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International Partner Organizations

Events, Publications, Web Tip

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KOFF – swisspeace

Links

- [KOFF-Trainings 2010](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Rahel Fischer](#)

KOFF Trainings 2010

The KOFF training program for 2010 consists of four courses on specific aspects of civil peacebuilding:

„A Question of Honor?“ – the training series begins on 8-9 June with this thought-provoking question. The two-day course deals with the tension between gender and culture-sensitive approaches in peacebuilding projects, and offers space for constructive reflection. With the help of practical examples from different cultural backgrounds, the participants will address the most important Do's and Don'ts of gender-sensitive peacebuilding work.

The second training, which takes place from 29 September to 1 October, deals with results-oriented planning and evaluation of peacebuilding projects. As well as questions of project design, this training focuses on the practical application of impact-oriented assessment techniques, and the challenges of evaluation management.

A three-day course entitled „From Analysis to Strategy“ begins on 6 October. Its purpose is to show how to bridge the frequently observed gap between conflict analysis and project design. Participants will be introduced to the basic principles of conflict analysis and get an overview of the most important methods for the development of an effective intervention strategy.

In what ways are children and young people affected by human rights violations? What are the consequences, short term and long term, of such crimes for the next generation? How can the youngest victims of a conflict become actors in a process of social change? The fourth KOFF training on 9-10 November looks at these questions.

Experienced trainers from Switzerland and abroad will be in charge of the courses. As usual, collaborators of KOFF member organizations benefit from special rates. To facilitate the transfer of theoretical knowledge to practical application, KOFF is again offering a „Practice Day“ as a follow-up to each training. 04.04.2010

Links

- [Evaluation Report](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [KOFF Websites on Conflict Sensitivity](#)

Evaluation of Nonviolent Peaceforce Philippines

In February 2010, swisspeace conducted an evaluation of the Nonviolent Peaceforce's activities in the Mindanao province. Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) Philippines and its program activities were designed in 2007 to offer civilian protection and to support local structures and process of human rights protection, cease-fire monitoring, early warning and violence reduction in the Mindanao province. Being the only international non-governmental organization working with and living in close proximity to the most conflict-affected population in Mindanao, NP was able to support and enhance local structures to achieve the above mentioned goals as well as cross-community dialogue. NP also accepted the offer in late 2009 by the conflict parties – the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) – to join the civilian

Further information:
KOFF [Cordula Reimann](#)

protection component of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) of the peace process. This is a direct expression and result of NP's successful contributions to violence reduction and non-violence in the last two years.

The aim of swisspeace's evaluation was threefold: To assess the achievement of objectives and the effectiveness of NP's work in Mindanao and the perception of NP among a sample of partner organizations, stakeholders, conflict parties and beneficiaries. Secondly, to offer the basis and opportunity for collaborative sharing and learning about the latest thinking on conflict analysis and strategic program design as well as monitoring in peacebuilding. Thirdly, based on the mission's findings, recommendations for NP's future work were made. For this evaluation, interviews and focus group discussions with a wide range of local stakeholders, beneficiaries, conflict parties, NP staff and partner organizations were conducted in Manila and Mindanao. A one-day workshop on international lessons learned on program design and effectiveness of peace practice was conducted for national and international staff and management of NP. The findings have been published in a report. 19.04.2010

Links

- [KOFF Websites on Nepal](#)
- [DCAF Activities in Nepal](#)

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

The Nepali Security Forces – A Way Out?

