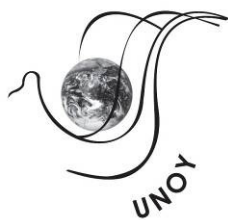


**Peace It Together NEWS**  
**The Monthly Newsletter of UNOY Peacebuilders**  
**Number 49 – June 2009**



**SUMMARY**

1. Message from the Editor
2. Campaign News
3. Network News
4. Highlighted Resources
5. Opportunities and Events

**1. MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

**Dear friends,**

Welcome to the June edition of 'The Peace It Together News! The newsletter includes an introduction to UNOY Peacebuilders' new ISG members as well as greetings from both new and former ISG members. In addition, we provide you with an update of our latest activities, which includes an event with the grandson of Gandhi, organised with three other organisations in The Netherlands. This year marks the 20th anniversary of UNOY Peacebuilders, and we are currently looking for contributors to our anniversary publication. Please help us reach out to a large number of former interns and training participants by forwarding this email to people you are still in touch with!

Once again I hope that you will enjoy reading, and do not hesitate to send articles for inclusion, or any comments about the newsletter to [campaign@unoy.org](mailto:campaign@unoy.org).

Peaceful regards,  
Lillian Solheim  
Editor

**2. CAMPAIGN NEWS**

**2.1 Introduction of new UNOY Peacebuilders International Steering Group Members**

Three new ISG members were selected by the International Steering Group to replace the outgoing ISG members. We would like to welcome Nikki, Mohamed and Hovhannes to the International Steering Group and wish them the best of luck for their two-year term.



**Nikki Al Ben Santos Delfin**

was born in Tuguegarao City, Philippines. He has a BA in Social Sciences major in Political Science and Sociology from the University of the Philippines. He is currently working for the Gaston Zaballa Ortigas Peace

Institute that founded the Generation Peace Youth Network (GenPeace). GenPeace is a broad network of peace and human rights organizations engaged in a youth-led advocacy towards a just and lasting peace. Its main goal is to promote youth participation in peacebuilding. He is also involved in disarmament

initiatives and is a steering committee member of the Philippine Action Network on Small Arms that work towards an international treaty on arms transfers. He coordinates the Philippine Campaign against Cluster Munitions, a member of Cluster Munitions Coalition. Apart from taking part in disarmament initiatives, Nikki also handles peace and human rights education workshops for youth leaders in the Philippines.



**Mohamed Sillah Sesay**

has contributed immensely towards promoting the participation of Sierra Leone and African Young People in decision making process; currently serving in the capacity as the National

Coordinator of the Young Leaders of Sierra Leone Network; an alliance of Sierra Leonean Young Professionals at home and in the Diaspora all towards grooming ourselves for the future leadership of Sierra Leone ([www.youngleaders.saloneyouth.net](http://www.youngleaders.saloneyouth.net)) and consulting on youth issues for The Ministry of Education Youth and Sports and UNFPA in Sierra Leone. Over the past years he has participated and contributed to several international workshops and conferences. He has also received several awards such as the International Extra Mile Award that was presented to him by the Youth Crime Watch of America in Miami Florida and the 2006 National Children of Excellence Award that was presented to him by the Minister of Social Welfare Gender and Children's affairs for his invaluable and excellence service towards promoting the activities of the Children of Sierra Leone. Mohamed studied Peace and Community Development Studies.



**Hovhannes Jonas Grigoryan**

holds a MA in Sociology from Yerevan State University, where he is currently working towards his PhD on ethnic communication while teaching at the Faculty of Sociology. Hovhannes is a Co-Founder and Co-President of

YERITAC ([www.yeriac-am.org](http://www.yeriac-am.org)) – an Armenian youth organization, actively involved in local and international youth projects in the spheres of democracy, youth participation, peacebuilding, health protection, research and analysis, international communication and capacity building. So far, in the framework of YERITAC, Hovhannes has participated in around 20 trainings, seminars, and other youth events on numerous topics including peacebuilding and advocacy all around Europe. Since 2007 YERITAC is also an active member of UNOY Peacebuilders, its members have participated in a number of events, organized by UNOY, in addition YERITAC hosted a partnership project feasibility visit in Yerevan, Armenia in November 2008. Apart from teaching and leading an NGO, Hovhannes is also

deeply involved in the social surveys and researches and leads a group of young research managers, working under the trademark of IPSC (www.ipsc.am).

