



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

PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

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

VOICES FROM MINDANAO ECHO REFRAINS OF PEACE



Women peace advocates listening during a forum on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325

At least 125,000 people displaced. Eleven years of negotiations toward a final peace agreement thwarted before its official signing. Private militias terrorizing the population. Bitter election campaigns between corrupt politicians. The three major communities desperate for peace.

That was the situation staff members of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) encountered as they traveled around the island of Mindanao in the Philippines - from Davao in the south to the Compostela Valley to the central province of Bukidnon to the heavily conflict-affected area of Cotabato and its surroundings.

“... it is not a simple peace the communities are desperate for, not just the silencing of guns ...”

But it is not a simple peace the communities are desperate for, not just the silencing of guns - though that is a major component. Moros (or Muslims), Christians, Indigenous Peoples, men, women, young, old, internally displaced - to them, peace means education for all, equally; meaningful development that empowers communities; and spaces where their voices will not only be heard, but more importantly listened to and valued.

Karla Alvarez, program officer for the WorldLink Program, joined the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) in conducting three forums with youth from the tri-peoples (Moros, Christians and Indigenous Peoples), sharing the IPJ's youth program and interviewing young men and women for an

upcoming documentary series on youth leaders around the world. She found that for young Moros in particular, projecting the notion that they are not terrorists, as much of the world has labeled them, but “peace-loving people,” is an essential step in constructing true and sustainable peace. It was a refrain heard all over the island.

Deputy Director Dee Aker and Editor Emiko Noma also held a dialogue with women activists on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 and other recent resolutions on women, peace and security, and observed firsthand the work of IPJ Women PeaceMakers from Mindanao Mary Ann Arnado - secretary-general of the MPC - and Bae Liza Llesis Saway of the Talaandig tribe, who was campaigning for mayor of Lantapan.

In the village of Bongbong in the Compostela Valley, Aker, Alvarez and Noma observed an orientation for new recruits of the MPC's Bantay Ceasefire, or “Ceasefire Watch.” The independent, community-based organization was founded by Arnado and her colleagues in 2000 when civilians were excluded from official ceasefire monitoring. In a major victory for civil society involvement in the peace process, Bantay Ceasefire and three other groups were recently invited to be part of the official International Monitoring Team.

The visit to Mindanao was the second for the IPJ, and a step toward establishing a regional network of Women PeaceMakers in the Asia region.

The IPJ's work in Mindanao was partially funded through an International Opportunity Grant from the University of San Diego's International Center.



Alvarez interviewing a Moro youth leader

GUATEMALA PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVE

LESSONS FROM GUATEMALA

During USD's January 2009 intersession, the School of Leadership and Education Sciences took 12 graduate students on a study trip to Guatemala to explore the work of nongovernmental organizations involved in the process of justice and reconciliation after the country's long civil war. IPJ Program Officer Elena McCollim joined USD's Community Service-Learning Director Elaine Elliott in teaching the 10-day course, "Nonprofits in Civil Society." The following is a reflection by Upendra Malla Tara of Nepal, one of two master's students in Peace and Justice Studies who participated in the trip.



Upendra Malla Tara with Carlos Sarti at Foundation ProPaz in Guatemala City

that reminded me of my own, Nepal - from the geographical terrain to the social discrimination, economic disparities and a civil war that ended after peace accords.

Guatemala's 1996 peace accords ended 36 years of war between the leftist guerilla groups and right-wing government in Guatemala, throughout which more than 200,000 citizens were murdered or disappeared. Some positive outcomes have surfaced in the 14 years after the peace accords; however, there has been little progress in convicting perpetrators of the civil war and institutionalizing social transformations. Violence and impunity are still the primary issues of the country. Few people dare to advocate for reform and punishing human rights abusers, but leaders like Rigoberta Menchú Tum and IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Luz Méndez fight for the rights of Guatemalans, despite threats to their lives.

Like Nepal, Guatemala is currently in a transitional phase of rebuilding the nation and restoring peace. Within this phase, we must take lessons from individuals like César Montes and Carlos Sarti, two Guatemalan peacebuilders we met with. Once members of rebel groups, both are now heading nonprofits that contribute to peacebuilding. They advocate for nonviolence as an alternative to violence and are examples of a complete shift from war to peace. This is a great lesson to all who think that violence is an effective means for change, and an even more crucial message for Nepal, as it may motivate former members of armed movements to contribute as messengers of peace.

GUATEMALAN NOBEL LAUREATE GRACES USD

On Nov. 16, 2009, as part of USD's International Education Week and co-sponsored by the IPJ, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum spoke in Shiley Theatre on the challenges to lasting peace in Guatemala. Her remarkable story of courage and perseverance despite overwhelming violence inflicted on her family and the indigenous Mayan ethnic group was shared with an audience of more than 500. "We have to dignify the dead so that we can reconstruct values, faith in life and social networks," she said. "That's why all we do is to dignify our own history."

