



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

# PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

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

## ENCOUNTERING WOMEN WHO CHANGE WORLDS

by Emiko Noma

"The one who writes stories determines history." Deputy Director Dee Aker reminded participants of that truth while addressing "Women, Media, Revolution," a forum held October 5 to 7 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ). On the final day of the forum, an announcement from Oslo, Norway, affirmed it: Three women – including Leymah Gbowee, whose story of pushing for peace in Liberia might have been forgotten if not for the documentary "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" – were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

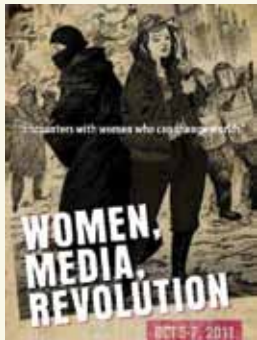
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*"The most important thing we can do as documentarians is to present the truth."*

– MIMI CHAKAROVA

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The confirmation came at the end of three days of exploring the role of women in media and how they are using their voices in a revolution against political and cultural violence. Zainab Salbi (page 2), founder of Women for Women International, joined the forum and reiterated its basic premise: "We need the frontline and backline perspective of war to tell the full story," the backline typically being held by women.



Documentary films complemented panels featuring journalists and social media activists from around the world. Panelists addressed fundamental questions that journalists must ask: Can and should journalism be a catalyst for the protection of women's rights? Does the framing of journalism as "gender-inclusive" help or hinder the cause? Does covering the human rights activism of women put them in danger?

The discussion moved to an examination of how women are pushing the boundaries of modern media in their creative use of social media, such as India's WAVE (Women Aloud Videoblogging for Empowerment), and Ushahidi, which develops open-source software for information collection and interactive mapping. Future challenges were also explored – notably, the need for structural change in the media landscape, and the threat of losing net neutrality, the accessing of all



Filmmaker Mimi Chakarova describing her decade-long quest to uncover the hidden world of sex trafficking

websites at the same speed. As Kate Daniels of the media outlet Women's International Perspective stated, "Our ability to respond to the corporate media relies solely on net neutrality."

Five documentary films were screened during the forum, inviting the audience to explore the nuances of women's experiences in conflict and reinforcing the necessity of narratives that differ from those told in mainstream media. "The most important thing we can do as documentarians is to present the truth," summarized Mimi Chakarova, creator of "The Price of Sex," a devastating but powerful film about sex trafficking in Eastern Europe.

After confronting participants with the daunting challenges to women in media, the forum closed with comments from this year's Women PeaceMakers and their Peace Writers, who document the women's stories while at the IPJ. Peace Writer Nikki Lyn Pugh reflected, "Where is the hope in these situations? The hope is in the telling of them, the bravery of the people who have allowed themselves to be filmed, the journalists. Those singular acts of courage give me hope."

To read more about the forum, visit the IPJ Blog at <http://sites.sandiego.edu/ipj>

# DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

## PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE SCOURGE OF WAR



Coomaraswamy delivers her lecture on children and armed conflict

efforts have led to the release of 3,000 child soldiers from rebel forces.

Later, Necla Tschirgi, professor in the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies (KSPS), and Robert Fellmeth, director of the Children's Advocacy Institute, interviewed Coomaraswamy for publication in the DLS booklet that includes a transcript of her lecture. The first question was about moving her focus from human rights in her home country of Sri Lanka to international issues.

Her field perspective, Coomaraswamy said, was essential to the U.N. "What often happens in the United Nations is that you get so linked up in policy and structures, you lose the actual reality of what's going on, on the ground," she said. "In the area of armed conflict, at least, decisions should be field driven."

*"Children suffer from identical grave violations whenever there's internal war..."*

— RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY

Fellmeth asked about the differences working in Sri Lanka versus less developed countries in Africa, but Coomaraswamy replied that it was the similarities that struck her. "Children suffer from identical grave violations whenever there's internal war - they are killed and maimed, they're recruited as child soldiers, they're denied humanitarian access, schools and hospitals are occupied," she said.

In addition to confronting rebel groups and governments to release and stop recruiting child soldiers, Coomaraswamy said the U.N. is now focusing on prevention. "UNICEF has developed protection systems in villages that may be vulnerable: networks of people who will be on the lookout for certain signs and who will signal that children may be recruited. Those networks are used not only for soldiers but for trafficking. Then there's an immediate response in the community."

Coomaraswamy emphasized that protection for children is part of a larger movement at the U.N., where departments are being set up to ensure that civilians are spared the terrible consequences of war.

