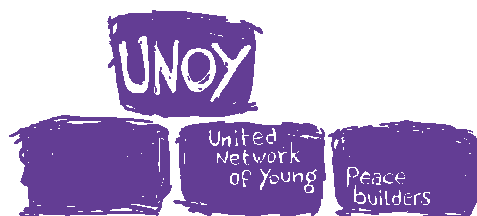


**Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise  
United Network of Young Peacebuilders**

# Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise Final Report

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## Introduction

In the project 'Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise' 10 to 15 youth/student teams from different cities in the Netherlands competed in researching the impact of the European development policies in (post) conflict countries, by means of a position paper. In addition, the competition included a problem analysis on the effect of violence on youth in certain (post-) conflict countries in the Global South. Each team consisted of 2 to 5 persons. They were assigned a (post-) conflict country in the Global South and were linked with a member organisation of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). With the assistance of a youth active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation in this partner organisation, they assessed the impact of EU development cooperation policies and of violence on this specific young person and on the general population in that country.

A team of experts and advisors chosen by UNOY Peacebuilders selected the best proposal consisting of an actor mapping, a problem analysis and a position paper including an advocacy strategy. The winning team together with their partner in the South won the opportunity to attend lobby and advocacy meeting in Brussels. There the winning team met EU representatives of the European Parliament and policy officers of the Director General working on Development Cooperation of the European Commission and presented their position paper to them.



During all the phases of the project, UNOY Peacebuilders provided input and support to the teams taking part in the competition by organising workshops in cities in the Netherlands on advocacy, conflict and actor mapping. UNOY Peacebuilders supported the winning team and the relevant partner from the South on their lobby mission in Brussels.

## Organiser



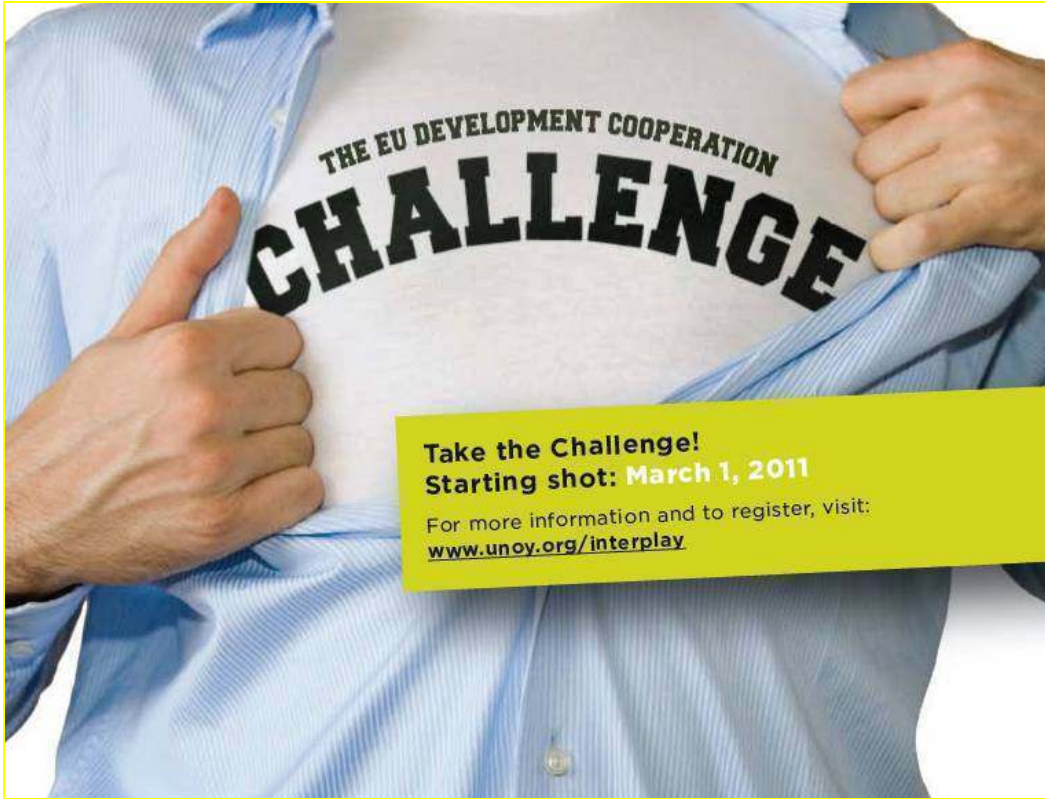
The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is a global network of 49 youth-led peace organisations and 300 young people, active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

The UNOY Peacebuilders as a network organisation contributes to the work of its members and affiliates in two fundamental ways: 'Capacity building' and 'Advocacy and Campaigning'. It also engages in a range of additional activities to support these two key functions: Networking; sharing of information; advice and support through a pool of resource persons; research; fundraising and administrative support.

Since its inception in 1989, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders has organised a series of international work group meetings, training seminars and regional/global conferences. In the past, a major focus has been on peacebuilding activities in Eastern Europe and Africa. The UNOY Peacebuilders has been actively campaigning for promoting the UN declared International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence (2001-2010) and is promoting the values and principles gathered in the Earth Charter, as a guiding ethical framework for action.

**Main donor:**





**Take the Challenge!**  
**Starting shot: March 1, 2011**

For more information and to register, visit:  
[www.unoy.org/interplay](http://www.unoy.org/interplay)

**Be part of our Interplay towards a policy making exercise!**

How much do you know about the European Union's development policies? Did you know that the EU is the largest donor of development aid in the world? Always up for a challenge? Do you love to do research?

Take part in the United Network of Young Peacebuilder's competition on the EU's development aid and its influence on one (post)conflict country in the South. Are you between 18 and 25? Gather your best friends and sign up as a team!

**Take the Challenge!**

For more information visit us on our website  
[www.unoy.org/interplay](http://www.unoy.org/interplay)  
or send an e-mail to: [training@unoy.org](mailto:training@unoy.org)

**Starting shot:**  
**March 1, 2011**

**The best team meets EU representatives in Brussels!!**

Not sure yet if you are fit for taking the challenge? Visit our workshops and learn more about conflict and actor mapping and about how to do advocacy.

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of  
**Young**  
Peacebuilders



## Background

UNOY Peacebuilders as an international network has a long history in supporting and linking youth from different parts of the world. In the past, different regions in Africa and Europe have been our primary focus. This has been due to the many violent conflicts that have been taking place there, as well as the resulting professional work that has been done to address social exclusion, poverty related violence and the democratic participation of youth. In addition, UNOY Peacebuilders has a long history of supporting youth in the Netherlands. Its Building Peace Skills training, the Summerschool program and the African Conference are capacity building activities directed at Dutch youth informing them about development and peacebuilding work done in the global South by young people. UNOY Peacebuilders led several youth advocacy missions to the UN and the EU as well as the Council of Europe. We believe youth can make a difference in their communities and in their local policies and governments. This is the overall message we wanted to send out to Dutch youth through this project.

There are often, sometimes very intense, discussions about development cooperation, be it in the media, in parliaments, on the European level or in the development cooperation sector itself. Most of the time, these discussions evolve around the question if development cooperation is helping or not. Those parts that are reaching the general public are often polemical and simplistic. Although the European Union is providing over 50% of developing aid worldwide<sup>1</sup> Dutch citizens pay little attention to the EU as development provider<sup>2</sup>. Thus, there is a need for Dutch citizens to be aware of the EU's development policies and of their effects on the populations of the countries in the South they are targeted at.

Therefore, UNOY Peacebuilders planned a project that would help enhance the understanding of the importance of development cooperation while acknowledging critics and shortcomings. The idea was that giving a realistic and multi-faceted approach to the issue of development cooperation at the European level would help strengthen support for development cooperation in general.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/consensus\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/consensus_en.cfm), accessed 11/01/2010

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ncdo.nl/Subsidie\\_aanvragen/Huidige\\_PRO\\_Actief](http://www.ncdo.nl/Subsidie_aanvragen/Huidige_PRO_Actief), accessed 11/01/2010

# Aim & Objectives

## Why this project?



There is little awareness among Dutch citizens about the fact that the European Union is the largest donor for development co-operation in the world. Thus, there is a need for Dutch citizens to learn more about the EU's development policies and of their effects on the populations of the countries in the South that they are targeted at. The

EU also uses development co-operation to support societies which face or have faced conflicts. As UNOY Peacebuilders is working for its vision of youth connected to build together a world in peace, justice, solidarity, human dignity and respect for nature, it is important for us to increase the awareness among Dutch youth about how development co-operation affects the people and especially the youth of the (post)conflict countries it is targeted at. By organising this project, we want to help empower youth's capacities in analysing issues like development co-operation and EU policies, in efficiently summarising and presenting research results and in advocacy and campaigning. This is important because we believe that you as youth can make a difference in your communities and in your local policies and governments.

## Overall aim

The project aims to give Dutch students and young people the opportunity to be involved in the field of development cooperation advocacy and get acquainted with the day to day reality of young people in the global South and how their lives are influenced by EU policies. In this way, the project aims at furthering the understanding of the importance of development cooperation with acknowledging critics and shortcomings.

## Objectives

1. Increase awareness and understanding of youth in the Netherlands on development cooperation and the European Union's policies for development.

2. Capacity building amongst Dutch students as well as students from the South on problem analyses, stakeholders analyses and setting up an advocacy and campaigning strategy in the field of development cooperation.
3. Build up and strengthen international partnerships between Dutch students and Youth from the South.
4. Provide understanding of development cooperation from a Northern as well as from a Southern perspective
5. Provide an understanding of the day to day lives of young people living in conflict affected countries in the global South and what development cooperation means to them.
6. Let Dutch students experience policy dialogue between an international youth NGO and parliament members and policy officers of the European Union, specifically the Director General of the European Union for development cooperation.
7. Informing Dutch students/youth about the work of the European Union for development cooperation and the realities of the project countries in the competition.

## **Methodology**

The main methodology used in the project was background research carried out by the student/youth teams. In the trainings that were offered in 7 different cities in the Netherlands, the participants had the opportunity to learn tools to present their research like problem overviews, actor mappings, problem analyses and position papers. These trainings also gave an introduction to advocacy work to help the participating youth to prepare for the visit to the EU representatives in Brussels.

The competition website served as a communication platform for the competition where participants were able to sign up to the project, where they could find background material and general information on the project as well as project guidelines.

The winning team, together with their partner from the South, conducted an advocacy visit to the EU representatives for development cooperation in Brussels to present the outcomes of the project.

## The challenge

*Take the challenge! Learn about EU's development policies in the South together with a youth living in the global South. Present your findings in a position paper and compete to win an advocacy visit to Brussels!*

### **Write a proposal including:**

- *A position paper of 2,000 to 2,500 words on the impact of the European Union's development policies on the country your team is assigned to.*
- *A short outreach strategy (500 words) where you explain how you will promote your results*

### **Criteria for proposal:**

- *The proposal should include a position paper including actor mapping and problem analysis, plus a short outreach strategy.*
- *The position paper should be between 2,000 to 2,500 words*
- *The outreach strategy should be no more than 500 words.*
- *The position paper should include an introduction of the team: Who are you? Why are you joining the competition?*
- *The position paper should include a background of the country and the (post) conflict situation, thereby focusing on one particular problematic issue youth in that country have to deal with, e.g. unemployment, violence, lack of education.*
- *The position paper should include a short overview of the day to day realities, related to that issue, of youth living in the (post)conflict country.*
- *The position paper should give an overview of what the EU has done so far. This should be linked to the issue/focus the team is looking into.*
- *The research should be based on relevant literature and publications.*
- *The position paper should include recommendations for policy-makers.*

### **What is a position paper?**

*A position paper is a way to present a position on an issue in a short and logical way. Position papers are used to convince decision-makers to take their decisions in favor of your position. For this purpose, you will provide background information on the cause and present your opinion and recommendations.*

### **What is an outreach strategy?**

*In an outreach strategy you will describe how you will disseminate and promote your research findings under the general public.*

### **Keep in mind:**

- *The position paper is aimed at convincing an EU policy maker to take your recommendations into account.*
- *Recommendations for the policy-maker should be SMART – Specific – Measurable – Attainable – Realistic – Time-bound*
- *Be as creative as you can for the outreach strategy – radio interviews, local newspaper article, a workshop, a game – anything is possible that you think you can implement. UNOY has budget waiting for you to do so.*



# Chronological Description

## **Set Up Phase 1/12/2010- 31/1/2011**

- Developing competition guidelines
- Developing flyers and poster
- Arranging appointments with Hogescholen and universities
- Developing PR speeches Hogescholen and universities.
- Developing press releases
- Arranging venue agreements for trainings in the relevant cities
- Contacting supporting organisations to re-secure their commitment to sending out the information about the project through their PR channels.

## **PR Outreach Program Phase 1/2/2011 -30/2/2011**

During the PR program phase, the project has been promoted by different means:

- Distribution of flyers and posters in Groningen, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Leiden and Den Haag
- PR speeches to promote the project at universities in Amsterdam, Leiden, Den Haag, Nijmegen and Utrecht.
- Promotion of the project via Facebook, university mail and websites, befriends organisations, UNOY website and newsletter and other media.
- Competition Website: Developing a website for the project: [www.unoy.org/interplay](http://www.unoy.org/interplay)
- Contacting university teachers to create an opportunity to integrate the competition in their teaching course.
- Involving partner organisations from the South in the project and establishing partnership agreements with each of these organisations participating in the project.

## **Competition Phase 1/3/2011 – 30/4/2011**

- Assigning the teams to a country and linking them to our partner organisation and youth within that country.
- Facilitating the connection between the competition groups in the Netherlands and the partners in the South.

- Updating the Interplay website, introducing the teams and the youth and their organisation on the website.
- Setting the specific guidelines of the position paper and giving updates to the teams.
- Establishing contacts in Brussels to arrange the advocacy visit.
- Setting up workshops on Conflict and Actor mapping, Advocacy and EU development policies, to support the teams in the competition and to increase an understanding on these topics and provide capacity building to other youth interested in EU development cooperation and related topics.

#### **Decision Making Phase 1/5/2011- 30/5/2011**

- Researching potential experts.
- Providing workshops on Logframes, EU fundraising, Gender and the EIDHR instrument, for Interplay participants, students and other youth interested in these topics and to raise awareness on the policies and funding methods of the EU.
- Contacting experts.
- Setting up/designing a score sheet/guidelines for the judges to review the papers.
- Distributing the papers among the judges.
- Announcing the winning team during the 'friends of UNOY Peacebuilding drinks'.