Though Menchú expressed the frustrations of her quest for justice in Guatemalan and Spanish courts and the failure to implement the Guatemalan Peace Accords, both her message and example of human resilience were transcendent. Despite her sober assessment of the legacies of the war and the potential for further conflict based on famine and water disputes in her country, Menchú reaffirmed the Guatemalan people's historic commitment to building a pluralist, multicultural democracy.



Rigoberta Menchú Tum (left) campaigning in Guatemala (photo © Patrick André Perron)





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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

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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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RECENT IPJ PUBLICATIONS

Emiko Noma and Jennifer Freeman
"Grassroots Peacebuilding in the Nuba Mountains." *New Routes*. Vol. 15, 1/2010.

Milburn Line
"Will We Ever Learn in Latin America?"
San Diego Union-Tribune. Dec. 13, 2009.

PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

By Executive Director Milburn Line



In these pages you will see snapshots of how the IPJ is working to find the right balance for peace through justice. Far too often we have seen that ending violence without efforts to address the grievances that underpin the conflict does not mean achieving peace. Paul Collier, author of *The Bottom Billion*, notes in other research that about half of all peace agreements end in a return to hostilities. That is why IPJ field projects and advocacy efforts will continue to work for peace through justice, as follows:

Our cover story highlights the IPJ working with two of our Women PeaceMakers in Mindanao, Philippines, where our team met with youth from Christian, Muslim and indigenous communities caught in this centuries-old conflict with political, religious, land tenure and natural resources complexities. The IPJ is seeking external funds to connect the work of Women PeaceMakers around the world, initially in an Asia Regional Network.

Though a 2006 cease-fire and eventual power-sharing agreement between the Government of Nepal and a Maoist insurgency has held, there is continued frustration over the lack of advancement in the creation of a new constitution. The IPJ has sustained our commitment - since 2001 - to promoting inclusive political participation and highlighting regions and populations in danger of increasing violent confrontation (p. 4).

And in West Africa, civil society scrutiny of human rights is critical for transcending the impact of long-term conflict. The IPJ's current project (p. 5), funded by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, is developing the capacity of key nongovernmental organizations to monitor and advocate for human rights as part of a participatory construction of the rule of law.

Ensuring that justice is served as part of peace agreements or following wars will be a part of IPJ efforts in future field projects to be developed in places like Colombia and Sri Lanka, and to support Women PeaceMakers' regional and worldwide advocacy efforts. In Guatemala, peace agreements in 1996 provided a strong architecture for addressing historical challenges of social exclusion, impunity and the role of the military. But they were never implemented. An upcoming project between the IPJ and the Barbara Ford Peace Center in Guatemala will work to ensure the more effective participation of Mayans in justice processes in the Quiché region. Building civil society capacity to transcend impunity is crucial for long-term peace and reconciliation.

Peace through justice, however, is not just a field project issue for the IPJ. Finding the right balance of peace through justice has been a historic difficulty for U.S. foreign and domestic policies. Many of you attended our programs on "Human Rights Close to Home" (p. 11) and "Poems from Guantánamo." The IPJ participates in the Alliance for Peacebuilding, which is working to introduce peacebuilding language into a reformed Foreign Assistance Act, and the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (p. 7), where we support efforts to address gender and armed conflict challenges. And we will continue to work on both field projects and policy issues - such as U.S. support for prosecutions of crimes against humanity through domestic legislation and in collaboration with the International Criminal Court - as part of our efforts to ensure that peace becomes sustainable through justice.

LATEST WOMEN PEACEMAKERS NARRATIVES

"Harmony in the Garden: The Life and Work of Rubina Feroze Bhatti of Pakistan," by Kaitlin Barker. <http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/peacestudies/Rubina-Feroze-Bhatti-Pakistan.pdf>

"A View through the Mountains: The Peacebuilding Work of Zeinab Mohamed Blandia in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan," by Jennifer Freeman. <http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/peacestudies/Zeinab-Blandia-Sudan.pdf>

"Paving the Path to Peace: The Life and Work of Olenka Ochoa of Peru," by Bianca Morales-Egan. www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/documents/ipj/Olenka-Ochoa-Peru.pdf

IPJ IN THE FIELD

PERSISTENT PEACE EFFORTS FOR NEPAL

“Growing fear of degeneration is haunting Nepal, and hope and optimism which were in the air two years back have been replaced by cynicism and despair,” a leading Nepali human rights advocate lamented during a roundtable discussion convened recently by the IPJ.

Dee Aker, IPJ deputy director, returned to Nepal in January to carry out an assessment of the multiple issues haunting the peace process: concerns that a constitution will not emerge in May as mandated, citizen frustration and violence growing while rule of law is not, and political conundrums frustrating the progress of establishing a democratic, inclusive nation.

In both the capital and the increasingly violent Madhesh or Terai region, the IPJ held a series of roundtable discussions, distributed and obtained written surveys and spoke with leaders and citizens from many walks of life. The roundtables gathered women in politics and government; professionals from media, law and business; and members of civil society in nongovernmental agencies and universities. In the three roundtables held in Kathmandu and convened at the offices of South Asia Partnership-Nepal (SAP-Nepal), fear of the collapse of the constitutional process and government surfaced.

