



JOAN B. KROC
INSTITUTE FOR
PEACE & JUSTICE
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO'S JOAN B. KROC SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES

IPJ AWARDED GRANT FOR WEST AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING INITIATIVE *by Denise Ward*



Before joining the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ), Senior Program Officer Dustin Sharp investigated and reported on human rights violations throughout West Africa. In the course of his tenure with Human Rights Watch, he documented problems ranging from police torture

and excessive use of force, to abuses committed by rebel groups and violent pro-government militias. He traveled through conflict zones and interviewed victims of torture, survivors of rape, and innocent bystanders with bullets still lodged in their bodies.

As part of a new IPJ project, Sharp will soon return to West Africa – this time to assist local human rights organizations in conducting their own investigations.

The IPJ was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa to launch the West African Human Rights Training Initiative, a regional partnership between the IPJ and leading human rights organizations in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The two-year program comes in response to years of civil war and civil unrest in the sub-region, fuelled by corruption, poor governance and lack of accountability. With conflicts marked by “blood diamonds,” child soldiers and widespread sexual violence, the human rights fallout for many West Africans has been devastating.

“Full-blown war has ended, but the current situation throughout the region remains fragile,” said Sharp. “Now is the time for the international community to help build peace, and universities have an important role to play.” The training initiative is designed to strengthen the ability of local human rights organizations to document systematically the abuses that are occurring, and to use that information to pressure their governments for reform and accountability. The IPJ will work with a total of eight local partner organizations in the region as each one conducts a human rights investigation, writes a report and launches an advocacy campaign.

“Historically, a lack of accountability on the part of governments in the region has been a critical destabilizing factor,” said Sharp. “In the post-conflict context, what we need is to put a system in place that allows local and community actors to press for change, and this initiative will provide some of the tools and training required.”

“... it’s going to be a citizen-led push for better governance that will be central to promoting the consolidation of a just and lasting peace in the region.”

DUSTIN SHARP

Initial training cycles for the IPJ’s West Africa project are scheduled to begin in Sierra Leone and Guinea in the coming months.

“West Africa is the poorest region of the poorest continent in the world,” said Sharp. “The challenges to peace are enormous, but ultimately, it’s going to be a citizen-led push for better governance that will be central to promoting the consolidation of a just and lasting peace in the region. This initiative should provide an important nudge in the right direction.”

Edward Jombla of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding with Sharp on the streets of Freetown, Sierra Leone



OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR WEST AFRICA

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

2009-10 SERIES EXAMINES DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



Farmer answers a question during his lecture on development

Paul Farmer, M.D., Ph.D., co-founder of Partners In Health and U.N. Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti, presented the first Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture for the 2009-10 academic year before a full house of 700 people at USD's Shiley Theatre. Over 500 viewers also watched a live video feed in two other locations on campus and participated in the question-and-answer session via Internet chat and Twitter submissions. The talk, which closed the week-long Social Issues Conference at USD, was co-sponsored by the IPJ, the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, and the Social Issues Committee.

Farmer began the lecture expressing comfort in using a public health paradigm, human rights paradigm or development paradigm in addressing the need to provide high-quality health care to the poor – and that an equity focus is a good way to start. Much of his talk focused on lessons learned in Haiti, where he has worked for over 20 years with Partners In Health.

“The challenge lies in listening to the poor.”

PAUL FARMER

DOWNLOAD LECTURES

The Distinguished Lecture by Paul Farmer, along with previous lectures in the series, are now available for download at iTunes U and UCSD-TV.



“The challenge lies in listening to the poor,” he said, and figuring out “how to link our work in public health to broader social justice goals that the Haitian people talk about.”

Farmer, who will be working with U.N. Special Envoy to Haiti Bill Clinton, is also overseeing projects combating HIV/AIDS in Rwanda and multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Peru and Russia. “Because we had had experience in Haiti building infrastructure,” Farmer said, “we knew how to build partnerships with the local community, provide services and train local people.” He has also worked to build partnerships with the public sector and NGOs like the Clinton Foundation to go beyond health care to offering other social services and creating job opportunities.

After the lecture, Farmer spent over an hour with students and other audience members, including a family that had flown from the East Coast to hear him speak. “I love spending time with the students,” he affirmed. “They are the ones who will make a difference.” He also stayed to sign copies of the book by Tracy Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*.

For a month preceding and following Farmer's lecture, the IPJ mounted a photo exhibit at the University Center Gallery about the work of Partners In Health. Photos of HIV/AIDS patients before and after treatment reinforced Farmer's insistence that health care for the poor is not only possible, but also a moral imperative.