## "THE ART AND SOUL OF BUILDING PEACE"



John Paul Lederach, whose scholarship on conflict transformation has been shaped by his work with communities in 25 conflict arenas, will be the next Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series speaker on February 16, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the IPJ. Lederach is the author of numerous books including *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*, which captures the unique combination of spirituality, technical expertise and vocational commitment that he is known for around the world. "Lederach has been an inspiration

for many of us in the peace studies field," says Dean William Headley of USD's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. To RSVP, go to <http://peace.sandiego.edu>

## BUILDING BRIDGES, REBUILDING SOCIETIES

In conjunction with the "Women, Media, Revolution" forum, Zainab Salbi spoke on October 6 in a joint presentation of the Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series and the USD School of Law Jane Ellen Bergman Memorial Lecture Series on Women, Children and Human Rights. In 1993, after learning about rape camps in the Balkans, Salbi founded Women for Women International, which has distributed at least \$103 million in direct aid, microcredit loans and programs helping more than 316,000 women survivors of war, their families and communities.



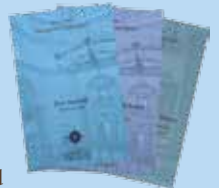
Salbi, with Kutlow, discussing her work with women survivors of war

Salbi is the author of *Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam* (with Laurie Becklund) and *The Other Side of War: Women's Stories of Survival and Hope*. Interviewed by Senior Program Officer Diana Kutlow, Salbi highlighted the importance and effectiveness of supporting economic development and human rights training for women in post-conflict zones as a way of rebuilding war-torn societies and preventing a cycle of violence. "Yes, war destroys everything," Salbi said. "So what people want most is ... to live with dignity."

Salbi's talk, along with Coomaraswamy's, is available for online viewing at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/dls>

## LECTURE BOOKLETS ON POST-CONFLICT CHALLENGES

The 2010-2011 Distinguished Lecture Booklets featuring Monica McWilliams, Johan Galtung, Stephen J. Rapp and Radhika Coomaraswamy are now available to order or read online at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/dls>





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## IPJ BACKGROUND & MISSION

A gift to USD from Joan B. Kroc enabled the university to build and endow the Institute. Since 2000, the IPJ has worked to build peace with justice by strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, and developing innovative approaches to peacebuilding.

## PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

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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# PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

*By Executive Director Milburn Line*



This fall we commemorated the 10th anniversary of one of the most tragic moments in our history – the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Beyond mourning the loss of 3,000 civilians in the United States and honoring the sacrifice of men and women serving to bring their murderers to justice, we should also remember the millions of people around the world now trapped in a cycle of seemingly endless wars. These conflicts may prove an even greater tragedy if we do not effectively address the exclusion, corruption and poverty that fuel terrorism.

Investing in conflict prevention and working to transform societies into more equitable democracies – building peace – may sound innocent as pundits and candidates for office stir our emotions with calls to national greatness. Martin Luther King, Jr., however, warned of the “spiritual death” of an increasingly militaristic America. We should not take our eyes off the prize of more sustainable human coexistence – the true standard of greatness.

A 2008 panel led by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, a Democrat, and former Secretary of Defense William Cohen, a Republican, estimated that for \$250 million a year, our government could prevent and respond more effectively to mass atrocities that have destabilized places like Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sudan. This is a minor sum compared to the \$15 billion spent on post-conflict Bosnia, which is still far from stable. This August, President Obama mandated a Presidential Study Directive to ensure interagency coordination to prevent mass atrocities and genocide – a step in the right direction that may be threatened by ongoing budget cuts.

Stereotypes of the Vietnam anti-war movement continue to damage the credibility of peace and justice efforts. Practitioners at U.S. agencies facing extensive budget reductions, such as the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), U.S. Agency for International Development and National Endowment for Democracy (NED), are not naïve, radical, unpatriotic or willing to sacrifice our security. The NED trained aspiring democrats in Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen, and both General David Petraeus and former General Anthony Zinni have recognized the important contributions made by USIP in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We are now witnessing efforts by many who participated in these trainings for democracy and rights across the Middle East and North Africa. These efforts are infinitely less costly, in human and financial terms, than our ongoing military efforts at regime change. They are also our best bet for a secure future because violent extremists are more likely to be contained by societies exercising democratic rights and the rule of law than through armed conquest by external forces, as in our current campaigns.

Recently the president of USIP, faced with potential liquidation, suggested that replacing “peace” with “conflict management” in their title would sound less abstract. This is sadly ironic given that U.S. leadership may be most effective when it exemplifies our core democratic values of the peaceful exercise of rights and accountability. Political expediency could mean it has to be called conflict transformation, international cooperation or social cohesion – but peace remains our calling.

## IPJ MEDIA APPEARANCES

**May 9, 2011**—KPBS Radio, “These Days”: **Distinguished Lecturer Radhika Coomaraswamy**, U.N. under-secretary-general, special representative for children and armed conflict, on protecting and rehabilitating children from the impacts of armed conflict.

**Oct. 3, 2011**—KPBS Radio, “Midday Edition”: **Program Officer Jennifer Freeman** on the media’s portrayal and coverage of women in conflict, and the Women PeaceMakers “Women, Media, Revolution” forum.

**Oct. 6, 2011**—KUSI News: **Distinguished Lecturer Zainab Salbi** on her work with women survivors of war and women’s experience on the “backlines” of war, and **Senior Program Officer Diana Kutlow** on the “Women, Media, Revolution” forum.