## 2.2 Messages from International Steering Group Members

Below are messages from some of our new and former ISG members. Please also refer to the May edition of the newsletter for additional messages.

I felt inspired to serve as a member of the ISG Team; indeed it is a pleasure for me to serve in this capacity as a young dynamic youth leader who has worked immensely towards promoting peace, love, tolerance and understanding among the young people of Africa and the World at Large. With my inspiring ideas and commitment, I promise to translate them into reality as I am already working for change in my community. With the newly selected ISG team, I have the strong belief that now is the time for sustainable peace and development to prevail on earth and if we are to achieve this, we must galvanize our effort as Young Peacebuilders by sensitizing the young people of our world to know what it means to live in peace and grow in peace so that the generation yet unborn will live and grow in a peaceful and developed world, a world where violence and war will cease to be acceptable. My question to you all is: "Isn't it time to tap the power of young Peacebuilders"? However, we the newly selected members of the ISG team, would like to pledge our readiness to promote the activities of UNOY and its member organizations.

In Peace,

Mohamed Sillah Sesay, Young Leaders,  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

It is a great honor for me to be selected as a member of International Steering Group (ISG) in 2009! My previous experience working within UNOY Peacebuilders, through the participation and organization of events showed me how crucial their role in educating young people is, what peace means, and how to deal with it properly. Unfortunately, the region I am coming from, Caucasus, is indeed a bunch of unresolved conflicts – ethnic, territorial, identity, political and many others. For my years spent in youth work I understood the unique role young people can play in resolving many conflicts – first of all by the open-minded outlook and the irresistible will to change things for the better. One of the most important conditions for peace is dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, which the young people are most eager to show in their communications. The great work UNOY Peacebuilders are doing apart from all is that they are creating a platform for this communication to take place, which increases the chances for peace to be established, peace through mutual interactions and inter-beneficial dialogue. Indeed, it is my pleasure to be a member of a decisive body of such an inspiring team with such a motivation to make things better. However, this is the exact case,

when the pleasure is also responsibility – and I will do my best to contribute to the common mission and common vision, so that in two years time I can be as proud of my membership in ISG as now I am to be selected to be there.

Good luck and peace to you all,  
Hovhannes Jonas Grigoryan  
YERITAC, Co-president (Armenia)

Finally, we bring to you a message from the former ISG member:

I would like to begin with saying thanks to the whole team for the fruitful work we have done for the network during those two years. First of all, being an ISG member was a great chance for me to learn, share my experience, realize myself and make efforts for joint initiatives. I have been an ISG member for two years and I have to say that it was really important for me to be involved in the work of the group, because I could learn a lot and I could consider different approaches of other members and finally, have contribution to the strategy development of the network. I appreciate the meetings we had twice, which enabled me, and I am sure, the other members to get to know each other and lay in this way the foundation for working relationships between the International Secretariat and the ISG itself. I think that especially in November 2008 we faced a challenging task: we had several important issues to agree upon and make a decision that should be beneficial for every member organization. This is a 'good-bye' message but of course, I don't say good-bye, since I will continue my work, if not within the ISG, at least in other activities initiated by the network. Now I am a former ISG member but if necessary, I will always devote myself to the work of this structure and keep in touch with all my friends I gained due to the ISG, which is most valuable!! I wish the new ISG members success in their further endeavors and let's always keep in mind that if every time each of us puts a stone on the foundation that has already been laid, then we will have real peace at the end, which we all want to achieve.

Armine Sadikyan, Helsinki Citizen Assembly  
Vanadzor, Armenia

## 3. NETWORK NEWS

### 3.1 Grandson of Gandhi visits The Hague (By Nebil Kusmallah)



On the 22nd of May 2009, the grandson of late Mahatma Gandhi, participated in a joint event organised by UNOY Peacebuilders and three other youth Peace and Human Rights organisations based in The Hague. The partner organisations were the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), the Global Human rights Defense (GHRD) and Culture Clash 4 You (CC4U).

