

EUROPE NEWSLETTER

Nonviolent Peaceforce (nonviolentpeaceforce.org) is an unarmed, professional civilian peacekeeping force that is invited to work in conflict zones worldwide. With international headquarters in Brussels, Nonviolent Peaceforce has worked in the conflict areas of Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Guatemala. Among other activities, it works with local groups to foster dialogue among parties in conflict, provide a proactive presence and safe spaces for civilians, and develop local capacity to prevent violence. Its staff includes veterans of conflict zones and experienced peacekeepers.

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NP promotes civilian peacekeeping in the European Commission Conference - 'Making the Difference: Strengthening capacities to respond to crisis and security threats'
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Since 2003 Nonviolent Peaceforce is deploying multinational professional peace teams in Sri Lanka to increase the security of civilians, especially the most vulnerable ones and those working for peace and human rights.

NP PROGRAMME IN SRI LANKA

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Mindanao, the main southern island of the Philippines, is affected by a protracted armed conflict. In close collaboration with its partners, NP is engaged in a number of field-protection activities for civilians; starting early warning systems and early response programs; launching community-based human rights workers programs; and organising high level closed door forums and meetings.

NP PROGRAMME IN MINDANAO (PHILIPPINES)

- **Protecting the most vulnerable.** NPP contributes directly and indirectly, in close collaboration with its partners and structures of peace, to protect civilians...
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- **Bridging the gap among confronted communities.** Most NP grassroots initiatives hold an implicit element of peacebuilding. Find out how it works in the field...
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- **Safeguarding the well being of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs),** who are among the worst hit in this conflict. Fragile communities can barely cope with the dire conditions of the refugee camps and lack assurances when it is time to return home ...
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Meeting in Mindanao along with IDP camp leaders

NP PROGRAMME IN SRI LANKA

On the 19th of May 2009, the President of Sri Lanka delivered a 40-minute television address to the nation announcing victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the end to South Asia's longest-running civil conflict. In his remarks, the President noted that it is his duty to protect all people in Sri Lanka, including the minority Tamils.

The Government, with many offers of support from UN agencies and other humanitarian actors, began addressing the tremendous economic, psychological and physical costs of the 26-year war on its citizens and the urgent humanitarian needs presented by the displacement of an estimated 300,000 internal refugees, many of whom suffered greatly in the last weeks and months of the military campaign.

Once resources are secured and permission is granted by the government for NP to access the areas where the IDPs are being sheltered, NP is prepared to deploy a team there.

EMERGING PROJECTS: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

NP is currently poised to begin an exciting new project that focuses on the protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). In Sri Lanka, the work of defending human rights is undertaken not only at the national level by well-known and well-respected individuals and organizations, but also by both professionals and volunteers working in their local communities, as individuals or as part of smaller, community-based organizations (CBOs). These people may or may not call themselves, 'human rights defenders', but their work is no less important or valuable to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. **NP's project will work with people from all branches of civil society who work to defend human rights.**

The project will be mainly focused on the capacity building for HRDs to develop their own protection strategies, internships and exchanges so HRDs from different parts of the island can come together to strengthen existing networks and create new networks, and a continuation of the direct protection that NP has provided to HRDs in Sri Lanka since its arrival. Equally important, this project aims at building the capacity of government institutions, such as the police and the Human Rights Commission, to protect HRDs more effectively, as these institutions are ultimately responsible for their safety and security.

NP has been working with human rights organisations since the beginning of its time in Sri Lanka, and has strong relationships with many key Sri Lankan human rights actors and organisations. This project was developed by working closely with such partners, and will continue to work as closely throughout its implementation.



JAFFNA TEAM

In this northernmost district of Sri Lanka **there are areas where no functioning village-level child protection committee or children's clubs can be found. In these specific zones, the team works to support community capacity-building in this regard.** In one of these areas – where NP has an ongoing long-term relationship and presence - the security situation has improved to the point to allow the community to celebrate a Temple Festival, an important Hindu cultural and religious event, for the first time in three years.

