



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

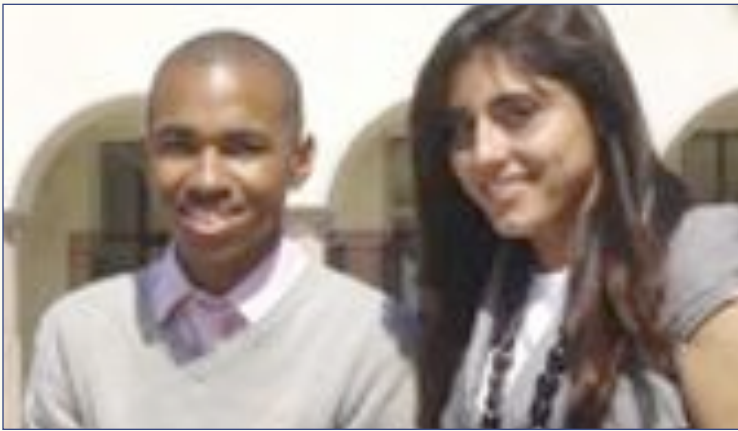
PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

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SCHOOL OF PEACE DEAN NAMED BY USD | NOBEL LAUREATE EBADI | IPJ AT UNITED NATIONS

YOUTH TAKE ON TORTURE AT 10TH WORLDLINK

by Lisa Anderson



WorldLink Interns Bryson Armstrong and Tuyaymya Osuna


On Jan. 24, 2007, 700 high school students from Southern California, Mexico, China, South Korea and Afghanistan gathered at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego's 10th annual WorldLink Youth Town Meeting, "Countering Terrorism: Addressing Global Security Threats and the Use of Torture." In a day-long symposium including two plenary sessions and 15 concurrent briefing sessions, the students interacted with experts on topics including torture, human rights protections, counterterrorism, religious tolerance, international justice and global policy.

WorldLink raises students' awareness of global issues they may have been exposed to in the media but have never carefully considered. Each year, students choose the theme for the conference and serve as delegates, introductory speakers, panel and briefing session moderators and journalists. Student interns publish a "reader" to prepare students for the town meeting and student writers publish a newspaper documenting the event for distribution to the participating schools, which included 27 public, private, alternative and charter schools this year. Two student interns per semester help organize the event under the supervision of institute staff. Interns Bryson Armstrong and Tuyaymya Osuna, juniors at High Tech High International who made the closing remarks at this year's conference, found their intern experience invaluable.

"The timing for exposure to these issues is just right," Armstrong explained. "High school students are already thinking on their own. At WorldLink, we can come up with our own theories, form our opinions and be exposed to others' ideas."

WorldLink Program Coordinator Karla Alvarez, who facilitates cross-border partnerships with schools in Mexico, arranged a meeting in Tijuana between Maria Elvia Amaya de Hank, the wife of Tijuana Mayor Jorge Hank Rohn, and Dee Aker, interim director of the IPJ, generating strong cross-border support for the program.

"We had more students from Mexico this year than ever before," Alvarez said. "For the first time, we had to tell teachers to reduce the number of students they could bring. Some students had to journey though the night, reaching the border at 6 a.m."

WorldLink is made possible by support from patron Gloria Garrett and donors like The Beyster Family Foundation Fund ; IPJ Leadership Circle members Lowell and April Blankfort, Anne Hoiberg, Dr. Louis Musoke, Amy M. Rypins and Lilia Velásquez; Publicia Press Ltd and the USD Admissions Office.

Planning for the conference continues year-round and the Youth Town Meeting is followed by a series of smaller forums at the institute. Speakers volunteer their time, expertise and passion, and inspire students to consider careers in public service and other fields where they can make a positive impact. Each year, the U.S. Department of State is represented by a veteran diplomat such as this year's speaker, Peter Kovach, a career Foreign Service officer whose last post was in the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. Kovach cautioned against the perception that torture is effective, saying, "The real question is whether torture will work... That is where I begin to question it."

The benefits of WorldLink are multifaceted. Mentoring friendships have been formed between students and returning speakers such as Robert Hitchcock, dean of anthropology at Michigan State University, who spoke this year on countering terrorism through poverty alleviation, social justice, human rights and religious tolerance. Students grow not only through the educational component of the conference, but also through opportunities to serve as organizers, moderators and journalists. The lasting impact will be seen through the real-life contributions of WorldLink participants as they move into leadership positions in the city, the region and the world.