**Oct. 8, 2011**—*San Diego Union-Tribune*: “USD PeaceMakers Welcome Nobel News,” on the 2011 Women PeaceMakers and the announcement of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize recipients, who include Leymah Gbowee, a peace partner of 2010 Woman PeaceMaker Vaiba Kebeh Flomo of Liberia.

**Oct. 10, 2011**—KUSI News: **Deputy Director Dee Aker** and **USD Associate Dean and Professor Noelle Norton** on the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote.

**Oct. 20, 2011**—*San Diego Union-Tribune*: “A PeaceMaker’s Lessons from the Seat of Power,” on the work of 2011 **Woman PeaceMaker Claudette Werleigh** of Haiti.

# IPJ IN THE FIELD

## CIVIL-SECURITY SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN NEPAL



APF Chief Shailendra Kumar Shrestha in discussion with Dee Aker

In April, the IPJ led two unprecedented peacebuilding programs as part of the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative's continued efforts to utilize a whole community approach in Nepal. At the request of current Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) Chief and Inspector General Shailendra Kumar Shrestha, the IPJ joined with CMPartners to train a group of senior APF officers in communication and negotiation techniques. The IPJ/CMP team, which included Eric Henry, Gardner Heaton, Deputy Director Dee Aker and Interim Program Officer Chris Groth, focused on improving the "soft skills" of policing, including the power of language and persuasion, in an effort to deepen collaboration and build trust with members of the community. Organized with the assistance of the IPJ's local partner, Today's Youth Asia, the program selected participants based on their ability to train other officers in the techniques.



Mandira Raut (standing) of Today's Youth Asia working with police and civil leaders

When Chief Shrestha requested similar training for APF women officers, the IPJ invited them to the women's program for Nepal Police officers, civil society leaders and representatives from different political parties. This marked the first instance where women officers from the APF and Nepal Police were involved together at an IPJ event, and it was the first time that the security sector represented half of all participants at an "IPJ Women, Politics and Peace: Working for a Just Society Series" program. Supported by our local partner, Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal, the training was also a unique opportunity for most civil society and political sector participants to have extended interaction with security officers, and vice versa. Not only did the participants work across sectors to explore solutions to a crisis simulation, but the women were able to discover their common concerns of personal security, safety of their family and the completion of the new constitution.

While in Nepal, Aker and Groth also conducted two programs in the southern Terai region. One of the trainings was designed to assist youth volunteers and members from the IPJ's local partner, Sano Paila, while the other engaged local community leaders on real-time problem solving.

## EXPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN WEST AFRICA

As of Fall 2011, prospects for peace in the Mano River region of West Africa are slightly brighter than one year ago. In late 2010, Guinea held its first ever transparent and democratic elections, averting what appeared to be a steady slide into military dictatorship. In May 2011, Alassane Ouattara was sworn in as Côte d'Ivoire's new president, inaugurating what many hope will be a new and peaceful chapter in the nation's history after a decade of civil war.

While these are welcome developments, peace in the sub-region remains fragile, and the work of local NGOs and citizens' groups to foster justice, reconciliation and accountable government is more important than ever. The IPJ continues to partner with human rights organizations throughout the Mano River region to strengthen research and advocacy skills. Six local partners are now working with IPJ mentorship and the Open Society for West Africa's (OSIWA) financial support to document the following human rights issues.

- **Avocats Sans Frontières** (Guinea): Prolonged pretrial detention in Guinea's prisons and police stations
- **Les Mêmes Droits Pour Tous/The Same Rights For All** (Guinea): Police torture
- **Agenda for Development Alternatives** (Liberia): Discrimination against persons with disabilities
- **Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia** (Liberia): Corruption in the education sector and its effect on the right to education
- **Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law** (Sierra Leone): Prolonged pretrial detention in Freetown's central prison
- **Lawyers Center for Legal Assistance** (Sierra Leone): Abuses against commercial sex workers by the police

Bringing these issues to public and governmental attention is one of the many ways the IPJ's local partners are working to consolidate democracy in this once war-torn region. In January 2012, KSPS Assistant Professor Dustin Sharp will travel to Côte d'Ivoire to launch the West African Human Rights Training Initiative's training cycle with a new group of project partners.

## LEGAL EMPOWERMENT IN GUATEMALA



Legal empowerment efforts in the indigenous community of Pamesebal, Quiché

In October, IPJ Executive Director Milburn Line returned to Quiché, Guatemala, to work with the Barbara Ford Peace Center on the Legal Empowerment Project, funded by the U.S. State Department. Guatemala continues to experience incredible levels of violence, with one of the highest murder rates in the world, and the provinces surrounding Quiché have been under martial law for the last year.