In Jaffna, **the NP team also monitors the situation at some of the Transitional Accommodation Centres** where there is some tension between people who have been staying in centres for a year or more, waiting for government permission to return to their home villages, and those newly arriving on the Peninsula who are currently getting the attention from government and aid agencies.

CONTINUING WORK: BATTICALOA TEAM

In Batticaloa, a coordinating forum for human rights is being discussed to consist of a focal point person for each of the 14 divisions within the district, with monitoring of the processes to be carried out by the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission, UNHCR (UN High Commission on Refugees) and NP. In one new division, **NP has recently been given permission by the Divisional Secretary to begin a mapping and needs assessment of the area, which is an important step to expanding NP's work with vulnerable communities in the area.**



Furthermore, the Batticaloa team participated in a number of meetings as the one held under the auspices of CHA (the local Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies) on the Community Protection Network. The team took also part in a series of coordination meetings hosted by SCOPP (Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process) to discuss the design of a national framework for reintegration activities following the end of armed hostilities.

THE VALAICHCHENAI TEAM

The team helped community leaders engage in a mapping activity to assess their protection needs and resources, with an emphasis on identifying and strengthening community-based mechanisms and resources.

In Valaichchenai, the 'Early Warning and Information Network' continued to operate effectively. **Almost 20 Tamil and Muslim organisations met together at the NP office to decide to pursue joint Sinhala and English language learning so that they can better communicate across their linguistic divides.**

Simultaneously, the Valaichchenai team continues to provide office space to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in its office annex so that people in more rural areas of the northern part of the district can access NRC services.



*NPSL staff at a Strategy Workshop, Kalutara
(South of Colombo)*

The teams responded to numerous family requests for intervention and support, including fielding 29 new cases and 24 follow-up consultations to previously-reported cases. Such interventions require a variety of strategies, including building individual or community confidence for nonviolent problem-solving; and building awareness or advocacy with other stakeholders or potential sources of support for families through both governmental and non-governmental structures.

NP PROGRAMME IN THE PHILIPPINES

In Phase I of the programme, NP established its **head office in Cotabato city with field offices in Maguindanao, Sulu and Basilan**. Through Cotabato and Maguindanao offices, NP covers selected areas of the North Cotabato provinces.

In Phase II of the programme, launched in **March 2009, NP started operating on a full-time basis in the provinces of North Cotabato, Lanao Del Sur and Lanao Del Norte** and began setting up its field offices. NP also established a Liaison office in Manila.

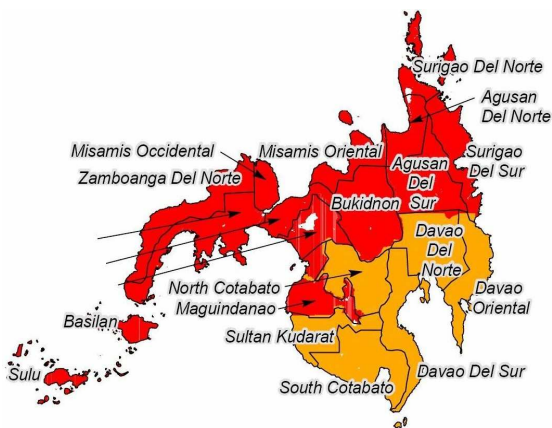
NP Philippines contributes in the following civilian protection areas:

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

NP provides protective accompaniment to various local and international human rights (HR) groups to document and investigate cases of human rights violations. Most of such actions are done with a low profile.

In the HR Field, NP has also provided trainings through formal and informal means to more than 150 community-based human rights workers. NP works closely with local partners and HR workers in order to share and report cases of HR abuses with a number of national and international organisations and HR groups.