#### **Post Competition Phase 1/6/2011- 31/7/2011**

- Starting the visa process for the winning youth from the South
- Confirming appointments with members of the European Parliament and European Policy officers in Brussels.
- Preparing the lobby and advocacy mission in Brussels with the winning team

- Meeting the policy officers and members of the European Parliament
- Executing the outreach activities
- Writing the report of the overall project



## Description of Activities

### Training Workshops:

In total, 81 people attended one or more of the 12 workshops organised.

### Advocacy – Lillian Solheim

Lillian Solheim, International Network and Programme Coordinator at the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, introduced us in the world of lobbying and advocacy. She made us familiar with different definitions and types of advocacy and showed the long tradition and experience UNOY Peacebuilders has on this topic. Very useful for most workshop participants was the focus on the role that youth can have in advocating for change. How do you do advocacy and on which stakeholders do you focus? With the help of various exercises and models, we created in small groups an advocacy strategy, which resulted in the end in strong and creative elevator pitches. The discussion began with an overview of the term and the implications of doing 'advocacy'. Basically the act of pleading for a cause, idea, or policy in order to exert influence, advocacy is of

different types, from its formal side, lobbying, to networking, raising awareness, and mobilizing. The group brainstormed for ideas as to why advocacy is undergone, mentioning dialogue, and giving voice to unrepresented groups as what they understand by this activity. Cultural differences as well as the political culture were deemed as important to keep in mind when doing advocacy.

The participants then divided into three or four teams, teams in which they attempted to develop, step by step, an advocacy project strategy. The steps were related to a cause of their choice, which could be chosen from the UN's millennium development goals. These goals are eight anti-poverty causes which UN nations agreed to achieve by 2015. Some goals are eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics, and developing a global partnership for development. After each team identified an issue to focus on, they drew up a 'problem tree', a tool used in order to understand the causes (roots) and consequences (branches) of the problem.

Furthermore, the teams formulated strategies for advocating their cause, using project management tools such as the SWOT analysis of their (imagined) organisation (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats), and an analysis of their objectives. The action step of the process included constructing a message for the potential donors, public, and policy makers of the project in order to promote the teams' actions and ask for support, and writing up an 'elevator pitch', namely a brief, and catch statement of the action. Actor and relationship mapping was discussed as well, as participants built up a graphic illustration of their interaction with their publics.

### **Advocacy - Wout Visser**

Wout Visser, the Global Advocacy Coordinator, gave a presentation on Warchild's advocacy programme at the office of Warchild in Amsterdam. His presentations focused on how Warchild interacts with the EU. He described in some level of detail the EU guidelines on children and armed conflict; and Warchild's role in advocating for a better implementation of these guidelines both through Warchild's own field teams as through lobbying EU missions in third countries.

### **Conflict and Actor Mapping – Marenne Mei Jansen**

The workshop of Marenne Mei Jansen, Lecturer at the Amsterdam Centre for Conflict Studies of the University of Amsterdam, was concentrated on analysing conflicts and actors involved. By using examples of contemporary conflicts the group tried to grasp the core issue of the conflict, its manifestations and causes, thereby analysing at different levels. Furthermore with the help of models from 'Peace and Conflict Studies' the participants tried to map the various actors, from core parties to marginal parties, involved in the conflict. It turned out to be very useful exercises to get a bit more insight in the complex character of contemporary conflicts.

### **EU Development Cooperation/ EU Policies / Fair Politics – Suzan Cornelissen**

The aim of the workshop was meant to give more insight in the complex structures of the European Union and its development policies. Suzan Cornelissen, policy officer of Fair Politics of the Evert Vermeer Foundation, started the workshop with testing our knowledge on the EU with various questions about Brussels and its politics. For some participants a piece of cake for others an unknown area. After various interesting facts regarding this complex institute and its development policies we came to the topic of policy (in)coherence for Development. An area where Fair Politics is strongly involved in. The task was to think in groups of an example of Policy incoherence of development, which means that the objectives and results of a government's development policies are undermined by other policies of that same government with impact on developing countries. The example resulted in the end in creative drawings that explained, some better than others the policy development incoherence.

### **Gender - Vera Hendriks & Lillian Solheim**

The workshop on 'Gender and Peacebuilding' provided the participants with an introduction to the main concepts related to gender and to learn how to wear 'gender glasses' when analysing a conflict. The group watched and analysed the 'Wajir Peace Story' which is a documentary about women peacemakers in Kenya. The movie showed how different actors can mobilise the community to create peace

### **Logframes – Rob Watson and Lillian Solheim**

The log frame is a tool used to plan, design, implement and measure the efficiency of an activity or a programme. The workshop was facilitated by Rob Watson, a freelance consultant and

advisor working with the EU and UN on human rights and conflict, and Lillian Solheim, International Network and Programme Coordinator of UNOY. The workshop had 20 attendees, including students, interns and youth workers of several NGOs in the city. During the first part, Rob introduced the purpose of logframes, what aspects to design, what are the objectives of monitoring and evaluation of international projects. However, he recommended that the most important step to start with is the appropriate analysis of the problem. Lillian then presented the Problem Tree Analysis. This tool allows us to understand the relation between the problem, the structural (root) causes and the effects in a very visual way. This gives a comprehensive overview of the situation. To explain how to use this tool of analysis, Lillian used the example of a conflict in the Philippines. This analysis will help in developing the appropriate interventions. During the second part of the workshops, participants worked in groups and created their own Problem Tree Analysis about a specific issue of their choice, in order to then elaborate a logframe. The interest of this exercise was to point out the challenges that emerge during the development of a logframe. Everybody concluded that the logical framework is an important and interesting tool that should be included in the development of a project.



### **EIDHR – Anna Innocenti**

Having come into force on 1 January 2007, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) is the concrete expression of the EU's intention to integrate the promotion of democracy and human rights into all of its external policies. The EIDHR is one of the main financial programs for the promotion of human rights and democracy in third countries. How does it run and how can civil society organisations apply? Where can you find examples of

previous successful projects? What are its main features and pillars of the EIDHR? With the use of a creative simulation the participants learnt, among others, how to write an effective project proposal.



### **EU Fundraising – Stephanie Moy and Rob Watson**

Rob Watson and Stephanie Moy gave an introduction to the various EU funding mechanisms that exist. The various funding lines, including the Youth in Action programme, were explained in details, the participants could learn first-hand how to navigate the website and look for calls as well learn how to write an effective project proposal.

## **Partners**

What made the *Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise* an unique project was the role of the youth partners within the project. During the competition phase all teams in the Netherlands were assigned to a country in the South and linked with a youth from our partner organisation in that country. The aim of this cooperation was that the teams in the Netherlands would be better able to research the EU development cooperation and their impact on the local population, with the assistance of a youth active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation in that country. Moreover due to the direct contact the youth in the Netherlands would learn more

about the day-to-day realities of young people living in a (post) conflict country in the South and the youth partner would get an insight in the life and study methods of students in the Netherlands.

Due to the Network of our organisation, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, it was easy to find youth from our partner organisations that were willing to participate in the project. We find 12 youth that were eager to participate and to support a team:

- Innocent Kwizera and Armand Giramahoro from Amahoro Youth Club, Burundi
- Abdirahman Elmi from Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA,) Somalia
- Fadi Abou Akleh and Rojer Jeries Iskandar Salameh from Arab Educational Institute (AEI), Palestine
- Gulalai Ismail from Coalition for Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY), Pakistan
- Andres Ignazio Peres Leon and Laura Caralina Franco from Fundación Escuelas de Paz, Colombia
- Thomas J. Barlue, from African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI), Liberia
- Ilot Muthaka from PEREX-C, DRC
- Daniel Obiomachukwu Peter ONYEIGWE, Youth For Peace Building and Development in Africa (YOUPEDA), Nigeria
- Kevin Kuria Muthoni, from Kenya Youth Foundation (KYF), Kenya

Most youth were very motivated and active during the two months research period. They were busy collecting relevant data of EU policies within their country, interviewing young people about the situation in the country, sometime even provided with pictures of their daily life. The youth that was part of the winning team, Daniel Obiomachukwu ONYEIGWE, from Nigeria, did with the help of his organisation and his contacts, research on the policies of the EU in the Niger Delta region and interviewed people living in communities within this region. Besides the information the team in the Netherlands; The peacemakers; Giovanni Floor and Tiffancy Olsen, retrieved from him by email they also conducted five long telephone interviews with Daniel Obi, to get an better insight in the situation, to dig in deeper certain issues and get questions answered. This excellent cooperation led to an interesting insight in the situation in the Niger delta region and the role of the EU within this region. Due to the information Daniel Obi provided from the field, the team was able to write an excellent analysis of the situation and to come with some interesting recommendations that lead it in the end to be the winning paper.

## Burundi - Amahoro Youth Club (AYC)



AYC is a youth-led organisation founded in 2007 by a group of young University students in Bujumbura, Burundi. The AYC was a constructive reply to the lack of representation and participation of the young generations in the social and political life of the country. The AYC is

dedicated to creating dialogue and educational activities to support the peace process in Burundi. It intends to establish a new type of working culture in civil society, with a high level of individual commitment, transparency and a long-term mission. The mission of the AYC is to contribute to the consolidation of peace and sustainable development through open spaces for dialogue and idea sharing for young people. Especially, the AYC aims at contributing to the improvement of the young population towards an active engagement in the processes for the achievement of stability and democracy, as well as development in the country.



**Innocent Kwizera** is supporting the team working on Burundi.

Innocent is student of Human sciences and Literature at the National University of Burundi. He was born in 1981, 15th December and he is 29 years old. He has been involved in peace work as a young peacebuilder since 2003 when he started his studies at university. He joined other youth in order to create a youth organisation with the aim of involving young people in the management of the country's resources and particularly to contribute to peace and development in Burundi. He has been working for the Amahoro (Peace) Youth Club as a co-founder and is a member of the AYC administrative team as head of the membership commission.

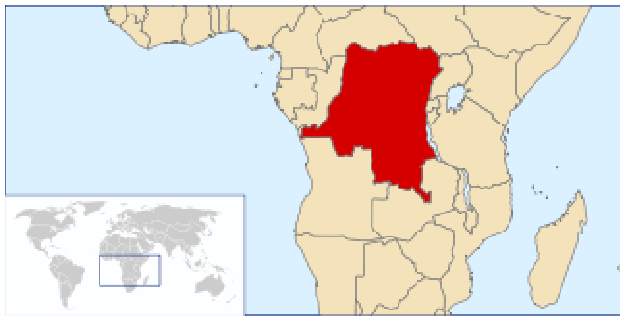


**Armand Giramahoro** is supporting another team working on Burundi.

I am a student at Light University of Bujumbura in law faculty, completing my degree. I am 27 years old. In

2003, I founded a youth movement whose vision was to involve youth in political issues as actors and not as instruments of power politicians. The movement contributed a lot in the change of youth mentality and so many young people started to positively participate in the social discussions about how our country can reach political stability and sustainable development. In 2007, together with my fellows at University, we founded the Amahoro (Peace) Youth Club. I believe in a harmonious community where diversity is a positive energy and I promote dialogue as a key to the harmony in any country and in the world. I joined the Interplay towards a policy making exercise because I am convinced that there is “no peace without development and there is no possible development without peace”. Our role as young peacebuilders is not only to advocate for peace, human rights and other fields related to peace only but we also need to focus our attention to the development of our fellows in the grassroots community and of the country at large. Development of a country for me is not measurable by the number of buildings, cars, big hostels, but development means a large number of inhabitants who live in acceptable conditions such as good education, enough food, health infrastructures and facilities to access health care and other elementary needs for every human being.

#### **Democratic Republic of Congo (PEREX-C)**



PEREX-C (Programme d’Encadrement et de Reinsertion des Jeunes ex Combattants et en Difficultes )is an organisation with 200 active youth, reaching about 1200 youngsters annually. The organisation focuses on peaceful re-integration of ex-

combatants into the community. Under PEREX-C’s co-ordination, 10 bridges and four roads were built by ex-combatants. Perex-C has established Community Barzas (spaces for dialogue) amongst young people, including ex-combatants, for the rehabilitation of the community. Three Barzas for youth have been formed in February 2008 in three communities in the town of Butembo. The Barzas will meet regularly for discussion, reflection and exchange issues concerning conflict resolution, peaceful co-habitation and tolerance. These Barzas are the beginning of a larger programme to initiate additional Barzas in Butembo and in the surrounding areas.



**Ilot Muthaka** is supporting the team working on the DRC. Here is what he says about himself and his work in peace building:

“I was born in the Eastern region of the democratic Republic of Congo. I did my primary and secondary schools in Rutshuru district, a war-torn village. After my studies, I immediately joined the civil society

organizations working successively in the Red Cross movement, development sector, humanitarian operations and finally in peace building and human rights work. I focused my efforts on youth because I believe that young people are the future and pillars of change in the community. In addition I think that gender is also crucial to be incorporated in all stages of life.

During four years I have been in charge of mainstreaming gender in my organization and through this work I realized that I have another mission of promoting gender in my country since we are practicing patriarchy in the way that women are considered in my community as slaves.

My attention is focused now on men’s involvement in gender justice to decrease gender-based violence in my country and promoting equality, peace and justice. I am graduating in sociology at Cepromad University with a great interest on gender and peace building.”

### **Kenya - Kenya Youth Foundation**



KYF is an indigenous youth organisation founded in 1998 with the sole mandate of mainstreaming youth issues and concerns within the paradigms of policy and development at local, national and international levels. The organisation works towards a society

where youth from all walks of life play their role in an enabling policy and development framework so as to engage in self-sustaining socio-economic activities with the focus of making the world a better place to live in. To reach this goal KYF is mainly active in four areas: capacity building, sustainable development, research and information and advocacy and networking.



**Kevin Kuria Muthoni** is supporting the team working on Kenya. Here is what he says about himself and his motivation to take part in this project:

“Hi, my name is Kevin Kuria Muthoni. I am from Nairobi, Kenya. I graduated from Uganda Christian University. I am representing Kenya Youth Foundation in this project because I was doing an internship with them in the year 2009 on conflict resolution and peace building. In Kenya, most people were

affected by the post election violence that erupted after year 2007 general elections, whereby most people developed ideologies that their leader of choice had been violated in the vote result, thus forcing people to instigate violence as a form of expression. My motivation to participate in this project is to share information and experience that I and my countrymen experienced after the disputed general elections, whereby people lost their lives and property, thus disrupting their day-to-day livelihood and the national income. I am looking forward for working with the team.”