The events started with a solemn opening which was marked with speeches and a ceremonial laying of flowers at the Statue of Mahatma Gandhi. After a short opening by a representative of GHRD on behalf of all Peace and Human Rights Organisations present, the Indian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Manbir Singh gave a speech. The Ambassador commemorated the importance of Mahatma Gandhi for the historical developments of India and his inspiration for all other communities in the Netherlands, and world-wide. The elected counsellor of the municipality of The Hague Mr. Baldewsingh welcomed Mr. Arun Gandhi to the International City of Peace and Justice and reflected on the historical role the city played in Europe as the city of Peace with its peace palace and the multicultural society that currently resides here. Mr. Arun Gandhi referred back to his impressions of his grandfather as a determined, but nonviolent man with strong wisdom. He also noted it is not peace that we are seeking but understanding, respect and the ability to share our lives with each other in a non-violent manner in the **wider sense of the word.**

The events at the Gandhi statue provided the correct atmosphere for a peaceful march into the town centre, to the Nutshuis. Once there, about 100 young people from all nationalities and cultural background gathered. After a short opening speech and a play about the life of Mahatma Gandhi, the floor was given to Arun Gandhi.



The theme of the discussion was “Promoting a Culture of Non-Violence among Youth.” From the very beginning, participants expressed their enthusiasm

for a speech by Mr. Arun Gandhi. Mr. Gandhi started the session by giving a small demonstration, where he asked everyone to pair up and have one person make a fist while the other person attempted to pry it open. This was meant to show how violent people are, as the easiest thing would have been to ask the other person to open their fist, rather than use force to do it. He then explained how a ‘culture of violence’ is embedded in human nature. He posed a significant question: why our actions, traits, attitudes and general functioning are so connected to violence, and whether this link is innate? In answering the question, he contemplated two options ‘either to give up violence, or to give up peace’. He explained further that ‘nonviolence’ is a positive step towards a constructive peace. This was eloquently demonstrated by showing a link between love and nonviolence. As such a link has the potential to lead to a more positive attitude. He then explained how positive attitudes help people make better choices in their lives. Mr. Gandhi emphasized this point by referring to a saying of his grandfather; “life is not about going in a circle but it is about climbing up the ladder”. He pleaded for people to be better human beings, and reminded “civilization does not mean

living in a rich country; civilization is not only your relationship with your brothers and sisters; but with all of humanity.”

Mr. Gandhi’s discussion revolved mainly around the role of young people in combating the current culture of violence. And on several points he insisted we must give up facile labels based on categorisation. Instead focus on the label of human being alone and respect one another, he placed a lot of emphasis to the word “respect”. He contended that he does not like the word “tolerance” as tolerance involves certain attitudes of resistance and grudging acceptance of something existent, without any true embrace of the thing itself. Drawing from an encounter with his grandfather, Mr. Gandhi told a story about throwing out a ‘small pencil’ because he assumed his grandfather would simply buy him a new one, this illustrated how even small, unconscious acts perpetuate violence both against nature and against humanity. In the speech it was noted that we all are contributors to violence in one way or another. We perpetrate violence consciously or unconsciously by contributing and participating in its genealogy. He made a distinction between two types of violence: ‘physical violence’ where force is applied and is put into forms of war, rape, plunder; etc...; ‘passive violence’ where no force is applied, it is merely perpetuated through existing exploitative economic and/or political relationships. Mr. Gandhi concluded his speech by linking up physical and passive violence, wherein he suggested that a complex understanding of both types of violence is fundamental to the pursuit of peace. In doing so, however, he noted that it is important to ask the essential question: to what extent are we passively violent? Any peace must come from within us, arrived at by introspection. Finally, Mr. Gandhi noted young people should be more loving and responsible in order to transform the world for good, and achieve peace.

The next event that followed was a debate where participants argued either for or against a statement related to three key issues: “Media makes violence cool”; “You have the right to say anything even if it offends somebody”; and “Human rights are only for the rich and powerful”. The debate was organized in a discussion and Mr. Gandhi provided his opinion and feedback based on the views from the audience. At the end of the debate some of the opinions raised included: the issue of media is multifaceted and complex; we cannot simply blame the media for the existence of violence. The concept of violence and media is quite diverse in terms of defining/addressing it and dealing/implementing it. Secondly, freedom of speech brings with it an important element of responsibility. And responsibility should be acknowledged when looking at several issues within societies. Finally, it was noted that the concept of human right goes hand in hand with that of human dignity. And human dignity comes from within each

one of us to understand human rights. The event was closed with a social event and dance performance from India and Cameroon.