On several occasions, NP's presence in the conflict-affected communities **has enhanced the confidence of civilians to such a degree that they were willing to stay in their respective barangays** (smallest administrative division in the Philippines) **during times of crisis.**



Mindanao administrative division

BRIDGING THE GAP AMONG CONFRONTED COMMUNITIES

NP organises and facilitates, when requested, high level dialogues between the senior diplomatic community officials and key representatives of the rebel groups and national/international humanitarian protection groups. Furthermore, such gatherings raise awareness among the donor community and policy-makers on the situation in Mindanao and needs of the displaced and war-affected communities.

NP's proactive presence in the affected communities and support given to local peace monitors and International Monitoring Missions helps facilitate dialogues to mitigate the spillover of grassroots tensions. By being on the ground, **NP controls, verifies and prevents rumors that may cause stress and panic among the civil-**

SAFEGUARDING THE WELL BEING OF INTERNALLY DISPLACE PEOPLES (IDPs)

NP teams contribute directly and indirectly with helping to evacuate trapped and injured civilians from the battled zones. They do this in close coordination with the armed actors and partner Civil Society Organizations. **NP also provides accompaniment to IDPs who wish to return to their respective barangays. Additionally, NP monitors and reports protection issues faced by IDPs and civilians living in close proximity to the fighting zones.**

NP teams make initial and **regular assessments of the needs of IDPs** and relay them to international organisations and donor communities. Moreover, NP mobilises and organises visits of high profile international actors to various conflict areas, arranging close door meetings with the IDP leaders, victims and families of the victims.

Nonviolent Peaceforce presents on unarmed civilian peace practices in the Catalan Parliament

« Foreign action, nonviolent conflict transformation and the role of civil society »: this was the subtitle of the event « **Building public policies to promote Civil Peace Services** » hosted by the Catalan Parliament in Barcelona last April 17th.

Big names in the world scene of peace promotion, such as Federico Mayor Zaragoza (President of Fundación Cultura de Paz and UNESCO former Director) and Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury (former UN Under Secretary



General) discussed with NP international staff as well as Catalan and Spanish Institutions the lessons learnt by unarmed civilian peacekeeping and more generally by conflict transformation activities carried out by civil society. In that framework, NP Programme staff illustrated opportunities and threats encountered doing fieldwork, while people from Defense and Development Ministries tried to extract useful learning for the Spanish policies for peacebuilding.

NP management presenting in the Catalan Parliament

Training for Civil Peace Intervention: NP in the front line.

A training organized by "Comité pour une Intervention Civile de Paix - Comité ICP" for Civil Peace Intervention will be held in September (4th until 11th) in Poissy (France). This training will offer the opportunity to establish a first contact with the organisations hosting the training. During the training, they will share their methods of training, approaches and experiences. Trainees will learn different skills of expertise needed for a civil peace action mission and preparation steps for applying to such commitments.

The training team includes two NP trainers: Phil Esmonde and Robert Rivers. Together they will conduct an in-depth simulation and introduce the practical challenges and complexities of applying the principles of Proactive Presence in the field, including NP work with local partners.

You can download the workshop flyer at

http://www.interventioncivile.org/IMG/pdf/ICP_training_2009.pdf



NP's International Governing Council celebrates its annual face to face meeting in Barcelona

From the 18th till 24th of April members of the International Governing Council gathered in Barcelona (Spain) to discuss the organization's current outcomes and next steps for the future. Priority work during this seven-day meeting was finalizing the **strategy to implement the 2010-2014 Long-term Plan previously adopted by the International Assembly in the 2007 meeting in Nairobi.**

The IGC was fortunate to have retired UN Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury as a guest, who shared his comments and input on the ways to go forward with the plan. Moreover, the IGC had the opportunity to work with members of NP staff who also participated in the international meeting. Also of significance were the approval of a field project in South Sudan and an exploration of possibilities in Georgia.