"It is important for students to learn about the topics going on right now," Osuna declared, "as we are the generation that someday will run the country. It is good to be as informed as possible so we can make a positive effect on the world."

IPJ COUNTRY BRIEFINGS

NEPAL PROJECT BUILDS CAPACITY FOR DEMOCRACY



IPJ Interim Director Dee Aker with rural women's radio listening group

The IPJ Nepal Project is one of the longest-running institute programs, commencing with the institute's dedicatory conference in 2001. After that conference, the institute accepted the invitation of Nepal delegates to partner with Nepalese to work toward peace and democracy. That work – through negotiations training, intergroup dialogue and radio programming – has grown over the years.

In July 2006, the IPJ team of Interim Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Laura Taylor returned to Nepal for the IPJ's final summit of a four-part in-country program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which administers U.S. foreign assistance programs providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide. The "Democratic Essentials Summit: Cross-sector Communication, Negotiation and Collaboration" advanced personal negotiation skills and explored ideas that can prepare diverse constituencies for democratic participation. Joining the institute to assist in the facilitation of the summit were: the Honorable Annette Mukabera, the youngest woman elected to the Parliament of Uganda in 2001; Shobha Shrestha, program officer of SAP-Nepal, the institute's Nepalese partner organization; and Eric Henry and Gardner Heaton of CMPartners.

"Voices from the Countryside" were shared through brief audio segments recorded by the institute's other in-country partner, Equal Access. The audio collages addressed inclusion of Dalits, or untouchables, single women and youth in democratic planning. A highlight of the summit was the Nepal debut of "Leading the Way to Peace," a documentary film on the personal stories of courage, achievement and hope of the 2004 IPJ Women PeaceMakers. The film had been voiced over in Nepali and will be shown throughout Nepal. Participants in the summit commented that the event enabled diverse groups to have a voice and expanded their networks and contacts.

The IPJ Nepal Project included the production, in partnership with SAP-Nepal and Equal Access, of six IPJ Peace Radio Project segments on negotiation techniques, communication skills, women victims' rights and experiences, nongovernmental organizations' contribution to the peace process, the role of emerging leaders in Nepalese society, and a five-year

reflection on the prospects for sustainable peace in Nepal.

A five-day evaluation was conducted by external evaluators to assess the effectiveness of the year-long project in increasing the knowledge of and skills needed to promote conflict resolution, negotiations, peacebuilding and democratic development.

At USD, the IPJ Nepal Project has also had a strong presence. Through a teleconferenced encounter with political and civil society representatives at a briefing in June 2006, IPJ Leadership Circle members and donors to the IPJ Nepal Project were able to hear directly from and ask questions of Nepalese leaders active in the transition after the king stepped down. Minendra Rijal, spokesperson for the Nepali Congress-Democratic Party, and SAP-Nepal's Shrestha shared first-hand accounts and analysis from political and civil society perspectives, respectively.

“At the end of the day, the most important thing that has to happen is an election in an environment free of fear and intimidation so that the people of Nepal can vote their conscience as to what type of constitution they want.”

MINENDRA RIJAL, SPOKESPERSON FOR THE NEPALI CONGRESS-DEMOCRATIC PARTY

In August 2006, Santosh Shah, a Nepalese youth activist and journalist, visited the institute to present a political analysis of Nepal and discuss the role of emerging leaders in shaping the budding Nepalese democracy. As Nepal's party leaders age, the future of the country's democracy may rest with these younger leaders.

In October 2006, at the institute's international working conference, "Who's Making Policy? What Difference Does It Make?" Shrestha presented a workshop of practical recommendations for controlling small arms. When she returned to Nepal, Shrestha continued to facilitate Peace Forums and informal dialogue among participants in previous IPJ programs.

With assistance from IPJ Leadership Circle member donors, Aker and Taylor returned to Nepal in April to work with the interim government, convene roundtables to explore how the government may move forward on planning elections for the constituent assembly and assess how the institute can assist in the future. On May 10, they presented a Daylight Series report to 75 USD students, faculty, staff and community members on the progress of the peace process and the impact of IPJ radio programs in Nepal.

Although democracy is returning to Nepal, there are many challenges: constituent assembly elections; inclusion of diverse segments of Nepalese society in government; the re-emergence of the Maoists as a political party; and the development of integrated security forces. The institute's continued work with Nepalese partners to pursue their dream of peace and democracy is contingent on finding new funding sources.