### **Liberia - African Child Peace Initiative**



The African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI) is a youth-led organisation dedicated to creating a better future for the children and young people in post-war Liberia through their youth friendly community development and peacebuilding programmes. Their goal

is to educate young Liberians, their immediate concern and their communities, in order to nurture the development of responsible, peaceful, healthy and productive citizens, helping to alleviate poverty at the grass-root. They are working with Liberian youth affected by the civil war – especially the children – and young women working with children. ACPI programmes encourage and work with youth for active participation of young people in peace building and community development in Caldwell and surrounding townships. Specifically, the programmes

aim to promote the visibility of youth in peace building and policy formation by supporting and facilitating the empowerment of youth in the community.



**Thomas J. Barlue** is supporting the team working on Liberia. Here is what he says about himself and his work at the African Child Peace Initiative:

“As a young person growing up in such a conflict zone I see myself trying to better day, reversing the unacceptable shatter of the conflict in my country and beyond that to be a supporter of development and community empowerment; promoter of peaceful and reliable societies.

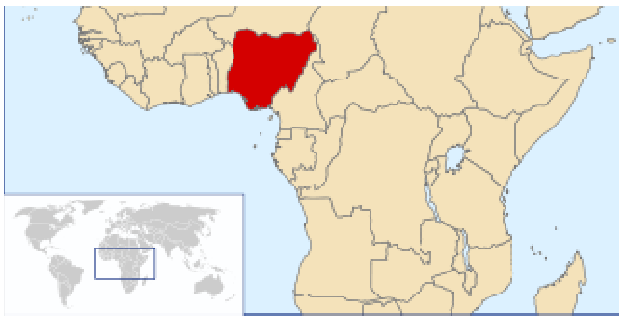
I am 25 years old; reside in Monrovia, the Capital of Liberia; and am a student at the University of Liberia reading Public Administration and Sociology. Currently I work on projects which seek to empower children, youth as well as their care-givers.

Since 2005, I have been occupied with our development, peer education, mobilization, and networking programs, and the coordination of youth focused community events, forums and conferences, such as the Bi-Annual Creating Local Connections West Africa Liberia Youth ICT Conferences in 2007 and 2008. I have been a co-facilitator for the ICT in Entrepreneurship and Leadership Workshops; worked alongside the National Youth Federation and the International Women’s Colloquium Secretariat to organise the side event (Youth Forum) of the Colloquium in 2009, as co-chair on communications.

Despite being the Program Director of my organization, overseeing four different departments, I have also been involved with most national youth empowerment initiatives, such as the National Youth Solution forum which I co-founded with the Youth Crime Watch of Liberia. Furthermore, I have been the National Platform Moderator for the UNIDO found MRU Communication Platform in 2010 and also a Peace Ambassador, awarded by the Youth Federation for World Peace as well as the Convening Ambassador for One Young World in Liberia. One Young World is a global initiative; an annual gathering of the world’s brightest young minds and best of the next generation which gives young people a place to engage and have their voices heard about their future. It is supported by counselors like Kofi Annan, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Bob Geldof among others.

I see my daily activities as being geared towards building linkages among youth-led structures, training and facilitating dialogue among young people and our communities' leaders. This is very necessary because as a young person I believe that we ourselves have to get involved in making our world a better place and to make it what we dream it to be, for us and for the next generation after us. Our actions today can make a great impact in our own lives and avert a possible reoccurrence of the past."

### **Nigeria - Youth For Peace Building and Development in Africa (YOUPEDA)**



YOUPEDA is a youth organisation formed in 2005 towards the development of youths and their immediate communities. The organization is open to young persons within the ages of 15 to 35 years, who believe in the overall development

efforts of YOUPEDA, which centres on youth development and peace education. The organisations works towards strategically exploring lasting peace efforts democratically and preventing/reducing the impact of poverty, HIV and other related social disorders in Africa.



**Obiomachukwu Peter Onyeigwe Daniel** is supporting the team working on Nigeria. Obi Peter, a citizen of Nigeria, works with young people in Nigeria on peace education, conflict prevention and leadership development, etc. Obi is the Director of programmes of Youth for Peace Building & Development in Africa (YOUPEDA). At present he represents World Faith's New York Headquarters' in Nigeria for inter-faith dialogue and peaceful integration among different faiths. Obi studied Religious Studies and Human Relations at first degree level at Nnamdi Azikiwe University – Awka, Anambra State.

His interest is focused on International security and Diplomacy in order to create a better world. Obi is a bona fide member of UNOY Peacebuilders. Here is what he says about himself and his work at Youpeda: "I am 28 years of age and single. Presently I am living and working in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. We have, in the past, conducted over 8 participatory training sessions for young people on Human Rights and political participation in Nigeria. And now we are educating and creating more awareness on political participation using the community cell model approach. Right now young people go all out to register for the ongoing voter registration in Nigeria. I find it very important to work in this area because the recognition and active respect for Human Rights and participatory democracy, governance or leadership is the only panacea to Nigeria's as well as Africa's political and overall human development, turmoil and instability."

#### **Somalia - Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA)**



SOYDA works on human rights, peace and youth development issues. Their activities include promoting human rights and a culture of peace among youth and the community in general, promoting youth as peacebuilders and diverting youth from the participation in the ongoing conflicts in Southern Somalia. SOYDA also works on child protection issues and on creating a safe environment for children preventing them from abuses and neglect.



**Abdirahman Elmi** is supporting the team working on Somalia. Abdirahman Elmi is working as a local staff in the Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA), a local NGO. There he is the Child Protection Project Manager for Somalia, particularly the North West Zone (NWZ). Abdirahman is originally from the NWZ region of Somalia and has LLB degree in law from the University of Hargeisa for the year of 2008. Abdirahman was also the monitoring supervisor for the African Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) in its Somaliland chapter in the beginning of the year 2009.

Here is what he says about himself and about his motivation to participate in this project:

"Currently I am 27 years old and I am living in Hargeisa with my family members. I am looking forward to working with young people from the Netherlands, which is as a part of the European

Union one of the largest funders that invests in my country. I hope to familiarize these young people with the development policies towards my country and I would like to facilitate their assignments appropriately.”

#### **Pakistan- Coalition for Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY)**



Coalition for the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth is a youth-led organisation working for the promotion and protection of young people’s/adolescents’ rights and responsibilities in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. Coalition on Rights and Responsibilities of Youth was founded by the participants of the “Youth as Self Advocates Training” in “Child Rights Advocates” program of NCCR (NGOs Coalition on Child Rights). It was decided that, to overcome the youth problems, youth should be given a platform where they can raise their voices, learn and share information with each other. Our vision is to develop the sense of responsibility among adolescents and young people by organising them into groups and building their capacities so that they can play their role as agents of change in their communities for promotion of Rights, Responsibilities and Tolerance.



**Gulalai Ismail** is supporting the team working on Pakistan.

Gulalai, age 24, is working as a gender consultant for CRY: Coalition on the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth, a youth-led organization working for empowering youth by promoting and protecting the rights and responsibilities of young people.

“I am responsible for gender mainstreaming the policies and program of the organization and evaluating the programs with a gender lens.”

She is also founder and chairperson of Aware Girls, a young-women-led organization working for empowerment of young women and peace building in the North West of Pakistan. The organization aims to empower women through strengthening their leadership capacity enabling them to work as agents of social change. Being chairperson of the organization she is responsible

for policy making, supervision and management of the projects, fundraising, and evaluation of the projects.

Gulalai is also member of different national and international platforms working on peace and gender, she is member of Gender Working Group of UNOY Peacebuilders, working on developing policies and programs for gender mainstreaming of peace building processes and organizations. She has also introduced a youth led network in the name of “Seeds of Peace Network” in North West of Pakistan, which is working for the promotion of tolerance, pluralism, and peace. She has received YouthActionNet Fellowship Award 2009, Paragon Fellowship 2009, and was finalist of Sheila McKechnie Foundation Awards 2009 for her peace efforts.

“I strongly believe that peace and sustainable development are inextricably linked to gender equality. Neither peace nor sustainable development can be achieved without focus on women empowerment. Therefore, it is very important to mainstream women especially the most vulnerable.”

#### **Palestine - Arab Educational Institute (AEI)**



AEI-Open Windows is an Arab-Palestinian NGO affiliated to Pax Christi International and established in Bethlehem in 1986 by a group of Palestinian educators. Working with youth, women and educators, it is engaged in the field of community

education to contribute to the general causes of participation in public life and in peace and justice; the building of a free, democratic and culturally pluralistic Palestine, and the sharing and communication of the daily life reality of Palestine with broader audiences. This is done by activating youth and developing youth leadership skills, raising awareness about values, culture and identity, training in effectively communicating Palestinian reality, and developing the capacity, sustainability and outreach of the organisation.

**Fadi Abou Akleh** is supporting the team working on Palestine. Here is what he says about himself and his work:



“My name is Fadi Elias Abou Akleh: citizen of Bethlehem, 26 years old, born from a Christian family.

I completed my secondary school in 2002 at the Christian Brothers School in Bethlehem and graduated from the 6 October University/Cairo-Faculty of Media, with a BA in Radio and Television.

I am working as a Media Officer at the Arab Educational Institute since 2009 . I am involved in youth exchanges, coaching, leading young students, documenting all AEI events through making short videos, and shooting nice photos. I like volunteering! It is enjoyable time, makes you proud of yourself. I also like travelling as a way for self development and a way to communicate about yourself and your country.

I wanted to take part in this project because I would like to communicate with people who are really not aware about what’s happening in Palestine. Communication is always fruitful at all levels.”



**Rojer Jeries Iskandar Salameh** is another member of Arab Educational Institute (AEI) participating in the Interplay project and supporting a second team working on Palestine. Read more here about Rojer and his motivation to join the competition.

“My name is Rojer Jeries Iskandar Salameh, or Rojer Salameh in brief.

I am 23 years old, a Palestinian Christian. I live in Bethlehem but was born in Jerusalem. I completed my secondary school in 2005 at the Salesian Technical School in Bethlehem and graduated from the Polytechnic University in Hebron – Faculty of Information Technology. I am working for the second year at the AEI as a youth coordinator. My main work is with our groups member at the Institute. I am really enjoying my work because I am acquiring a lot of experience while dealing with youth of all different backgrounds, religions and ages. I like to travel to gain experience in how to communicate with others, and to gain new friends and learn about new cultures. My personal hobbies and interest are the following:

1. Reading, especially the newspapers.
2. Watching matches.
3. Using the computer for chatting, skypeing and searching.
4. I like to train sports and prepare power point presentations on youth themes.

Being part of this exchange will give me the chance to improve, develop myself and communicate about Palestine to those who don't know much about Palestine: history, culture, its historical and holy places, and... the dreams of the youth!

Best regards

Roger Salameh”

### **Colombia - Fundación Escuelas de Paz**

Founded by Columbian educators in 1997, the Fundación Escuelas de Paz aims at qualifying youth to become leaders and multipliers of the ideals of a Culture of Peace, Human Rights, and Humanitarian International Law. This project has been named: Escuelas de Paz para jóvenes,



redes de formación juvenil en conciencia ciudadana y derechos humanos (Schools of Peace for young people, nets of juvenile formation in city conscience and human rights). At present, this initiative has been put into practice in several schools of very diverse range: private, public, confessional and in different places in Bogotá D.C. and in some municipalities of Cundinamarca.

Escuelas de Paz is dedicated to strengthen civic participation, to teach the principals of justice, social development, conflict management and transformation through the organisation of training, diffusion, information and investigation activities. One of its main goals is to make peace a duty and a right, especially for the new generations of Colombians. Examples of activities organised in the past are: Weeks for Peace in schools; Festival for Life and Peace; student and children camps for peace; training of educators on knowledge and teaching methodologies on peace, security and human rights;

In 2010, the Escuelas de Paz organised an international conference on peace education on the topic: “Learning to read the world from multiple perspectives: Education for Peace to diversity and inclusion”.

**Andres Ignazio Peres Leon** is supporting the team working on Colombia. Andres, 22, living in Bogota, is doing an internship in Fundación Escuelas de Paz and in Red Académica sobre Privatización de la Seguridad which is an academic network focusing on the use of mercenaries in Colombia. In the course of this internship, he is mainly working with logistics and



administration, the creation and dissemination of Paths to Justice, the collection and systematization of data, and research. Here is what he says about his motivation to work in this area: “Young people are the future of the world, that’s why I think that promoting their capacities can help to find the leaders of a near future.”

Laura Catalina Franco Espinosa is supporting another team also working on Colombia.



This is her introduction: I am 21 years old, I was born in Bogotá and now I live in the same city. I studied International Affairs in Jorge Tadeo Lozano University and in this moment I am working in Fundación Escuelas de Paz. I am mainly working with a community of young people who have been victim of the violence in Colombia; my main task is to conduct training workshops on human rights, participation and culture of peace. Also, I am working in Red Académica sobre Privatización de la Seguridad by doing important research about the use on mercenaries in Colombia. On the other hand, I am supporting an investigation about rights situation of children and young blacks in Latin America and the Caribbean in Jorge Tadeo Lozano University. Finally she says; “Colombia needs young leaders to build peace and provide solutions to the conflict and this is an opportunity to do so.”

# Teams

## Europe United

We are Europe United, a group of 3 young women aged up to 30 years old. We aim to do research on EU aid development in Somalia and want to develop aid-development strategies for this country. Our focus is on Africa because the problems there are complex and relate to nearly all areas and layers of society. Somalia really interests us for their past and especially the number of children participating in the ongoing conflicts in Southern Somalia. In our opinion, the youth is the future and it is important that the youth is aware of this fact in order to build up their country. We consider joining the competition as an excellent opportunity for us to deepen our knowledge on Africa and to get familiar with troubles the Somalian youth is facing. We trust to develop a good strategy to help the youth in this country. We also like to meet other teams and NGOs in order to join forces and put our strategies in work for the future.

### Who are we?



*Carlota María Rego Palleiro (23)*

I am an exchange student in The Hague University for the European Studies programme. I study Political Science and Administration at 'Universidad de Santiago de Compostela' in Spain. I have been working with several organizations related to development cooperation, gender equality, global economic inequalities and other areas. My motivation to participate in this project is try to be helpful now by contributing to develop a good strategy to support Somalian youth and to share information and experience with others so we can all be more helpful in the future.



*Fabienne Smith (24)*

I am a pre-master student 'European Union Studies' at Leiden University. I graduated from The Hague University and have a Bachelor degree in 'European Studies' with Public Administration as a specialisation. Participating in the UNOY project will give me a broad insight in development cooperation, developing strategies and how the EU deals with development aid. This policy area has always interested me and having the

chance to do research is a great opportunity. As mentioned before, Somalia is a country with a history of ongoing conflicts; the future of this country lies in the hands of its youth. We are happy to share our ideas and be of assistance towards a hopeful Somalia.