KOFF organized a Nepal roundtable in April entitled „The Nepali Security Forces – A Way Out?“, with Marlene Urscheler of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The Security Sector Reform plays a key role in Nepal's peace process. The roundtable showed that such reform raises politically sensitive questions that will condition the peace process and determine its success. These include placing Nepali Security Forces under democratic control; the composition of military and police forces that reflect the nation's ethnic and regional diversity; the merging of troops of the former Maoist People's Liberation Army with the Army of Nepal; the development of a new security policy, and the criminal prosecution of human rights violations that occurred during the civil war and under the authoritarian regime as a contribution to the rule of law and the accountability of state institutions. Therefore, DCAF provides support in the context of Security Sector Reform to various bodies, notably the legislature, the political parties and the military. DCAF brings to this process its expertise and the „lessons learned“ in other contexts, although the access to the relevant actors, in particular high ranking members of the military, is often difficult. 07.04.2010

Links

- [KOFF Websites on Gender](#)
- [Resolution 1325](#)
- [National Action Plan on 1325](#)
- [PA IV Websites on Gender](#)
- [OWEN](#)

Further information:
KOFF [Cordula Reimann](#)
KOFF [Rahel Fischer](#)

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Switzerland and Germany

Switzerland's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is currently in the process of being relaunched. KOFF has already organized two consultation meetings in recent months, at which representatives of Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) outlined the current state of the relaunch. The new Swiss NAP on 1325 takes the form of a „Logical Framework“ and will define indicators for assessing implementation of different objectives. Swiss NGOs participating in the 1325 process are at present consulted on proposals put forward by a working group within the federal administration. KOFF will continue to work closely on this review process, facilitating exchanges between the various federal bodies and NGOs involved.

Despite the strong commitment and intensive lobbying efforts of many women's and peace organizations, Germany does not have a National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325. The divergent views of the government and the various NGOs on the subject were made clear at an international conference organized by the Mobile Academy for Gender Democracy and Peace Promotion (OWEN), held in Berlin in mid-March. KOFF was represented at this conference entitled „10 Years of UN Resolution 1325 – Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives“. The representatives of the German government made it clear that they disagree with the proposals for a German NAP put forward by civil society actors.

19.04.2010

Links

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

Regional Forum on Transitional Justice in Novi Sad

In connection with its standing mandate with the Political Division IV (PD IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), KOFF attended the Sixth Regional Forum on Transitional Justice, organized by the Independent Association of Journalists of Vojvodina and held on 20-21 March in Novi Sad in Serbia. The Forum brought together some 250 civil society representatives from all of the regions of former Yugoslavia to discuss outstanding issues concerning the initiative to form a Regional Commission (RECOM). The RECOM initiative was launched at a regional consultation of organizations representing victims and war veterans in May 2008 in Montenegro. The purpose of the initiative is to advocate the establishment of an official inter-state (regional) and independent commission of inquiry that will investigate war crimes and serious human rights violations committed in former Yugoslavia during the period between January 1991 to December 2001.

The Forum in Novi Sad combined plenary and working group sessions over two days. The plenary sessions included a speech by Vincent Degert, Head of the European Commission Delegation in Serbia, in which he underlined the support of the European Commission for the RECOM initiative, as well as presentations

Further information:
KOFF [Jonathan Sisson](#)

evaluating the experience of truth commissions in Chile and Peru. The working group sessions focused on concrete issues such as the general framework and the possible mandate and composition of a future regional truth-seeking commission. At its concluding session, the coalition for RECOM reaffirmed its intention to organize a „one million signatures for RECOM“ campaign in the region and to submit its recommendations to create RECOM to the national parliaments of the post-Yugoslav states by June 2011. 01.04.2010

Links

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

Further information:
KOFF [Cordula Reimann](#)

Gender Training at the Academy for Conflict Transformation

In April, KOFF conducted a two-day training course on „Gender, Conflict and Conflict Transformation“ at the Academy for Conflict Transformation in Königs-winter. The emphasis of the course was on the most important gender-specific dimensions and contradictions in violent conflicts and conflict transformation, as well as the Do's and Don'ts of gender-sensitive peace work. The participants included graduates of the Academy's qualifying course for „Peace Expert/Conflict Consultant“ as well as staff members of German and international non-governmental organizations. 16.04.2010

Focus

Links

- [WHO: Global Campaign for Violence Prevention](#)
- [World Report on Health and Violence](#)
- [World Health Assembly Resolution 49.25 - Prevention of Violence: A Public Health Priority](#)
- [UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World](#)
- [International Coalition for the Decade](#)
- [International Campaign for Children's Rights to a Nonviolent Education](#)
- [Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace](#)
- [World Council of Churches](#)
- [Global Zero Movement](#)

Decade to Overcome Violence: Preventing Violence and Building Just Peace

The „Decade to Overcome Violence“ launched by the World Council of Churches in 2001 is drawing to an end. The Decade is placed within the framework of campaigns of the UN and the World Health Organization and has attracted much public and media attention. Looking at violence from a health perspective proved to be helpful for developing interdisciplinary prevention approaches.