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IPJ MISSION

Cultivating Peace, Fostering 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. The IPJ draws upon Catholic social teaching that sees peace as inseparable from justice and acts to prevent and resolve conflicts that threaten local, national and international peace.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

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

5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492
Phone: (619) 260-7509
Fax: (619) 260-7570
ipj@sandiego.edu

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President, University of San Diego
Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D.

Provost, University of San Diego
Julie Sullivan, Ph.D.

Executive Director
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice
Joyce Neu, Ph.D.

Editor, Peace & Justice Compass
Diana Kutlow, M.A. dkutlow@sandiego.edu

Design
Buchanan Design, San Diego

PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

By IPJ Interim Director Dee Aker



“All human beings have this burden in life to constantly figure out what’s true, what’s authentic, what’s meaningful, what’s dross, what’s a hallucination, what’s a figment, what’s madness,” novelist Maxine Hong Kingston once told Bill Moyers, journalist and seeker of human truths. The onus assumed by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, as I see it, is to bring voices of experience with their truths to our community of scholars, students and concerned citizens so we might enhance our searches for what is true and worthy of our attention, and find a way to act for what is just.

In the last six months, the IPJ has welcomed many who called us to look at what is true in this world — their world, our world. Shirin Ebadi addressed nearly 2,000 people at USD, illustrating the profound cost to human rights and human dignity promulgated by self-interests, instead of principled ones, in international and state policies. Rebecca Okwaci, IPJ Woman PeaceMaker from Sudan, painted vivid pictures for us of that country’s path, and her own, through horrific pain in the search for peace with justice.

When high school junior Zealan Hoover opened the 10th annual WorldLink Youth Town Meeting on different facets of counterterrorism and torture, he too said it was important to distinguish what is essential from what is superficial. He called on the 700 high school participants from the border region and beyond to go out and act on what they found to be true.

“You will hear from experts explaining their views on some of our most pressing problems,” Hoover said at the morning plenary. “I urge you to agree or disagree and to propose ways we can work together to solve problems. We are all one — be it good or bad, what affects one of us will ultimately affect us all, so we must work together to ensure that the right choices are made.”

Working with a wide variety of stakeholders in Nepal’s future, it is clear that a greater truth lies in an inclusive vision held by many groups in civil society. Intimidation and force are weapons forged by blind faith to an identity that rejects our common truths and by self-interests that ignore our common humanity. If groups only stand for their own self-interests, i.e., women for women, Dalits for Dalits, each ethnic or regional group for only that ethnic or regional group, then a new Nepal will not emerge. Paths to peace with justice lie beyond identity politics of party, caste or ethnicity. They are built on the truth that both social justice and democracy should speak to the rights of all.

At press time, the University of San Diego named Father William Headley as the founding dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, opening Fall 2007. His appointment is one of the most important in recent university history. We are pleased and honored to welcome Father Headley. There will be more information on Father Headley in the next issue of the “Peace & Justice Compass,” or go to www.sandiego.edu and click on News & Events.

FOCUS ON IRAQ AT INSTITUTE

On May 3, Dana Eyre, Ph.D., former senior advisor to the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Mission in Iraq, spoke on “Prospects for Peace, Consequences of War: Iraq Four Years On.” Eyre was more pessimistic than in the past about the chances for a solution to the conflict. Nonetheless, he offered that it may yet be possible to forge a “long, thin success chain,” explaining that under General David Petraeus, the U.S. is holding back-channel talks with some of the Sunni opposition, leading to a slim hope that “islands of success” can be established. Said Eyre, “Part of what gives me just a little bit of hope ... is some of those elements are coming forward ... Not necessarily the senior guys in the former regime, but some of the Sunni rejectionist elements are talking with us.”



Dana Eyre on Iraq

IPJ INSIDER

NOBEL LAUREATE OPENS JOAN B. KROC DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Peace laureate, the Iranian lawyer, human rights activist and author, spoke on “Iran Awakening: Human Rights, Women and Islam” at USD’s Jenny Craig Pavilion before an audience of 1,800 people on Sept. 7, 2006. Ebadi, who spoke in Farsi with English interpretation by Banafsheh Keynoush, was the year’s first speaker in the institute’s Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series. The event also launched the USD School of Law’s Jane Ellen Bergman Memorial Lecture Series on Women, Children and Human Rights. While Ebadi took her own government to task for failing to protect the rights of women and children as specified in the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, she also insisted that change in Iran needs to come from within, warning that pressure from the United States can actually strengthen repressive governments by playing to nationalist loyalties.