The project has begun work in multiple local communities and with justice agencies to ensure greater identification with and accountability of justice processes – a historical challenge in Guatemala. Our strategy is to increase the contact and accessibility of justice officials to local populations so that both groups are able to learn about the capacities and constraints of the other and begin working more collaboratively to ensure justice is served. Earlier this year, Line spent time with the project’s implementation team in Cotzal, Quiché, working with village representatives to rebuild respect for the rule of law in a town where the mayor allegedly led the lynching of a policeman in 2009.

The Legal Empowerment Project has also started a diploma training course with Mayan leaders on indigenous law practice. Guatemala has recognized indigenous justice methods as a way to provide justice at the local level, beyond the expense and frustration of the formal constitutional system. The indigenous system, however, is not without problems, including abuse of authority, gender equity, arbitrary detentions and violence by local communities frustrated with impunity. The course reviews diverse Mayan justice practices and promotes a discussion of authentic Mayan traditions of restorative justice.

As part of the project, the IPJ is supporting the construction of relationships to build the social trust necessary to adjudicate conflict – a process that may be at risk again due to drug violence and following the outcome of presidential elections in November.

For more on the IPJ’s work in Guatemala, go to [www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/field/guatemala](http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/field/guatemala)

## IPJ WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM OFFICER



Zahra Ismail, who holds a master’s in peace and conflict resolution, joined the IPJ as a program officer in July with a focus on expanding the Institute’s international programs. This work has begun with a project proposal focused on strengthening community relations in Kenya to prevent violence around the August 2012 presidential elections. Kenya’s 2007 elections were followed by intense violence, and local organizations are predicting greater violence in 2012 due to unresolved conflicts within and between communities.

“This continued tension and fear highlight the need for a project focused on empowering communities to take an active role in their own safety,” says Ismail.

Formerly with the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) in Thailand, Ismail was also a program manager with the Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre in Edmonton, Canada. She also worked in Sri Lanka and later in South Sudan to provide protection to individuals under threat and build the capacity of communities to reduce violence and increase safety in their villages.

## NEW INITIATIVES POLICY ADVOCACY FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

In January 2012 IPJ Executive Director Milburn Line will present at the “Beyond Caguán: One Decade Later” conference at the University of the Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. Other U.S. panelists include Dr. Virginia Bouvier, senior program officer at the United States Institute of Peace, and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas Pickering.

Ten years after the failed peace negotiations known as Caguán, neither the Colombian nor the U.S. governments have clear peace agendas, despite the dire human rights and humanitarian consequences of the 50-year conflict. Colombia now has more internally displaced persons than any other country in the world. The Colombian military, supported during the same decade by the United States through Plan Colombia, is accused of more than 2,500 extrajudicial killings of civilians.



In February 2011 the IPJ published a policy brief titled “Retooling U.S. Policy for Peace in Colombia” that details the policy benefits for reviving a peace process (available at [www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/publications/PolicyBriefs.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/publications/PolicyBriefs.php)). Line has also written op-ed pieces for the *L.A. Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Foreign Policy en Español* and *Huffington Post*, making the case for adding a peace agenda to the U.S. foreign policy strategy in Colombia.

### Recent Publications on Colombia by Milburn Line

“Beyond Free Trade with Colombia.”  
*Huffington Post*. May 27, 2011.

“Free trade through peace in Colombia.”  
*San Diego Union-Tribune*. April 7, 2011.

“Camino a la Paz en Colombia.”  
*Foreign Policy en Español*. April 5, 2011.

# WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

## 2011 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS AND PEACE WRITERS

**Wahu Kaara** of Kenya, an educator and ardent peace and pro-democracy activist, is the founder of Kenya Debt Relief Network and plans to run in Kenya's 2012 presidential elections. She is working with Peace Writer **Alison Morse**, a Minnesota-based freelance writer and educator, immigrant rights advocate and former animator.



2011 Women PeaceMakers (l-r) Manjula Pradeep, Wahu Kaara, Claudette Werleigh and Rashad Zaydan (photo by Bijoyeta Das)

**Manjula Pradeep**, a human rights activist and lawyer who defends the rights of India's women and Dalits, the "untouchables" of the Hindu caste system, is working with Peace Writer **Amy S. Choi**, a freelance journalist from Brooklyn, N.Y., recently returned from a sabbatical traveling throughout the developing world.

**Claudette Werleigh**, Haiti's first female prime minister and currently a peace envoy for Pax Christi International, has worked for peace in all corners of the world. She is working with Peace Writer **Bijoyeta Das**, a freelance photographer and multimedia journalist based in New Delhi, writing most recently for *Women's eNews*.

**Dr. Rashad Zaydan**, an Iraqi pharmacist and the founder of Knowledge for Iraqi Women Society who seeks to heal the war-torn lives of Iraqi women and children, is working with Peace Writer **Nikki Lyn Pugh**, a local San Diego writer, editor and teacher currently working on a book about Hurricane Katrina and other disaster-related experiences.