Farmer speaking with Parminder Randhawa, master's student in Peace and Justice Studies



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IPJ MISSION

Fostering Peace, Cultivating Justice and Creating a Safer World. Through education, research and peacemaking activities, the IPJ offers programs that advance scholarship and practice in conflict resolution and human rights.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

The Peace & Justice Compass newsletter is published by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies.

An online version of this newsletter can be found at <http://peace.sandiego.edu> together with additional information about IPJ programs and activities. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the University of San Diego.

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Design
Buchanan Design, San Diego

PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

By Executive Director Milburn Line



Arriving at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) has been a homecoming in both a literal and figurative sense. In addition to returning to the States after years in human rights missions and projects overseas, coming to work in an institute dedicated to supporting local communities caught in conflict and strengthening their capacity to build peace and justice is both a personal and professional homecoming.

That the IPJ is part of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies and the University of San Diego (USD) makes the experience and the opportunity that much richer. Years of field-oriented practice makes one hunger for more systematic thinking. And the commitment of the IPJ, with the support of the school and greater university, to partner at the local level in the countries where we work, as well as here on campus and in the San Diego community, is simply remarkable.

In fact, this type of active peace and justice effort within a university is unique. It is a tribute to the farsightedness of Mrs. Kroc, who founded our efforts with the admonition to do peace and justice work and not just talk about it, and exemplifies the university's commitment to core values of community and compassionate service.

This work has been going on for almost a decade and you can see our ongoing initiatives in these pages. Most of these have been team efforts with active collaboration of students and other partners here at USD or from the San Diego community. Our Nepal Project has engaged high-level leaders and local communities with the support of four master's students from the Kroc School of Peace Studies. "Bearing Exquisite Witness," an arts festival that explored the links between peacebuilding and the arts, was developed with the collaboration of USD's Theatre Arts Department and San Diego artists. A Distinguished Lecture Series featured Paul Farmer as part of the Social Issues Conference in cooperation with Community Service-Learning. Our WorldLink Program for youth is active with 30 high schools in San Diego and Tijuana.

This spirit of collaborative peace and justice work is the foundation to develop new partnerships around the globe. In the new year we will be implementing a human rights training and advocacy initiative with rights defenders in West Africa. We plan on projecting participants in one of our flagship programs, Women PeaceMakers, as experts and advocates in gender empowerment processes in other contexts. We are exploring opportunities for addressing peace and justice challenges with potential partners in Guatemala and Sri Lanka, based on constituencies for this work at USD and former Women PeaceMakers. Increasing our ability to be a resource and an agent for peace and justice that reaches out to communities that have or currently experience conflict is built on the strengths and capabilities of students, faculty, the San Diego community – and you. In that spirit we invite you to review our newsletter and join us in our work at the IPJ.

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mary Ann Arnado of the Philippines and Luz Méndez of Guatemala joined other experts at the U.N. High-Level Colloquium on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Peace Negotiations: Implementing Security Council Resolution 1820, in New York from June 22 to 24.

In remarks before a U.N. Arria Formula meeting, Méndez stated, "... this resolution came too late in many senses for my country, but it is not too late for women in Colombia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal and other countries. Just the day before yesterday 70 women were raped in a prison of Goma in the DRC. We have to stop it and we have to stop it now."



IPJ Woman PeaceMaker
Luz Méndez

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

ARTS FESTIVAL BEARS WITNESS TO PEACEBUILDING AROUND THE WORLD



Bearing Exquisite Witness,” an event highlighting the contribution of the arts to peacebuilding, was held in conjunction with the Women PeaceMakers Program at the IPJ from September 24 to 26. It was the IPJ’s sixth annual international forum for exploring critical issues in gender-sensitive peacebuilding.



The work of acclaimed playwrights, actors, filmmakers and artists whose work confronts human rights abuses and state-sanctioned repression gave stunning illustrations of how performance and visual arts can speak otherwise unspeakable truths, create space for reconstruction of meaning and memory, and offer venues where devastating personal experiences can begin healing.



Working with members of Theatre Without Borders and the Coexistence Program at Brandeis University, the IPJ held workshops and panels with scholars, artists and practitioners engaged in peacebuilding. Workshops explored the transformative power of the arts in specific arenas in cycles of violent conflict: prevention, mitigation, reconciliation and healing. Panels focused on “The Role of Filmmakers in Peacebuilding” and “The Intersection of Arts and Academia in Peacebuilding.”