On April 12, The Honorable Gareth Evans, President and CEO of the International Crisis Group, closed the series with a talk on “Preventing Mass Atrocities: Making ‘Never Again’ a Reality.” Evans, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, outlined steps the international community, nations and individuals must take to prevent genocide and other mass atrocities from taking place while the concept of national sovereignty protects governments and rebel groups that commit such human rights violations and war crimes.

A panel on “Women, War and Peace: The Politics of Peacebuilding” (see page 8) on Oct. 18, 2006, rounded out the 2006-2007 series, which focused on global security through human dignity. For transcripts of Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series events, including speaker biographies, interviews and related resources for further reading, go to <http://peace.sandiego.edu> and click on Programs and Distinguished Lecture Series.



Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi advocates for children's rights

John Prendergast speaks on Sudan



OGADEN CONFERENCE DRAWS DIASPORA



Audience members at Ogaden Conference

In September 2006, the IPJ and Ogaden Voice for Peace co-convened a conference on “Working Towards Lasting Peace in the Ogaden.” The public event examined the current political and humanitarian situation in the Ogaden — a disputed region in eastern Ethiopia. Ambassador Herman Cohen, a retired diplomat who is president of Cohen and Woods International, a consulting firm working with international businesses in Africa, analyzed U.S. policies in the Horn of Africa. Other speakers addressed refugee issues, human rights concerns, the role of women in governance, democratization, conflict resolution in the region and the historical context of the conflict.

PROVOST HOSTS JOHN PRENDERGAST ON SUDAN

John Prendergast, special adviser to the president of the International Crisis Group and an expert on conflict in Africa, spoke at the IPJ in January at the invitation of USD Provost Julie Sullivan. His presentation supported the university’s goal of being a powerful advocate for social justice and human rights and providing students and faculty with an understanding of international issues.

Prendergast urged the audience to push the U.S. government to support peacekeeping efforts in Darfur and increase pressure on the Sudanese government to stop the ongoing genocide in the region, which has led to between 150,000 and 450,000 deaths and displaced more than 3 million people. Activists in the Save Darfur campaign were empowered by Prendergast’s comments on the importance of grassroots lobbying, including letter writing to Congress and the media. “The phrase ‘Never Again’ should be banned from international discourse until we act,” admonished Prendergast. “We have desecrated the Genocide Convention, which the U.S. has signed,” Prendergast explained, “but the U.S. has not imposed one punitive measure.” He went on to list specific steps that could be taken to force the government of Sudan to change their policies, including targeted sanctions, the seizure of assets and indictments by the International Criminal Court.

ALLIANCE FOR PEACEBUILDING

IPJ Program Officer Diana Kutlow represented the institute at the Alliance for Peacebuilding annual retreat in October 2006 in Delaware. The Alliance for Peacebuilding (www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org) is a coalition of diverse organizations working together to build sustainable peace and security worldwide. The retreat examined ways in which alliance members can collaborate with each other and with outside organizations to increase the efficacy of their peacebuilding activities.

SOCIAL ISSUES CONFERENCE TACKLES AIDS IN AFRICA

“HIV/AIDS prevention and conflict prevention ... are the two blades of the scissors required to cut the strangler’s cord choking Africa,” according to the International Crisis Group.¹ A panel co-sponsored by the institute at the 17th annual Social Issues Conference, organized by the Social Issues Committee, offered an example of the challenges involved in combating HIV and AIDS in countries recently emerging from conflict. Mona Lydon-Rochelle, Ph.D., MPH, CNM, associate professor of nursing at the University of Washington, Seattle, spoke about her recent work in Liberia training health workers.

Audience members learned the disheartening statistics concerning AIDS and other communicable diseases, and the way in which these are exacerbated by dramatic inequality and poverty. They also heard about the resiliency and energy displayed by the health workers. Lydon-Rochelle described the tenuous yet palpable sense of hope among her Liberian colleagues as their country emerges from the wars of the 1990s and President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf steers the country through post-war reconstruction.