LOBBYING EUROPE

After the European Parliament polls, over 100 European NGOs support 'Europe, Vote for Peace!' campaign

Already before the June 2004 European Elections, 107 organisations and over two thousand citizens expressed their support for the key proposals of the 'Europe, Vote for Peace' campaign: a European Civil Peace Service, a EU Peacebuilding Directorate and a more structured dialogue EU-civil society for peace. There is still time to join via the website: www.civilpeace.eu/how-join

Now that European voters have chosen their representatives in the European Parliament (EP) for the next five years, the campaign is ready to enter its next stage. **Next October 14th**, in Brussels, the campaign promoters will hand over to the Members of the EP the names of supporting organisations and individuals backing the campaign so far.

Thanks also to the co-funding by a European Commission grant in the framework of the Active Citizenship programme. Other events will be organised around that date by Nonviolent Peaceforce and the German NGO *forumZFD*. At one event, representatives from like-minded European NGOs and institutions will be invited to exchange insights on their work to promote peace and an open space for dialogue will be put at their disposal to brainstorm future joint actions. In another seminar in the EP ways to advance the EU civilian capacities to promote peace through non-violent means will be discussed. Strong emphasis will be placed on the role of European civil society in such an endeavor.

If you or your organisations are interested in being considered for co-funded participation in these events, please write to jdelgado@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

NP Participates at the European Commission Conference - Making the Difference

Tim Wallis, NP Sri Lanka Programme Director, participated as a rapporteur in the European Commission Conference entitled 'Making the Difference; Strengthening capacities to respond to crisis and security threats'. This conference, celebrated last June 3rd and 4th in Brussels brought together a large number of policy makers and practitioners in the field of conflict prevention and crisis response.



Tim Wallis –screened speaker- NP Programme Director, addresses the EC Conference final plenary session

In particular, **the session on 'Building Cooperation Among Practitioners'**, which Tim Wallis, NP Sri Lanka Acting Director, participated as its *rapporteur*, stressed the need for a more coherent EU strategy to ameliorate crisis situations. This session focused on a series of suggestions to guide the EU institutions into strengthening their cooperation with partners on the field. One point in which the speakers agreed was for **the need to incorporate the civil role in tackling crisis on the ground as a complementary instrument to the traditional military approach, a dimension of conflict resolution practice in which NP is a recognised actor.**

Furthermore, this session came to the conclusion that early preventive actions can provide a better use of NGOs resources that are already working on the ground and able to influence the situation. For more info on the conference's summary of recommendations, visit <http://www.making-the-difference.eu/>. NP also had an information stand.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NP MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

— NP 2009 European Annual Meeting- June-09 Lillehammer —

Last June 15th to 17th, the Nonviolent Peaceforce Europe – Annual Meeting 2009 was held in the Norwegian city of Lillehammer. Organised by the Norwegian Peace Council and hosted by the Nansen School and Nansen Dialogue Center, **the gathering brought together representatives from 13 countries, representing 15 NP Member Organisations (MOs)**. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to share ideas as how to progress and boost the cooperation between NP and its MOs throughout Europe.

The annual meeting also served as a platform to share perceptions and compare approaches of NP work in Europe. Particularly, a number of workshops were conducted on topics as diverse as capacity building, communications and fundraising.

The next Nonviolent Peaceforce Europe – Annual Meeting will be hosted in May 2010 by the French MO 'Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente'- MAN in Paris, coinciding with the celebration of Europe Day (May 9th) in Paris.

People Building Peace Netherlands

This organisation, **of which NEAG 'Alternatieven voor Geweld' hosts the secretariat, is organising an event in the Dutch city of Utrecht on Day4Peace, September 21st**. The celebration of the International Day of Peace is becoming an annual tradition in the Netherlands, with events being celebrated in several cities, activities in hundreds of schools and widespread media attention.

Cycling for Peace

Last June 20th at the German region of "Pfalz", **a group of 50 cyclists called "Peacemakers for a Nuclear-Free and a Just World", organised a cycling tour to, among other causes, promote an NP programme in Sri Lanka**.

Stephan Brües, coordinator of the German NP Working Group, assisted NP with setting up a kiosk where an NP video-presentation was put on display along with NP-materials and flyers from the NP German Member Organisations. The cycling event will be held again next year.