Together, it was an exhilarating exploration of John Paul Lederach’s concept of “the moral imagination” used in the service of peacebuilding – “this capacity to imagine and generate constructive responses and initiatives that while rooted in the day-to-day challenges of violence, transcend and ultimately break the grips of those destructive patterns and cycles.”



Theatrical performances opened with a profound reading of Catherine Filloux’s “Dog and Wolf” and closed with readings from her new anthology *Silence of God and Other Plays*. Her stories – performed by many actors from USD’s Theatre Arts Department and the local San Diego theater community – range around the world, from the emotional journey of a Bosnian refugee and her advocate to a Cambodian immigrant suffering from psychosomatic blindness.



“Discover Love,” by Nikolai Khalezin and performed by the independent and underground Belarus Free Theatre, tells the true story of a woman whose husband was kidnapped and murdered for rendering assistance to democratic efforts in Belarus. The theatre group has received prestigious awards on a global level for their brave and artistic work in defense of human rights; San Diego was their fourth and final stop on a U.S. tour.

The festival was made possible by the Santosha Charitable Gift Fund. More information can be found at www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/conferences/bearing_exquisite_witness/index.php.

Robert Barry Fleming, Seema Sueko and Sandra Ellis-Troy perform a reading of Filloux’s “Dog and Wolf”



2009 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS AND PEACE WRITERS



2009 Women PeaceMakers Zeinab Blandia, Marta Benavides, Rubina Feroze Bhatti and Liza Llesis Saway

Marta Benavides of El Salvador, one of the surviving activists from the original group of human rights and peace advocates who began their work during the 1970s and the rising climate of repression, is working with Peace Writer Leigh Fenly, co-founder of Women’s Empowerment International and a former editor at the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Rubina Feroze Bhatti of Pakistan, a founding member and general secretary of Taangh Wasaib Organization (TWO), a rights-based development group, is working with Peace Writer Kaitlin Barker, formerly an editorial assistant at *Sojourners*, a faith-based social justice magazine.

Zeinab Blandia, from the Nuba Mountains in Sudan, is founder and director of Ruya, or “Vision,” an organization that trains and cultivates “women peace ambassadors.” She is working with Peace Writer Jennifer Freeman, formerly a 2008 peace writer for Sylvie Maunga Mbanga of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the event coordinator for the Women PeaceMakers arts festival “Bearing Exquisite Witness.”

Liza Llesis Saway, an indigenous peacemaker from Mindanao in the Philippines and founder of Talaandig Mothers for Peace, is working with Peace Writer Jennie Siat Bev, a freelance writer originally from Jakarta, Indonesia and a founder of the Center for Minority, Gender and Human Rights.

WORLDLINK

WORLDLINK SCHOOLS SEEK RELIEF FROM BUDGET CUTS



The IPJ's WorldLink Program will welcome approximately 700 youth to meet with representatives from the public, private and government sectors for the annual Youth Town Meeting in January 2010. This year's student-selected theme is "Development: Fighting Global Poverty," focusing on education, health care, food security, trade and finance, infrastructure and governance.

High school students pay no fees for WorldLink activities, including the Youth Town Meeting, allowing diverse youth from different schools and economic means to participate. Speakers volunteer their time as an investment in these future leaders. To make the meeting available to all, the program relies on generous donations from individuals and grants from dedicated foundations.

The recent economic crisis has deeply affected school budgets. Billions of dollars have been cut from K-12 schools this year, eliminating several school programs and participation in extracurricular activities. As WorldLink students and their families from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border continue to feel the brunt of the global economic crisis, students from underprivileged areas are at greatest risk of being unable to cover the costs associated with transportation to the event. Several schools have already notified us of their concerns for this year's participation.

To respond to this need, WorldLink is seeking school sponsorships. A \$2,000 donation covers transportation, breakfast, lunch and souvenir for an entire school's delegation of 35 students and two chaperones. It also includes a small contribution toward a guest speaker's travels.