Following Lydon-Rochelle’s presentation, panelist and USD student Justin Chung described ways to respond to the AIDS pandemic. Chung is active in FaceAIDS, the campus organization raising funds and awareness to combat AIDS.

¹“HIV/AIDS as a Security Issue in Africa: Lessons from Uganda. Executive Summary and Recommendations,” *International Crisis Group*, 16 April 2004. *ICG Issues Report No. 3*, page 1.



Sister of Charity at health clinic in Liberia (courtesy of Mona Lydon-Rochelle)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY OFFICERS MEET AT IPJ

For the fourth year, in February 2007, the IPJ welcomed military officers from Singapore, Bahrain, Ghana, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Portugal, Malaysia, Greece and Australia for a frank discussion on challenges they face in missions worldwide. The roundtable discussion took place at the beginning of the officers’ 10-week training program with their U.S. counterparts. Dee Aker facilitated the conversation on their experiences in the field and concerns about the backlash caused by perceptions of military abuse of human rights. The officers were also interested in gender dimensions of peacekeeping operations.



Erika Lopez speaks on child trafficking

INSTITUTE STAFF NEWS

Erika Lopez has joined the institute staff as program officer of the IPJ Women PeaceMakers Program, which is made possible by funding from the Fred J. Hansen Foundation. Lopez, a graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and proficient in German, French and Italian. She has extensive experience aiding asylum-seekers in the United States and has also worked in Brazil on the issue of human trafficking.

Event Assistant Lisa Anderson joined the institute staff in October to handle event logistics and outreach to the USD and San Diego communities. She is a graduate of the Arizona International College at the University of Arizona, is fluent in Japanese and has worked in Japan as an interpreter and translator.

IPJ DELEGATION PRESENTS AT UNITED NATIONS

As a nongovernmental organization with special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, the IPJ sent a delegation to the 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in New York in February 2007. At the CSW, representatives of member states gather at U.N. headquarters to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. This year, topics centered on the girl child and included gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, religious extremism, political and legal protection, and poverty as well as:

- Trafficking (1.2 million children annually)
- Sexual exploitation (1.8 million children annually)
- Child soldiers (300,000 girls and boys currently)
- Education (77 million not in school, 57 percent of those are girls)
- Female genital cutting (as many as 3 million girls annually)

At the CSW, the institute and the United Nations Association-San Diego co-convoked a parallel event, “No Excuses: Defending Women’s and Children’s Rights in Times of Terror.” Despite international tools and protocols on gender inclusion, when the debate turns to “security,” women and children, their rights and their contributions are often forgotten or ignored. The session highlighted grassroots and international examples of how people have advanced an agenda of rights and human security that includes women and children. At the United Nations, the IPJ launched the “Who’s Making Policy? What Difference Does it Make? Final Report” on the findings and outcomes of the 2006 Women PeaceMakers international working conference on gender-inclusive decision making for peace with justice. A review of the 51st Session of the CSW and the West Coast release of the final conference report drew 250 people to the annual International Women’s Day Celebration Breakfast at the institute on March 8, 2007.

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ANNING THE GLOBE



IPJ WOMEN PEACEMAKERS



2006 IPJ Women PeaceMakers (l-r) Kakar, Okwaci, Gashi, Kijevcanin.

2006 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS FACE TRANSITIONS

Four Women PeaceMakers – from Kosovo, Afghanistan, Serbia and Sudan – were in residence at the institute for eight weeks in Fall 2006. They took advantage of their time at the institute to reflect on and document their work as peacemakers through interviews, lectures, writing and film. They shared their successes, failures and dreams with the fellow peacemakers and the larger USD and San Diego communities. While at the institute, several of the peacemakers faced personal losses: the death of family members, deterioration of their country's security or uncertainty about their safety upon their return, yet they are now supported by their relationships with each other, the knowledge gained at the institute through interaction and self-reflection, and by the work of past Women PeaceMakers.

The IPJ Women PeaceMakers narratives, which were written by a Peace Writer assigned to each woman, are posted at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/programs/women.html>. They serve as models for other men and women working on building peace from within countries in conflict.

SHUKRIJE GASHI – KOSOVO

Shukrije Gashi, from Pristina, Kosovo, is director of Partners Center for Conflict Management Kosova, working within local communities to resolve disputes and build consensus on issues affecting civil society. After leaving San Diego, Gashi spent a week in Albania at the Kosovo School for European Integration. The U.N. Security Council will vote later this year on internationally-supervised independence for the region and the results of that vote, along with the reactions by Kosovo and Serbia, will greatly impact Gashi's work.

