
UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION

STRENGTHENING CIVILIAN
CAPACITIES TO PROTECT
CIVILIANS AGAINST VIOLENCE

Huibert Oldenhuis, with Ellen Furnari, Rolf Carriere, PhD,
Thor Wagstrom, PhD, Ann Frisch, PhD and Mel Duncan

An Introductory Course in 5 Modules

January 2021 (second edition)

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Design: Claire Guinta

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

MODULE 1

INTRODUCTION TO UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION

7	Foreword	26	Overview and learning objectives
9	Author's Preface	29	Introduction to UCP
11	Acknowledgements	39	Definition of terms
12	Acronyms	47	The spectrum of UCP
15	Introduction	50	UCP, peacekeeping, and nonviolence
		66	UCP actors

2

MODULE 2

UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION: OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND SOURCES OF GUIDANCE

83	Overview and learning objectives
86	Key objectives, strategies and tactics of UCP
104	Key principles of UCP
120	Key sources of guidance for UCP

3

MODULE 3

UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION: KEY METHODS

- 145 Overview and learning objectives
- 151 Proactive engagement
- 165 Monitoring
- 180 Relationship building
- 189 Capacity enhancement
- 201 Advocacy

4

MODULE 4

UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION IN PRACTICE: KEY COMPETENCIES NEEDED WHEN ENTERING THE COMMUNITY

- 215 Overview and learning objectives
- 217 Core competencies of UCP practitioners
- 228 Conflict analysis
- 234 Types of conflict and their relevance for UCP
- 240 Stages of conflict
- 244 Needs assessment
- 250 Populations, individuals, or groups particularly impacted by violence

5

MODULE 5

UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION IN PRACTICE: LIVING IN AND EXITING THE COMMUNITY

- 275 Overview and learning objectives
- 277 Context analysis
- 281 Security management
- 286 Exit strategies
- 290 Development of a comprehensive UCP strategy
- 302 Dilemmas

APPENDICES

312 Glossary

324 Case Studies



Operazione Colomba
Photo / Accompanying
a group of Human
Rights Defenders of
the Peace Community
in the Cordoba region,
Colombia / August 2019

FOREWORD

Dear Students and Seekers,

I invite you to read this manual and learn more about Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP).

I first learned about this work when I was asked to endorse Nonviolent Peaceforce in 2000.

Since then I have followed their work and find it bold and audacious.

In 2014 I was appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to chair a High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. For the next six months a distinguished and experienced group of experts were driven by the desire to take a dispassionate look at these operations to ascertain their relevance and effectiveness for today and tomorrow's world. At several stops we were able to learn about UCP, a new concept to many of my colleagues.

In our report, *Uniting our Strengths for Peace, People and Prosperity- Politics, Partnership and People*, issued in June of 2015, we recommended that unarmed strategies must be at the forefront of UN efforts to protect civilians. Our report noted the positive contributions of UCP and further recommended that UN missions should work more closely with local communities and national and international non-governmental organizations in building a protective environment.

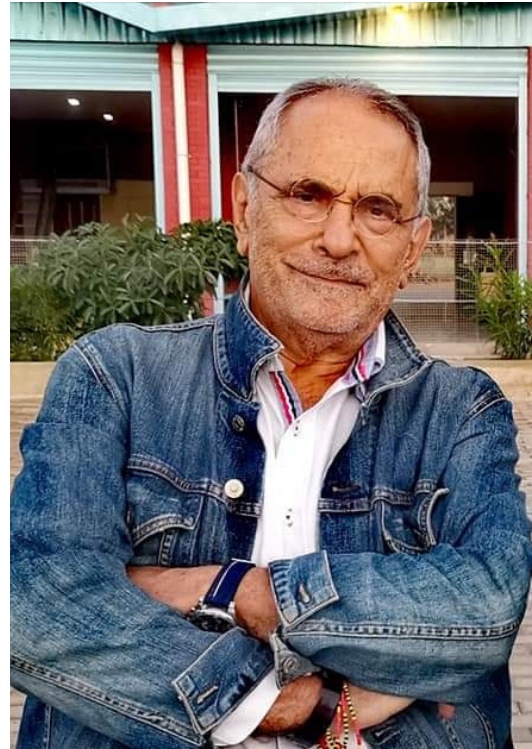
Since that time I have watched in horror as now more than 68 million of us have had to flee our homes because of violent conflict. Famines have reached biblical proportions. With climate chaos, the rich getting richer off of wars and a global pandemic, more of us are starving, fleeing and dying. The world needs effective and affordable ways to confront the business of killing. That's where you come in. I ask that you read this manual, take a course or training, and then challenge yourself about what you can do to make our world a safer and more secure place.

I have devoted my life to fighting for people's self-determination. I have intimately experienced brutality and violence. I am not a romantic pacifist. Yet, I have seen the power of compassion and know that it takes more courage to actively use nonviolent methods to resist violence than it does to take up arms. Let us struggle together until every member of the human family is able to thrive.

In Solidarity,



José Ramos-Horta
Former President, Timor-Leste (2007-2012)
1996 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The original version of this manual was developed in 2014-15 as the central component to an online course developed in collaboration with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Since then, the manual has been used as a major component for courses on Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) by several different universities and NGOs for a number of different audiences. Many of them tailored its content to the needs of their own audience and developed additional tools to convey its core messages.

At the same time Nonviolent Peaceforce organized a series of workshops across the world to articulate good practices about UCP. These workshops have brought UCP practitioners from over 50 organizations working in 18 countries together within their respected regions, including Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, and Central/South America. A workshop in Europe is planned for early 2021. This meeting of practitioners, joined by a few partners organizations and academics, has provided new insights into effective ways unarmed civilians protect others and prevent violence – be it others in their own communities, their own nations, or internationally.