In 2001 the „Decade to Overcome Violence“ (DOV) was launched by the World Council of Churches (WCC). The Decade is inspired by the idea of reconciliation and the new concept of the „Responsibility to Protect“ with the goal to challenge churches „to relinquish any theological justification of violence“ and put peace and reconciliation at the center of their daily agenda. Without the efforts of the Historic Peace Churches this Decade would hardly have come about. There is growing consensus that the task of building *just peace* is as urgent and compelling as ever.

A large framework

The „Decade to Overcome Violence“ (DOV) places itself within the framework of the UN „Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World“. UNESCO assumes formal responsibility for the coordination of the UN Decade and focuses on educational aspects.

The most substantial contribution to mapping violence and reducing it comes from the World Health Organization's Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. Its typology and ecological model of violence have proven to be most helpful in addressing violence in concrete and tangible ways. Looking at violence from a health perspective provides for an interdisciplinary approach to evidence-based violence prevention. The 1996 World Health Assembly Resolution 49.25 made violence prevention a public health priority and the 2002 World Report on Violence and Health helped mainstream the agenda, also among churches. The health approach is an important aspect in the fight against domestic violence as well. The „Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women“, which preceded the current Decade, had revealed that female victims to domestic and institutional violence were facing the same challenges and fate all over the world. Therefore, the DOV continued to focus on violence against women, but also included violence against children.

Lessons learned

A major insight from the Decade is the degree to which there is confusion between conflict and violence. The widespread but wrong assumption is that peace means the absence of conflict. At the same time there is a tendency to equate violence and conflict, as it is common in the media. This intermingling of concepts shows that the notion of peace is fuzzy and that the tendency exists to see conflict as something fundamentally wrong. Moreover, general assumptions suggest that

conflict inevitably leads to violence, and that all violence is rooted in conflict. These are false and misleading presuppositions: Physical violence may be nourished by entertainment, for instance in video games. It is also a lucrative business, such as the arms trade. Violence can also be rooted in cultural tradition or prejudice. Expert consultations on topics such as entertainment and violence, female genital mutilation, or models of masculinity were organized by the Decade to promote awareness and intelligibility. Some of those topics are perceived and addressed differently in churches. It often became clear, how big the demand is to deal with those issues on a theological as well as an emotional level. Furthermore, non-violence is often not properly understood as concept among churches and in society. The very term and notion of non-violence is uncommon in church statements and programs, apart from the Historic Peace Churches such as the Quakers. There are secular organizations that teach and promote non-violence, but they lack a coherent approach and tend to be seen as utopians and their goals dismissed as unrealistic. Non-violence occasionally appears in UN documents, but it refers to abstaining from the use of violence rather than to a proactive, constructive attitude and approach. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., who in the 60s inspired entire societies, have become weak shadows of an impracticable idealism. Non-violence as a determined strategy to achieve political or social objectives is an unknown field, its methods and power remains to be discovered, both among religious movements and in society at large.

Beyond the Decade

There are other challenges identified by the Decade and remaining beyond its reach: Nuclear disarmament has been on the agenda of the WCC for a long time, especially the non-proliferation treaty and the establishment of nuclear-free zones in Africa. This may well remain a priority in the future, given the new momentum created by the Obama administration and the Global Zero Movement. Another challenge is the increasing world-wide military spending, money that could be spent to fight hunger and malnutrition.