*Magda Ornat (29)*

Currently, I'm studying 'European Union Studies' at Leiden University and also have a Bachelor degree in 'European Studies' with a specialisation in Public Administration. The UNOY project is very interesting because it focuses on the problems of the youth in different development countries. I find it very interesting to know more about EU's development policies by doing research on Somalia. Especially with the help of a young person who lives there. Somalia has a large number of young persons and the youth can make the big change the country needs!

### **Maite and Sita**

We are two students (age 20) of the University of Amsterdam, studying Interdisciplinary Social Science in the field of Conflict studies, Development Studies and International relations. Therefore the UNOY challenge definitely fits our studies and interests. Yet we don't know much about the EU's support for countries which are facing or have faced a conflict. So we are very glad we got the opportunity to learn more about this important subject. We are really excited about the challenge and we are looking forward to study the conflict in Colombia.

### **Wake Up Call**

## **WAKE UP! CALL**

Wake Up Call is a young and ambitious team that consists of 5 students coming from different countries, namely: Latvia, The United States of America and The Netherlands. All its members are about the age of twenty and attend a study relating to the European Union, law, languages and communication. The next few weeks this will be the team researching and working on a plan for Palestine. Since Wake Up Call its members have the right studies, motivation and interests to participate in this competition, they feel like bringing their studies into practice. Wake Up Call believes the ultimate challenge for them is to research and figure out the ongoing situation in Palestine; if they are able to handle that, than sure they can design a plan that functions as a true wake up call...

Wake Up Call. (Elise Crutzen, Jacques Michel Bloi, Jevgenijs Rjaschenko, Darris Hawks and Daphne Schrader)

### **Nyenrode IMBA 2011**



The members of our team come from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds (Iran/USA, Latvia and India) and have substantial international experiences that have shaped their view of global challenges of our time. The members of this team are interested in global political and social events

and processes with consequential implications for developing contexts. We all are particularly interested in studying and analyzing the attempts of the international community to reach out to the Muslim world via aid packages, diplomatic and military interventions. For us Pakistan stands out in the Muslim world as it has a strong interdependent relationship with the West due to its strategic location and a number of other reasons. As such, we aim to study and analyze the relations of the EU with Pakistan and the kind of aid or diplomatic approach the European community has taken on with respect to strategic and turbulent Muslim country.

In particular, we intend to analyze ways that could help foster diplomatic relations towards productive outcomes such as a more robust education system in Pakistan that could effectively help the new generations of this country to combat Islamist fundamentalism and terrorism not with weapons but with their open mind, deep understanding of their surroundings and the world at large. This is why, we have decided to participate in this research project through which we could explore the EU-Pakistan relations more in depth and think about ways to channel these relations towards promoting education and awareness among the children of Pakistan who are inheriting a country that every day trembles with violence and bloodshed. We are taking on this project as it gives us the opportunity to explore ways that the EU could help to make Pakistan a safer and a more peaceful nation in the near future by investing in the education and awareness of the children of Pakistan.

*Nyenrode IMBA 2011 – Pakistan (Azadeh Porzand, Gleb Zhukov, Satpal Daryanani)*

## Team J/M



The name of our team, J/M, is an abbreviation of our names (Janita/Marjolein) but in Dutch also is symbolic for 'Jongen/Meisje', 'Boy/Girl'. We consider this suitable for the Interplay challenge, since it is mainly aimed at young people and we think it is necessary to create equal opportunities for boys and

girls. In the logo we chose to use the colours of the Colombian flag because this is the country we are working on. The design is fresh and casual, similar to the spirit of young people.

We are *Team J/M*: Janita Figge and Marjolein Jegerings. We both are students in Spanish Language and Culture, taking a minor in Conflict Studies at Utrecht University. Marjolein also studies Cultural Anthropology. We met in class and by working together on several projects we got to know each other very well on the academic level, and also get along very well outside of the classroom.

Since we live in a world with hardly any physical boundaries we are interested in exploring it as much as possible. We see this project as a great opportunity to learn about another country in a way other than travelling or learning about it through books, lectures or media. Most importantly, we both are strongly interested in the dynamics related to conflict and violence and the politics of peace management. For this reason, through the interplay project we would like to develop our skills in and understanding of peacebuilding.

The country we are going to work on is Colombia, a perfect match! Janita has spent her last summer as a staff member on a volunteer program in Latin America and Marjolein is going to travel and do research in Central America next year. Besides that, we think our knowledge of the Spanish language and the Latin American culture will facilitate our communication with Laura Catalina Franco, our contact person. Hopefully, this will lead to a proposal supported at the grassroots level in Colombia.

We are looking forward to start this experience!

*Team J/M,*

Janita Figge

Marjolein Jegerings

## The Pre-Masters



The Pre-Masters is a group of three European Union pre-master students from the Leiden University. Our motivation to take part in the UNOY's interplay-project is to learn more about EU development policies and to investigate their impact in the world. We are honoured to work together with Burundi's Amahoro Youth Club and Innocent Kwizera. Winning this competition would

be a great opportunity to get more recognition to Burundi's situation and even encourage further EU policy development on the field. We are also great fans of UNOY's work and hope to contribute to the network's aims by participating actively in this project!

## nN



We are a team consisting of two young and highly motivated women with a background in Cultural Anthropology and Conflict studies. Our interests go out to conflict, gender, sexual violence, human rights, poverty reduction and social constructions of power and discourse. For this challenge we are going to work together with Youth partners from Congo. We are looking forward to this cooperation, since our knowledge goes out mostly to the region of Latin America, having concentrated our studies hereon. We see this challenge as an excellent opportunity for developing knowledge on other countries such as

Congo.

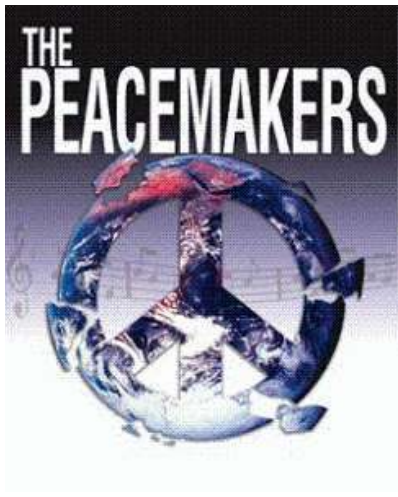
Charlot (25); has a MA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Utrecht. Currently she is enrolled in the Advanced Master Latin American Studies at the CEDLA (Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation) in Amsterdam, whereby she is preparing her research which will

be carried out in Nicaragua. Her research focuses on 'Machismo' which is a form of masculinity known throughout Latin America.

Natashe (26); holds a BA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Utrecht. During her BA she has conducted fieldwork in Buenos Aires Argentina. Here she conducted research among women who had lost family members during the dictatorship, to study how they transformed their mourning and pain into collective action. Currently she is enrolled in the Research Master 'Gender and Ethnicity' at the University of Utrecht, and aims at continuing her work in Argentina.

By collaborating with local people aware of the urgent problems of conflict resolution and restoration we hope to get some fruitful insights about the complex task of conflict intervention. The most important definition of these current conflicts can be founded in the distinction between long-term, generally not that visible, underlying conflicts and the innumerable, visible, dispute moments occurring within the bigger conflict. In other words we would like to use the empirical data and bring forward the formal end of conflict does not automatically implies an effective end of violence and insecurity on the regional or local level.

### **The Peacemakers**



Our group, The Peacemakers, consists of Giovanni Floor and Tiffany Olson. We are a devoted research group made up of two political science majors in the final year of our undergraduate programs. We are both currently attending the University of Amsterdam and are taking a conflict studies course. We have chosen Nigeria as our country of focus.

Tiffany is an international student from San Francisco State University. She was born and raised in Seattle, WA, though she moved to San Francisco to study political science. She is currently studying at the University of Amsterdam for a semester, where she is also taking classes in the political science field.

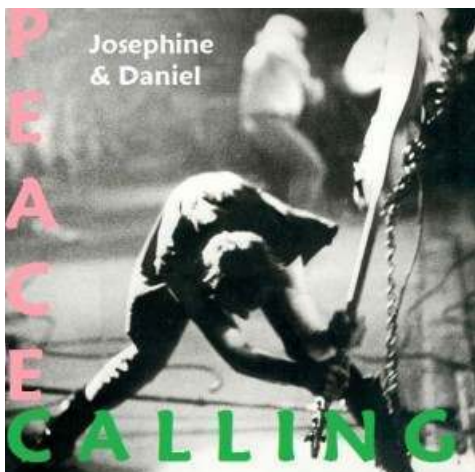
Giovanni is an Amsterdam native. He's been studying both political science and history at the University of Amsterdam as well. Currently his interest goes out to conflict prevention and resolution in sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) projects take his special interest.

We have chosen Nigeria because we take a special interest in Africa in particular, as it has historically been subjugated to Western influence and dominance. We hope to learn how the EU, a leading economic giant, is, or is planning, to give humanitarian Nigeria. It is our job, through this project, to critically assess EU policies and the effect they have on Nigerian economic, political and social stability.

Obi is our Nigerian field correspondent. Maintaining contact with him will give us the ability to more thoroughly and accurately assess the situation in Nigeria, in relation to the EU. With his extensive network in Nigeria, through his organisation YOUPEDA, we will be able to delve deeper into Nigerian conflict and identify issues and contradictions in EU policies from the perspective of those directly affected.

“And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.”  
James 3:18

### **Peace Calling**



Team Peace Calling consist of Daniel Polman (22) and Josephine Jacobs (19), two Dutch students from Nijmegen University, studying in the field of Political Sciences, Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociocology.

About their motivation to take part in the Interplay Challenge they say:

“We want to take part, because it seems like an interesting challenge for us to learn more about EU

development aid policies, especially since we study development sociology. Moreover, it is a unique opportunity to work with someone who is directly affected by these policies, at the grassroots level.”

### Otro mundo es posible



‘Otro mundo es posible’ is a team composed of two international Masters students, both studying at the Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam and a youth partner, Armand, from Burundi. Hailey Troock (24) is a young woman from British Columbia, Canada. She completed her undergraduate studies in International Relations at UBC, has studied at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and is currently working towards completing her Master thesis in International Public Management and Policy (IMP). Antonio Salgado Delgado (28) is a Mexican national who completed his Licenciatura

(bachelor) in Media Studies at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City but lived in Canada for a few years prior to moving to the Netherlands. He is currently working towards finishing his Master thesis in Media, Culture and Society through a dissertation on the relationship between the media and narco-trafficking in Mexico.

Both students in the Netherlands are very excited to team up with Armand from Burundi, who has shown a keen interest in the topic of youth and development in his home country. As a legal representative for the Amahoro Youth Club, Armand is attending, for example, a Convention of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilization in Azerbaijan.

As a team, we want to examine the EU’s international initiatives with a critical eye, without succumbing to the neo-colonial, paternalistic rhetoric that often dominates international development dialogue. What this challenge represents to us is a stepping-stone to a more inclusive, collaborative and comprehensive approach to “development”, through facilitating cross-cultural relationships, participation and understanding.

Though both students have had first-hand experience in countries of Latin America, some of Eastern Africa, the Middle East and Europe, neither of them have had the opportunity to visit Burundi. However, the students feel that they can bring both a multi-disciplinary scholastic perspective to the topic at hand, as well as personal insight and interest. We believe our role in this project should be to build upon and support the experience and ideas of our partner in Burundi, who, after all, is in the midst of the EU's mission to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals on the ground.

Our logo is one that comes from the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, the epicentre of some of the most influential cultural and social movements in Latin America. Painted by a Chilean-born, Mexican artist, Beatriz Aurora, this piece of art, like much of her work, is inspired by the Zapatista struggle. Its english translation means "Another world is possible – a world where everyone belongs".

## **Policy Papers**

The teams were challenged to write a position paper of 2,000 to 2,500 words on the impact of the European Union's development policies on the country the team was assigned to as well as a short outreach strategy on how to promote the results.

A position paper is a way to present a position on an issue in a short and logical way. Position papers are used to convince decision-makers to take their decisions in favor of your position. For this purpose, the teams were asked to provide background information on the cause and present their opinion and recommendations.

### **The criteria were the following:**

- The proposal should include a position paper including actor mapping and problem analysis, plus a short outreach strategy.
- The position paper should be between 2,000 to 2,500 words
- The outreach strategy should be no more than 500 words.
- The position paper should include an introduction of the team: Who are you? Why are you joining the competition?

- The position paper should include a background of the country and the (post) conflict situation, thereby focusing on one particular problematic issue youth in that country have to deal with, e.g. unemployment, violence, lack of education.
- The position paper should include a short overview of the day to day realities, related to that issue, of youth living in the (post)conflict country.
- The position paper should give an overview of what the EU has done so far. This should be linked to the issue/focus the team is looking into.
- The research should be based on relevant literature and publications.
- The position paper should include recommendations for policy-makers.

The participants were encouraged to keep in mind that the policy paper should be aimed at convincing an EU policy maker to take their recommendations into account. The recommendations for the policy-maker should be SMART – Specific – Measurable – Attainable – Realistic –Time-bound. They were furthermore encouraged to be as creative as they could for the outreach strategy.

## **Meetings at the European Union**

On the 11th of July 2011, UNOY representatives together with the winners of the Interplay challenge including Obi Peters from Nigeria went to Brussels for advocacy meetings.

The first meeting took place at the European Commission in the offices of the Fragility and Crisis Management Unit. Here the team presented the Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise project and its overall conclusions before Giovanni and Obi talked about the specific situation of EU development cooperation in the Niger Delta. The team also discussed the new communication strategy that is being developed in the European Commission to ensure that information is more readily available and the need for capacity building, sustainability, transparency and civil society involvement in development cooperation.



The next meetings took place in the European Parliament where we met with Dutch MEPs Thijs Berman from Partij van de Arbeid (Labour Party) and Judith Sargentini from GroenLinks (the Dutch Greens). Here the discussion raced through a number of topics including transparency on EU spending, the need for greater policy coherency, fair trade agreements and how to involve young people more in the EU. We talked about the role of multinational corporations in conflicts, governmental corruption and the different ways that EU policies can address these issues. Once again the need for sustainability and civil society involvement were decided to be priorities.



These visits were a great opportunity for UNOY Peacebuilders to spread the word about the results of the Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise project and the work of its members. We also appreciated the chance to learn more about EU development cooperation and the functioning of the European Commission and the European Parliament.

