

swisspeace

Annual Conference

2009

Rebels with a Cause?

Understanding and dealing with non-state armed groups during and after violent conflicts

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Theatersaal Hotel National, Hirschengraben 24, Bern,
Switzerland



Non-state armed groups play a central role in most violent conflicts all over the world, and their importance has risen sharply since the end of the Cold War. Understanding the origins, the functioning as well as the rationale of such groups is a particular challenge for both academics and practitioners. Whether or not these 'rebels' have a 'cause' to defend has been a constant object of debate. Bringing together academics and practitioners with recognized expertise on non-state armed groups, the conference will offer analytical insights and discuss practical experiences.

The conference will be held in English.

Program	
Morning Session	
8.30 am	Registration
9.00 am	Welcome Address Hans-Balz Peter, swisspeace
9.15 am	Introduction Didier Péclard, swisspeace
9.30 am	Keynote Address Klaus Schlichte, University of Magdeburg
10.15 am	Coffee Break
10.45 am	Panel 1 Transformation of non-state armed groups
Speakers	Mpako Foaleng, DCAF Martin Snoddon, Conflict Trauma Resource Centre Oliver Wils, Berghof Foundation for Peace Support
Moderation	Cordula Reimann, swisspeace
12.15 am	Lunch

Program	
Afternoon Session	
1.45 pm	Panel 2 Challenges for mediators in engaging non-state armed groups
Speakers	Diana Francis, Committee for Conflict Transformation Support Dennis Tull, German Institute for International and Security Affairs Jean-Pierre Gontard, former IUED
Moderation	Anita Müller, swisspeace
3.00 pm	Coffee Break
3.30 pm	Panel 3 Non-state armed groups and the regional dynamics of conflict: the Horn of Africa
Speakers	David Lanz, swisspeace Alfred Lokujji, University of Juba Andrea Semadeni, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Moderation	Didier Péclard, swisspeace
4.45 pm	Final Remarks Laurent Goetschel, swisspeace
5.00 pm	End of the Conference

Speakers

Dr. Mpako Foaeng, Security Sector Reform Advisor, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Dr. Diana Francis, Facilitator, Chair of the Committee of Conflict Transformation Support, U.K.

Prof. Laurent Goetschel, Director, swisspeace and Professor, Europainstitut, University of Basel

Jean-Pierre Gontard, former Deputy Director, Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva

David Lanz, Project Officer, swisspeace and PhD Candidate, University of Basel

Dr. Alfred Lokuji, Lead Researcher, Centre for Peace & Development Studies, University of Juba, Sudan

Dr. Anita Müller, Deputy Director, swisspeace

Dr. Didier Péclard, Senior Researcher, swisspeace and Lecturer, University of Basel

Prof. Hans-Balz Peter, President, swisspeace and Professor for Social Ethics, Department of Theology, University of Bern

Dr. Cordula Reimann, Senior Researcher, swisspeace and Lecturer, University of Basel

Prof. Klaus Schlichte, Professor, Department of Political Science, Otto-von-Guericke-University, Magdeburg

Andrea Semadeni, Ambassador, Political Division IV, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Martin Snoddon, Director of Conflict Trauma Resource Centre, Northern Ireland and former member of Ulster Volunteer Force

Dr. Denis Tull, Senior Researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Dr. Oliver Wils, Executive Director, Berghof Foundation for Peace Support, Berlin

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