügger](#)

from Jordan, Sudan and Syria. For the first time the course was open to students taking a Master's degree at the University of Fribourg. Participants were asked to prepare a brief paper on one aspect of dealing with the diversity of their native country. The best 10 have been published on the IFF website. 11.09.2009

News from Swiss Government Agencies

Links

- [Factsheet - Friedens-engagement der Schweiz in Nepal](#)
- [SDC in Nepal](#)
- [SDC: Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Nepal 2009-2012](#)
- [SDC: Switzerland - Nepal: A close partnership lasting over 50 years](#)

Further information:
PA IV [Martin Stürzinger](#)

Opening of Embassy in Kathmandu – Symbol of 50 Years of Cooperation

The festivities to mark 50 years of development cooperation between Switzerland and Nepal took place on 17 August in Kathmandu. The event coincided with the opening of the Swiss embassy, an important step in the relations between the two countries and an appropriate occasion for celebrating successful collaboration over so many years. The official opening of the embassy was attended by a delegation which included the Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Martin Dahinden, the Head of the Directorate for Corporate Management of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Helene Budliger, and Ambassador Thomas Greminger, who heads Political Affairs Division IV „Human Security“.

The Nepali government, represented by both Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala, thanked Switzerland for its support and for valorizing bilateral relations with the opening of an embassy. The matters addressed included the still fragile peace process, possible ways to hasten reconciliation, the human rights situation, the integration of former rebels in the regular army and the continuation of current development projects. These issues were also discussed at meetings with leaders of the most important political parties, including the Maoist opposition, and with representatives of the Nepalese civil society.

On the occasion of the jubilee celebration the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South has published a book entitled „Peace Process and Federalism in Nepal – Experiences, reflections and learning“. It includes contributions from the head of the NCCR, Bishnu Raj Upreti, from the Swiss Special Adviser for Peacebuilding in Nepal, Markus Heiniger, and from constitutional expert Nicole Töpferwien, who is active in Nepal on behalf of the PA IV.

Nepal remains one of Switzerland's priority countries for bilateral cooperation. In this regard, the Confederation is one of Nepal's most important partners. At the beginning of the year the SDC and PA IV published the new strategy for the 2009-2012 period. The strategy focuses on aspects including the improvement of access to public services for the most disadvantaged segments of the population as well as the support of democratization and the peace process. Switzerland also provides support and mediation on an informal level in an effort to help the faltering peace process to progress. 16.09.2009

Links

- [Kofi Annan Foundation](#)
- [Global Humanitarian Forum](#)
- [Africa Progress Panel \(APP\)](#)
- [Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa \(AGRA\)](#)
- [The Elders](#)

Further information:
PA IV [Murezi Michael](#)

Peace Mediation in Africa: Conference with Kofi Annan in Bern

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) hosted the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, in Bern on 3 September. Since his departure from the UN he has continued to defend the rights of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, notably in Africa, and to care for their needs as chairman or as member of various organizations including Global Humanitarian Forum, Africa Progress Panel, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and The Elders. Kofi Annan also puts his experience and his network to good use as a mediator in conflicts. In early 2008 for example, after the elections of December 2007 in Kenya resulted in violent conflict between supporters of the government and the opposition, he helped to end the bloodshed by mediating a power-sharing agreement between the parties. The Geneva-based „Kofi Annan Foundation“ and a number of partner organizations support the efforts of the 71-year-old statesman.

At the Bern conference Annan talked about his mediation efforts as Secretary-General, as well as about the peace process in Kenya. The success of a peace process, he noted, depends on the readiness of the negotiating parties to engage in constructive dialogue and to accept the mediator and – he added – there should be no parallel processes. In so far as the negotiations are concerned workable reforms must be developed that will pave the way for sustainable peace, and they must be duly implemented after the peace agreement has been signed. For the reforms to be implemented successfully it is essential that the negotiation process is acknowledged and supported by the civil society and the private sector right from the start. Finally, according to Annan, there is also a large part of luck in any successful peace agreement. 03.09.2009

Links

- [FDFA: Human Rights Dialogues and Discussions](#)
- [FDFA: Anti-racism](#)
- [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

Minority Rights and Anti-Racism Study Tour for Vietnamese Delegation

A Vietnamese delegation paid a visit to Switzerland at the end of August at the invitation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA, Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV)). The week-long study tour on minority rights and anti-racism brought together a delegation of representatives from various ministries and services, responsible for drawing up the country report for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The delegation was headed by the Minister, chairman of the Committee of Ethnic Minorities.