## WOMEN, WAR & PEACE SCREENINGS

What if we looked at war as though women mattered? This is one of the challenges presented by "Women, War & Peace" – a bold five-part PBS series from Fork Films. The 2011 Women PeaceMakers (WPM) are deeply familiar with this question and its complex answers. It's fitting then that the 2011 WPMs met with students in a central USD residence hall for a viewing party of the series' episodes, which featured women active in Bosnian, Liberian, Afghanistan and Colombian conflicts.

Following the shows, the PeaceMakers led the audience of undergraduate and graduate students through the series' discussion guide. They addressed questions such as: *What roles do women play during and after war? What do you think their responsibilities are as survivors?*



The series provided a dramatic and moving illustration of the Women PeaceMakers

Program's aim to share the stories of women in conflict – not only as victims and survivors, but as witnesses, activists, political leaders, negotiators, police women and heads of state. The more women are recognized as effective agents in preventing and ending conflict, the more society's view of and approach to war will shift to include women's often neglected perspectives and initiatives.

## UPDATES ON WOMEN PEACEMAKERS AND PEACE WRITERS

**Rubina Feroze Bhatti** of Pakistan received the National Women's Political Caucus 2011 Women of Courage Award and was one of four Pakistanis acknowledged by the Human Rights Society of Pakistan's 2011 award.

**Palwasha Kakar**, the deputy minister of women's affairs in Afghanistan, was one of the leaders in an Afghan Women's Network civil society roundtable discussing the protection of women's rights and women's participation in processes related to peace and transition.



Mbanga responding to the directors of the documentary "Weapon of War"

In October, **Sylvie Maunga Mbanga** of the Democratic Republic of Congo returned to the IPJ as a panelist for the "Women, Media, Revolution" forum to comment on the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in her country.

**Shreen Abdul Saroor** of Sri Lanka was awarded the 5th International Bremen Peace Award, given by the Threshold Foundation in Germany, and will receive 15,000 € for her "public engagement in peace and justice." Saroor also received the inaugural N-Peace Award for Sri Lanka from N-Peace Network, which acknowledged her leadership in community peacebuilding, empowerment and violence prevention.

Peace Writer **Theresa de Langis** served as rapporteur, on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, for civil society consultations with the U.S. State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues to develop a U.S. National Action Plan on women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325). A San Diego consultation was held at the IPJ on Oct. 8, 2011.

Peace Writer **Jackee Batanda** was named the 2011-12 Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow, given by the International Women's Media Foundation. Batanda will study at MIT's Center for International Studies and other Boston-area universities, and will have professional access to the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*.

## ASIA REGIONAL NETWORK CONVENES IN THE PHILIPPINES

*In late May, IPJ Deputy Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Jennifer Freeman were in the Philippines for the second Women PeaceMakers Asia Regional Network summit. The 10-day gathering coincided with the international launch of the first All-Women Contingent in the International Monitoring Team, which monitors the cease-fire in Mindanao between the army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The all-women peacekeeping force was formed by the Mindanao Peoples Caucus, headed by 2005 IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Mary Ann Arnado. The following is a reflection written by Freeman after the summit.*



*Woman PeaceMaker Bae Liza Saway listening to stories from the women of Pagatin, Mindanao*

Saway, local hosts from the Mindanao People's Caucus (MPC), and IPJ staff members Dee Aker and I sat under morning light slanting through the tarps and listened to their stories.

Thirty-five women from Pagatin had gathered to share their experiences of displacement and return. They began with stories of loss – of loved ones, their homes and their dignity. But amidst the loss were examples of strength, unity and resilience. Counted among their greatest successes was filing an official complaint to the ombudsperson charging the Philippine Army with the razing of their village during the 2008 war. But ongoing challenges remained: How to leverage meager economic assistance to pay the coming year's school fees? How to find justice and hope for a widow still grieving the murder of her husband and the destitution that she and her children now suffer without his wages?

For the Women PeaceMakers these stories echo with the familiarity of loss, recovery and resilience experienced by war-affected communities throughout Asia. Speaking with compassion and conviction, WPM Thavory Huot from Cambodia told the Pagatin women how women survivors of her country's genocide began sewing pillows from spare scraps of cloth to sell at the market – and eventually lobbied the U.N. to sell them as a fundraising project for 10 times the profit. Her stories of community-led innovation and entrepreneurship created a fervor of ideas and inspiration in the small gathering of displaced women.

The power of exchanging experiences and successful strategies was demonstrated throughout the 10-day summit of the Women PeaceMakers Asia Regional Network. Women PeaceMakers shared their experiences with indigenous community members, Philippine Army commanders, MILF members, civilian peacekeepers, representatives of the Presidential Advisor to the Peace Process and the International Monitoring Team, while also gathering new insights and establishing new partnerships to further their work in the region.