In this second edition we have included some of the insights and observations from people who have taught courses on UCP as well as the field practitioners who participated in the good practice workshops. Additionally, we have included recent developments in the international articulation of civilian protection and related topics, such as UN declarations and reports as well as new models of UCP, developed by UCP agencies since 2015.

The university courses, good practices workshops, increased research papers, and references to UCP in UN resolutions show us that UCP is beginning to emerge as a field of practice. We believe that this manual can contribute to the development of standards of practice, exemplary models and resources that can accelerate the growth of this emerging field and expand the global community of UCP practitioners. With this in mind, we realized that our presentation of UCP needed to be more inclusive of diverging viewpoints and practices.

It was clear at the good practice workshops that there is a wide variety of approaches in this work, and differing use of terms as well. For instance, especially in Central and South America, the work is primarily referred to as accompaniment. In this manual we generally use the word accompaniment to refer to a specific set of methods, but not the overall approach. However, we are aware that some practitioners see accompaniment as something different than UCP. Perhaps the most contentious issue in the workshops has been the understanding of the principle and practice of nonpartisanship. While for some it is more of a semantic difference – using different language to describe similar principles –, for others there is an embrace of the principle of solidarity and practice of being partisan for those most impacted by the violence, or most oppressed. In this manual we continue to reference nonpartisanship as a core principle, while understanding that it is not embraced by all, particularly those who understand accompaniment as separate from UCP. Reflecting the learning from the good practices workshops, this manual also includes advocacy as a separate UCP method, and elaborates on what this means in practice.

Conversations with scholars, practitioners, and local partners also made it clear that the original manual was not sufficiently inclusive of UCP as practiced by local communities. Indeed, the manual was originally written from the perspective of external, international UCP organizations. In this new edition we have included more references and examples of how local people are protecting themselves through various unarmed, nonviolent, civilian to civilian methods. We are continually discovering local groups that are applying various methods of UCP, but not aware that they are part of a broader community. These efforts are not only critical and often effective, but they are the most sustainable form of civilian protection. However, doing justice to the many ways people protect themselves nonviolently, and the growing body of research and writing on civilian self-protection, would have required a much larger reorganization of this manual. This was beyond the scope of our capacity. Therefore, the manual remains primarily focused on the experience of external, international organizations that apply UCP in a context that is not their own. The authors believe that nonetheless, there will be valuable learning here for any unarmed civilian protection efforts.

The authors hope that this manual provides a useful starting point for those beginning to learn about UCP as well as an opportunity for people already familiar with UCP to deepen their understanding of its theory and practice. It is not a substitute for a specific training in UCP methods. While we have made an effort to provide a wider perspective, we acknowledge that it remains heavily reliant on the experiences of Nonviolent Peaceforce. We warmly welcome any further exchange of knowledge and experiences, so that the practice of UCP can be refined for the benefit of all those whose reality continues to be dominated by violent conflict.

Huibert Oldenhuis and Ellen Furnari

January 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This manual was written by Nonviolent Peaceforce, with input from numerous others who reviewed it. The first version of this manual was issued in 2016 and produced in collaboration with UNITAR. In particular we want to thank Chris Grathwol, Benajmin Gaches, Clare Blenkinsop, Richard Holloway, Michaela and Czikus Carriere, Claudia Croci PhD, Alina Soltani Neshan, and Evariste Karambizi, Manager of UNITAR Peacekeeping Training Programme. We also wish to acknowledge the generosity of the Fenwick Foundation, the Holthues Trust, the Samuel Rubin Foundation, Connie Goldman, Marialice Harwood, Nevin Harwood, Edmund Resor, Mary Ann Huber and Ken Tilsen.

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ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAAFG	Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups
CDA	Collaborative for Development Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CPC	Civil Protection Component (Philippines)
CPR	Communities of Popular Resistance (Guatemala)
CPT	Christian Peacemaker Teams
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
EAPPI	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel
EU	European Union
EUMM	European Union Monitoring Mission (Georgia)
EWER	Early Warning Early Response
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
GAM	Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (Free Aceh movement)
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCPEA	Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
GPH	Government of the Philippines
HIPPO	High-Level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations
HRD	Human Rights Defender
IASC	United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IMT	International Monitoring Team (Philippines)
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization

IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRL	International Refugee Law
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
JIU	Joint Integrated Unit (South Sudan)
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and others
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front (Philippines)
MONUC	United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MRDA	Mundri Relief and Development Association (South Sudan)
MSF	Medecins Sans Frontieres
NCOORD	National Coordinating Office on Refugees and Displaced of Guatemala
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	Nonviolent Peaceforce
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PBI	Peace Brigades International
PoC	Protection of Civilians
PPF	Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
R2P	Responsibility to Protect
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPLA	Sudan People's Liberation Army
TMF	Truce Monitoring Group (Bougainville)
UCP	Unarmed Civilian Protection
UNAMSIL	United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPO	United Nations Department of Peace Operations
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WES	Western Equatoria State (South Sudan)
WFP	Witness For Peace
WPS	Women Peace and Security
WPT	Women Peacekeeping/Protection Team
YPS	Youth Peace and Security



PEACEKEEPERS COURSE
CP TRAINING
20 August 2020

JPST
Joint Peace and Security Team

NP Photo / Conducting trainings for Joint AFP, PNP, MILF Peacekeepers in the Bangsamoro, Philippines / November 2020