## Follow-Up

### Lectures on the Niger Delta

In continuation of its work to introduce more young people to peacebuilding initiatives and due to the success of last year's visit, this month UNOY Peacebuilders met once again with a group of 27 American students from Duke University's Summer Programme. The students, aged between 16 and 18, had been specially selected by Duke University, and had come to the Netherlands for an educational visit, as part of a summer course on international humanitarian and criminal law. During the meeting, held on the afternoon of the 13th of July at UNOY Peacebuilders' office in The Hague, the participants were introduced to UNOY Peacebuilders and its activities. Several of the member organisations and their projects were introduced, as well as the "Learning by Seeing, Seeing by Doing" project. Obi introduced the students to his organisation and to the challenges it has been facing in the Niger Delta as a result of the negligence of oil-multinationals. He presented the outcomes of the Interplay project, which focused on the impact of EU development aid in Nigeria.



On July 14 Obi from YOUPEDA gave a presentation on the Niger Delta conflict. Obi's presentation was followed by a presentation of Joyce Oghogho Orhue who is writing her master's thesis also on the situation in the Delta. Obi began to talk about the Niger Delta in an unconventional manner, with a hip hop video containing images and lyrics of and related to the Niger delta. Obi then explained how the 70s saw an 'oil boom' in the Niger Delta, where he originated from. Then, as it tends to happen when there is a rich resource at stake, interests collide and things go

wrong around it. Namely, the big multinationals such as Shell and Exxon came to the area in order to exploit the resource, and in doing so they overlooked their corporate social responsibility and acted with negligence towards the community. Oil spillage, pollution, and gas flaring killed the fish which provided communities with most of their food. The environmental degradation spurred grievances which resulted in the escalation of the conflict in the Niger Delta. Nigeria is a multicultural society, with people of different ethnicities and religions living together, which contributed to people, especially youth, gathering in militant groups in order to try to assure their survival. They often resorted to violent means, and conflicts and kidnapping go on to this day. Joyce followed up on this overview of the conflict in Niger Delta by giving the audience an insight into her on-the-field research for her thesis. She mostly focused on the reintegration programme which the Nigerian government is currently implementing in order to help youth who were or are part of militant groups get educated and readjusted to community life. Joyce had found that, due to corruption of people involved in the facilitation of the programme, the reintegration was far from being well implemented. Joyce felt that the faults in this reintegration programme makes the Nigeria Delta a 'boiling pot', in which conflict can re-escalate at any moment.

The Interplay project was also highlighted in various presentations given in the course of the second half of 2011.



# Evaluation

## Indicators for success

The project will be a success if:

- ✓ Participants in the competition will have indicated that they have gained more knowledge and understanding of the work of the European Union in development cooperation.
- ✓ Participants in the competition will have indicated that they have got new insights in development cooperation.
- ✓ Participants in the competition and the workshops will have indicated that the new tools they got to know are useful and that they will further work with them.
- ✓ Participants in the competition will have indicated that they have gained more knowledge about life realities in a (post)conflict society.

The evaluation showed that the youth that participated in the project were overall very enthusiastic and positive about the whole competition. In particular, participants found the workshops to be very useful and appreciated the skills that they learnt. They also enjoyed the chance to correspond with youth who actually reside in the countries that they were researching. There were many comments that discussions with the youth partners were more valuable than any amount of internet and book research as it gave an on the ground reality perspective.

However, the points that were noted that could have been improved were the clarity of the assignment, the support materials provided and the communication with their youth partner. Two of the teams had difficulties in contacting their youth partners due to limited internet access and busy work schedules on the part of the youth. Many also noted that the original assignment guidelines were not clear enough and too open for interpretation. We also noticed this early on in the competition phase and tried to remedy this issue by sending an email that clarified the assignment task and an outline of the judging criteria. Some teams felt this should have been done earlier.

The youth partners in the South were also very enthusiastic about the opportunity to take part in the competition. Suggestions for improvements they gave were; a more interactive website, so that interaction between the teams is also possible. The problems they faced were; time,

communication tools (lack of internet connection etc.), money (internet is very expensive and communication fees could be sent in advance rather than reimbursed afterwards).

Overall lessons we learned from the evaluation is that in the future we should provide clearer guidelines on what exactly is expected from the teams as not all teams were clear about what should be included in the report. Maybe it would have been good to organise a workshop or information meeting at the start of the project, to inform participants of the assignment guidelines and give them suggestions on the best way to retrieve relevant information. Possibly allowing more time for the competition phase would have given the youth partners more chance to research the topic in their country and would have given them more time for communication as many of the youth from the South do not have frequent internet access.

A formative evaluation at the project's half-way point would have been useful as it would have revealed that some teams did not find the guidelines clear enough. If we were aware of this we could have supported them more during the competition. However, the participants did have our email contact details and an open ended offer to answer any questions or clarify any points that they were unsure about.

Furthermore, if timing had allowed, it would have been good to have more time to promote the project with universities in order to include it in the curriculum or as a semester assignment.

## List of Participants & Their Recommendations

**The Pre-Masters: “Tackling the roots of youth unemployment in Burundi: A policy paper for the European Commission to reduce future conflict through employment creation”**

Erik van der Meij, Chantal Marie Brink, Jenna Hietala

Supported by: Innocent Kwizera from Amahoro Youth Club, Burundi

Main conclusions and recommendations from the report:

*“Recommendations for the European Commission*

*Of course, it could be assumed that the European Commission’s 10th EDF plan for Burundi intends to implicitly stimulate youth employment via the areas of rural rehabilitation, development and good governance. However, the current policy lacks specific actions that effectively tackle the root causes of the recently worrying youth unemployment situation.*

*As discussed in this paper, unemployment is linked to factors including the economy, skills, conflict, infrastructure, governance and attitude. In order to create sustainable economic growth, and therefore more jobs in Burundi, projects that engage the key stakeholders and main factors seem most likely to have significant effects.*

*The Pre-Masters for this reason urge the Commission to adopt the following win-win policy recommendation when constructing the new strategy for development cooperation with Burundi within the 11th EDF;*

*1. Funding a group of EU based organisations to set up and manage residential college programmes in 3 cities, helping thousands of youngsters per year to reach a level of skill that respond to the needs of future employers. Competencies could be in practical areas such as education, electrical & civil engineering, entrepreneurship, language, management, public administration, agriculture, law and health. Able skilled workers with initiative and a desire to share their skills will boost Burundi’s economic potential. European colleges of further education, and universities, would be involved with twinning activities, joint projects and hosting exchanges.*

*2. Funding for the development of Burundi’s business environment, to make it more attractive for foreign companies to invest in Burundi’s provinces, and for young entrepreneurs to establish strong new businesses. Both will offer jobs to the newly skilled workforce. Infrastructure*

*improvements, commercial stability, measures to reduce corruption and simplified business requirements will motivate Burundians to be part of future growth and peace in their own country.”*

### **Wake Up Call: “Proposal; Awareness campaign on Palestine among Dutch youth”**

Elise Crutzen, Darris Hawks , Jevgenijs Rjasenko, Daphne Schrader, Jacques Michel Bloi

Supported by: Fadi Abou Akleh from Arab Educational Institute (AEI), Palestine

Main conclusions and recommendations from the report:

*“We have a few recommendations for the European Union. These are the following:*

*The European Union can be a lot more **interactive**. Something they could do is do twice as much interactive activities regarding youth in Palestine in 2011 and 2012, as they did in the previous years. An example of an activity they could do with high school students is give seminars at high schools, and show them a documentary about the Palestinian youth.*

*The European Union has to be much more **transparent** with their information. We believe 40% of all Dutch people between the age of 16 and 24 should understand EU policy regarding Palestine by April 2012. They could give people pamphlets for example, on which the often difficultly described information and policies is made easier to understand what is actually being done.*

*We think the European Union should be more **visible**. They could try to launch 35% more campaigns between now (April 2011) and April 2012 about what the European Union represents and what it wants to achieve. This way they are more visible and tangible. They could, for example, use billboards, flyers, news programs (Jeugd Journaal), fund-raising or radio appearances.*

*Our last recommendation: the European Union should focus on **informing** young people a lot more, especially those between the ages of 12 and 18. We think they could visit high schools three times more than they previously did from now until August 2012 and give seminars about what the European Union does, what it represents, and what it means for the people concretely.”*

**Team Europe United: “The young are the future. Workshops towards better opportunities in Somalia”**

Carlota Rego, Magda Ornat, Fabienne Smit

Supported by: Abdirahman Elmi from Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA,) Somalia

Main conclusions and recommendations from the report:

*“Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world and is currently characterized as a failed state. The youth suffers a lack of a sufficient educational system, economic resources and job opportunities. Europe United has created a plan ‘Workshops towards better opportunities’ to provide the youth with workshops based on developing skills in different labour sectors and obtaining knowledge so that they have more job opportunities in the future. The programme provides opportunities to involve different sectors and allow young people to take advantage of their experience and knowledge while developing their own skills. The workshops will be conducted by youth organizations and other actors involved are the government, the private sector and civil society. The youth organization have to write a report every six months about the progress of the project and justification of the budget, however, the project is also checked by Somali institutions and the European Union. With this project, Europe United touches upon all the points the European Union has set in its current EU Development Strategy for Somalia. The youth can become involved in the programme after following the workshops or opt for an internship of job in the private sector. Therefore, the project is sustainable and creates better opportunities for the youth and possibilities for the private sector. The Somali government receives financial resources to promote important core principles such as human rights, gender equality and good governance but also to improve the educational system at all levels. When all actors involves join forces and promote the core principles at all times, especially among the youth, civil society will be strengthened. Europe United believes the young are the future and have the ability to improve their situation in Somalia.”*

**Team J/M: “The hearts and minds of the Colombian people. The position of Afrocolombians in Colombia”**

Janita Figge and Marjolein Jegerings

Supported by: Laura Caralina Franco from Fundación Escuelas de Paz, Colombia

Main conclusions and recommendations from the report:

*“Recommendations for EU involvement.*

*As is shown in the articles we have read, but also from what Laura Catalina Franco Espinoza has mentioned to us, an important issue related to the displacement of Afrocolombians is stigmatization. Both in policymaking, the working field, mass media and on the streets, Afrocolombians suffer from being excluded and discriminated. Most of the projects that the EU has initiated so far are a more practical and physical way of improving the situation of IDPs. Efforts are made to ensure good living standards including basic needs such as water, but also the universally accepted human rights.*

*Most projects are implemented at top-down level but the failing Colombian government causes problems to the successful implementation of these. We consider there is a gap in the current programs making the people actually conscious of the existing inequalities. By imposing projects that only aim at facilitating practical needs, the minds of Colombian people are not changed yet. It is the family around the corner, the employers, the politicians and the classmates of Afrocolombians that need to change their perception in order to improve the actual situation of IDPs.*

*But how will we change the perceptions of the Colombian people? We think this should be done by a medium that is accessible and comprehensible for the entire population. As Laura Catalina Franco Espinoza has mentioned to us, not all Afrocolombians are able to read and write adequately, but their language is despite the accent similar to the entire Colombian population. Creating understanding for different ethnicities within Colombia therefore should be done on a verbal or physical manner. A possibility we consider adequate to start with is a radio station. Many radio stations already exist in Colombia, and this is what we want to profit from. Starting with a weekly emission of ‘world music’ in an already existing station to which Colombians listen, the music of a diversity of ethnic groups is heard. Government figures indicate that Colombia has over 800,000 indigenous inhabitants belonging to approximately 80 distinct ethnic groups.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, in such a program not only Afrocolombian music should be heard, but upcoming*

*musicians of all ethnicities. Later on this emission could extend to interviews, cultural backgrounds and announcements for cultural events, and also can be transmitted more frequently. We consider a long term project as the radio station as an ideal opportunity to enforce community-building, but also short term projects can be useful. Examples of these could be hosting sport events, cooking classes, dance workshops. Likewise understanding for fellow human being in Colombia because of the people themselves, not because it is imposed to them by policy makers.*

*Of course we don't see it as the role of the EU to start a radio show, but we do recommend them to make a bigger budget available for local and small scale initiatives in Colombia that actually empower the variety of people that is present in Colombia."*

### **Karma Police: "The impact of EU's development policies on the situation in West African Liberia"**

Maria Bomba, Roel Muller

Supported by: Thomas J. Barlue, from African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI), Liberia

Main conclusions and recommendations:

*"According to Youngs' article, (3)the European Union transformed its policies towards developing countries classified as African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP) considerably. Before 2000, the European Commission focused its actions on conflict prevention, working mainly with the political causes of conflicts. These strategies had negative or insignificant outputs, especially in Western Africa countries as they were considered as "arcs of instability" for the rest of the continent. With these experiences, the EU decided to centre on conflict resolution tools and long-term development programmes. Between 2002 and 2007 (as agreed upon in the ninth European Development Fund or the Cotonou Agreement), the EU allocated €235 million in Western African countries in order to promote ECOWAS's development and economic and financial integration. Only a small part of this donation was assigned to conflict prevention. (4)*

*Liberia and the European Union have enjoyed a long partnership. During the civil war, the European Commission maintained its representation and humanitarian aid (ECHO) in Liberia and after the war both the EU and the Liberian government signed the Cotonou Agreement on June*

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3 Youngs, R., 2006, The EU and Conflict in West Africa, European Foreign Affairs Review, 11/3, pp. 333-352

4 Youngs, R., 2006, The EU and Conflict in West Africa, European Foreign Affairs Review, 11, p. 337

23rd, 2000. With its main purpose being poverty reduction, the agreement emphasises the long-term development of Liberia and its gradual integration into the world economy. Moreover, the EU and West African countries, including Liberia, signed in 2008 the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that allows creation of free trade areas between the EU and ACP states.

By means of the European Development Fund, the EU implements short and long-term programmes in nine areas: trade and regional integration; the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources; infrastructure, communications and transport; water and energy; rural development, territorial planning, agriculture and food security; governance, democracy, human rights and support for economic and institutional reforms; conflict prevention and fragile states; human development; social cohesion and employment. Each project is centered around the Millennium Development Goals and the needs of developing countries as they are identified by UN. (5) The EU has allocated 161,8 million euro from the EDF - the tenth EDF, which is also known as the Revised Cotonou Agreement - between 2008 and 2013. The main purpose of this programme is poverty reduction by improving social, health and educational standards in Liberia. The Strategy for Poverty Reduction was implemented by the Liberian government in 2006 and continued with EU support since 2008 with EU. Furthermore, The Liberian government cooperates with the EC in order to increase the transparency and efficiency of its institutions and civil servants.

The EU, by putting emphasis on the economical and political issues in the development programmes, neglects social long-term programmes such as education. Projects in that sector have not been successful at all. According to the European Community Support Programme, the European Community support for education in Liberia (ECSEL) has not realised its plan for 2006-2010.(6) Failure in this case is mainly due to bureaucratic problems and the lack of communication between organisations and institutions, weak planning and placing capacities, malfunction of units responsible for the mobilisation of human and technical resources and a lack of technical assistance from the state's institutions. Furthermore, the EU policies in terms of education suffer not only because of the organisational problems, but also due to the distance between Brussels and Monrovia (politicians vs. Ordinary people in post-conflict situation) that makes the assessment of actual situation a very complicated task.