The WCC will continue to work on gender-related violence as well as social injustice as a factor in violence. Ongoing programs include violence against women, access to clean water, wealth and poverty, and climate change. Indeed, direct physical violence addressed by the Decade is only the tip of the iceberg.

The closing event of the Decade to Overcome Violence will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, in May 2011. It will celebrate the fruits of the Decade, which include numerous local and regional networks, increased awareness and expertise, and local initiatives on diverse violence-related issues. More importantly, the event will point to the remaining challenges mentioned above and call on churches to take them up in collaboration with civil society. For instance, churches need to be encouraged to help set up or join local or national Violence Prevention Alliances, such as in Jamaica. The good news is that peacebuilding and conflict transformation have become academic and practical disciplines over the past decades

[Hansuli Gerber](#), WCC
Coordinator of the DOV
until end of 2009

and that violence prevention is on its way to be mainstreamed across the world. Finally, the established truth within the ecumenical movement that there is no peace without justice appears more and more as an evidence and should constitute a strong appeal not to build any peace, but a just peace. 01.03.2010

News from Swiss NGOs

Links

- [Fondation Hirondelle](#)

Further information:
Fondation Hirondelle
[Luisa Sánchez](#)

15th Anniversary for Fondation Hirondelle

Fondation Hirondelle this year celebrates its 15th year of existence. The founders' intuition that people living in crisis areas have a real need for credible and independent information has been proven correct. The Foundation's radio stations meet this demand while at the same time promoting journalistic standards of excellence and rigor. Those stations have managed to establish themselves in a leading position in the respective countries, with important audience rates. Despite the original doubts of donors and host countries about the need for such national radio stations, the experience has proven persuasive. The broadcast stations not only enjoy considerable support among the general population but also to some extent among politicians. Radio Okapi in the DR Congo, Star Radio in Liberia, Blue Sky in Kosovo, Miraya FM in Sudan, and the Hirondelle News Agency at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda are among the successful results of these 15 years of effort in crisis areas.

In spite of the difficult working conditions, the Fondation Hirondelle strives to create professional and independent structures for local staff. Thanks to its efforts the journalists are able to devote themselves fully to their profession in a spirit of independence. While the latter is essential, it nonetheless requires a great deal of courage. Some journalists have paid for their commitment with their life. Building on its experience, including successes as well as failures and numerous difficulties to overcome, Fondation Hirondelle is working on the continuation of its current projects while taking on new projects and new challenges. It is also trying to remain adaptive to ensure that its radio stations will continue to meet the basic needs of the populations. 17.04.2010

Links

- [Geneva Call](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Mines Advisory Group](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)

Mission to Investigate Allegations of Mine Use in the Philippines

A Geneva Call-led team of experts travelled to the Philippines to conduct a Verification Mission into allegations that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had breached its obligations under Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment banning Anti-Personnel (AP) mines. An escalation in the conflict between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the MILF in August 2008 brought with it allegations that the MILF were utilizing AP mines. During the period between

Further information:
Geneva Call [Chris Rush](#)

August 2008 and May 2009 Geneva Call identified over 20 such instances. On enquiry, representatives of the GRP insisted that a number of these armed incidents involved the use of prohibited AP mines. The MILF has consistently maintained that there had been no such use by its forces.

Geneva Call therefore sought and received approval from both the GRP and the MILF for a field verification of the allegations. The Verification Mission took place between 17 and 26 November 2009. The investigation team, including Eric David, Professor of Public International Law at Brussels University, and a technical specialist from the demining organization Mines Advisory Group, visited sites of alleged mine incidents in Mindanao, inspected devices, interviewed witnesses and analysed documentary evidence. Representatives of the GRP and MILF Cease-fire Committees accompanied the team throughout its field enquiries, providing both security and access. Nonviolent Peaceforce – an NGO dedicated to civilian peacekeeping with a strong field presence in Mindanao – provided logistical support and also accompanied the team during its enquiries.

Details of the findings of the Verification Mission have now been released after having been shared and discussed with the MILF. Whilst the Verification Mission found evidence of AP mine use, it was not possible to establish definitively whether such use was attributable to the MILF.

