

“Without Bloodshed and Revenge”

Sarah's heart sank when she read the death threat she received from James, one of her fellow prayer group members in the displacement camp outside of Juba, South Sudan.

According to James, he was doing his duty of collecting money from community members to support prayer activities when he met Sarah and asked her for a contribution. In his eyes, Sarah then insulted him by accusing him of collecting the money for his personal use.

James then verbally threatened Sarah and later delivered the written letter to her, communicating his threat to kill her for the embarrassment she had caused.

“I was so scared and wasn't able to sleep,” shared Sarah.

Her mother then contacted Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) in order to intervene and ensure her daughter's safety.

This death threat had the potential to quickly escalate into violent conflict, including further family and clan members taking sides. So, NP proposed to facilitate a community dialogue. James was initially against the idea—and threatened anyone who tried to convince him otherwise—but he joined the conversation after understanding NP's objectives to resolve conflict without violence.

Community leaders play a critical role in conflict mediation and resolution, so NP invited 16 elders and community leaders from Sarah's and James's respective clans and zones. Altogether, a total of 21 community leaders, Women Protection Team members, and NP staff took part in the dialogue.

When the dialogue started off with a heated argument, elders from both sides intervened to calm the situation. Sarah was given a chance to speak: “I



NP (orange), Women Protection Team (green), and Youth Protection Team (blue) patrolling the displacement camp



NP Patrolling the displacement camp

accept that my words could have been insulting and that accusing James of swindling funds for his personal use was not good. It was not my intention to insult James.”

And then James: “I apologize for threatening Sarah without knowing the repercussion of such threats. I no longer have the intention to harm her.”

The elders and community leaders then took turns advising James and Sarah to end their conflict. To close the meeting, one of the community leaders stated that:

“Today you have ... given us as leaders and our people hope that there is still a good way to resolve conflict without bloodshed and revenge.”

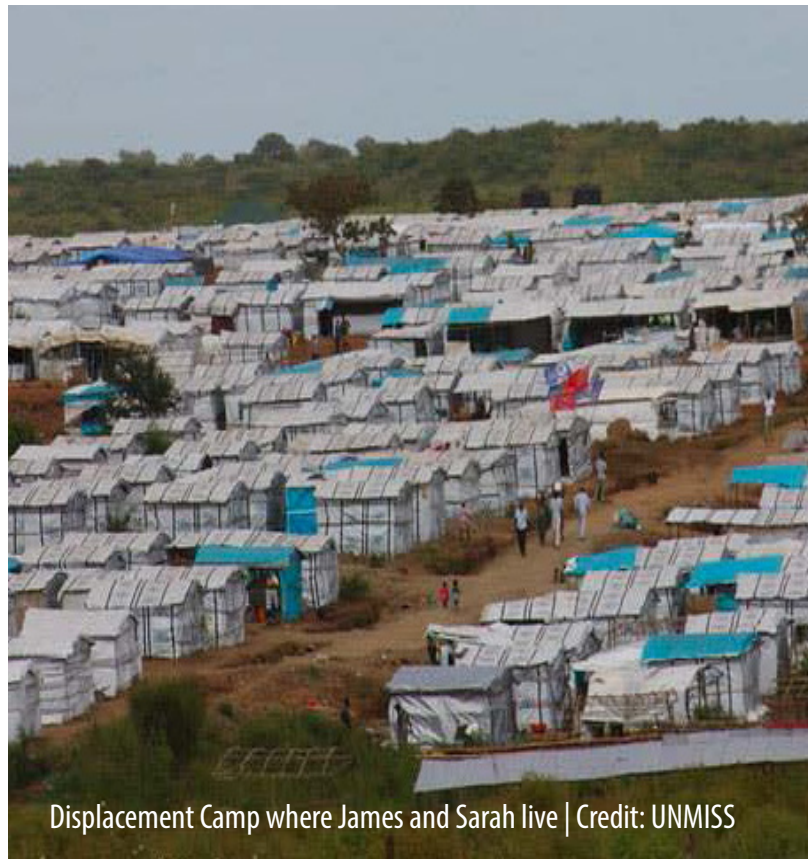
Over the next month, NP followed up with James and Sarah. You made it possible for NP staff to patrol the area to confirm that tensions had been alleviated after the dialogue.

Sarah has confirmed with NP that James no longer poses a threat to her and her

family: “After the threat, my life was like a prison, but now I can move freely and I am able to sleep since the issue was resolved.”

With your support, NP will continue to facilitate community dialogues to prevent violence and to restore and strengthen community relationships. ➡

**Names changed for privacy*



Displacement Camp where James and Sarah live | Credit: UNMISS

Your Impact Reaches Around the World



You make it possible for students to complete online courses in countries where NP isn't on the ground—oftentimes with limited internet access.

Recently, 81 students from Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger studied how to use nonviolence and work towards a peaceful future in their communities.

Hear from course graduates below!

Mariam



“This course allowed me to demystify the protection of civilians because I thought it was the prerogative of armed actors only.

Understanding that this protection must be done by civilians reinforces my desire to contribute to it.”

Djamiratou



“These trainings really helped me understand the culture of peace. At one point in the course, we distributed bracelets symbolising peace to children, in order to remind them of peace the next time they raised their arms in a fight. From then on, I decided to wear

a bracelet made of precious stones of the color of the sky, which for me symbolise love and peace. This bracelet helps me remember the principles of peace that I must uphold as a peacebuilder every time I check my watch.”

Askandra



“Not more than a month after the training, a neighbor kicked his daughter out for having spent the night in the city, and swore to hit her if she ever stepped foot in his house again. Since I have a good relationship with this neighbor, I felt

compelled to find his daughter and accompany her home and convinced her father to let her come back. I provided protected accompaniment and felt myself embodying the principles of UCP.”

...And You Impact the World Itself



When you support UCP, you support civilian-led approaches based on interconnection, relationships, and being responsive to local need — the best approaches to confronting violence and the climate crisis.



And, we've teamed up with the *Climate Action Accelerator* to scale up climate solutions, contain global warming below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous runaway climate change!

More Ways You Can Magnify Your Impact

How you can help build even more peace around the world:

Monthly Giving Monthly gifts to NP provide a stable source of reliable funding, reduce our administrative costs, and ensure that even more of your donation spreads safety in Iraq, Myanmar, South Sudan, the Philippines, and the United States.

Stock By donating stock directly, rather than selling it, you avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable tax-deduction equal to the full, current value of the stock.

QCD Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA — If you are 70½ years of age or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution to NP from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Bequest Making a bequest to NP through your will or living trust is one of the simplest ways to create a legacy gift to NP. A bequest can be modified or canceled at any time, and it can be for a specified amount or percentage of your estate. NP supporters have access to a free, online tool called FreeWill, where you can make a free, legal will in just about 20 minutes!

Beneficiary Life Insurance or Retirement Plan Beneficiary — Another simple way to leave a lasting impact for peace is by naming NP as a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA or other retirement account.

Your compassionate generosity means unarmed peacekeepers are living in communities affected by violent conflict, safeguarding human lives and dignity in violent conflicts. Together, we are making the world more safe and peaceful.

Your gift will help support our new program in Thailand!
Pictured here: Community leaders in Southern Thailand



FOR MORE INFORMATION

on any of these options please contact Anna Zaros at (612)-871-0005 x226 or azaros@nonviolentpeaceforce.org.
Thank you for your continued support and your faith in our work to build peace alongside communities!