*Building on the work of the first two regional meetings, the third Asia Regional Network summit is planned to take place in Cambodia in December 2011 with Women PeaceMakers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines.*

As our car slowed, entering the small community of Pagatin, the early morning light exposed Mindanao's worn, war-torn edges. The concrete shells of homes stood jagged, plastic tarps providing threadbare patches of shade. The charred remnants of window frames attested to the buildings' fire-ravaged past – as did the voices of the families forced to flee. Our team of Asian Women PeaceMakers (WPM)

Thavory Huot and Bae Liza



## PROGRAM RECEIVES HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Women PeaceMakers Program was selected as the recipient for the 2011 Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award by the United Nations Association of San Diego. Established by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in 1998, the award honors the advancement of social justice, human rights and peace around the globe.



## LATEST NARRATIVES OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PUBLISHED ONLINE

“Displaced, but Not Destroyed,” on Irina Yanovskaya of South Ossetia - By Devon Haynie

“If You See Something Wrong,” on Raya Kadyrova of Kyrgyzstan - By Kaitlin Barker, with contributions from Yasmin Gatal-Hashimoto

# IPJ INSIDER

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR JOINS ROUNDTABLE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



Participants at the roundtable listen to Jane Odwong Akwero (right) of Uganda's Greater North Women's Voices for Peace Network

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice and Oxfam Novib, the roundtable sought to move forward a 2013 global women's agenda that is beginning to take shape. Aker was one of 30 experts dealing with peacebuilding and recovery from governments, international nongovernmental agencies and local women's organizations in Colombia, the Philippines, Sudan and Uganda. The IPJ's Women PeaceMakers Program was singled out as an initiative that promises greater understanding of how women can – and do – play essential roles at all levels of peacemaking, peacekeeping and the building of peaceful societies that address the root causes of conflict and vicious impunity. Recommendations from "Precarious Progress," the 2010 Women PeaceMakers Conference, were cited as key to setting the questions addressed at the roundtable.

## LINKING TO PEACE STUDIES IN CHINA

In late May, IPJ Executive Director Milburn Line traveled to Nanjing, China, to present at a workshop on "Peace Studies Perspectives on Religion, Peace and War." For several years the Department of History at the University of Nanjing has been working persistently to initiate the field of peace studies in China, in collaboration with the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies at Coventry University in the United Kingdom. Nanjing – the site of the worst atrocities of the Japanese invasion during the Second World War – is the natural home for such efforts.

While the field of peace studies tends to be focused on immediate conflicts, learning to engage the world's rising superpower constructively will become increasingly important in the future. Greater mutual understanding and communication between the United States and China will be necessary to transcend what Amartya Sen, 1998 Nobel Laureate for Economics, has called the "shabby politics" that underpin much of the conflicts and wars marketed as clashes of civilizations. Collaboration on peace studies may be a great opportunity to help define commonalities and an agenda to ensure coexistence during what China's leaders have characterized as its "peaceful rise." The IPJ plans to continue working with the University of Nanjing and Coventry University in shaping a peacebuilding strategy with China.

From September 26 to 27, IPJ Deputy Director Dee Aker took part in an "International Roundtable on Women, Peace and Security" at The Hague, the Netherlands. Convened by

## A DECADE OF IPJ INTERNS

Over the past 10 years, the Institute has been pleased to see our interns' careers take off – and to see the interns themselves working around the world. Here is a sampling of where they are now:

**Fall 2001:** **Jael Jordan, J.D.** ('04) was an intern with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and works in the legal department of the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance.

**Fall 2004:** **Dawoon (Donna) Chung** ('04) works for the U.N. Global Compact and is finishing her doctoral dissertation in peace studies from Bradford University.

**Spring 2007:** **Alissa Skog** ('08) works in the crisis mitigation and recovery sector of Development Alternatives, Inc. in Washington, D.C., as the program associate for programs in Tunisia and Libya.

**Summer 2007:** **Elise Vaughan** ('08) worked as assistant director of the Center for Preventive Action at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., and is pursuing a master of public policy at Georgetown University.



Elisabetta Colabianchi with her Mozambican host family during Peace Corps training

**Fall 2008:** **Elisabetta Colabianchi** ('09) is serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique as a community health volunteer with the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Program.

**Spring 2009:** **Shawna Fehrman** ('09) served with the Peace Corps in Thailand and now works in USD's Department of Biology.



Breyn Hibbs (center) at City Farmers Nursery in San Diego with Shakti Rising

**Spring and Summer 2009:** **Breyn Hibbs** ('10) conducted her master's capstone research at the Child and Women Empowerment Society in Pokhara, Nepal, and is working for AmeriCorps VISTA with the social change organization Shakti Rising, Inc.

**Spring 2010:** **Ashlen Nimmo** ('10) is serving with Jesuit Volunteer Corps-International in Tacna, Peru, and teaching 1st, 6th, 9th, 10th and 11th graders.

For more updates on past IPJ Interns, go to [www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/involved/internships/where\\_are\\_they\\_now.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/involved/internships/where_are_they_now.php)



## PEACEBUILDING SYMPOSIUM IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

From June 22 to 25, IPJ's Dee Aker and Elena McCollim participated in the international symposium "Peacebuilding in Society and Religion: Feminist Practices of Intercultural Transformation" in the Dominican Republic. During the gathering in Santo Domingo, they explored the intersection of feminist, intercultural and interreligious peacebuilding with leading experts, both academic and practitioner-based, from around the world.