12.04.2010

Links

- [GPP](#)
- [Peacebuilding Commission](#)

Consultation on the Peacebuilding Commission Review

On 12 April the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) organized a consultation in the framework of the first official Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) review, founded in 2005/06, enabling exchanges between two of the three review co-facilitators – Anne Anderson, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN in New York and Baso Sangqu, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN in New York – and the Geneva peacebuilding community. The discussions gave the co-facilitators the opportunity to present the issues that have emerged so far in the consultative process and to get feedbacks from the audience on both the review process and its content.

Throughout the consultation, practitioners from the peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian fields shared the most important lessons learned and how they could inform the review of this still young intergovernmental entity. The exercise revealed a common acknowledgment that building peace ultimately boils down to consolidating societal commitment to peace and reconciliation. The audience strongly recommended that the PBC helps shifting the current emphasis on which activities should be included in national peacebuilding strategies to the ultimate aim of these activities. In that regard, essential questions include how these activities are designed and implemented to fit the capacities and needs of a particular context and how they contribute to strengthen national capacities for peace.

Further information:
GPP [Frédérique Guérin](#)

The review co-facilitators were appreciative of the workshop inputs and called for concrete recommendations on how to improve the work of the Commission and how to better connect the Geneva community to the peacebuilding architecture in New York. 12.04.2010

Links

■ [IFF](#)

Further information:
IFF [Rekha Oleschak-Pillai](#)

Study Trip on Minority Rights in China

A study tour on 8-14 April organized by the National People's Congress (NPC) focused on the current developments in China with regard to state organization and the rights of minorities. The trip took place in the context of the long-standing Sino-Swiss partnership involving the Institute of Federalism (IFF) and various Chinese institutions that receive support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The tour related to questions covered at last year's workshop with Beijing University on local governance and the vertical separation of powers.

The purpose of the tour was to study in greater depth the organization of the state in China as well as the legal, political, social and cultural situation of 56 recognized minorities. Representatives of the IFF as well as members of the Swiss parliament were given a number of insights into China's various governmental levels. They were able to discuss the country's rapid transformation and its impact on minorities with specialists and representatives of various authorities.

A highlight of the study trip was a visit to the Ningxia Autonomous Region. In the capital Yinchuan the Swiss delegation learned about the responsibilities and functioning of an autonomous region (at the communal and provincial levels) as well as about the vertical separation of powers and the right of cultural minorities to participate in the decision-making process. Next year a Chinese delegation will visit Switzerland and learn about the protection of cultural minorities and opportunities for their political participation. 14.04.2010

News from Swiss Government Agencies

Links

- [The Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights](#)

Further information:
FDFA [Nils Rosemann](#)

Annual Conference on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

At the annual conference on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) on 18-19 March in London, Switzerland participated as involved government. The VPSHR exist since 10 years and are based on a joint initiative of governments, companies and NGOs. The VPSHR aim in particular at companies of the extractive industries – petroleum, gas and mining – and commit them to respect human rights in regard to operational security measures. They should also prevent any complicity in human rights violations and each participating company has to implement its corporate obligations on human rights. Emphasis is placed in this context on security sector reform, the training of staff and cooperation with local populations.

Participation in this initiative enables Switzerland to strengthen efforts in the areas of human rights and conflict prevention. In this context Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) not only brings in a diplomatic initiative on private military and security firms, but is also concerned with the role of investments and commodity trading, and the responsibility of raw material processing industries. The potential synergies between these complementary initiatives and the VPSHR should be used through further strengthening of institutional cooperation. Also being discussed is support for national implementation processes in Colombia, Nigeria, Peru and Indonesia for example. From the point of view of the Swiss government the VPSHR serve as instrument for a coherent human rights and economic foreign policy and help to strengthen corporate due diligence in the area of security and human rights.

