



PEACEBUILDING & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

2005 Annual Report



American University
School of International Service

Table of Contents

Peacebuilding and Development Institute 2004-2005 Report.....	3
Recent Projects and Activities	3
▪ Children & Youth Division	3
▪ Peacebuilding Forums and Special Events	4
The 2005 Summer Institute.....	4
▪ Progress of the Summer Institute over the Years	4
▪ The Success of the Institute	5
▪ Community Oriented Events and Activities	5
Course Summaries	5
Keynote Speakers.....	7
Concluding Remarks	8

Peacebuilding and Development Institute 2004-2005 Report

The Peacebuilding and Development Institute (PDI), guided by the School of International Service and the International Peace & Conflict Resolution division, recently concluded its 5th annual summer professional training program for scholars and practitioners who live and work in conflict-affected areas. The Peacebuilding & Development Institute focuses on three areas. The first is the Summer Professional Training Program. The second is the Children & Youth Division that focuses on children affected by conflict, violence and war and promotes them as agents of peace. The third is the thematic and capacity building opportunities that the Institute engages in the US and in countries in conflict and transition. The Institute recently concluded a highly successful and busy year.

Recent Projects and Activities

Children & Youth Division

During the week of November 15-19, 2004 PDI and Center for Peace Building International (CPBI)¹ sponsored a series of events highlighting issues related to some of the struggles children are experiencing in various countries in the world.

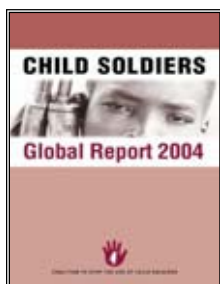
On November 15, 2004 a panel called Desert Racers: Use of Camel Jockeys in the Gulf States which started the week's events. The panel discussion focused on HBO's *Real Sport* report which examined the abduction of Southeast Asian children to the Gulf States where they are used as camel riders. The panel included Sally Neumann from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the US State Department and Alison McIntire, Staff Lawyer, Polaris Project.²



The week's events continued with a screening of the documentary Invisible Children: A Documentary on Child Soldiers of Northern Uganda on November 16, 2004. It was produced by a group of Californian students that traveled to Uganda to document the plight of children in northern Uganda. The documentary focused on the abduction of children under sixteen by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). After the screening a panel discussion was held with the film-makers. The panel examined the living conditions of these children and how they are recruited into the LRA. The panel was followed by a lively discussion that lasted for two hours. Participants of the audience included members of NGOs, government agencies and AU students.



The week was capped by the release of Child Soldiers: Global Report 2004 by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers on November 17, 2004. The report was based on the extensive research on child recruitment, legislation, policy and practice in 196 countries. Alongside the launch of the report PDI, CPBI and the US Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers sponsored the panel Child Soldiers: Global Change and US Policy at American University. The panelists were Jo Becker from Human Rights Watch, Associate Deputy Under Secretary Martha Newton from the Department of Labor, and Michael Orona from the State Department. It presented highlights from the most comprehensive survey of child soldiers to date and was one of many simultaneous events held in the UK, Colombia, Kenya, Thailand, Lebanon and the Philippines commemorating the launch of the report.



¹ The Center for Peace Building International (CPBI) was founded on the spirit of young people working with young people and adults alike to provide sight and sound to their lives in troubled spots in various conflict affected areas of the world, website: <http://www.cpbintl.org/>

² Polaris Project was founded by Co-Executive Directors Katherine Chon and Derek Ellerman to address the vital need for direct intervention, grassroots advocacy, and survivor support to combat human trafficking., website: <http://www.polarisproject.org/polarisproject/>

Peacebuilding Forums and Special Events



On June 5, 2005 the Peacebuilding and Development Institute worked with Sudanese Diaspora organizations to explore the peace process in Sudan. In one of his final public appearances the late Dr. John Garang (pictured left), chairman of the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SPLM) and later Vice-President of Sudan, gave the keynote speech. Unfortunately, Dr. Garang was killed in a helicopter crash in southern Sudan in August 2005.

From July 8-10, 2005 PDI, in collaboration with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, held a workshop that introduced highly skilled professional trainers and diplomatic practitioners to the specific strategy being pursued in Africa's Great Lakes region. The workshop considered the challenges and issues involved in undertaking post-conflict interventions, provided an opportunity for trainers and diplomatic practitioners to interact, and considered how collaboration between these two professional communities might be made most effective.

The Washington Network for Post-Tsunami Peace Building Roundtable, co-sponsored by the Center for Peace Building International, a roundtable network group that allows NGOs and government agencies to meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues related to post-tsunami relief, reconstruction, and peacebuilding efforts in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The first meeting was launched by the Ambassadors from Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Three months later this network has evolved into being a true inter-agency forum to explore the challenges and opportunities for reconstruction and peacebuilding. The US Special Envoy's Office (former US President Bill Clinton) has also joined the network.



The Ambassadors of Indonesia (right) and Sri Lanka (left) at the Roundtable

The 2005 Summer Institute

The Summer Institute is a unique training program designed to give foreign aid workers, government officials, and conflict resolution practitioners' practical skills to enhance their daily work. Experienced trainers guide participants through three separate but complementary week-long sessions explored the relationship of religion, culture, human rights and public policy in peacebuilding and development work. The Institute is one of the first academic programs specifically designed to bridge the two issues of peacebuilding and development.

Progress of the Summer Institute over the Years

The Peacebuilding and Development Summer Institute was launched in 2001. The very first program brought 49 participants. Thirty-seven were practitioners from conflicted afflicted areas the rest Master's candidates from the International Peace and Conflict Resolution program at the School of International Service. In 2002, 71 delegates participated in the Institute with 43 practitioners in the field of conflict resolution. The following year the Institute had 107 delegates who participated. Citizens from different corners of the world came to the Institute from such places as Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom Italy, Japan, Ethiopia, and Switzerland. The 2004 Summer Institute welcomed 170 participants from 27 countries. Like the year before participants came from throughout the world.