PALWASHA KAKAR – AFGHANISTAN

Palwasha Kakar returned to Jalalabad where she is program manager in the Eastern Regional Office of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. With the assassination of Dr. Safia Amajan of the women's affairs ministry in Kandahar in October and the continued violence and repression in the country, Palwasha's work and life remain difficult and dangerous. She stands out, however, as a model for women in her country, according to Chancellor Hamidzai of Nangarhar University in Jalalabad, who recently visited USD.

SVETLANA KIJEVCANIN – SERBIA

As manager of the Bachelor of Education in Community Youth Work Studies for the Swedish NGO Forum Syd Balkans Programme, Kijevcanin watched her inaugural class graduate in February. Her other contributions to a culture of peace include a recent performance with her theater group at an international festival on theater in education in Mostar, Bosnia.

REBECCA JOSHUA OKWACI – SUDAN

Rebecca Joshua Okwaci, from southern Sudan, is a journalist by profession and the Secretary General of Women Action for Development (WAD). As an executive producer at the Sudan Radio Service, Okwaci produces programs appealing to women and contributes to programs educating citizens on the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005. Sporadic fighting between former Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) rebels and the government continues, including in her hometown of Malakal. Okwaci is conducting seminars for WAD on combating violence against women in southern Sudan.

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS CONFERENCE: "WHO'S MAKING POLICY? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?"

In October 2006, as part of the Women PeaceMakers Program, sponsored by the Fred J. Hansen Foundation, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) co-convened an international working conference on gender-inclusive policymaking. The conference, "Who's Making Policy? What Difference Does It Make?" followed the 2005 "Global Women's Court of Accountability" and 2004 conference on the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and reconstruction.

As Dee Aker writes in the foreword of the conference report (<http://peace.sandiego.edu/reports/conference.html>), "Rampant exclusion of women from the bodies charged with the responsibility to protect and to address the root causes of our current continuum of global violence and conflict is undeniable ... Indeed, quests for accountability, prevention and peace require voices from the damaged communities be included if there are to be genuine transitions to peace with justice for those long entangled in nets of brutality. In the four decades since the first U.N. Conference on Women, it has become ever clearer that women remain caught in a cycle of human rights violations. They are targeted during conflicts and suffer post-war abuse. They seldom have adequate or lasting redress to change their environments at any point."

At the conference, scholars, practitioners and students from diverse sectors of society were asked how to further cultivate the gender-inclusive successes they are observing, as well as how to overcome the roadblocks they are encountering. The intent was to examine inclusion more closely and across a wider range of powerbrokers.

The conference, attended by men and women from 32 countries, addressed many questions in panels and working sessions: How effective are gender quotas in enabling women to influence public decision making to promote gender equality? How can peacekeeping processes put an end to the impunity with which sexual violence is used as

a means of prosecuting warfare? How can civilian control over the military be asserted in security sector reform processes so that security institutions understand their role to include making public and private life safe for women?

Miria Matembe, former government minister and 15-year member of the Ugandan parliament, discussed the work of women in her country to successfully create a national constitution that enshrines gender equality and the rights of women. However, while the existence of such language is critical to advancing inclusiveness, it is only the beginning. Women in Uganda continue to face challenges to the passage of equitable laws and policies related to land reform, domestic violence and a host of other issues, again illustrating the necessity for action and implementation of national and international resolutions if women are to truly serve as equals in the quest for peace and development.



Irene Santiago speaks at the Women PeaceMakers Conference



Conference delegates from around the world

The conference opened with a Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series panel, “Women, War and Peace: Politics in Peacebuilding,” in which three women leaders, from Africa, Asia and Latin America, examined the inclusion of women in peacebuilding and policymaking.

Irene Santiago, senior adviser to the presidential adviser on the peace process in the Philippines and chair of the Mindanao Commission on Women, recalled her experiences at the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and recognized that, in spite of the promise of that event, political power still rests predominantly in the hands of men.

Alma Viviana Pérez, consultant to the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and professor at the Universidad Externado de Colombia, discussed the momentum generated at Beijing and the subsequent passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000. Pérez noted, “It’s time for all men and women to start implementation of the spirit of 1325 at home — in your country, your region, your neighborhood.”