The visit was organized in the framework of the human rights dialogue which Switzerland has conducted with Vietnam since 1997, and in which minority rights are one of the main topics for discussion. The first part of the visit focused on international standards with regard to minority rights and Switzerland's experience in this context.

Further information:
PA IV [Anna Mattei](#)

The second half of the visit focused on anti-racism. Following exposés on Switzerland's anti-racism policy and its experiences in making country reports for the CERD, the delegation was able to meet with CERD members in Geneva to discuss country report procedures and requirements. Meetings also took place with representatives of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Office of Canton Geneva.

The study tour, which was the first project-level cooperation between Vietnam's Committee of Ethnic Minorities and the PA IV, was judged a success by both. The exchanges contributed to a better mutual understanding regarding minority rights as well as the need to combat racial discrimination, and confirmed the good bilateral relations between Switzerland and Vietnam. 21.09.2009

Links

- [Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course](#)
- [Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding](#)
- [GCSP](#)
- [SWISSINT](#)

Further information:
PA IV [Claudia Rizzo](#)

Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course

The 10th Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course in Stans, Switzerland (30 August to 11 September) was attended by 24 people already active in peacebuilding, be it on the policy level, in headquarters management or in missions abroad. The participants included representatives of the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding (SEP), government ministries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, training centers and research institutions, as well as field missions in Africa, the Middle East, South-East Asia and greater Europe. The program addressed a large range of aspects of civilian peacebuilding and included a series of practical exercises along with some very valuable theoretical inputs.

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) conducted the course on behalf of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Political Division IV, PA IV) and in partnership with swisspeace and the Swiss Armed Forces International Command, SWISSINT. 14.09.2009

Links

- [UN OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

Study on Normative Developments in Humanitarian Resolutions

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA, Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV)) has provided support since 2008 for a study on normative developments in humanitarian resolutions adopted by the United Nations. The study, which is being carried out by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), reviewed resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Security Council since the adoption of Resolution 46/182 on „Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations“. The purpose of the study is to analyze the trends and effects of the development of humanitarian discourse and of the normative framework since 1991.

Further information:
PA IV [Barbara Fontana](#)

The results were presented in Geneva in July at the ECOSOC humanitarian segment. The framework for providing relief aid remains unchanged, i.e. the right of victims to humanitarian aid, the leading role of the state in the provision of relief aid, international support subject to the approval of the state concerned when national resources are insufficient. Areas that have received much attention in recent years and have been subject to important normative developments include: Protection of the civilian population, the situation of internally displaced persons, the safety and protection of humanitarian aid workers, mitigation of risks including adequate preparation for disasters, and the coordination of humanitarian relief efforts. Very little progress has been made however concerning access, the development of national and regional capacities and the transition from relief aid to development cooperation.

The OCHA offers three products online which are regularly updated: The study, a matrix which shows the evolution of the language adopted by UN bodies since 1991 as well as a reference guide that is primarily intended for the OCHA staff in the field.

07.09.2009

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 final [documentation](#) of the Symposium on Women and Men in Conflicts organized by the GTZ Program Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights is now available. It sheds light on the different roles of women and men before, during and after a conflict from the perspectives of media, human rights, security sector, politics as well as from the perspective of victims. The recognition of international commitments given by UNSCR 1820 and 1325 remain pressing challenges for the international development community.
- GTZ extends an invitation to register for a training session on conflict-related development cooperation, 12 and 13 November in Bad Honnef. The training, by development cooperation experts, will cover principles of development policy in conflict environments; peace and conflict assessment (PCA) between analysis and a management tool, and the application of PCA. [Registration](#): up to 22 October 2009. Additional [information](#).

Conciliation Resources

- Conciliation Resources has published a [study](#) on cross-border trade between Southern Sudan and northern Uganda and its implications for peacebuilding in the region. It includes recommendations for changes in policy and practice.

Berghof

- „Rethinking Conflict Transformation from a Human Rights Perspective“ is the title of a new [article](#) by Michelle Parlevliet in the Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation. It moves beyond „justice vs. peace“ and proposes that

applying a perspective of human rights brings conflict transformation closer to its aims. With a wealth of examples, it discusses the practical demands and dilemmas of an integrated approach, focusing, among other things, on asymmetric conflicts, resistance to change and role clarity.

Academy for Conflict Transformation

- The Academy for Conflict Transformation has published a new [study](#): „Rekrutierung und Qualifizierung von Fachkräften von Personal im Zivilen Friedensdienst“ by Christine Schweitzer and Steffen Emrich.