Good intentions, promises and hope that were first manifested in the 2006 People’s Revolution and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and later in the Constituent Assembly Elections in 2008, have deteriorated significantly. In the last 18 months there has been a renewed distrust of political parties and government, and a persistent dread of corruption, impunity, economic

decline and social exclusion. “Fifteen thousand people died here and we struggle still with seeing ourselves as a nation and not just an ethnic group,” said one roundtable participant.



Sarada Thapa (left) and Shobha Shrestha of SAP-Nepal, one of the IPJ’s in-country partners

A fourth roundtable was held in Janakpur in the Terai, a region facing ever-greater peril. Listening closely to residents historically excluded from national decision making and suffering increasing violence and lawlessness, the IPJ found different concerns from those in the capital. They were focused on survival.

AREAS OF IPJ INVOLVEMENT



Aker heard from journalists, young leaders, teachers and local police, all trying to deal with new and continued dangers in the region: the ongoing frustration that comes with political exclusion, violent regional political confrontations and an imminent danger from Indian and Nepali militants and gangs. As one scholar from the region noted, “We are already a failed state as there is no security, no employment opportunities and no economic stability.”

Throughout difficult and historic transitions in Nepal, the IPJ has remained committed to the process of peacebuilding – which is never tidy or simple – for the past nine years. It has persisted in assembling and listening to individuals from all levels of society and designing programs to facilitate dialogue, provide relevant skills and create environments that allow individuals to overcome past violence and experience moments of reconciliation.

Recognizing that real peace comes slowly and only when individuals transcend assumptions in order to constructively engage with others, the IPJ has undertaken this new appraisal of the peace process and is planning responsive activities for 2010.

IN MEMORIAM

Girija Prasad Koirala, the leader of the Nepali Congress Party and last national-level politician in all of South Asia whose activism for a democratic, pluralist state spanned the period from the creation of India through the demise of Nepal’s monarchy, died on March 20, 2010. Starting out as a labor unionist, he was uncompromising on matters of civilian control of the military, separation of powers and supremacy of the judiciary. In terms of his commitment to peace, which is acknowledged nationwide, the loss of the 86-year-old leader is profound. Former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the Maoist leader who negotiated the current peace agreement with Koirala over many years, spoke sincerely of his trustworthiness and determination. Certainly my own encounter with the leader in his home provided the encouragement early on that the IPJ should proceed with our peacebuilding programs. On behalf of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, we join all who are commemorating his peace efforts. —Dee Aker



Aker speaking with Koirala in Nepal in 2003

WEST AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING INITIATIVE TAKES ITS FIRST STEP



Sharp with human rights training participants in Sierra Leone

Since its creation nearly 10 years ago, the IPJ has held a commitment to building peace with justice. Building long-term “positive peace,” as opposed to the mere absence of fighting, requires a government that is accountable to its people and for its actions, adhering to both national and international law.

While accountability often begins at the ballot box – in a country’s first post-conflict elections for example – the presence of a vibrant civil society equipped to monitor government conduct and, where appropriate, call it to account is a critical part of building strong democratic governance. Unfortunately, many countries emerging from conflict suffer from both weak governance structures and weak civil society, making the creation of a culture of accountability hard to achieve.

In 2010 the IPJ launched a new capacity building program focusing on human rights organizations in four war-torn West African countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The West African Human Rights Training Initiative (WAHRTI) is designed to strengthen the ability of local human rights groups to pressure their governments for much needed accountability and reform (see *Peace & Justice Compass* cover story, Vol. 4, Issue 1).

In January, Senior Program Officer Dustin Sharp traveled to Sierra Leone to conduct the initiative’s first training, a week-long program with members of 10 of Sierra Leone’s leading human rights groups. The training focused on the documentation of human rights abuses in Sierra Leone and the use of research as a tool for advocacy with government officials.

While the training workshop was judged a success by the participants, training initiatives that are not sustained often fail to achieve maximum impact. Accordingly, the IPJ will partner with three of the trainee organizations and work with them over a full 12-month period.

Learning by doing, each of these three organizations is now applying the knowledge gained during the workshop in the course of a real-world research and advocacy project. Sample projects include documenting police abuses – including rape and extortion – against commercial sex workers, and researching patterns of intimidation against local journalists as a means of chilling freedom of expression.

The training in Sierra Leone is part of a two-year project. Later this year, Sharp will return to Sierra Leone to work with the three local partners on the development of their advocacy projects. He will also conduct the initial week-long training in Guinea, mirroring the process in Sierra Leone. Work in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia is scheduled to begin in 2011.



Participants in the IPJ’s Sierra Leone training hone human rights documentation skills during a simulated interview exercise

IPJ JOINS NOBEL WOMEN FOR GENDER JUSTICE DIALOGUE

Dee Aker, IPJ deputy director, was in Mexico from April 19 to 21 for the International Gender Justice Dialogue, convened by the Nobel Women’s Initiative and Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice. The dialogue brought together an outstanding group – gender experts, feminist legal theorists, peace mediators, legal practitioners, jurists, women’s rights advocates, policy makers, members of the media, activists and more – to develop a strategic, shared agenda for advancing gender justice around the globe.