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5 <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Home.aspx>

6 <http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/7096738.PDF>, p.64

## **Sita and Maite: “Colombia and its displaced youth”**

Sita Djelantik, Maïte Karstanje

Supported by: Andres Ignazio Peres Leon from [Fundación Escuelas de Paz](#), Colombia.

Main conclusions and recommendations from the report:

*“As discussed before, the Colombian youth is the future of the country so it is important to invest in the youth. When trying to resolve the problems of the displaced youth it is really important to solve the problems in the structures. With doing this, the displacement and its problems can be prevented.*

*One structure that is important to focus on for the displacement is the social structure of inequality. This structure also has caused the bad economic position of the displaced people. When there is more equality, the opportunities of the displaced people will increase. Another important structure for the displaced people is the security structure. Because of the lack of influence of the government in a lot of conflict areas, the inhabitants are left to their own devices. This has led to a hostile environment. When the EU will focus on these structures the chances of a long term solution for the displaced people will increase.*

*Tackling the deep-root causes is easier said than done, these problems are very complex. Therefore it is also important to focus on the short term solutions by decreasing or eliminating the consequences for the youth. These consequences of the displacement include lack of education, discrimination, joining armed groups and teenage pregnancy. We recommend the EU to start more small projects like Diakonie. Projects where the youth is re-integrated in the society. It is important to invest in this kind of projects because this will increase the chances to a good future for the youth.*

*We recommend that the planning of these projects will be done at the EU-level but that the exportation of the project will be done on grass-root level. The combination of international on local level is important. Because local people have got a better insight in the best approach for this conflict and they know the cultures. The local people have got the knowledge, the EU has got the means.”*

**Otro mundo es posible: “The potential of Burundian youth; A position paper and outreach strategy regarding the impacts of EU development aid in Burundi”**

Antonio Salgado, Hailey Troock

Supported by: Armand Giramahoro from Amahoro Youth Club, Burundi

Main conclusions and recommendations from the report:

*“The EU’s development narrative is constructed through the dozens of articles and conclusions laid out in the documents of its three main organizational limbs: the Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The EU’s role in Burundi is largely defined vis-à-vis the policies created by them. Despite its active promotion of self-ownership in the conclusions regarding fragile states (2007), its conclusions on security and development (2007) state that the EU needs “to build peace in developing countries” (1). What is problematic is that instead of seeking to empower the local youth directly to build their own peace, the international community, with its some 3000 European expats and 2000 South Asian expats living in Burundi (World Fact Book, 2010: 111) chooses to build it for them. Through utilizing language such as ‘building’ peace, the ownership and agency of the local actors is marginalized, the process of peace building and those involved in it in developing countries are essentially constructed as passive recipients of the EU’s development consensus. This discourse, as expanded upon above, is also one that fuels the international portrayal of Burundi and its people, one that results in compassion fatigue.*

*The current policy narrative is also constructed around the multiplicity of indicators that have defined much of the international development agenda. Burundi is near the lower end of the low-income country category, with a gross national income (GNI) per person of 150 USD (World Bank, 2010). As a landlocked developing country (LLDC), it is currently not foreseen to accomplish many of the Millennium Development Goals despite the 2007 Africa-EU’s Joint Strategy that includes “accelerating progress” towards them (13). For instance, as of 2009, only 55 percent of youth were employed (DESA, 2011).*

*The narrative is also constructed within several of the organisms of the EU’s development and humanitarian bureaucracy. The European Commission’s Directorate General (DG) ECHO works with the European Development Fund and OCHR in order to implement short and long term*

*policy development goals, which fall along the parameters of the MDG indicators, as well as the priorities of the HDI.*

*From the period of 2003 to 2008, the European Development Fund's (EDF) ninth period in Burundi focused on areas such as fighting poverty through rural development, good governance and macroeconomic support. While the 10th EDF has continued to support these initiatives, it has also placed a significant focus on the health care sector. There are 188 million Euros divided between rural development and rehabilitation, through such initiatives as seed fairs and agricultural and food aid, the healthcare sector, for training and basic services, and general budget support.*

*The raison d'être of DG ECHO is to ensure that they (refugees and repatriated citizens) can live "productive lives which are sustainable" (ECHO, 2010). Furthermore, they facilitate access to land and education through the establishment of peace villages. This is complemented by the work of the Commission's delegation in Burundi, which supports longer-term projects, such as permanent house building programmes and those that enable the returnees to build sustainable lives.*

*In terms of coherence, the institutional incoherence at the end of the EU is problematic. The development and humanitarian aid provided to Burundi is facilitated by six different sources only from within the EU structure alone, not to mention the bilateral assistance from the member states (Africa-EU Partnership, 2007). The highly complex nature of the EU political system, which has led to concerns regarding the democratic deficit and problems of transparency, is visible in the bureaucratic and budgetary web that is made visible within its humanitarian endeavors in countries such as Burundi.*

*A further incoherence in EU policy is found in the work of the EDF. In Burundi, in relation to rural development and rehabilitation, the EDF recognizes the importance of strengthening Burundi's agricultural sector, considering that it comprises 90 percent of the national economy. However, through food aid provided by the World Food Programme, the European Commission supports the use of genetically modified (GM) seeds in Africa, a widely debated issue (BBC, 2002) in the international community. Though GM seeds, for example, have been able to address short-term hunger needs, they are, in the long-term, highly unsustainable (Navdanya, 2009). GM products, such as those produced by TNC's such as Monsanto and spread through the initiatives of the*

*WFP, reproduce debt burdens of countries to transnational companies and lending institutions. Furthermore, in relation to the EU and its objective of policy coherence in development (PCD), the cross-contamination that has been known to occur with GM seeds and crops produces the potential threat to Burundi's agricultural sector in terms of its export capacity to the EU, whose stance on the importation of GM foods is strict. This incoherence represents a cornerstone of the EU's development narrative, which has traded in long term sustainability and food security for the 'myth of feeding the hungry' (Navdanya, 2009)."*

**The Winning Team:**

**The Peacemakers: "Shell Shocked: Protracted social violence in the Niger Delta Region"**

Giovanni Floor and Tiffany Olsen

Supported by; Daniel Obiomachukwu Peter ONYEIGWE, Youth For Peace Building and Development in Africa (YOUPEDA), Nigeria

See Appendix for copy of whole paper



## Organising team and trainers

**Lillian Solheim** is working as the International Network and Programme Coordinator at UNOY Peacebuilders in The Netherlands. Lillian Solheim is originally from Norway and has an MA in International Relations from the University of Kent, Brussels. She has previous volunteer and work experiences from various NGOs and international organisations, including Search for Common Ground and the United Nations Regional Information Centre. She was a Soliya Connect Program Facilitator in 2009 and 2010. She was assistant national leader for the Ship for World Youth Programme in 2009 and a Course Advisor in the same programme in 2011. She is also editor and co-author of a number of articles and toolkits related to youth work and peacebuilding.

**Vera Santner** is from Austria. She holds a Master's degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Vienna. During her studies she focused on Peace and Conflict Studies and human rights. Her research interests focus on the use of new media in protest as well as gender and violence. Due to her interest in non-violence she participated in a one-year training course on non-violent conflict resolution of the Austrian branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. With her regional interest in Asia, manifested in various travels to the region as well as field research in the Philippines, and her experience in youth and NGO work she has started as Asian desk officer at the UNOY Peacebuilders' office in The Hague in September 2010. Additionally, she is also working on various other projects like this one, an African Advocacy Toolkit, a training manual as well as organising meetings and assisting with other administrative tasks.

**Renske Oosterwijk** is from the Netherlands, living in Utrecht. Last September she completed her MSc. in Children's Rights, orientation Cultural Anthropology, at the University of Amsterdam. For her master thesis she conducted three months field research on the social and political participation of youth growing up in post-conflict Sierra Leone. Furthermore she has a study background in social science, conflict studies and human rights. Her interest for travelling, different cultures and volunteer work brought her in Colombia, where she volunteered at an organization working with neglected children. For UNOY Peacebuilders she will work mainly on the Interplay project, bringing Dutch and students from the South together to research European development cooperation.

**Sybylla Anderson** is from Australia. She has a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney. She has experience working with refugees and in facilitating conflict transformation and non-violence workshops. She has spent a lot of time travelling, living and working in all different parts of the world. Before undertaking her Masters, her background was in film and television production. As a Project Officer at UNOY she has worked on many different projects including Interplay, the Peace of Minds Academy, Youth Participation training and the Utrecht University Summer School.

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## Resources and further information

NCDO Website, [http://www.ncdo.nl/Subsidie\\_aanvragen/Huidige\\_PRO\\_Actief](http://www.ncdo.nl/Subsidie_aanvragen/Huidige_PRO_Actief), accessed 11/01/2010

Website of the European Commission on Development and relations with African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, [http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/consensus\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/consensus_en.cfm), accessed 11/01/10

UNOY Peacebuilders (2008) Youth Advocacy for a Culture of Peace: A Reflective Guide for Action in Europe, [http://unoy.org/downloads/resources/advocacy/2008\\_YACoP.pdf](http://unoy.org/downloads/resources/advocacy/2008_YACoP.pdf)

# **Appendix 1: Shell Shocked**

## **Shell Shocked**

### **Protracted social violence in the Niger Delta Region**

#### **UNOY: Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise Case Study: Niger Delta**

**Tiffany Olson and Giovanni Floor**

#### **Introduction:**

Our group is comprised of two students studying in Amsterdam at the University of Amsterdam. Tiffany is an international political science student from San Francisco who is studying in Amsterdam for one semester. She is also taking classes in the interdisciplinary field of political science, including an Introduction to Conflict Studies course. She is interested in human rights and environmental issues. Giovanni is an Amsterdam native who is studying political science and history at the University. He, also, is taking an Introduction to Conflict Studies course. He takes interest in conflict prevention and resolution in Sub-Saharan Africa.

We have chosen to participate in this project because it offers an incredible opportunity to study a conflict and assess it in a way that has the potential to influence foreign (EU) policy in Nigeria. The ultimate potential of this project offers us a chance to make a difference in areas of both our interest that currently have an immeasurable impact on the severely under-developed country and region that is the Niger Delta in Nigeria. With this real world potential comes exponentially increased motivation to take a special interest in the conflict at hand, analyze, assess and make critical suggestions to EU policy-makers. Our research and communication with Obi, our contact in Nigeria, have forced us to realize the complex depths to which this conflict dives. Mapping, analyzing and suggesting policy revisions to aid de-escalation of this highly convoluted conflict is no easy task and cannot be outlined briskly. Thus, we are forced to solely

identify and map the main actors and sources of the conflict as the complexity of the issue would take us far deeper than such a succinct and concise analysis allows.

## **Context**

In the mid 1950s, when Nigeria was still under the colonial rule of the United Kingdom, oil was discovered in the Niger Delta region by the British. Until October 1, 1960, when Nigeria gained their independence from Britain, the British were in charge of the Nigerian federal government. Before their independence, contracts between the Nigerian federal government (which was under British rule) and oil companies like Shell-BP were drawn up and signed, giving the British oil giants access to the vast oil supplies in the Niger Delta region. At this point in time there was not enough knowledge of the affects of oil drilling and exploration practices, as well as an insufficient amount of social competence to correctly manage resources. This led to the beginning of the environmental degradation that spurred many of the grievances which have resulted in the development and escalation of the conflict in the Niger Delta region today (Daniel, Mar 26).

In the early 1970s there was an oil boom that sparked an increase in oil production, revenues and therefore oil multinational influence. Until then, Nigeria had been an economy which was primarily based on agriculture. With the oil boom, the base of their economy shifted towards oil exports. The low, or lack of, environmental standards, that applied to the now booming oil industry led to environmental degradation on a much larger and more significant scale. Not only was land now being used for oil exploration and extraction, but the insufficient environmental standards meant land across the region was being polluted to the point of being unusable (Daniel, Mar 19). Gas flaring produced air toxins that not only affected people living in the surrounding area, but also caused acid rain which in turn depleted the fish population (Daniel, Mar 27). Oil spills polluted the water and made it too toxic to support aquatic life (including fisheries), or be used as drinking or irrigation water. For a country and a region whose employment and survival needs lay within fishing and agricultural subsistence, the depletion of the two together would be cause for severe grievances, conflict and violence as a lack of political interference propelled escalation (Daniel, 19).

In the 1990s environmentalist Ken Saro Wiwa, a member of Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) and native to the Niger Delta region, launched a peaceful protest campaign against the Shell oil company based on Ogoni grievances against the company for

“suffering the consequences of oil extraction and reaping none of it’s rewards” (Daniel, 22). A statement from MOSOP brings the realities of living in a region plundered by oil-based environmental degradation to life: “The once beautiful Ogoni country side is no more a source of fresh air and green Vegetation. All one sees and feels around is death”.

In 1995 Wiwa and eight other non violent activists against the Shell corporation were arrested by the Nigerian government and hanged. The official reason for their arrest and death sentence lay in their conviction of murder. However, it later surfaced that the witnesses whose testimonials led to the convictions were paid by Shell to give false statements (“How Shell”). This ignited a grave fear in the hearts of the people of the region and resulted in far fewer protests for a time. However, fear eventually relinquished and MOSOP continues to be a peaceful protest organization to this day, though a great majority of the citizenry are simply unaware of their right to civil disobedience and peaceful protest (Daniel, Mar 24).

Today, the problems in the Niger Delta persist and there has been an increase in violent conflict based largely on the environmental degradation and governmental corruption (Daniel, Mar 19). The government, unable to sustain the livelihood of its people in a proper sense, has had to deal with the development of a new militant group operating under the name MEND (Movement of the Emancipation of the Niger Delta). Their objectives have been mainly revolved around the return of Nigerian national resources to the Nigerian people. In the following chapter we are going to investigate what the structural causes for these grievances are. Then we are to assess the dynamics of these causes and how further flaring of the conflict can be amended (“How”).