The fact that the United States is due to take over the chair of the VPSHR this year is likely to give new impetus. The Voluntary Principles need to be institutionally strengthened and the implementation and reporting mechanisms to be formalized.

03.04.2010

Links

- [Speech by SDC Director Dahinden \(in German\)](#)
- [SDC Conflict Prevention and Transformation Websites](#)

Workshop on Integrated Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Transformation

An interdisciplinary workshop on „Integrated Approaches to Crisis Prevention and Conflict Transformation“ was held in Berlin in March, in an effort to raise awareness on and further develop the 3C Roadmap (coherent, coordinated, complementary) adopted one year earlier. The workshop was organized by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and the Swiss Embassy in Berlin. In his address Martin Dahinden, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), underlined the importance of working more with these integrated approaches. The Whole-of-Government approach means solving tasks together, but is not an invitation to mix roles and act without orientation.

- [German Institute for International and Security Affairs](#)
- [3C Conference 2009](#)

Further information:
SDC [Cristina Hoyos](#)

Among other things the workshop focused on the consequences which globalization has had on security policy. As an illustration Dahinden pointed out the new „black spots“ on the map: territories and spheres where the rule of law no longer applies. The new challenges to security policy can only be met successfully through the well-combined use of a variety of instruments including political solutions, military engagement, humanitarian aid, reconstruction and development cooperation. The need for coherence is a major challenge, not only to the efforts of the international community but also within one's own government and administration. Despite their different „corporate cultures“ the military, diplomats and development cooperation experts must strive to develop a coordinated approach in which each actor performs a clearly differentiated role, as an added value rather than to mix them. At present, efforts to deal with conflict situations are too often limited to the role of „fire fighting“. Successfully integrated approaches should make it possible to reduce or even avoid those costly fire fighting efforts.

15.04.2010

International Partner Organizations

Info

News from nine international KOFF partner organizations.

- [Berghof Conflict Research](#)
- [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](#)

EPLO

- At the end of April, the European Council is due to adopt the proposal for a European External Action Service. The latest issue of the [EPLO Newsletter](#) outlines the opportunities as well as challenges for this new EU institution.

International Alert

- In March International Alert launched its series „Peacebuilding Essentials for Economic Development Practitioners“. The following can be downloaded in pdf: [Market Development](#) in Conflict-Affected Countries; [Foreign Direct Investment](#) in Conflict-Affected Countries; [Business Environment Reforms](#) in Conflict-Affected Countries.

Berghof

- „Learning each other's historical narrative“ is the title of a schoolbook published by the Peace Research Institute in the Middle-East ([PRIME](#)). A [German translation](#) of this Israeli-Palestinian textbook is now available on the Berghof website.

Academy for Conflict Transformation

- The Academy for Conflict Transformation of the Forum Civil Peace Service is offering a seven-month, part-time [course](#) in mediation, leadership and teamwork for German-speaking specialists and managing staff, beginning in September 2010.

Events

Info

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

- This year KOFF is offering a four-part [training series](#) on the following topics:
 - A Question of Honour? Gender and Culture Sensitive Approaches to Peacebuilding
 - Evaluating Peacebuilding Projects
 - From Analysis to Strategy
 - Children & Dealing with the Past
- The Israel/Palestine Forum for Human Rights is organizing on 10 May, 19.30-22.30, a [debate](#) entitled „Human rights first! What can civil society contribute to the implementation of human rights in Israel/Palestine?“. The debate in English, with translation into German, is to be held in the Aula Progr in Bern, Admission: CHF 10.-.
- The same organizer will hold on 12 May, 9.15-12.30, in Le Cap in Bern another workshop in English on the topic „Respect for human rights and international law: How can civil society pressure Israel?“. [Information and registration](#) (until 4 May).
- The Austrian Study Center for Peace & Conflict Resolution (ASPR) is inviting to its 27th International Summer Academy on the topic: „Krieg im Abseits“ (Forgotten conflicts). 4-9 July at Burg Schlaining. [Registration and Program](#).
- The Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding ([ICP](#) – formerly IICP) announces its 3rd Annual International [Summer Academy](#) on political means of non-violent conflict transformation from 11-15 July in Berne.
- The [International Caux Conferences](#) 2010 are due to take place from 2 July to 17 August, on topics which include multiculturalism, human security, business ethics und intergenerational relations.