Aker facilitated a panel discussion, “Peace Talks and Outcomes: Strategies and Challenges,” which featured Joanne Sandler, director of UNIFEM; Monica McWilliams of Northern Ireland; Esther Maria Gallego Zapata of Colombia; and Sarai Aharoni of Israel.

The work of the conference was in preparation for the 10-year Review Conference on the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court held in Uganda in May.

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

CONVERSATION WITH A WOMAN PEACEMAKER



The Women PeaceMakers Program documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. The following is an excerpt from interviews with 2009 Woman PeaceMaker Rubina Feroze Bhatti of Pakistan. Her narrative, "Harmony in the Garden," as well as other narratives of the Women PeaceMakers, can be found at www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/publications/narratives.

Q: WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PAKISTANI?

A: I'm proud to be Pakistani. I love my country. I would like to explain to Americans that Pakistan is not a land of terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists. It's a land of peaceful people who have their roots in peace and harmony. So for me to be a Pakistani is to be a peace lover and a peacemaker. Unfortunately, the majority of the global community has very little information about Pakistan. For example, what they know is only about the handful of extremists and suicide bombers – and that's what comes out in the media.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF PEACE?

A: Peace is not only the absence of war; it is also the protection and promotion of human rights. It is the fullness of humanity. It is a situation where people don't live in fear and insecurity. There may be no war, but if there is a trust deficit between me and my neighbors and I am living in a state of fear in my neighborhood, there will be no peace.

What I want to say is that when people live in fear and insecurity, it generates ethnocentrism, religious intolerance, social exclusion and, finally, the underdevelopment of the country. Peace is the acceptance of each other without any discrimination, the active participation of all people in the development process and the uplifting of the entire population.

Q: HOW DO YOU VIEW THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RELIGIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR INTERFAITH DIALOGUE WORK?

A: As for similarities, all religions teach us about peace, harmony, tolerance, forgiveness, sacrifice and human dignity – human respect and human rights. The difference among religions is not the religion itself but the interpretation of the message.

“Jihad means the struggle against injustices, the struggle to save and protect human beings, not to kill human beings.”

For example, there is a saying of the holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) that a killing of a person is a killing of all humanity. If you understand these words, how can you say that in Islam the jihad concept is to kill others? Jihad means the struggle against injustices, the struggle to save and protect human beings, not to kill human beings.

There is a potential in every person to become a terrorist or to become a peace lover, so we have to think: Which way are we guiding people? There is a saying, “If you don't teach your child peace, someone else will teach him/her violence or war.”

PROFILE OF A PEACE WRITER

By Emiko Noma

Kaitlin Barker took a long, circuitous route to arrive at the IPJ: from Oregon to California, on to Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, then over to India, Thailand and Turkey before settling back in the states in Washington, D.C., and again in California.

It was a journey full of stories – of witnessing AIDS devastate families, of enduring a slew of stereotypes of Americans during the Iraq War, of cradling a malnourished and emaciated infant as he took distressingly shallow breaths, and of drinking Sunny Delight to toast a new job secured by a Burmese refugee woman. It was for Barker's ability to craft these experiences into narratives of keen social analysis that the IPJ selected her as a peace writer in the Women PeaceMakers Program in Fall 2009, to work with Rubina Feroze Bhatti of Pakistan.

“As you will see in my writing samples, I rarely separate analysis and narrative. For me, the two are intertwined. If you're going to analyze an issue, the stories of the people who live in the reality of that 'issue' must be included to get it right,” she wrote in her application – and amply demonstrated in her subsequent writing on Bhatti.

Barker attended Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, and much of her professional experience was with *Sojourners*, a faith-based social justice magazine in Washington, D.C. But she found a home here at the IPJ, first as a peace writer – which she called “the most challenging and rewarding, exhausting and invigorating project I've been a part of” – and now as assistant editor, where her duties include assigning articles and writing and editing copy for this newsletter.

For more on Barker's experience at the IPJ, or to read “Harmony in the Garden,” her narrative of Bhatti, see www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/peace_writers/2009PeaceWriters.php#KaitlinBarker.



Barker and Bhatti during the Women PeaceMakers residency

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM ENTERS 8TH YEAR

Through the continued generosity and commitment of the Fred J. Hansen Foundation, the IPJ has been awarded its 8th annual grant to support the Women PeaceMakers Program. Hansen, after immigrating to the United States from Denmark at the age of 10, left a legacy dedicated to promoting international understanding. In his international travels, Hansen saw the ravage left by World War II and the potential to heal the differences among formerly warring nations through mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Hansen Foundation has supported the Women PeaceMakers Program since its inception. To date, the program has brought 28 Women PeaceMakers to San Diego and hosted five international working conferences and an arts and peacebuilding festival. In September 2010, the IPJ will welcome the newest cohort of Women PeaceMakers for their two-month residency at the institute, and present its sixth international conference.