FriEnt

- The [newsletter](#) of the Working Group on Development and Peace (FriEnt) includes a focus article „Landgrabbing hat Konjunktur“ which looks at the potential for conflict arising from international land grabbing by states, corporations and investment funds and the resulting challenges to peace policy.

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 civilian peace-building for 2009. For „Do no Harm“ (November 5-6) there are still a few places available.
- The swisspeace [annual conference](#) 2009 on „Rebels with a Cause? Understanding and dealing with non-state armed groups during and after violent conflicts“ will be held on 3 November in Bern. [Registration](#).
- [Go for Peace](#) Information Evenings are scheduled on 3 Nov. in Lucerne and 25 Nov. in Zurich. The practice-oriented course for peace capacity-building covers four areas: conflict diagnosis, communication, dealing with emotions and reconciliation. The course lasts from February to June 2010 and comprises a total of 14 days.
- Beginning in November 2009 the Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding ([IICP](#)) is offering [further training](#) in „Integrative Conflict Transformation“ for professionals, leading to a certificate from the University of Basel and the IICP. The course takes place in Bern and lasts until March 2011. It is recognized by the Swiss Federation of Mediation Associations (SDM), and qualifies graduates for the title of „SDM Mediator“.
- The [World Peace Academy](#) together with the University of Basel is offering a [Master](#) of Advanced Studies in Peace and Conflict Transformation, beginning 1 March 2010.
- The University of Basel is offering a [Program of Advanced Studies](#) in Conflict Research and Conflict Resolution in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland and swisspeace. The deadline for registering for the next term is the end of January 2010. [More information](#).

- There are still vacancies for the next [Peace Watch Switzerland](#) training sessions to prepare candidates for human rights missions in Guatemala/Mexico/Colombia (15-18 October and 29 October-1 November) and Palestine/Israel (4-7 March and 25-28 March).

Publications

Info

Peace Mediation
Essentials:

- [Dealing with the Past in Peace Mediation](#)
- [Gender and Peace Mediation](#)
- [Federalism and Mediation](#)

Further information:
[Elisabeth Baumgartner](#)

Peace Mediation Essentials

The Mediation Support Project (MSP) (swisspeace/Centre for Security Studies of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich) has now published the third edition of „Peace Mediation Essentials“ devoted to „Dealing with the Past in Peace Mediation“. It was co-authored by swisspeace and the Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). This 16-page study looks at the most important principles and international norms relevant to dealing with the past while mediating peace processes. It also addresses topics such as how to deal with demands for amnesty, which often play a role in peace processes. The two previous editions dealt with „Gender and Peace Mediation“ and „Federalism and Peace Mediation“. Future editions of „Peace Mediation Essentials“ will cover relevant topics including decentralisation and mediation.

18.09.2009

Info

- [Aid and Violence: Development Policies and Conflict in Nepal](#)

Development Policy and Conflict in Nepal

Although no one seriously questions the close relationship between peace, democracy, human rights and development cooperation today, in actual practice it is often neglected. In „Aid and Violence: Development Policies and Conflict in Nepal“ Francesca Bonino and Antonio Donini of the Feinstein International Center show in 30 riveting and highly relevant pages that are constructive as well as critical how donors and the Nepali elite reacted to the civil war of 1996-2006, i.e. slowly, reluctantly and evasively, or ‚around the conflict‘. The authors at the same time identify a series of concrete measures which have to some extent been successfully implemented in Nepal, and recommend their replication in other contexts. These measures include the following: Regular project visits in outlying districts (in this case outside Kathmandu); the consistent promotion, including in one’s own human resources policy, of segments of the population that are traditionally disadvantaged on the basis of gender, caste or ethnic origin; careful monitoring of who actually benefits from development cooperation funds and activities; context and conflict analysis, followed by the necessary adjustments at the operational level; readiness for dialogue with all parties to the conflict, but at the same time emphasizing basic values such as human rights and non-violence and the coordination of all actors – governmental, from the civil society and international – at various levels (tracks 1 to 3). 08.09.2009

Web Tip

Info

■ [Internationale Politik](#)

Internationale Politik

Since 1945 the German Council on Foreign Relations has published its contributions on foreign policy in the monthly newsletter „Internationale Politik“. This is Germany’s leading journal for the analysis of global topics and in particular with regard to conflicts, development and security policy. These essays by experts from politics, academia, the private sector and the media make a valuable contribution to the discussion of policies in the areas concerned. The internet site in English, Chinese and Russian as well as German, allows visitors to do full text search, to access articles, book reviews and dossiers by subject matter, and to subscribe to the newsletter. However, there is a fee for most of the recent documents.

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