2004 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS GARNER AWARDS

Christiana Thorpe, 2004 IPJ Woman PeaceMaker from Sierra Leone, received the 2006 Voices of Courage Award from the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an affiliate of the International Rescue Committee. Thorpe has worked for decades to improve access to education for children, in spite of war and, in part, to counter conflict in her home country. She was Sierra Leone’s first woman deputy minister of education and was appointed by Sierra Leone’s president to serve as the National Electoral Commissioner for the 2007 presidential elections.

2004 IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Luz Méndez was given the Gruber Foundation’s 2006 Women’s Rights Prize, along with the Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (UNAMG), one of the oldest women’s rights organizations in Guatemala. Méndez is currently president of the Advisory Council to UNAMG. The prize committee cited Méndez and UNAMG for their “tireless work in ensuring women’s leadership in peace-building and equitable political participation in Guatemala.”



REVERSING THE RIPPLES OF WAR

“Reversing the Ripples of War,” a film about the 2005 Women PeaceMakers, premiered March 27 at the institute. Produced by Sun & Moon Vision Productions, the 20-minute DVD is available for purchase by educational and community organizations and individuals. To order, go to www.sunandmoonvision.org.

IPJ GLOBAL NETWORK

USD PEACE & JUSTICE GRADUATES BUILDING PEACE

Markella-Eleonora Mantika, M.A. 2006, from Athens, Greece, participated in the 2006 International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) in Costa Rica last July, co-organized by the Peace Education Center of Teachers College, Columbia University and the U.N.-mandated University for Peace. Mantika presented a workshop, “Challenging ‘Moral Imagination’ in Cross-Cultural Peacebuilding,” looking at ways people can transcend violence and conflict to move toward an effective peacebuilding process.

Lisa Lungren, M.A. 2005, has been named program coordinator for Central and South America at the National Security Information Center in Washington, D.C. The nongovernmental organization partners with the ministries of education in various regions of the world to implement civic education programs for junior high students that focus on the rule of law.

Joseph Kioi Mbugua, M.A. 2004, works as a peacebuilding program officer at Security Research and Information Center (SRIC) based in Nairobi, Kenya, where he designs peacebuilding intervention strategies and implements those strategies on the ground. “We mostly work among the pastoralist groups of northern Kenya,” Mbugua reports. “We facilitate dialogue along the Kenya/Ethiopia border and train district-based peacebuilding committees.” Mbugua intends to compile and document his experiences focusing on the interface between traditional peacebuilding mechanisms and formal or modern peacebuilding praxis.

Kenyan Peter Mumu Gathuru, M.A. 2003, was in Uganda recently, attending a “Civil Societies Consultative Workshop on the Need for Reconciliation in Uganda.” The workshop was organized by Makerere University’s Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and the Coalition of Reconciliation in Uganda. Gathuru was newly appointed as a conflict prevention project coordinator for the American Refugee Committee to work for Preventive Activities and Training That Work for At-Risk Youth (PATHWAY).



Alix Valenti and Mary Ann Arnado on monitoring mission

PAST INTERN JOINS WOMAN PEACEMAKER IN THE FIELD

Alix Valenti, a 2005 IPJ intern, traveled to Mindanao, the Philippines, in 2006 to assist IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Mary Ann Arnado in monitoring a tenuous ceasefire between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Philippine army. The experience was a completely different type of education for Alix, who writes, “In the first few missions I was trying to scan my surroundings, trying to figure out who these people were and how I could get to know them. This time I did not think — I talked, acted and laughed as though we had known each other for a long time. I did my job on the field as though there was no one else there with me, oblivious to other people’s looks, unaware of myself, just being a peacemaker. And it worked! ...They sensed, felt and saw that I was there not just for them but with them, and it made all the difference!”



Judy Kamanyi (c) chairs policing panel

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ugandan Judy Kamanyi, M.A. 2003, chaired a session in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2006 on “Policing in Post-Conflict Societies,” with presentations by teams from Sierra Leone and Liberia. Kamanyi states that Liberia faces enormous challenges with the de-activation of more than 2,000 police officers at the end of the conflict there. The United Nations is assisting in restructuring the police force of Liberia to be consistent with democratic policing, with technical assistance from Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Kamanyi also took part in a three-day dialogue on conflict and peacebuilding in East Africa with participants from Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The dialogue took place in Arusha, Tanzania, where the group visited the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). After the court’s president and registrar briefed them on prosecuting Rwanda genocide perpetrators, Kamanyi sat in the witness gallery at the ICTR and listened to the presentation of evidence for the defense in the case against Ms. Pauline Nyaramasuhuko, et al for the massacre that took place in Butare. Nyaramasuhuko was a former minister and one of the few women indicted.