### **Structure of the conflict**

Before we analyze the structural causes of the conflict it is best first to state the reason for choosing Azars model of protracted social conflict as a starting point for analysis, since it's discourse implicates that this conflict becomes, by definition, protracted. We must be aware that we are not formulating a self fulfilling prophecy. Luckily the evidence speaks for itself as there are several indications that there is a structural discontent amongst the Niger Delta population. Moreover after Nigeria’s transition towards a democratic system in 1999 there have been a relapsing occurrence of violence during election time in both 2003 and 2007 (Human Rights Watch. Criminal). The violence amongst different interest groups during the elections indicates that violent behavior within the Niger Delta region is closely related to access to certain

needs, needs that access to power would fulfill. This access to needs is a vital aspect of Azar's theory (Azar, 8). This will also be our starting point of understanding the structural aspect of Azar's theory. While Azar himself states that the rise of multi-communal societies is the genesis of protracted social conflict, the way Nigerian society is organized, through the clientele networks of local power magistrates and the diversity of ethnic groups, makes it hard to differentiate between the several multi-communal societies along ethnic divides (Azar). While MOSOP, comprised of Ogoni people, of course does show this kind of reasoning, it uses no violence. In contrast, MEND, is surprisingly an ethnically heterogeneous group (Ojaborotu). Moreover, ethnic violence in the region is uncommon and not where the conflict lay. Thus, the empirical data disregards the rise of multi-communal groups along ethnic lines.

Returning to Azar, the second part of his theory concentrates on the access to certain needs. Political participation and access to the economic market are examples of these needs. Political participation is fueled by the groups' need for acceptance of their rights. This is exactly the aim of MEND and MOSOP, as both want to be heard. "Grievances resulting from need deprivation are usually expressed collectively" (Azar, 9). Moreover, the ecological degradation that has been caused by the different oil companies has created a downfall of basic human security needs, such as sanitation, nutrition and housing (Ojaborotu). Both of these aspects influence the way these parties articulate their grievances and how they become more aware that they are disadvantaged and in search of more rights.

The state then becomes the leading actor to decrease these societal grievances. In the case of Nigeria, deep-rooted corruption has made the government unwilling and unable to do so. Because of the enormous wealth generated in the Niger Delta region, political entrepreneurs are in search of hoarding state revenue (Human Rights Watch. "Everyone"). This has become most apparent during the 2007 election period in the region, where political candidates sought out the help of criminal networks and disenfranchised youth to take out their political opponents. There is, however, a more cunning form of corruption at work as well. The decision-making power of government officials becomes a strain on the equal access to resources. There are several members of government that have private economic interests. For example, government officials may have a cotton industry that they want to protect from market competition. Thus, instead of investing government money into creating fair business opportunities and expanding the internal market, they seek to uphold their own private interests. This is part of the so-called resource curse in which the huge amount of revenue created by the oil sector gives government officials a chance to neglect the rest of the economy in order to protect their own private interest (Daniel, Mar 22).

Nevertheless the rise of multinational cooperations have had an even more profound effect on the functioning of government. The overall dependency of the state on oil revenue has created an asymmetrical linkage between the oil companies on one side and the government on the other. If the oil companies were to leave Nigeria for another oil producing country, they could make the same profit. However, if the oil companies were to leave Nigeria, then the severely corrupted government that bases its financial gain on the oil revenues would be left in shambles. Thus, the relationship is asymmetrical as the government is more dependent on the oil conglomerates than the oil companies are on the Nigerian government. The result has been a government more in favor of the oil companies than of the people. Moreover, oil companies have used their financial capital to gain access to the decision-making process in government (Human Rights Watch. Criminal). The ecological degradation of gas flaring in the Niger Delta must be seen in this light as it is in the interest of both the state, since government officials directly gain from the profit generated by oil companies, and the oil companies not to address the problem. (Daniel, 22 Mar).

As a result, a situation is created in which certain groups gain more than others and this eventually leads to political resentment. While Azars theory can explain the motives and occurrence of organizations as MOSOP and MEND, which are based on grievance, it cannot explain the rise of the bulk of criminal organizations, which are based on greed. Therefore we must turn to Collier and his explanation on why it is so hard for members of a community to become politically engaged.

According to Collier there are several collective action problems at work that make it almost impossible for political rebellion based on grievance. First, there is the problem of free-riding, in which the people do not participate in rebellion because they believe, and wish, someone else will do the dirty work for them. Second, there is a coordination problem. People tend to join rebellions only once the rebellion has become large enough. They fear government repression and will not participate until the movement has gained substantial support. Of course any organization has to start small in order to become big, which makes it difficult to organize an opposition group. Third, there is a time-constituency problem in which the rebel leaders have to create a bond of trust with their followers and make their followers believe they will behave differently than their current rulers. Collier continues by stating that rebellions have a greater chance of success in homogenous societies than heterogeneous societies(Collier).

If we take a look at Collier's argument on a communal level instead of a societal level, we can develop an interesting understanding as to why MOSOP and MEND have been successful in establishing themselves as political organizations. In the case of MOSOP, they are an ethnically

homogenous group (Ogonis) led by a charismatic leader, thus making it logical that the free-riding and time-consistency dilemma could have been averted. In the case of MEND the same situation should not occur unless one takes the fact that the grievances in the Niger Delta are common to the whole region. This view makes the problem so severe that free-riding problems can be overcome, even in a heterogeneous society. As the dynamics will show, it seems that this is actually the case.

Still there is another point to address as a structural cause and this is when Collier's collective action problem cannot be overcome. In this case, economic factors, instead of political grievances, take the overhand and the population goes in search of a way out of mere subsistence. In the oil vast region of the Niger Delta this has led to oil bunkering. Here, local youth have taken an interest in gaining access to the financial resources in the Niger Delta by relying on criminal activities such as oil bunkering. Oil bunkering can be placed into three different categories (Asuni). The first one is theft for the local market. Due to chronic energy shortage in Nigeria (perhaps the greatest paradox of them all) petroleum is an uncommon and highly sought after product in communities. However, these stolen barrels are crude oil that must be refined by the locals themselves. The result is a highly ecologically hazardous mode of oil refinement, which is also dangerous to the individual doing the refining. Often unemployed youth are part of these kinds of activities (Khakee).

The second form of oil bunkering is done by large sophisticated criminal networks with international linkages abroad. These groups pump oil directly from the pipelines and transport them by means of railways to the ports. From there they are transported to harbors such as Rotterdam and sold for cash. This stolen oil can also be traded for guns or drugs, which aid the militant and violent groups in Nigeria (Asuni).

Lastly there is oil bunkering done directly by oil company workers and government officials themselves (Daniel, Mar 26). They do this by falsifying oil contracts in such a way that more oil is actually sold than was officially accounted for. The profit made is then divided between the oil company workers and the corrupt government officials (Asuni).

Oil bunkering thus creates two sets of problems. On the one hand it has a negative effect on the ecosystem and second it lessens state revenue on oil, shifting the financial gains from the public sector to the private, resulting in further grievances being held by society.

### **Dynamics of the conflict**

The dynamics of these structural problems become apparent if we understand how MEND actually operates. From its formation onward, it has made several attempts to sabotage oil production sites in the Niger Delta (Ojakorotu). Where they succeeded, massive oil spills led to environmental destruction in the area, making fertile lands unusable for agricultural farming for many years to come. Furthermore, illegal oil bunkering has had a similar effect on the ecosystem of the region. The illegal refinement of crude oil is done in such a way that environmental pollution cannot be averted. The large criminal networks that tap oil from the pipelines also contribute to these oil spills (Daniel, Mar 24).

Then, the issue becomes whose responsibility it is to close up these leaks. Oil companies see the government as the one accountable because the National Nigerian Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has the responsibility of maintaining the pipelines in the Niger Delta region (Royal Dutch Shell; Daniel Mar 26). That being so, the government has mainly concentrated on maintaining regional stability in the area by means of military operations. The focus has been on the continuation of oil production instead of the cleaning up of the environment. This shows that the government has a more profound interest in oil than in the well-being of its people. One could even go so far to say that it is in the direct interest of the corrupt government officials to procure the state overseen production of oil and not combat the long term effects of environmental pollution (Human Rights Watch). Because of the corruption, it becomes a primary objective for government officials to secure the oil production process, since a lack of oil revenue would hurt them directly. Moreover, there have also been reports of oil companies having full access to the government decision making process. This makes it more likely that the direct interest of these officials is to increase the number of military personnel in the oil rich region (Daniel, Mar 27).

By instating the Joint Task Force, the government has attempted to prevent further attacks on oil installations. Though, the success of this operation has been hampered by the remoteness of the Niger Delta region. Therefore it remains easy for criminal networks to continue proceeding into oil bunkering (DFID). Meanwhile MEND has become more and more aware that not only are the massive oil companies the main source of their grievances, but the government as well. As a result, MEND has made attempts of bombing not only oil company sites, but recently government buildings as well (Daniel, Mar 26).

With the oil spills not being attended to, more local communities will become affected by the environmental devastation. The land becomes infertile, making an agricultural livelihood

unsustainable. The severity of the pollution becomes even more apparent as the water has been contaminated as well. With both water and land scarcities, there is the possibility of an outbreak of violent conflict between different communities. While there has been no indication of any such events at the moment, we must be aware of the fact that there are a large variety of different ethnic groups living in the Niger Delta region. As much scholarly work has shown, once scarcity becomes apparent, communities have a tendency of become divided along their ethnic heritage (Ramsbotham).

Besides water scarcity, river pollution has an effect on the local economy in the region, as a portion of the population relies on fishing to make a living. As the fish die, due to water contamination, people are left jobless. The grievances they articulate against those they hold accountable become a powerful incentive to join militant organizations like MEND (Human Rights Watch). Additionally, economic deprivation makes those affected an easy target to join criminal organizations and start making a living in oil bunkering. In the long run, this type of reasoning leads to environmental degradation and becomes a powerful incentive to further escalate the conflict between militant groups and criminal networks on one side and government agencies, the military and oil companies on the other.

Moreover the criminal networks tend to take the most advantage of the situation, because the more insecure the region is, the easier it becomes to continue and expand criminal activities. These networks would then start making more profit. More profit would lead to more arms smuggling into Nigeria, which would further destabilize the region, leading to more ecological degradation and higher government spending on security. This security expenditure is the same money that should have been spent on creating better job opportunities for the unemployed people in the local communities. The government would eventually have to rely even more on financial aid from abroad, which the international community is unable to muster, leading to a ongoing spiral of conflict escalation.

## **Therapy**

So how are we to avert the conflict from spiraling out of control? First, we have to take into account the two main points of peace-building. Political empowerment and economic integration are the opposite of economic non-involvement and political inactivity. What becomes apparent is that peace-building actually works differently than conflict resolution, since there is not a clear distinction between tackling problems on the collective level and on the

individual level. The reason is that peace-building is an act of transformation— a state of conflict, to a state of peace. Yet in order to make this transformation, one must both change the collective and the individual level simultaneously, because they are interlinked with each other in a dialectic relationship. This relates closely to Galtung's notion of causal isomorphisms, in which distinct patterns of thought are embedded in conscious or subconscious learning (Galtung, 38). So in short, if we are to achieve political empowerment of the people, we have to look at how political power is structured in society, how it is defined by culture, the way it is received inside the mind and how the individual naturally reacts.

Several arguments have been made in peace studies on how to deal with these problems. One of the most important is that there should be a change towards a more peaceful way of organizing society. So it would be important to move from a non-empathic view of society towards a more empathic one. As Cees Hamelink argued, the place to start on such an endeavor would be with education (Hamelink). As a communication specialist, he believes that the way people communicate is in part responsible for way they perceive conflict. Changing this way of communication would be a good starting point for transforming conflict.

Sadly, in Nigeria there has been a rather profound winner-takes-all mentality which has become embedded within the governmental structure. Thus, when you are in government it is legitimate to take a piece of the pie for your own (Human Rights Watch). Transforming this structure would be possible through a positive conflict between those that show empathic behavior winning from those in favor of a self serving government structure. In the case of Nigeria, political empowerment among the youth should be promoted in order to combat the corruptive nature of the government structure; the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Moreover it should lead to a more fair relationship between the oil companies and the government, as the government would be more inclined to take the interests of its people at heart, instead of profit. Furthermore it would legitimize action against those that are pocketing state revenue, such as the criminals and corrupt government officials participating in oil bunkering.

A good way to take action against these criminals is not to upgrade security in the region but to create programs of economic integration for those that are unemployed. This should be done in a positive way. Often economic growth is part of "an unbalanced rapid-growth development strategy [that] has distorted the traditional allocation of resources, leading to sectoral and regional imbalances" (Azar, 9). The oil companies actually take a part in this process by investing money for job opportunities within the local communities of the Niger Delta (Royal Dutch Shell). Yet often these types of investments are hard to distinguish from actual bribing. It is therefore

important that there should be a peace-building organization that is capable of creating a horizontal and for the most part fair-level-playing-field for the local community. This must be an external party because effective political empowerment will probably take more than twenty years to materialize, since a whole generation has to be educated with the right empathetic view. As the government at this time remains a corrupt body, money would be spent the wrong way and would keep the old structures intact. From a transformative point of view, giving money to the government would be fueling corruptive structures with the economic incentive to transform previous emphatic behavior into non-emphatic, a process also known as bribing.

Lastly there is the case of environmental degradation which must be stopped immediately. No therapy will be able to transform the prognosis of protracted social conflict in the Niger Delta region as long as the problem of environmental degradation is ignored. Environmental degradation has negative effects on both economic integration and political participation. To address these issues, a functioning legal framework should be created for those that have been the victim of ecological degradation, such as oil spills and gas flaring in the area. They could then file a complaint to receive financial compensation in the process. The effects would be two-fold. The money received could be a positive incentive to become economically integrated. It would be good, not just to give a financial compensation, but also advise the beneficiaries to join an economic program, on how they could spend their money to set up a new business. Second, filing a complaint gives a sense of political awareness and fuels the idea of political empowerment. It can be a hands-on experience of how political rights should function, and can be an inspiration for the youth. It is the youth that are the leaders of tomorrow.

### **Examining the EU Policy**

The EU policy in Nigeria currently includes numerous aid programs. According to the “European Consensus on Development 2005” policy statement, the EU identified “shared values, goals, principles and commitments which the European Commission and EU Member States will implement in their development policies, in particular reducing poverty, develop[ing] based on Europe’s democratic values and [holding] developing countries responsible for their [main personal development]”. They plan to reduce poverty and “bring about equitable globalization”. They plan to implement aid development that considers respect for “human rights, democracy, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, good governance, gender equality, solidarity, social justice, and effective multilateral action, particularly through the UN”. The Consensus holds

developing countries as the key actors responsible for their own development. The EU wishes to align their aid with “national strategies and procedures developed in collaboration with NGOs”. The European Commission states that the “EU and its member countries are committed to making the aid they provide more effective, particularly through better coordination and ensuring it complements other development support and work in the beneficiary country” (“The European Consensus”). This common vision sounds highly positive, proactive and stabilizing. It is now time to analyze and compare this policy vision with the reality of implemented EU policy in Nigeria and its effectiveness. We will examine a few of the EU policies in Nigeria.