Publications

Info

Traditional Justice and Reconciliation after Violent Conflict: Learning from African Experiences. Luc Huyse; Mark Salter (eds.), 2008.

[Download](#)

Traditional Mechanisms in Dealing with the Past

„Traditional Justice and Reconciliation after Violent Conflict: Learning from African Experiences“ looks at the role of traditional justice in dealing with human rights violations in a post-conflict context. Faced by a lack of suitable alternatives, but aware of the terminological and methodological problems involved, the authors use the concept of „traditional“ mechanisms. In an effort to avoid any romanticization of these traditional mechanisms, the editors have relied on local authors for most of the case studies on Burundi, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Although the various indigenous practices differ considerably in both form and content, the editor Luc Huyse identifies in his introduction certain common characteristics – which in particular distinguish them from „modern“ instruments. Traditional mechanisms make use of many collective rituals such as the rite of stepping on a raw egg and allow wide participation of civil society. On the basis of the case studies the editors analyze the strengths and weaknesses of traditional mechanisms and evaluate them as to their effectiveness and

legitimacy, notably warning against unrealistic expectations. It is pointed out that traditional mechanisms should only be seen as complementary to modern instruments not as replacements for them. Yet, they do need to be integrated in Dealing with the Past efforts. This book has been published in English and French.

01.04.2010

Web Tip

Info

- [Violence Prevention Alliance](#)

Violence Prevention Alliance

Launched in 2004, the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) is a network of WHO Member States, international agencies and civil society organizations working to prevent violence. VPA participants share an evidence-based public health approach that targets the risk factors leading to violence and promotes multi-sectoral cooperation.

On its website, the VPA promotes its perspective that revolves around three theoretical models: the typology of violence, the public health approach and the ecological framework. These models guide understanding, research and action for violence prevention. Hence, the VPA offers important expertise and documents for practitioners, policy-makers and researchers.

In the framework of the VPA, governmental, non-governmental and private organizations have the opportunity to network, to share expertise and to promote evidence-based approaches in order to address the root causes of violence and to improve services for victims. However, the transfer from information material and basic documents to its practice-oriented application is unconvincing. The readership remains in the dark regarding how and who can join the alliance and its activities.

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• [Alliance Sud](#) • [APRED](#) • [BAHA'!](#) • [Brücke Le pont](#) • [Caritas Switzerland](#) • [Caux - Initiatives of Change](#) • [cfd](#) • [CIMERA](#) • [Common Cause Switzerland](#) • [DCAF](#) • [Eirene Switzerland](#) • [Fondation Hironnelle](#) • [Forum für Friedenserziehung](#) • [Geneva Call](#) • [Green Cross Switzerland](#) • [GSoA](#) • [HEKS](#) • [Helvetas](#) • [ICP](#) • [Intercooperation](#) • [International Association for Human Values](#) • [Interpeace](#) • [LIPS](#) • [Media21](#) • [Medico International Schweiz](#) • [Medienhilfe](#) • [mission 21](#) • [MIVA Switzerland](#) • [Palmyrah](#) • [Peace Brigades International](#) • [Peace Watch Switzerland](#) • [PeaceWomen Across the Globe](#) • [Pestalozzi Children's Foundation](#) • [Quaker United Nations Office](#) • [Schweizerischer Friedensrat](#) • [Schweizerischer Katholischer Frauenbund](#) • [Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk](#) • [Service Civil International Schweiz](#) • [Society for Threatened Peoples](#) • [Swissaid](#) • [Swiss Academy for Development](#) • [Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund](#) • [Swiss Red Cross](#) • [Swiss Refugee Council](#) • [terre des hommes Switzerland](#) • [Women for Peace Switzerland](#) • [World Vision Switzerland](#)