PRECARIOUS PROGRESS: U.N. RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

From September 10 to October 1, the Women PeaceMakers Conference, "Precarious Progress," will examine U.N. Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 as a backdrop to exploring where resolutions have had, and can have, impact. One month before the U.N.'s 10-year commemoration of UNSCR 1325, the conference is ideally situated to tabulate the successes and shortfalls of 1325 and the UNSCR process as it pertains to women, peace and security. High-level representatives from U.N. agencies, member states and advisory councils will discuss recent breakthroughs in advancing women's role in peace processes, as well as the many practical areas where the gap between insecurity on the ground and the protection offered by UNSCRs has yet to be bridged.

For conference details, see http://peace.sandiego.edu/precarius_progress/.

IPJ PRESENTS AT 54TH U.N. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

From March 1 to 12, the annual U.N. Commission on the Status of Women undertook a 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. Member states and representatives of nongovernmental organizations and U.N. entities gathered to share experiences and good practices, with an emphasis on overcoming the remaining obstacles and new challenges to making Beijing's goals reality.

IPJ Deputy Director Dee Aker and Program Officers Karla Alvarez and Jennifer Freeman attended the commission and presented a parallel event, "Bearing Exquisite Witness: Women using the arts for peacebuilding." Their presentation highlighted the 2009 arts festival held at the IPJ as part of the Women PeaceMakers Program, and featured a nationally renowned playwright, Catherine Filloux, and founding member of Theatre Without Borders, Cynthia Cohen. The event received high praise from a full room for its interactive and engaging content.

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS UPDATES



Saway poses next to one of her mayoral campaign posters in Mindanao

After her 2009 residency at the IPJ, **Bae Liza Llesis Saway** announced her campaign for mayor of the municipality of Lantapan, Bukidnon Province in Mindanao, Philippines. An independent candidate, Saway's campaign is supported by members of her tribe, primarily women and youth. Elections take place on May 10.

In early April, deadly mass protests against the government of Kyrgyzstan led to the ousting of the president. In response, **Raya Kadyrova** and her Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI) drafted recommendations to the interim government requesting a response to inter-ethnic issues and communication between authorities and civil society and the public. Kadyrova is president of FTI.

Luz Méndez of Guatemala and her organization, the National Union of Guatemalan Women, convened a Court of Conscience for Women Survivors of Sexual Violence during the Armed Conflict. The objective was to break the silence surrounding these crimes and work to end impunity for crimes against humanity.

In October 2009, **Olenka Ochoa** of Peru was part of a Club of Madrid delegation to Bolivia that participated in a national forum and drafted a national plan for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325.

Mary Ann Arnado of the Philippines was the recipient of the first World Vision International Peace Prize for her peace advocacy in Mindanao, the site of a decades-long civil war between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In April, five Women PeaceMakers – **Svetlana Kijevčanin, Shukrije Gashi, Palwasha Kakar, Zarina Salamat** and **Latifah Anum Siregar** – united in Rome to participate in a project of the Ara Pacis Initiative and Global Forum Italy that seeks to establish a Council of Dignity, Forgiveness and Reconciliation.



Women PeaceMakers Salamat, Siregar, Kakar, Kijevčanin and Gashi (front) in Rome

WORLDLINK

MEXICAN DELEGATES BRIDGE THE BORDER

by guest contributor Amruta Trivedi

Mariana Zermeño Piñera woke up at 3 a.m. the day of WorldLink's 13th annual Youth Town Meeting. But this was nothing new for her. She has attended the past three Youth Town Meetings and each time was up before dawn, as traveling from Tijuana often takes quite a while.

Piñera was not alone, however. Of the 750 students who attended WorldLink's capstone event on January 22, 120 of them commuted from three different schools in Mexico. For these students, the day represents a way to connect with their American counterparts through discussion, learning and common interests.

What motivates them to come? "[Mexican] and American students don't have a relationship in many senses; we just come here to shop. So it is nice to know that there are people across the border interested in the same things we are," Piñera said.

To cross the border, these Mexican delegates usually take the trolley, which can take upwards of three hours during commuter hours. Piñera and her classmates from CETYS Universidad arrived in the United States around 7 a.m. and had breakfast at a local Starbucks before getting to the IPJ and USD for the day's event.



WorldLink's Mexican delegates and moderators take a break between sessions

Piñera has served as a moderator for briefing sessions at the past two Youth Town Meetings, and despite the fact that moderating enables her to interact closely with the many distinguished speakers, her favorite part of the day remains "seeing many people, many nationalities, with all the same purpose."

These Mexican students are in fact already finding a common purpose. After attending the 2008 Youth Town Meeting on global warming, Piñera and her classmates began a campaign to raise environmental awareness among Mexican youth by implementing recycling programs in schools and organizing beach clean-ups. And by contributing to WorldLink, these Tijuana students are making the program's mission come to life in a truly global sense.