### 3.2 Civil Society in Peacebuilding (by Anika May)

That civil society has a major role to play in the establishment of a culture of peace was the major message of a lecture that a current board member of UNOY Peacebuilders held at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) in the beginning of May.

Anika May worked as a volunteer for UNOY Peacebuilders from the beginning of 2004 until the end of 2006. After some years of working with different development organisations Anika is now a lecturer at different faculties of UvA, where she teaches courses of various formats in the field of peace and conflict studies. 'Against the background of my practical experience, particularly my time with UNOY peacebuilders, I find it important to teach my students not only how to analyse the problems we face in this world with regard to conflicts, but also how to overcome them. I want them to understand that there is a lot that we can actually do, and that they themselves have a great potential to become active,' she says.

A theoretical part on the role of civil society in conflict and peacebuilding was followed by a presentation on the work of UNOY Peacebuilders, with particular emphasis on the activities of the Youth Advocacy Team. During her active volunteer period Anika has been part of this team twice, lobbying the Permanent Missions to the UN in New York on the decade of a Culture of Peace. She shared her impressions of this great learning experience, showed some pictures for illustration and also informed the students about other ongoing advocacy activities of UNOY Peacebuilders, to encourage them in finding their own potential field of action. On the basis of the very positive feedback of the students it was decided to include the lecture about UNOY Peacebuilders as a regular element in the course schedule of the Undergraduate course 'Introduction to conflict studies'.

### 3.3 Booklaunch: Seen, but Not Heard: Placing Children and Youth on the Security Governance Agenda (by Lillian Solheim)

A representative from UNOY Peacebuilders and UNOY member U Move 4 Peace participated to the book launch and debate in Brussels on 27th of April 2009. The book, *Seen, but Not Heard: Placing Children and Youth on the Security Governance Agenda*, is edited by David Nosworthy and published by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

*Why should children's security matter? The reality is that children, their families and their communities are first to be impacted by a lack of security. Children and youth may be seen everywhere, but they remain largely invisible on the security*

*agenda. And although the children and youth of today are tomorrow's leaders, their voices are generally not heard.*

Theodor H. Winkler, Director of DCAF in the foreword of 'Seen, but Not Heard'

Children and youth are, unfortunately, rarely taken into consideration when justice and security is restored in a post-conflict situation. The security agenda is often blind to children, with the exception of child soldiers. The aim of the book is to "provide a catalyst that will encourage a range of security sector actors to reflect on their role, and the responsibilities that this carries in terms of realising children's rights and integrating child protection principles into their work".



The book reviews the notion of security as a public good, how lack of security impacts on children and what role institutions and actors plays. A part of the book is also dedicated to children and youth affected by armed conflict from the perspective of security governance in post-conflict peacebuilding. The conclusion provides valuable recommendations to be considered by, amongst others, civil society and the international community. Some of the recommendations highlighted by the author were for the civil society to tackle social exclusion, install mechanisms for children to express themselves and establish mechanisms for dialogue with law enforcement agencies. International organisations should have programmes to promote youth as active participants in peacebuilding processes.

In the debate, child rights experts from UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee and EU officials discussed children and security issues. The importance of bringing children into the security debate not only as victims or witnesses, but as actors of change without being judgmental about their capacities was reiterated. It was also stressed that the development, security and human rights sector should be brought together to jointly improve the security of children and youth.

### 3.4. UNOY Peacebuilders' Fan Page on Facebook

UNOY Peacebuilders has its own page on Facebook!



The number of fans grew to over a hundred in one day. Currently there are more than 400 fans! Link up with other members, affiliates and friends of

UNOY Peacebuilders and stay updated on our activities!