There are over 25 schools in need. Below are a select few:

MUELLER CHARTER ACADEMY

Location: Imperial City

Number of students: 1,000

Students on a free/reduced lunch program: Over 70 percent

WorldLink participant since: 2007

"WorldLink has been an instrumental program that has had a positive impact on my students and their perceptions of our world and global responsibility. Funding is an issue this year. I do not feel comfortable in charging my students for the bus fees. For someone to fund our trip or future trips would be truly generous." –Ricardo Medina, 8th grade teacher

ESCUELA PREPARATORIA FEDERAL LAZARO CARDENAS

Location: Tijuana, Mexico

Number of students: 1,016

WorldLink participant since: 2000

"We are doubtful of our ability to participate in WorldLink this year due to the economy. It would be wonderful if we were able to receive a sponsorship." –Cynthia Bladinieres, International Baccalaureate Program teacher

JOHN MUIR HIGH SCHOOL

Location: Clairemont

Number of students: 2,211

Students on a free/reduced lunch program: 65.3 percent

WorldLink participant since: 1998

"I'd really like to have someone sponsor our school. That way I can ensure more students participate. When you rely on them having to find rides or by bus – some of these kids can't even afford a bus pass."

–Lusia Mitchell, 11th grade History/Government teacher

If you are interested in sponsoring a school or contributing toward a school's partial costs, please contact Karla Alvarez, WorldLink Program Officer, at kalvarez@sandiego.edu.

IPJ IN THE FIELD

COUNTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MSBK-NEPAL

Manabiya Srot Bikas Kendra Nepal (MSBK-Nepal), a nongovernmental organization with its head office in Pokhara, Nepal, has been a key partner of the IPJ for five years. The founder and director, Upendra Malla Tara, joined the 2009 master's program at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies this fall.



Upendra Malla (right) with IPJ staff and translator in Nepal in 2007

To address the challenges that have resulted in years of conflict in Nepal and hindered development, MSBK-Nepal focuses its interventions in the areas of conflict resolution, good governance, information communication technology, youth leadership, education and microcredit. It works with people who have been deprived access to mainstream political and economic avenues due to traditional and conservative social practices. At the national level, MSBK-Nepal links grassroots issues to policymakers through various capacity-building and advocacy initiatives.

In partnership with the IPJ, it has worked in the areas of peacebuilding through diverse activities such as a peace radio project and community empowerment initiatives. In addition to the IPJ, MSBK-Nepal partners with local and international organizations in their activities, including with Room to Read, World Vision, Family Health International, SAP-Nepal and SAP-International. Currently, the organization is active in more than 100 villages in the western development region of Nepal.

It's most recent activity with the IPJ was coordinating the regional workshop "Security and Peace Conversations: Engaging the Whole Community" (see Peace & Justice Compass, Vol. 3, Issue 2).

IPJ-USD TEAM EXAMINES SOCIAL CONFLICT IN GUATEMALA



Milburn Line facilitates a breakout session in Guatemala

USD's Community Service-Learning, Elaine Elliott, and an alumnus of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, Anu Lawrence. The workshop, co-sponsored by the Centro de Paz Bárbara Ford, advanced participants' and the institute's awareness about the nature of social conflict in K'iché, the work already being done to address it, gaps that remain and priority actions for future work.

The department of K'iché is in the heart of the indigenous-majority western highlands and exemplifies four areas that could lead to greater social conflict in Guatemala: 1) lack of access to justice, leading to vigilantism and sharpened by differences over the application of traditional indigenous justice and the disconnect between that system and the official justice system; 2) conflict over land, exacerbated by poverty and lack of access to resources; 3) environmental conflict; and 4) the legacy of conflict among a population strongly affected, and in some way still divided, by the 36-year war that ended in 1996.

After the workshop, three team members continued on to the town of Nebaj in the Ixil area (in the northern region of the department) and then to Guatemala City for a series of meetings to continue to assess the situation.

The workshop's participants have continued to meet throughout the year, with an exploration of the nature of peace and justice networks in the region and the merits and potential drawbacks of forming a network on social conflict.



Carlos Enrique Mendoza of the Centro de Paz Bárbara Ford participates in a workshop session

IPJ INSIDER

ASSESSING NORTHERN IRELAND'S PEACE PROCESS



Alvarez (second from left) listening to a speaker in Derry/Londonderry

Karla Alvarez, program officer, was recently selected for a 10-day study tour of Northern Ireland's peace process. She joined 23 young professionals from across the country to travel to Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Dublin from August 26 to September 6. The Washington Ireland Program (WIP) and Cooperation Ireland led the pilot program, which was funded by the U.S. Department of State.

As the inaugural WIP Emerging American Leaders cohort, the participants assessed the region's internal dynamics and processes since the signing of the

Good Friday Agreement, with special attention to the role of civil society. They met with politicians, grassroots community groups, academics and peace and reconciliation practitioners.