Trivedi is a WorldLink intern and editor-in-chief of the Youth Town Newspaper. She is graduating from Canyon Crest Academy in June 2010.

SPONSORSHIPS PROVIDE CRUCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

This year's Youth Town Meeting – "Development: Fighting Global Poverty" – began in the middle of a powerful three-day storm that flooded roads and produced 45 mph winds. The weather, however, was only a minor challenge this year. For many schools coping with a difficult year of slashed funding, securing transportation to the popular annual event was the most pressing problem.

By early fall, almost half of the participating WorldLink middle and high schools learned they would not receive school funding for participation. In response, WorldLink appealed to foundations and individuals to sponsor schools in need. The Raskob Family Foundation, Trans-Border Institute, Glorious Journey Photography and individual donors helped sponsor seven San Diegan schools and three Mexican schools, allowing more than 380 students to join nearly 400 others at the program's keystone event.

After a day spent meeting with hundreds of fellow youth from along the San Diego-Tijuana border, hearing from experts like Tiseke Kasambala, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, and discussing this year's theme, students left brimming with ideas and inspiration. The students extend their appreciation for the sponsorships:

"Attending the WorldLink conference truly enriched my knowledge regarding the issue of poverty ... I walked away with a motivation to better the world and therefore the lives of those less fortunate. Without your help the AVID [a college preparation program] class would not have had the means to attend."

—Samantha Helu, student, Escondido High School

"We would like to thank you for the charter bus to and from WorldLink. If the bus was not provided I probably would not have attended, so I thank you along with the John Muir juniors and seniors."

—David Scott, student, John Muir High School

"Going to the Youth Town Meeting was a huge eye-opener for me. I never realized how fortunate we are living where we do. I've always complained about going to school, but after today, realizing how many kids would love to go to school, I realized I should be thankful. I'm now looking at life much differently ... I'm going to find an organization now and get involved in helping people and the environment. Thank you so much! This has been such a great day! You really have helped change my life."

—Rebecca Lee, student, Mt. Carmel High School

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

OXFAM AMERICA PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT



Raymond Offenheiser, president of Oxfam America, closed the 2009-10 Distinguished Lecture Series with a talk on “Aid That Works: Creating a 21st Century Vision for U.S. Development Assistance.” While at USD, Offenheiser also met with students and faculty and appeared on the KPBS radio show “These Days.”

Offenheiser delivers his lecture on U.S. foreign assistance

Building on his work with a high-level group of think tanks to promote the modernization of foreign assistance, Offenheiser’s talk focused on how to make U.S. foreign aid more efficient, effective and supportive of long-term sustainable development that fosters peace and stability. The lecture addressed current efforts to replace the Kennedy and Cold War era vision for American aid with a new strategy, mandate, legislation and structure to guide America’s international aid efforts into the 21st century.

Since the Kennedy administration first introduced laws directing U.S. foreign aid, much has been learned about how to make aid more effective. A consensus has developed in Washington around three guiding principles to help eventually render foreign aid unnecessary by empowering countries to help themselves: Give people what they actually need; choose the right benchmarks for success that balance short-term goals and long-term results; and transfer information, capacity and budget control to the receiving country’s government and citizens.

The good news, Offenheiser said, is that many developing countries are pulling millions of people out of poverty through economic growth. But poverty alleviation is more than just a matter of conscience, Offenheiser asserted. It’s a matter of global security.

“Poverty equals powerlessness. And the only way to address the root of poverty, therefore, is to empower.”

RAYMOND OFFENHEISER

“The bottom billion who struggle for survival every single day are a vulnerable mass that can be easily swept into conflict, mass migrations or political upheaval, rapidly destabilizing whole regions of the world,” he warned. “That is why U.S. development assistance is so important. When aid is done poorly, it fails to deliver any lasting results. It wastes precious resources and undermines American leadership and values. Even worse, it can erode the trust that poor people abroad have in their governments, perpetuate the systems that contribute to poverty in the first place, and further destabilize the developing world.”



Offenheiser talking with Peace and Justice Studies master’s students Veronica Geretz (center) and Tiffany Robertson (right)

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE OPENS GREENING BORDERS CONFERENCE



Ury animates his lecture with a story from one of his negotiations

On November 18, William Ury, co-founder and senior fellow of the Harvard Negotiation Project, delivered a Distinguished Lecture as the keynote address for the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies conference, Greening Borders: Cooperation, Security and Diplomacy. In his talk, “From the Boardroom to the Border: Negotiating for Sustainable Agreements,” Ury offered practical negotiating tools he has developed in his more than 30 years of experience in conflict resolution. “Listening and respect are probably the cheapest concessions you can make in a negotiation,” he advised the audience. “They cost you nothing, but they mean everything to the other side.”

Ury’s suggestions for getting to “yes” through interest-based negotiations set the stage for a three-day working conference on conflict resolution around water issues. The conference was attended by stakeholders – policy makers, community activists, academics, environmentalists and tribal leaders – from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. For more information on the conference, go to www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/news/events_calendar/greening_borders.