In 2006 the EU and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched a 24.7 million euro project entitled “Support to the EFCC and the Nigerian Judiciary”. The project was to be completed in 2010. The EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) was born in 2003 through the federal government of Nigeria “with a mandate to prevent and combat economic and financial crimes in the crucial phase of institution building. Specific project interventions include the strengthening of the operational capacities of the agency, including the provision of specialized training for staff and management, the delivery of basic operational equipment, the building of the EFCC’s Training and Research Institute, as well as the creation of a forensic laboratory and the mentoring of its staff” (“EU/UNODC”). This project was then supplementally aided by the EU and UNODC via the support program launched in 2006. It is, perhaps most notable, to include that this project assisted the EFCC in developing anti-corruption strategies. These included the “development of a national anti-corruption strategy, the establishment of a national network of civil society organizations advocating for the fight against corruption and governance reforms, as well as the development of specialized non-conviction based asset forfeiture legislation aimed to further enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action against corruption” (“EU/UNODC”). It is clear that the EFCC was involved in developing a plethora of anti-corruption policy and advocacy.

Additionally, as is obvious from the name of the support project, the Nigerian Judiciary were also assisted. Largely, the aid to the judiciary came in the form of preparation for “reform policies primarily focusing on improving governance, accountability and transparency of justice sector institutions” and to improve the confidence of those using or wish to use the courts by “increasing accountability, integrity, impartiality and independence of the courts” at the federal and state level. These plans were “supported through policy and technical advisory services, training and the provision of equipment”. Additionally, an assessment of the Nigerian justice sector was carried out to provide baseline data that was to be used in measuring the progress of the reform. Monitors were also allocated to oversee the implementation of the reforms.

However, these reforms were largely at the federal level and only assisted at the state level in 10 Nigerian states (“EU/UNODC”).

Five years after implementation, the EU sees a success in this project. “Nigeria’s standing against several global governance indicators, such as the Global Corruption Barometer and the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International as well as the World Bank Governance Indicators has consistently improved”. Additionally, “average time prisoners had to spend in remand reduc[ed] from 30 months in 2002 to less than 12 months in 2007. Improved had also the general awareness of prisoners with regard to bail with 68 percent of the respondents being aware of their right to apply for bail in 2007, as opposed to only 43 percent in 2002. Prisoners, moreover, had better access to legal assistance with 56 percent being represented by a lawyer as opposed to only 38 percent in 2002. [Additionally,] the number of months it had taken users on average to resolve their legal matters had reduced from 27 months in 2002 to a little over 12 months in 2007.” In regards to corruption, 77 percent of lawyers and 43 percent of court users reported being approached for “the payment of a bribe in a court case” while only 16 percent of lawyers and 2 percent of court users in 2007 (“EU/UNODC”). Overall, these statistics lead to very positive views on the effect of the EU and UNODC project, “Support to the EFCC and the Nigerian Judiciary”.

On May 23, 2010 a statement was released that the EU Delegation to Nigeria signed a 2.26 million euro contract on human rights and health. Eleven grants were given to nine Nigerian NGOs and one European NGO, of which will be implemented until 2013. Inter-Gender Development Centre received roughly 95,000 euros; Human Rights Monitor roughly 80,000 euros; Legal Defence and Assistance Project roughly 95,000 euros; Access to justice roughly 93,000 euros; Socio-economic Rights Initiative roughly 92,000 euros; The Human Rights Law Service roughly 77,000 euros; Community Based Development - NGO Forum - roughly 77,000 euros; Women Environmental Programme roughly 89,000 euros; Centre for Democracy and Development roughly 100,000 euros; Concern Universal roughly 360,000 euros; Centre for Population and Environmental Development roughly 1.2 million euros (“European”). We found no information on the results of this money delegation.

On 19 November 2009 Nigeria and the European Development Fund (EDF) signed a 677 million euro agreement, known as the “Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme” (CSP/NIP) to support governance, trade and peace actions. This agreement allotted 677 million euros, with an additional fund of 12 million euros for “unforeseen needs”, to Nigeria between 2009 and 2013. The 677 million will be used for peace and security, governance and human rights, trade and regional integration and energy, and non-focal sectors.

Respectively, 25 percent of the budget, 44 percent, 16 percent and 15 percent are allotted to each purpose. Peace and security funds (25 percent) will be used to combat organized crime, improve the security of individuals, “support peace processes and conflict prevention in the Niger Delta and support international mandates on conflict prevention”. Governance and human rights funds (44 percent) will be used for reform throughout the judicial and prison systems as well as support bodies combatting corruption and support for more democratic elections. The money will be used for reforms at all levels (federal, state and local) of government and to “enhance effectiveness of non-state actors and of mass media communications”. Trade, regional integration and energy funds (16 percent) will be used to secure energy, improve competitiveness in the private sector and support trade and integration of the different regions. Non-focal sector funds (15 percent) will “be divided among three main sectors: environmental protection and climate change, health and immunization, cultural and scientific and technical cooperation” (Nigeria). There is currently no available progress report on the effectiveness of this agreement and money allocation.

The Micro Project Programme in Nine Niger Delta States (MPP9 program) is a 45.5 million euro EU funded program that began in late 2008 and is set to end in late 2012. This program is set to follow the MPP3 and MPP6 projects that preceded it in the Niger Delta region. It will encompass all nine states of the Niger Delta region and it aims to reduce the poverty of the region and build on the successes and failures of the two previous MPP programs. The MPP9 program has 4 components. “First to Strengthen community Governance through adoption of community development action plans by communities and government authorities. Secondly to increase equitable access to basic infrastructure through partnership with LGA and community to implement micro projects. Thirdly to increase equitable access to income generating and sustainable livelihoods development for men and women and finally to pilot the Integrated Community Development Initiatives, approaches, methods and investments”. The program is designed to fund micro projects in various villages that will address the basic needs of the people. These basic needs include water supply and sanitation, health centers, education, job opportunities and other similar necessities. These projects require 25 percent funding from Local Government Association (LGA) and 25 percent funding from the communities themselves. The communities are expected to fully participate, at all levels, in the micro projects (“European Union - Nigeria Project’). There are currently no mid-term reviews available for this project.

Though these projects sound as though they could be nothing but successful, It is important to note, however, that information, progress and results on EU policy do not seem to be very transparent. There are no (easily) accessible, straight forward and specific pieces of information.

For instance, information on the money trail is very vague and unspecific. You may read that X amount of money was allotted to environmental cleanup etc., but you will not be able to find where specifically this money went. You will not be able to find out whether the money was spent on aid workers, security for the aid workers, cost of living for the aid workers, supplies for the aid workers or anything else. Further, what action falls under the heading of environmental cleanup? There is little transparency in this respect. Also, it is very difficult to find sincere progress reports, or any reports, that contain raw data.

Additionally, many statistics are cited, as the statistics we reported on the EU/UNDOC project, however no information is given on the statistics or their sources. Where did they come from? Who was interviewed? Were they selected at random? How many respondents did they survey each time? Was a characteristically similar sample group surveyed for the baseline data as well as the progress data? These are all important questions to ask and important information to know.

There are many other outside factors that could contribute to skewed statistics and it will not always be easy for the reader to tell when this is happening. Without this information, it is impossible to tell if these statistics are fact worthy or if they are being framed in positivity towards the EU and the progress and results of their policies.

### **EU Policy Recommendations**

The EU policy in Nigeria is taking steps towards improving the grievances that result in the conflict, as well as the conflict itself, in Nigeria. The EU has allotted a substantial amount of money to the conflict laden country and violent Niger Delta region specifically. This humanitarian aid has produced significant results in the country and without EU aid, Nigeria would be in a far worse off position. Nigeria could not do without the assistance of the EU. However, it may also be important to recognize that the EU and the West in general could not do without Africa as a whole, including Nigeria, because of the abundant natural resources that the West needs that Africa has to offer (Daniel, Mar 24).

The EU programs look to be a success on paper, but in our contact with Nigerian Native and YOUNGPEOPLE worker, Obi, we have learned that these programs are not as successful as they sound. Of course, without these programs, Nigeria would be in complete ruins. However, the programs, as our contact has explained, are not doing all that they can, are not as efficient as possible and

are not, at least in the eyes of the average Nigerian, as productive as they can be (Daniel, Mar 27). We, as do the Nigerian people, see that the EU programs have done more good than they have harm. For this reason, we support the EU programs that have been implemented as they have all been successful, at least to some extent. Upon our conflict analysis, we did however, realize that there are some areas of aid that the EU could improve on. We have already described the ideal changes and improvements that could be made in Nigeria. However, we do recognize that the ideal is not always realistic. In this section, we strive to give realistic policy recommendations to the EU policy makers regarding EU policy in Nigeria.

First, our conflict analysis has led us to the conclusion that the conflict in Nigeria revolves around environmental degradation and governmental corruption. We believe that the EU should allot more of the monetary aid to environmental cleanup. The CSP/NIP agreement, which is due to operate until 2013 only delegates 15 percent of the 677 million euro fund to a group that contains environmental protection and climate change. This group is comprised of three bodies, of which will split the total 15 percent allocation. So, it is safe to guesstimate that perhaps only 5 percent of the budget will ever make it to protection and climate change. This same agreement allots 25 percent of the budget to peace and security, which includes conflict prevention in the Niger Delta ("European Union - Nigeria Project"). We believe that aid money should be redistributed among the groups. We give environmental cleanup and protection a more important role than peace and security as outlined in the agreement because we believe environmental degradation is one of the root causes of the conflict. Therefore, being a root cause, we see environmental cleanup and protection as the main ingredient in conflict prevention. When "60 percent of the people in the region depend on the natural environment for their livelihood," and that environment is completely desolated, the people have no way to sustain their own lives let alone make a living off the land or from the fisheries ("Oil"). This degradation leads to grievances and causes people to take up arms. When they do not have enough to sustain their lives, we believe it is common sense that they will be more likely to become outraged and resort to violence.

The lack of government intervention in the degradation of their environment and thus their livelihood and source of ability to sustain their own lives, only makes matters worse. There is no one to stand up and protect them, so they must protect themselves. However, we see no realistic and direct modifications to suggest to the EU on dealing with the issue of corruption at this time. We do feel that environmental cleanup and protection will give the people a chance to access clean water, live off the land and begin their agricultural business once more, reducing unemployment rates. This will lessen the violence.

In 2013 the EU policy makers should continue the funding outlined in the CSP/NIP agreement. We do suggest that a group based solely on environmental cleanup, protection and climate change be added to the list of four. We suggest the EU allocates 15 percent to peace and security, 35 percent to governance and human rights, 16 percent to trade and regional integration and energy, 25 percent to environmental cleanup, protection and climate change and 8 percent to non-focal sectors. Creating a group for the environment all it's own will place greater emphasis on the violence inducing factor, lower the violence and therefore lessen the need for so much peace and security aid (currently 25 percent of the budget). We also redistributed a large percentage (9 percent) from the governance and human rights fund because it accounted for nearly half the budget and we feel the funds would be better used elsewhere—environmental cleanup and protection.

Second, we believe the EU should put more focus on educating and empowering the people of Nigeria. With education and empowerment comes a further democratized and politically stable society and country. Currently, a majority of the people are not even aware of their right to peaceful protest and civil disobedience (Daniel, Mar 19). If no one challenges the government, then surely the government will never change. Education is key to stabilizing the government, the region and therefore the oil sector as well. With stability and peace, the oil companies will be able to pump oil more productively, maintain their pipelines and prevent the conflict-causing environmental degradation which will only further stabilize the region. "A well-known energy security analyst, David Goldwyn, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committees Subcommittee on African Affairs in September 2008 that if Nigeria was to produce at capacity it would play a major role in helping to lower and stabilize world oil prices" (David). Therefore, in 2013, we propose that the EU include education under the peace and security portion of the current CSP/NIP agreement.

Third, we believe that the trade, regional integration and energy portion of the current EDF budget under the CSP/NIP agreement should, in the 2013 reconsideration, incorporate job opportunities on a large scale. Five percent of the total budget allocated to this sector should be set aside for giving business grants and loans to deserving candidates. However, it is important for transparency to play a major role in determining who receives and does not receive loans and grants. Arbitrary decisions could create inequalities and pit one person or set of persons against another, sparking conflict. Transparency and clear decision making criteria for who qualifies and does not qualify are small, yet very crucial points that are not to be forgotten in this task. Giving grants and loans will create business opportunities and decrease unemployment

rates, a key, if not the key, problem affecting youth in the Niger Delta region (Daniel, Mar 22). This will, again, reduce their grievances and further stabilize the region.

Our suggestions are designed to slightly alter the current EU CSP/NIP agreement that is set to expire in 2013. We have allocated different percentages of the EDF budget to different groups and even added a group dedicated solely to environmental cleanup and protection. We feel these changes will increase security and stability in the region. They will decrease the grievances that community members hold with the government and multinational oil corporations and lessen the violence. Violence will decrease and oil production will increase, lowering and stabilizing oil prices around the world.

### **Outreach Strategy**

Our outreach strategy will include workshops and radio programs designed to reach the general public in the Niger Delta region and inform them of our findings. Since radios and radio programs are an extensive source of communication in the region, we feel this would be the best medium to use. Since we feel our research has largely given us an insight into what the people in the region must deal with on a day to day, it is not our intention to promote our research findings (as it is common knowledge to the regional community), but rather promote conflict de-escalation. We wish to educate and empower the people so they are given the tools to prevent further escalation. For example, we would support a halt to all militant activity, such as that conducted by MEND, as their sabotage only contributes to the environmental degradation that directly leads to the issues that are the sources of this conflict. We would do this through educational workshops that inform the people of what consequences their individual actions have. Instead of looking at the short term, we wish to help them see the long term effects of participation in such sabotage. We will also use informative radio programs (set up much like a news program) to educate those unable to attend workshops. With this education will come empowerment.

We wish to empower the masses by educating them on the dynamics of the conflict. Though we are aware we are third party outsiders, and do not have all the answers, we also feel it is imperative that those living in the region also understand the points of view from those outside the region. It is necessary they understand the actors and conflict dynamics. They must see the conflict as a whole in order to fully understand what can be done to help them and the sabotage that will likely not solve the problem (organizations like MEND). The Niger Delta

conflict is extremely messy and complicated, extending it's fingers in many directions. We believe we must educate the people more thoroughly on the different aspects (other than that which they are living every day), and educate them on their rights and the opportunities they have to stand up for themselves, protest, and use the court systems. Once the EU has made policy changes, empowerment through educational workshops and radio programs is our number one goal for the people of the Niger Delta region.

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