Alvarez found the tour to be "a great opportunity to spend time on the ground studying this post-conflict region. Although there are still many challenges ahead for Northern Ireland, it is remarkable to see the positive social transformation that has occurred so far. I definitely plan to use the lessons learned from this tour when analyzing other deeply entrenched conflicts."

The participants are currently compiling a document which details their experiences during the WIP study tour and how it relates to their own particular area of work or field of study.

SHARP CONDUCTS TRAINING IN BOTSWANA

In late September, Senior Program Officer Dustin Sharp was in Botswana to facilitate a training in human rights research methodology for nongovernmental organization leaders from across the African continent. The training was organized by the African Human Rights Consortium, a monitoring and capacity-building organization that aims to enhance the effectiveness, credibility and impact of human rights investigations and advocacy initiatives in Africa. It is based in Gabarone, Botswana.

ALVAREZ GIVES KEYNOTE SPEECH AT USIP CONFERENCE

Program Officer Karla Alvarez was the keynote speaker for "Causes of War, Paths to Peace," a conference for high school and community college faculty, sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace. She addressed the role of youth in peacebuilding, on September 11, at Whittier College, near Los Angeles.

JOAN B. KROC SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES

ALUMNI UPDATES



Monya Kian, '07 (M.A.)

Kian is program coordinator at the Western Justice Center in Los Angeles, Calif. She also promotes energy efficient lighting technologies nationally and overseas as vice president of Silo Energy.



Aadila Sabat, '08 (M.A.)

Sabat is working for Mothers2Mothers (M2M), an organization headquartered in South Africa which offers an effective, sustainable model of care that provides education and support for pregnant women and new mothers living with HIV/AIDS. She does fundraising out of M2M's Los Angeles office.



Brian St. Clair, '08 (M.A.)

St. Clair lives in Southern California and has started his second term of service with AmeriCorps in Riverside County. He works with We Care San Jacinto Valley, building the capacity of a mentoring program serving children with parents in prison. His first term with AmeriCorps was spent at the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Md., where he served as a mediator

for community disputes, conducted conflict resolution skills training, facilitated a new Dialogue Circles program in middle schools, and helped make mediation services available to incarcerated individuals prior to release.



Q & A WITH IPJ DONOR REGGIE SMITH

Although the institute's endowment covers most of the institute's operating expenses, the IPJ's international peacebuilding and human rights initiatives, the Women PeaceMakers Program and WorldLink are dependent on gifts and grants from individuals, foundations and corporations. We asked Reggie Smith, one of the institute's long-time supporters and a member of the IPJ Leadership Circle and USD's Puento de Oro Society for donors of planned gifts, about her involvement with the IPJ.



Reggie Smith (right) shakes hands with 2007 Woman PeaceMaker Irina Yanovskaya

Q: WHY DO YOU GIVE TO THE IPJ?

A: I was able to become involved with the IPJ when it was basically just a concept. I had the good fortune of having met Joan Kroc and her daughter some time before, and I knew that both of them had a strong dedication to solving world problems through conversation and negotiation instead of a more violent way. This was very dear to Mrs. Kroc's heart. She had done something similar at Notre Dame, but this was her hometown and she wanted to do something special here.

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO INCLUDE THE IPJ IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

A: I believe each individual has the opportunity to make the world a better place. I hope that many others join me in making sure that the IPJ not only continues but also flourishes. That is why our family selected the IPJ as a place that we want to support.

Q: WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BENEFITS OF SUPPORTING THE IPJ?

A: Being able to come to the beautiful USD campus and participate with the students, faculty and visitors that come to the IPJ has enhanced my life and helped me to broaden my perspective on global problems. The IPJ is carrying out Mrs. Kroc's dream. That would make her happy and it makes me happy to be part of it.

RECENT IPJ PUBLICATIONS



William Headley and Milburn Line. "Obama Must Fulfill the Vision." *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Oct. 17, 2009.

Milburn Line. "Rethink Latin American Policy." *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Sept. 4, 2009.

Global Women's Court of Accountability – Final Report.
<http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/peacestudies/GlobalCourt-FinalReport.pdf>

Louise Arbour on "Integrating Security, Development and Human Rights" – 2008-09 Distinguished Lecture Series Booklet. <http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/peacestudies/Louise-Arbour.pdf>

Jan Eliasson on "Armed Conflict: The Cost to Civilians" – 2008-09 Distinguished Lecture Series Booklet. <http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/peacestudies/Jan-Eliasson.pdf>

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