DOWNLOAD LECTURES

The Distinguished Lectures by Raymond Offenheiser and William Ury, along with previous lectures in the series, are now available for download at iTunes U and UCSD-TV.



IPJ INSIDER

BENEFIT CONCERT RAISES FUNDS FOR HAITI RELIEF



Villegas skillfully serenades a theater of rapt listeners

In an expression of solidarity with the Haitian people, the event was co-sponsored by USD's College of Arts and Sciences, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, Social Issues Committee, Students for Fair Trade and Sustainability, Trans-Border Institute and University Ministry.

GOYA EXHIBIT DEPICTS DISASTERS OF WAR

In tandem with the IPJ's Human Rights Day celebration (see p. 11), supporters of the IPJ were treated to a gallery walk of Francisco Goya's *Disasters of War* print series led by Victoria Sancho Lobis, curator of the Print Collection and Fine Art Galleries at USD. Goya's documentation of Napoleon's invasion of Spain and the ensuing Spanish resistance, which was on display in the institute's gallery, is a scathing portrayal of the violence of modern warfare.



"Yo lo vi" (*I saw it*), no. 44 from Goya's *Disasters of War* print series produced in 1810-20

The 80-etching series, donated to USD by Board of Trustees member and arts patron Robert Hoehn, ends with a reference to the truth-telling accountability that underpins modern conceptions of human rights. A woman shrouded in white garments is laid out on her death bed. A crowd peers down at her, and the short epigram beneath reads "Truth is Dead." In the next print, Truth's face is illuminated and the darkened faces of the onlookers ask, "Will She Rise Again?"

STORIES OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS REPRESENT DIVIDED SOCIETIES

In November 2009, the IPJ added gender to the discussions at the conference "Divided Societies: Beyond Victimhood?" in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The annual gathering is held by the Bridge, Connect, Act (BCA) study abroad program, and was co-sponsored by USD. Once an epicenter of conflict in Ireland but now an integral part of Northern Ireland's peace process, the city of Derry/Londonderry was a striking setting for the 70 international students - including several from USD - to explore the efforts and successes of divided societies throughout the world that are trying to overcome their histories.

At the conference, when James Skelly, visiting professor at Magee College, and Carl Jubran, director of the International Center at USD, acknowledged that gender is rarely included in the discussion of divided societies and conflict, IPJ Deputy Director Dee Aker shared the work and stories of the Women PeaceMakers Program. Aker focused on how conflict exacerbates gender divisions - as women are predominantly vulnerable to displacement, discrimination and gender-based violence - but also why women's participation is vital to peace processes.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

In celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, the IPJ welcomed 200 students, faculty, staff, civil society representatives and members of the public to its annual International Women's Day Breakfast on March 16. Mirroring the topic of this year's U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, the breakfast program focused on the 15th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. It looked at the progress and challenges of some of the key issues raised in the Beijing Platform for Action - women and poverty, the human rights of women, women in power and decision-making - through the eyes of the girl child.



A displaced Congolese girl living in a Ugandan refugee camp

Video testimony from young women and girls in Haiti, Nepal and the United States and the personal story of forced deportation told by a 15-year-old Mexican student gave perspective on issues of domestic slavery, child marriage, widowhood rights, human trafficking and forced migration - issues that millions of girls continue to face around the world. A speaker from Project Concern International, master's students in Peace and Justice Studies at USD and a local immigration lawyer gave context to the girls' experiences and shared some of the work being done in San Diego and around the world to address these issues - and further Beijing's goals of achieving women's rights.

IPJ CELEBRATES HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CLOSE TO HOME

December 10 marked the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the third annual IPJ celebration of International Human Rights Day. The evening program, “Human Rights Close to Home,” was inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt, who was instrumental in crafting the declaration: “Where, after all, do human rights begin? In small places, close to home. . . . Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.”

A panel of experts commemorated the day by reviewing the current state of not only civil and political rights, but social, economic and cultural rights as well. While human rights discussions tend to focus on the far from home, the panelists instead peeked into our own backyard and examined the impact of the economic recession on the social and economic rights of working and impoverished families in the United States, as well as the rights of immigrants, victims of human trafficking, and those detained indefinitely and without charge at Guantánamo.

“It’s important for Americans to understand that human rights violations are not just things that happen in far away countries,” said Dustin Sharp, IPJ senior program officer and moderator of the panel. “We have our own human rights problems right here at home. In order to tackle these issues, we need to build a constituency for a domestic human rights movement. Hopefully, events like this at the IPJ play a small role in that.”

The panelists were Murtaza Baxamusa, Ph.D., Center for Policy Initiatives; Daria Hollowell, Immigration Services at Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego; Lilia Velasquez, LL.M., J.D.; Joni Halpern, J.D., Supportive Parents Information Network; and Ellis M. Johnston, J.D., Federal Defenders of San Diego.

JOAN B. KROC SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES

ALUMNUS GARNERS HONORS FOR WORK WITH INNER-CITY YOUTH

At this year’s Alumni Honors gala on May 1, the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies honored alumnus Chris Yanov, ’03 (M.A.), with the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award.