Developed by USD's renowned Dr. Maria Pilar Aquino, professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the project probed the research on current, often challenging dynamics for women deeply engaged at the social and religious juncture of conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Symposium participants acknowledged the serious gender aspects of the

assassination of the Mirabal sisters 50 years earlier for standing up against the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. A book promoting public deliberation of new religious and feminist theological contributions to this field is forthcoming in 2012.



*Signing of a symposium poster that will hang in the museum of the Mirabal sisters*

## MAPPING PEACEBUILDING

Peacebuilding as a field has grown exponentially since 1992, when then U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's seminal report "An Agenda for Peace" identified peacebuilding as an essential instrument for managing and resolving conflicts between and within states. While numerous surveys of peacebuilding activities within the United Nations systems and elsewhere have been undertaken since then, to date there has been no survey of U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations dedicated to peacebuilding.

A recently initiated project – funded by the United States Institute of Peace and implemented by the Alliance for Peacebuilding in partnership with the IPJ and the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies (KSPS) – aims to fill that gap. The Peacebuilding Mapping Project, involving collaboration between the Institute and the School of Peace Studies, is endeavoring to map and define the current field of peacebuilding. KSPS Professor Necla Tschirgi is the principal investigator for the project, which is overseen by Executive Director Milburn Line, with contributions from KSPS alumna Jill Covert ('09) and Program Officer Elena McCollim. The project, says Dr. Tschirgi, "promises to shed important light on the extent to which U.S.-based organizations have made changes in their policy and programming strategies to address the multi-faceted challenges confronting conflict-affected countries." The results of the research project will be presented at the Alliance for Peacebuilding's annual conference in April 2012.

## REMEMBERING 9/11



*The 9/11 memorial at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice*

The IPJ and the entire university paused on Sept. 11, 2011, for solemn reflection on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The IPJ had opened its doors in 2001, just a few weeks before the attacks, and responded to the tragedy with a "Family Town Meeting on Transforming Pain and Hate into Understanding," designed especially for young people and their parents.

Ten year later, flags representing the victims' nationalities surrounded the 9/11 memorial in the garden outside the IPJ. A guest book allowed visitors to inscribe memories and reflections. Students and community members gathered for a screening of "The Power of Forgiveness." The documentary draws on examples ranging from the response of the Amish to the murder of a group of schoolgirls to peacebuilding in Northern Ireland and the reactions of some families of 9/11 victims to explore the role that forgiveness can play in alleviating anger and grief, and the physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come with it.

Justine Darling, a graduate of the master's program in peace and justice studies who introduced the film, is initiating a program on restorative justice at USD that is "providing a safe space for students to take responsibility for their actions, create healing between impacted parties and experience a way of communication where honesty, understanding and forgiveness are supported and encouraged."

# WORLDLINK

## DARAJA ACADEMY DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES



Following a 2011 visit to the Daraja Academy in Nanyuki, Kenya, former Program Officer Karla Alvarez and a group of USD staff and students produced a documentary featuring the stories of 10 of the 77 young women attending the academy. The film highlights the students' appreciation for the education they have received, their dreams for the future - Kenya's and their own - and the motivation and inspiration the academy has instilled in them. "[W]ith hope and determination in life, you can do the most incredible things," expressed Emily, a 16-year-old Daraja student.

*"It begins with me and you, and together we can make the world better."*

— ALICE, DARAJA STUDENT

In the documentary, several of the students were eager to share a personal message with high school students living in San Diego and Mexico. Alice, a 15-year-old Daraja student, reached out to the WorldLink youth: "The only thing that matters is making the change that we want to see in the world. It begins with me and you, and together we can make the world better."

The documentary will premiere at the Youth Town Meeting in January and can later be viewed at <http://peace.sandiego.edu>

For more information on the Daraja Academy, please visit [www.daraja-academy.org](http://www.daraja-academy.org)

## IPJ WELCOMES NEW WORLDLINK PROGRAM OFFICER



Debbie Martinez joined the IPJ in August as program officer for WorldLink. After several trips to Central America, Martinez pursued a bachelor's degree in global and international studies and sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She received a master's in international human rights from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, where she specialized in international administration, development and Latin America. Martinez has worked as program assistant for Youth Policy Institute, interned for the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and most recently served as community relations coordinator for the Center on Rights Development at the University of Denver.

## CELEBRATING THE YOUTH TOWN MEETING'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Fifteen years ago WorldLink began as a program aiming to provide a forum for youth to engage in stimulating discussion and plans for action with leading experts in international affairs. Since then, more than 10,000 high school students from San Diego, Baja California and abroad have participated in WorldLink events and engaged in critical thinking on topics ranging from genocide and torture to drug trafficking, xenophobia and more. Many of these students have grown to model responsible citizenship and have taken personal action - both regionally and internationally.