The 2005 Summer Institute once again brought a large and diverse group of practitioners and students together. The Institute had a total of 178 participants; 99 practitioners from 24 countries and 79 student participants pursuing academic degrees in International Peace & Conflict Resolution, International Development, and International Education. Some of the countries represented were Georgia, Poland, Uzbekistan, Colombia, Nepal, Japan, Pakistan, Uganda, Kenya, Bosnia, Kosovo, Nigeria, Egypt, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

Community Oriented Events and Activities

Building on last year's success, the Institute provided several ways for the participants to get to know one another through evening activities. Events such as a networking reception, a grant writing workshop, panel discussions, social gatherings, DC tours, movie nights, international dinners and special presentations provided the space and opportunity for all participants to listen and learn from each other.



Tribute to the Children of Iraq



Networking Reception

The Success of the Institute

The overwhelming majority of this year's Summer Institute participants called it a very satisfying experience.³ Participants valued the content learned and the interaction with the professors in the course. 85% of the participants were very satisfied with the courses with 87% saying they would be interested in attending additional courses or workshops at American University.



Children & Conflict Story Circle

Course Offerings

Session I (June 27-July 1)

Religion and Culture in Conflict Resolution

with Mohammed Abu-Nimer

This course focused on the impact of cultural and religious factors in conflict resolution processes.

.Applied Conflict Analysis and Resolution

with Ronald Fisher and Brian Mandell

This interactive course provided an overview of useful conceptual tools for understanding violent and protracted conflict between racial, ethnic, religious, cultural and other identity groups, and constructive methods negotiation, mediation, consultation, training) for addressing such conflicts.

Public Policy Negotiation and Dialogue Progresses in Latin America

with Graciela Tapia and Julian Portia

³Based on 135 course evaluation

The course focused on the nexus between democratic governance, peaceful approaches to conflict resolution, and development in Latin American and Caribbean contexts.

Session II (July 5-9)

Development in Conflict: Practical Approaches to Recovery

with *Kimberly Maynard*

This course was designed specifically for the individual and organization working in conflict-affected and structurally violent developing countries. It centered on operational considerations and approaches, strategy and goal development, program design methods and skills, and various types of analyses.



Some of the Week One Participants

Training for Trainers

with *Mohammed Abu-Nimer*

This course utilized various training approaches and explored their practical applications in peacebuilding and in development contexts.

Bridging Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

with *Julie Mertus, Larissa Fast, and Chesmas Farhoumand-Sims*

This training course focused on building the participants' understanding of the connections and tensions of human rights and conflict intervention.

Media and Peacebuilding: Concepts, Actors, and Challenges

With *Ross Howard*

This course addressed the various concepts on media and peacebuilding focusing on media assistance in conflict regions, mainly in short to medium term perspective.



Dinner among Participants

Session III (July 11-15):

Positive Approaches to Peacebuilding

with *Claudia Liebler*

The course introduced participants to some of the most innovative approaches for change of our times that have application for both peacebuilders and development practitioners.

Arts Approaches to Peacebuilding

with *Babu Ayindo*

This course focused on the ways we can accentuate the power of art to transform conflicts and enrich peacebuilding work, and how the arts can contribute to social justice, healing and dialogue.



Participants taking a night tour of DC

Islam and the West: Strategies for Peace

with *Nathan C. Funk and Meena Sharify-Funk*

This course explored the relevance of peacebuilding as a framework for policymaking vis-à-vis the Islamic world.



Week Three Participants

Course 4: Design, Monitoring and Evaluation for Peacebuilding and Conflict Sensitive Development

with *Cheyenne Church & Mark M. Rogers*

The major themes covered included: project design, monitoring & evaluation, theories of change, indicators,

evaluation criteria, and methods of data collection, working with external evaluators and the newest thinking on effectiveness in peacebuilding. There was an opportunity to apply learning to participants' current programming.

Keynote Speakers

During each week of the 2005 Summer Institute practitioners in conflict resolution delivered keynote speeches at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Institute. The speakers touched on the various issues related to conflict resolution like development, diplomacy, and religion. The speakers drew on their personal and professional life experiences to illustrate the challenges and opportunities for peacebuilding and development.



Top Left: Gabriel Habib World Council of Churches Commission on International Affairs; Top Right: Ambassador John W. McDonald from the **Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy**; Bottom Right: Mohammed Said Farsi Professor of Islamic Peace Abdul Aziz Said, Chair of IPCR; Bottom Left: Ian Bannon from the **World Bank**



Taking a Break on the US Mall

Special Thanks: To the agencies that helped sponsor our participants such as AED, US State Department, USAID, and RTI International. We are also grateful to the many individuals and families in the DC area who hosted some of participants.

Concluding Remarks

The Peacebuilding and Development Institute has grown substantially in the past five years. The lessons learned have created a strong foundation for sustained work that impacts people affected by conflict, violence, and war and has benefited the greater community of practitioners and scholars through the multiple programs and projects the Institute has undertaken in the academic year 2004-2005.

The participants of the 2005 Summer Institute voiced their satisfaction regarding their experience and lessons learned at the Institute. The diversity of participants from many conflict affected areas such as Uganda, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Bosnia and organizations such as USAID as well as the UN sitting alongside Master's degree students from American University fostered an atmosphere where the opportunity for positive interaction and understanding. Already the Institute has begun engaging some of the participants with follow up programs including training and capacity building activities in countries such as Columbia, Georgia, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Egypt, and Armenia. The Institute is confident that the network of practitioners and students will continue to grow and touch lives in conflict zones around the world.



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