For further information on this cycling tour, please visit <http://www.pace-makers.de>

2009 Autumn Peace Academy in Romania

The International Peace and Development Training Centre (IPDTC) has just launched its 2009 Autumn Peace Academy. **It consists of a wide range of programmes addressing the core skills, knowledge and experience of practitioners working in the field of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, development work, humanitarian aid, gender, governance and other related areas.**

The seminar, which will take place this November from the 9th to the 20th in the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca, is also run under the umbrella of the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR).

The workshop is made up of two courses; one entitled 'Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation & Post-War Stabilisation Recovery and Reconciliation' (November 09th-13th) and the other 'Improving Sustainable Impact and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding and post-War Recovery Programs and Operations' (November 16th-20th).

For more information on course content, fees and application procedure, please visit the IPDTC web-site: <http://www.patrir.ro/training>, or write to training@patrir.ro



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NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE (NP)

We are an International NGO engaged in the creation of a large-scale international unarmed peacekeeping force, composed of trained civilians.

In partnership with local groups, NP members **apply proven non-violent strategies to protect human rights, deter violence and help create space for local peacemakers to carry out their work.** Launched in 1999 at the Hague Appeal for Peace and established at the convening event in Surajkund, India in 2002, NP brings together over 69 Member Organisations from around the world and is endorsed by 9 Nobel Peace Laureates.

NP

Deploys international, trained, civilian field teams to conflict areas upon invitation by local peace groups.

Builds capacity for nonviolent intervention through trainings, assessment, recruitment, rosters, and rapid response mechanisms in crisis areas.

Conducts public awareness campaigns and political advocacy to increase international support and recognition of civilian nonviolent intervention's effectiveness in preventing violence and fostering a global culture of peace.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NONVIOLENTPEACEFORCE.ORG

Featuring NP Member Organisations:

In the following issues, this newsletter will feature a more in-depth description of one NP European Member Organisation per issue.

NP EUROPE HIRINGS

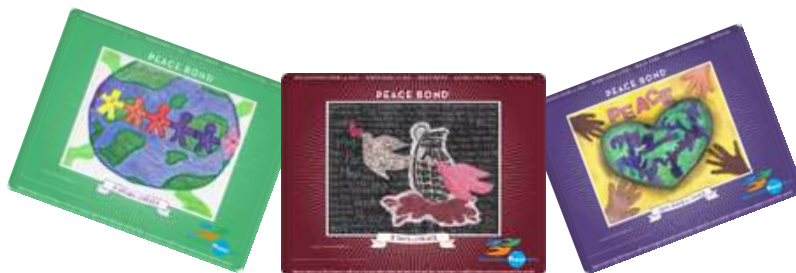
Michael Warren- FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

Prior to joining NP, Michael led the Justice and Security Cluster at UNDP Kosovo, developing initiatives on armed violence reduction, security sector reform, and women's safety; and worked for Mines Action Canada supporting the work of mine ban campaigns in the former Soviet Union. Michael is also an experienced facilitator and trainer who has worked in capacity development, cross-cultural learning, and peer education with adult and youth learners.

Michael has a B.A. in International Development Studies from Dalhousie University and is completing a M.Ad.Ed. in Community Development from St. Francis Xavier University and the Coady International Institute. His research focuses on training facilitators of multi-stakeholder community security mechanisms in the post-conflict context.

Silvia D'Adda- Intern

Silvia was born in Bergamo (Italy) where she attended high school in placing a particular emphasis on humanistic studies. In 2007, she moved out to Milan where she is attending the Bachelor of International Economics and Management at Bocconi University. In the last two years, Silvia has participated in several seminars on African development and geopolitical topics. She has travelled to Ethiopia twice (2004 and 2007) in her role of volunteer with the Italian NGO 'Gruppo Missioni Africa'.



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www.BuyPeaceBonds.org

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