After graduating from the first cohort of master’s students in Peace and Justice Studies, Yanov continued developing Reality Changers, a nonprofit he founded to provide youth from disadvantaged backgrounds with the resources to become first-generation college students. “We must flood our inner-city streets with options and opportunities so that urban youth can become caught up in the rising current of high expectations and previously unimagined realities,” Yanov says.

Reality Changers’ financial assistance, academic support and faith-based leadership training have helped at-risk youth earn scholarships to four-year universities, including Harvard, Dartmouth and Columbia. Since its founding, Yanov has raised over \$1 million in scholarships for the students in his program.



Yanov speaks to Reality Changers seniors after they receive their college sweatshirts, an annual tradition (photo courtesy of Reality Changers)

STUDYING PEACE IN FIELD SITES AROUND THE WORLD



Villagers from Bomaru in Kailahun, Sierra Leone, commemorate the one-year anniversary of Fambul Tok’s first reconciliation ceremony (photo courtesy of Fambul Tok International)

This summer many students in the Peace and Justice Studies master’s program will embark on international peacebuilding internships to gain practical, hands-on experience. Below are a few examples of the work they will be engaged in:

Veronica Geretz – Fambul Tok (Sierra Leone)

Fambul Tok (Krio for “Family Talk”) is a community-owned program that brings together perpetrators and victims of the violence in Sierra Leone’s 11-year civil war through ceremonies rooted in the local traditions of war-torn villages. Geretz will focus on documenting these talks and helping to disseminate them via Fambul Tok’s Web site.

Carissa Western – League of Pastoral Women of Kenya

The league has several capacity building programs throughout Kenya, including mentorship, women’s leadership and economic empowerment, an emergency response campaign and a soon-to-be-launched constitutional education campaign. Western will provide on-the-ground training in mentorship and leadership skills and will also conduct research for grant proposals to support these programs.

Vivien Francis and Katie Whitlow – Navsarjan Trust (Gujarat, India)

Navsarjan is a grassroots Dalit organization dedicated to combating discrimination based on untouchability practices; ensuring equality of status and opportunities for all, regardless of caste, class or gender; and working to safeguard the rule of law. Francis will work with Navsarjan’s photography and video initiative, “Photovoice,” and Whitlow will focus on women’s empowerment by investigating human rights violations against young women and girls in the national school system.

IPJ STAFF AND PROGRAMS HONORED



Melissa Lucas

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

IPJ Deputy Director **Dee Aker** and Event Assistant **Melissa Lucas** were both 2009 recipients of USD's Community of Human Resources Employee Recognition Award for significant contributions to the university's mission.



Hannah Evans

WOMEN OF IMPACT

Each year the USD Women's Center recognizes exceptional women on the campus who represent the core values of the university and have enriched the USD community with new ways of thinking and contributed to its development. Two of the four women chosen as 2009 Women of Impact were the IPJ's own: **Dee Aker**, deputy director, and **Hannah Evans**, an IPJ intern in Fall 2009.



PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL HONOR ROLL

The IPJ was named to Project Concern International's 2009 Honor Roll in recognition of the institute's work with women in Africa, particularly through the Women PeaceMakers Program, which has included nine women from Africa in the last seven years.

IPJ MEDIA APPEARANCES

Oct. 9, 2009

NBC San Diego: **Executive Director Milburn Line** comments on President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize.

Oct. 9, 2009

10 News (ABC): **Woman PeaceMaker Marta Benavides** of El Salvador reacts to the announcement of President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize.

Oct. 28, 2009

KPBS Radio, "These Days": **Woman PeaceMaker Rubina Feroze Bhatti** on the challenges of the Christian minority and her work for women's rights in Pakistan.

Nov. 5, 2009

San Diego 6 News: **Bhatti** on the increased Taliban-related violence in Pakistan, its effect on girls' education and how Pakistan can counter terrorism by changing ideologies.

Nov. 18, 2009

KPBS Radio, "These Days": **Distinguished Lecture Series speaker William Ury** on trans-border water pollution and negotiation.

Jan. 9, 2010

Image Channel (Nepal): **Deputy Director Dee Aker** honored the recipient of the Today's Youth Asia "Excellent Achievers Award," Lesley Abdela.

Jan. 10, 2010

Simanchal National Daily Maithili Newspaper, National Daily Biswajagan and Tabalka Nepal: Articles in three Nepali newspapers about **Aker's** visit to Janakpur and her encouragement to journalists to continue contributing to political awareness.

Feb. 21, 2010

KUSI 9 News, "San Diego People": **Line** discusses the NATO offensive in Marjah, Afghanistan.

Feb. 25, 2010

KPBS Radio, "These Days": **Distinguished Lecture Series speaker Raymond Offenheiser** on Oxfam America, the earthquake in Haiti and the need to reform U.S. foreign aid policy.

April 8, 2010

Mindanao Times: Article about an IPJ presentation in Mindanao, Philippines, on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

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