“While we were waiting to enter the gallery, the accused and the witnesses passed in front of us and I was overcome with emotion,” Kamanyi recalls. “I suddenly felt so sad, really sad. As the peace talks progress in Juba between the Lord’s Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda, I asked myself, ‘Where will [Joseph] Kony [indicted leader of the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army] be tried?’ To the best of my knowledge, nobody is discussing this yet. All the talk is on arresting him and his top commanders.”

IPJ INTERNS LEARN AND CONTRIBUTE

The IPJ Summer 2006 interns made their end-of-semester presentations in August 2006. The four interns were each assigned to various IPJ projects.

Catherine Quizon, a 2006 graduate of USD's International Relations master's program, reported on the 2006 Women PeaceMakers and the conflicts they have been working to end. Quizon detailed the history of Yugoslavia's disintegration as well as current conflict and peace processes in Sudan and Afghanistan, where the Women PeaceMakers have been working to help heal their respective country's wounds.

“One of the Women PeaceMakers Program’s strengths is that it shows that women are not only victims of war but are also a force for peace.”

CATHERINE QUIZON

Vassar College senior Maya Lau has traveled to Morocco and South Africa, and was assigned to assist Executive Director Joyce Neu in the IPJ's work on peace negotiations in Uganda. Lau spoke of the difficulties of piecing together the truth from conflicting accounts, especially when sources are government-run newspapers. Lau also assisted with publicity for the 2006 Women PeaceMakers Conference.

Ursula Götz, from Germany, assisted Dee Aker and Laura Taylor with the Nepal Project, tracking events for their work in Nepal. Discussing the long-term prospects for substantive change in the country, Götz expressed cautious optimism for the “people’s movement” that is currently “giving birth to a new democracy.” Comparing revolution to the demolition of a house, she pointed out that “the question is whether they can stay united in building something new.”

Lydia Strunk, who graduated from USD in May 2006, used her political science bachelor's degree and gender studies minor to help organize the 2006 Women PeaceMakers Conference. Strunk affirmed the importance of the conference's message, saying that “you can't just look at the numbers, you have to look at the impact women are having on policy.”

Interns Lydia Strunk and Maya Lau prepare presentations



FALL 2006 INTERNS BROUGHT INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUNDS

Michelle Takagishi-Almeida earned her B.A. in international studies with a minor in conflict resolution from the University of California, Irvine. She has studied and travelled in France and Spain.

Morgan Cosby graduated in December 2006 from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego with a B.A. in international development studies. Morgan was International Development Studies Student of the Year 2005-2006 at PLNU and spent the summer of 2006 studying Spanish in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala.

Jennifer Rhodes graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in international relations from USD. She is now a staffer in California Assembly member Lori Saldaña's San Diego office.

Marilyn Shapley graduated in December 2006 from University of California, San Diego's Sixth College with a B.A. in international studies. She came to the IPJ after spending a year studying at American University in Cairo.



IPJ Fall Interns

VOICES OF WORLDLINK YOUTH

“At this pivotal point in the history of our world, we need to focus on new and relevant ways to find solutions to providing safety.”

“Students have a voice — we are able to make a difference by educating others, taking a stand and participating.”

“Change and understanding can’t be forced or imposed on people, but education, exchange and dialogue allow positive change.”

“I did more than learn. This conference makes you ponder.”

“Different religions can peacefully coexist yet still stay true to themselves if we learn to listen to each other.”

“Change is in our hands.”



WorldLink students gather in IPJ rotunda



WorldLink Student Moderator
Zealan Hoover greets speakers

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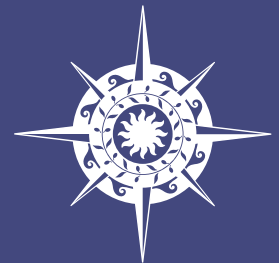
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Advisor, Center for Strategic and
International Studies



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

5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492
Phone: (619) 260-7509
Fax: (619) 260-7570
<http://peace.sandiego.edu>