Jason Doherty, a USD student who interned for WorldLink the year of the program's inception, is one of them. He has since graduated from USD ('98) and, with his wife Jenni, co-founded the Daraja Academy, a secondary school in Kenya that provides free education, housing, food and other resources to girls with limited financial means. WorldLink is looking forward to the possibility of welcoming a Daraja student as an international delegate to the program's 15th Annual Youth Town Meeting on January 25, 2012.

This year's student-selected theme is "The Right to Be Human," which will focus on the recognition of human rights and the correlation to culture and identity, disabilities, displacement, responsible business and international justice.

WorldLink will continue to create opportunities that connect youth to global affairs. As Jesus Villalba, a WorldLink Fall Intern, shared, "I would like to thank WorldLink for continuing the annual Youth Town Meeting and for working hard to raise international awareness and understanding among youth."

# JOAN B. KROC SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES

## BRIDGING THEORY AND PRACTICE: DR. NECLA TSCHIRGI

Dr. Necla Tschirgi joined the faculty of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies in September 2010 as professor of practice, with a focus on human security and peacebuilding. A native of Turkey with a professional background in development and security studies, Dr. Tschirgi served most recently as a senior policy adviser with the Peacebuilding Support Office at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

In addition to teaching a seminal course on the foundations of peace and justice studies, Dr. Tschirgi is involved in a number of special projects aimed at bridging the gap between theory and practice in peacebuilding.

Partnering with the IPJ, Dr. Tschirgi is working on a Peacebuilding Mapping Project (for more on the project, see page 9), which will map the U.S. peacebuilding community. She anticipates that the project will provide a better understanding of how other organizations define their peacebuilding work, serve as a resource for the larger peacebuilding community and help to identify partner institutions working on conflict and peace.

Dr. Tschirgi has been instrumental in organizing rapid-response events to provide the USD community with context for global issues – such as the Arab Spring and the death of Osama bin Laden. Similarly, she collaborates on the Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series, a forum that she views as instrumental in bringing speakers such as Johan Galtung (December 2010) and John Paul Lederach (February 2012) to campus so that students are able to engage directly with these “pioneers of peacebuilding.”

Concurrently, she is working with the Women PeaceMakers Program to bring together critical insights about the role of women in peacebuilding, garnered over the past nine years, into an edited volume – an endeavor she says will be a “very exciting contribution for both scholars and practitioners.” Indeed, Dr. Tschirgi believes that USD’s School of Peace Studies – with its two in-house institutes and graduate academic program – exemplifies the scholar-practitioner model.



Tschirgi introducing Distinguished Lecturer Johan Galtung

## IN MEMORY OF WANGARI MAATHAI



Maathai in Oslo, Norway, for the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies (photo by Ricardo Medina)

Meeting Wangari Maathai – the first East African woman to receive a Ph.D., and who would go on to be the first African woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize – was unforgettable. It was 1983 and I had been living in Kenya for several years, well aware of the threats and danger to Wangari for standing up to then-President Daniel arap Moi. Her public rally against Moi’s abuse of power had just led to her being fired from the university. Her new and challenging work for the environment was just getting under way. And her serious efforts for government reform all made her a target. The danger became real in the 1990s when she ran for office and was brutally attacked by thugs from the Moi regime.

But that day in 1983 we sat at the American university I was heading up as she prepared for a video interview. She spoke with humor, perspective and profound commitment about her love of country. I was moved by her fearlessness and integrity. We would occasionally meet in years to come, and I always saw her the same: laughing, making things happen and caring with all of her heart about our world and its humble people. May we all remember Wangari’s smile and be so wise.

—Dee Aker, a personal note on behalf of the IPJ



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## GIVING BACK

### SPOTLIGHT ON WORLDLINK DONOR GLORIA GARRETT



*Maasai mother and baby (Tanzania, 2004)  
Photo by Gloria Garrett*

A friend and supporter of the IPJ's WorldLink Program (page 10) since 2004, Gloria Garrett strongly believes that engaging young people in creating solutions to global challenges will lead to a brighter future for everyone. Her desire to leverage her talent as a photographer into social change led her to create Glorious Journey Photography with a mission to spread beauty while building compassion for nature, wildlife and global communities. Gloria donates proceeds from her photography sales to two carefully selected nonprofit programs, and WorldLink is one of these fortunate beneficiaries.

"WorldLink is making a profound difference in the lives of youth by showing them that they matter and exposing them to ways they can have an impact," Gloria said of her connection to the program that connects youth to global affairs. "Supporting this program through my art is one of the most powerful actions I take each year toward my commitment to a peaceful, just planet."

Gloria's work is on display at the Del Mar Art Center Gallery, with profits going to WorldLink and another nonprofit. To learn more about Gloria's work, please visit [www.gloriousjourneyphotography.com](http://www.gloriousjourneyphotography.com)

For more on how to support WorldLink, please go to <http://peace.sandiego.edu/worldlink> and click "Giving to WorldLink."

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