### 3.5 Who Joined Us and Who Left?

**Chiara Gerlich**, from Austria has started her intern position at UNOY in May 2009. She holds a BA degree in Social Anthropology with French, obtained



from the University of Kent in Canterbury. Currently she is finishing her MSc degree in International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam, where she has focused on the broader field of Education and Conflict. For her thesis Chiara went on a three month fieldwork trip to Lebanon, to research the effects of peace education conducted by NGOs on the global governance of peace education, as well as the dynamic relationship between the NGOs there, the EU Commission as a donor and the local government. At UNOY her work will mainly involve preparations for the 2009 Summer School at Utrecht University.

**Angie Lai** was the Advocacy Officer working at UNOY Peacebuilders since late October, she also helped with the Info Desk as well as Asian Desk from time to time. We wish Angie good luck with her future endeavours!

#### 4. HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

##### 4.1 Seen, but Not Heard: Placing Children and Youth on the Security Governance Agenda



(Abstract) The restoration of justice and security is a priority of post-conflict peacebuilding, but children and youth – two groups especially impacted by armed conflict – are rarely considered in this process. This book provides a framework through which security provision can be made more relevant to the concerns of young people, and to reflecting

their needs and aspirations. Engaging children and youth constructively in the peacebuilding process has far-reaching implications for successfully establishing long-term stability. The publication explores the role and responsibility of the security sector in the protection of children, stressing the close link between public security, human rights, and social development. A special focus is placed on the central role that civil society has to play. The publication concludes with policy recommendations aimed at assisting decision-makers in integrating the security concerns and aspirations of children into programmatic responses. The book, *Seen, but Not Heard: Placing Children and Youth on the Security Governance Agenda*, is edited by David Nosworthy and published by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and can be downloaded here: <http://www.dcaf.ch/publications/kms/details.cfm?lng=en&id=95946&nav1=5>

#### 5. OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

##### 5.1 UNOY Peacebuilders 20 years!

2009 marks the 20th anniversary of UNOY Peacebuilders! We would like to highlight the history,

successes and achievements of the last two decades in a commemorative publication. The aim is to celebrate the anniversary, document the history and to highlight the efforts of the individuals who have shaped UNOY Peacebuilders. The publication will bring together the people who have contributed to building up UNOY Peacebuilders in the last 20 years. It will be a memory of the first two decades and something to make us proud of our achievements so far and inspire us to continue working for peace. The publication will not be a strict chronological book or a summary of all the projects implemented so far. Instead, it should bring in personal stories of the history of UNOY Peacebuilders and be a 'scrap-book' of our history highlights, pictures, letters, quotes and so forth!

We are therefore looking for people who would like to write a short article on their involvement with UNOY Peacebuilders. Is there a specific event that you remember? How have you benefitted from being involved with UNOY Peacebuilders? What makes UNOY Peacebuilders so unique? These questions could perhaps guide you in this process. Please take some time to write a little piece on your UNOY story, it can be anything from a quote you remember to a short account of a particular meeting or training that inspired you, or a specific skills that you obtained! Please include your name, country, relationship with UNOY (former intern, volunteer, member, board member etc) and year(s)/period of involvement, as well as a picture.

##### 5.2 Internship at UNOY Peacebuilders

UNOY Peacebuilders are looking for new interns! Please download the latest call for interns by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.unoy.org/downloads/vacancies.pdf>

##### SUPPORT UNOY PEACEBUILDERS

UNOY Peacebuilders needs your help to develop and grow in outreach and strength, either in terms of finances, materials or work. Your donation of any size will be used to train and enhance the capacity of young people to engage effectively in building peace.

You can financially contribute by making a deposit in our bank account: ABN-AMRO Bank; ACCOUNT: 55 40 70 294; IBAN: NL91ABNA0554070294; BIC: ABNANL2A

**TO SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE:** Send an email with "subscribe"/"unsubscribe" in the subject line to [campaign@unoy.org](mailto:campaign@unoy.org)  
Editor: Lillian Solheim, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, Laan van Meerdervoort 70, 2517 AN The Hague, The Netherlands Tel: +31 70 364 7799; Fax: +31 70 362 2633; E-mail: [campaign@unoy.org](mailto:campaign@unoy.org)

**This newsletter and the work of UNOY Peacebuilders is made possible with the support of:**



'Youth in Action' Programme



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

##### *Please note:*

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication /communication reflects the views only of the author, and the donors cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein