



RESOURCES

Conferences and Training Workshops

Human Rights Fieldwork: Principles, Strategies and Skills (31 May-6 June, Maynooth, Ireland): The aims of this annual training programme of the International Human Rights Network are to explore the principles underpinning effective and accountable human rights fieldwork; enhance the skills of participants to carry it out safely before, during or after armed conflict; and introduce participants to the skills needed to undertake international human rights fieldwork. The training is conducted at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and is intended for development and humanitarian aid workers, civilian and military peacekeepers and field staff of inter-governmental organisations and NGOs. To apply, visit www.ihrnetwork.org/programmes-2009_203.htm

Conflict Prevention in the Multimedia Age (3-5 June, Bonn): Deutsche Welle's Global Media Forum 2009 will primarily highlight rapid technological development in the field of media, examining the future of content delivery and its implications for peace and security. The forum will bring together media users and producers, peacebuilding and conflict prevention specialists, political decision makers and representatives from the fields of media technology and security, the military and the arms industry. Topics for discussion include the 'digital divide'; 'blogging for peace or hate as a way to bypass censorship'; 'community media and TV in conflict resolution'; 'digital populism: can the public prevent governments from going to war?'; and multimedia opportunities for civil society organisations. Details available at gmf@dw-world.de and www.dw-world.de/globalmediaforum

Human Rights-based Approaches to Justice Sector Reform (21-26 June, Maynooth, Ireland): The International Human Rights Network is conducting its 2009 training programme at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The aim is to enhance skills of participants in applying the approaches as stated in the title. Among the topics to be explored are legal principles, interaction among the justice sector actors, relationships between the security sector and the justice sector and its role in the rule of law and good governance; monitoring & evaluation; programming tools and benchmarks; and case studies from field missions in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. Participants get to attend the 'Measuring Justice' conference at the same venue on 26 June. Priority is given to applications received by 3 April. To apply, visit www.ihrnetwork.org/programmes-2009_203.htm

Conflict Management & Conflict-sensitive Programming in Development Workshop (22-26 June, Nairobi): This five-day course offered by Regional Capacity Building Partners is intended to improve the skills and enhance the understanding of partnership facilitators and support staff in conflict resolution, conflict-sensitive programming and peacebuilding. The fee of \$1,200 excludes accommodation and travel. For details, visit www.reacbp.com

Measuring Justice: Justice Sector Evaluation & Human Rights Conference (26 June, Maynooth, Ireland): Measuring justice is a priority for many individuals and institutions. It is central to enhancing good governance and respect for the rule of law, combating corruption, addressing impunity and building effective, sustainable and accountable justice sector reform. The International Human Rights Network is holding this one-day conference at the National University of Ireland,

Maynooth, to facilitate the pooling of evaluation experience and identify best practice in measuring human rights impact. Invited participants include evaluation practitioners, justice officials, accountability watchdogs, inter-governmental organisations, civil society, and academics and researchers. For a call for papers and registration details, visit www.ihnetwork.org/international-conference2009_231.htm

Challenges to Peace and Development in Ethiopia and Northeast Africa (July 23-25, Addis Ababa): The conference offers a forum for constructive dialogue on policy options for sustainable development and peace and an exchange of research papers on the various dimensions of development. It aims to build consensus on policy options crucial for progress in conflict resolution, human development, peacebuilding, economic cooperation and democratic governance within and among states. Selected papers will be published in a refereed volume of proceedings. Prospective participants should submit the participation form and a one-page abstract by April 1, followed by a full paper by May 1. Forward abstracts to Sisay Asefa at sisay.asefa@gmail.com with copies to mulufy@idr.aau.edu.et and ccbmeaa@ethionet.et, or by fax to + 269 387 5637.

Exploring the Power of Non-violence (October 8-10, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin): The Peace and Justice Studies Association, the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, and the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking have jointly organised this conference to mark the 140th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. Proposals are invited from disciplines that address topics relevant to promoting non-violent communities and practices, especially topics that address the nature and history of non-violence; skills in non-violent approaches to resolving and managing conflict; economic and environmental justice; faith communities and education in non-violence at all levels. The organisers are also open to proposals for creative and

dynamic workshops, panels, films and other formats. Another focus of the conference will be grassroots organisations working with individuals and groups to help develop a bridge from dialogue to action. The deadline for submissions is March 15. For details, and to download the online form for submitting proposals, visit info@peacejusticestudies.org and write 'conference proposal' in the subject line.

Web Pages and E-Communications

Radio for Peacebuilding, Africa, aims to develop, spread and encourage the use of radio broadcasting techniques and content for peacebuilding and as tools for communication around poverty reduction in conflict. The project aims to disseminate radio guidebooks on peacebuilding, host a forum about peacebuilding techniques among users, establish links with relevant websites and inform users about pertinent events. Visit www.radiopeaceafrica.org

The Coalition for Peace in Africa is a Kenya-based networking organisation working in the areas of culture, human rights, development, and peace and equality. It facilitates linkages between practitioners and stakeholders to advance the building of sustainable peace in Africa through capacity building, advocacy, research and documentation. The coalition also offers training and holds workshops in East, Central and Southern Africa and the Horn. For details of training programmes and workshops, visit www.copafrica.org or copa@copafrica.org

Book Notices

African Development Report 2008/2009

Oxford: OUP 2009

ISBN 978 0199548941

The publication of the report comes at a time when some prolonged civil conflicts in Africa have ended, which offers hope of lasting peace and security – an essential condition of development. It also raises a

number of challenges to successful post-conflict transition. External support for the countries affected is vital to post-conflict recovery. On the other hand, the persistence of conflict in other countries warrants a continued enquiry into the nature and causes of conflict in Africa and a search for appropriate conflict-resolution strategies. Against this background, the report investigates the nature, causes and consequences of conflict in Africa. It assesses conflict-resolution and peacebuilding strategies and focuses on policies to aid the transition from conflict to peace and economic recovery. Finally, it highlights the African Development Bank's support to fragile states, which are mostly countries emerging from conflict. In identifying gaps in knowledge and a lack of agreement about the causes of conflict in Africa, makes a worthy contribution to the debate on effective strategies to prevent and end conflicts in Africa, and facilitate post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

***Humanitarian Intervention and
onflict Resolution in West Africa
– From ECOMOG to ECOMIL***

John M. Kabia

Ashgate, January 2009

ISBN 978 0 7546 7444-3

The end of the Cold War has been characterised by a wave of violent civil wars that have produced unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe and suffering. Although mostly intra-state, these conflicts have spread across borders and threatened international peace and security. One of the worst affected regions is West Africa, which has been home to some of Africa's most brutal and intractable conflicts for more than a decade. This volume locates the peacekeeping operations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) within an expanded post-Cold War conceptualisation of humanitarian intervention. It examines the organisation's capacity to protect civilians at risk in civil conflicts and to facilitate the processes of peacemaking and post-war peacebuilding. Taking the empirical case of ECOWAS, the

book looks at the challenges posed by complex political emergencies to humanitarian intervention and traces the evolution of ECOWAS from an economic integration project to a security organisation, examining the challenges inherent in such a transition. The author is a programme worker with Survivors for Peace, the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace, UK. Details available at www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754674443

***Peacebuilding and Development in
Guatemala and Northern Ireland***

Charles A. Reilly

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
December 2008

ISBN 978 0230611573

This analysis of the implementation of peace processes in Northern Ireland and Guatemala emphasises the role of mid-level civil society and religious organisations, or the 'voluntary sector'. Both countries underwent decades of conflict, signed peace accords in 1998 and 1996 respectively, and still struggle to make them work. Despite their divergent paths of economic development, both countries have colonial legacies, deep cultural divisions and engaged diaspora. While religious differences are a backdrop to violence and reconciliation in both cases, insecurity and inequity are the root causes and consequences of these conflicts. The book summarises lessons learned and makes policy recommendations for more post-conflict civil societies, arguing that similar dynamics fuel sustainable peacebuilding and authentic development.

Conflict and Development

Andrew Williams & Roger MacGinty

New York: Routledge 2009

ISBN 978 0 415 39937 1

Drawing on contemporary theoretical debates and examining current policies and events, *Conflict and Development* unpacks the difficult and complex aspects of the relationships between armed conflict and development and makes them accessible,

interesting and policy-relevant. It considers how peacemaking, peacebuilding, and post-war reconstruction are usually more sustainable and successful if politicians, policymakers, entrepreneurs and those working for international NGOs take on board local opinion and capacity. Written in an accessible style, the book considers the main contemporary theories and arguments on conflict, development and the interactions between the two. The text is illuminated throughout with case studies drawn from Africa, the Balkans, Asia and the Middle East.

The Democracy Gap: Africa's Wasted Years (African Arguments)

William Mervin Gumede
London: Zed Books 2009
ISBN 9781848130425

Why has it been so difficult to sustain democracy in Africa? At the end of colonialism, the liberation movements promised so much in the name of freedom and democracy. Over the last 50 years, however, most of the governments that sprang from these movements have behaved in ways that are markedly undemocratic. The opposition parties, which came to power after the end of corrupt and authoritarian regimes, have not done much better. For ordinary citizens, the cost of this 'democracy gap' has been devastating – uncountable numbers have lost their lives, there has been a staggering loss of human potential, development has been stunted and societies have imploded

Rebuilding War-torn States: The Challenge of Post-conflict Economic Reconstruction

Graciana del Castillo
Oxford: OUP October 2008
ISBN 13: 0199237735

Post-conflict economic reconstruction is a critical part of the political economy of peacetime and one of the most important challenges in any peacebuilding or statebuilding strategy. How can ravaged

and mismanaged war economies be reconstructed and transformed into functioning market economies that enable people to earn a decent living? Unless the political objectives of peacetime prevail at all times, peace will be ephemeral, while policies that pursue purely economic objectives can have tragic consequences. The author was the first senior economist in the cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General in the early 1990s, involved in post-conflict operations in Central America, Asia, and Africa. She argues that any strategy for post-conflict economic reconstruction should be based on specific premises, and she examines post-conflict reconstruction cases to identify where these premises have been disregarded, where policies have worked, and the conditions that have influenced their success and failure.

Afghanistan: Transition under Threat

Geoffrey Hayes & Mark Sedra, editors
Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2008
ISBN 9781554580118

By the fall of 2008, seven years after the fall of the Taliban regime, the future of Afghanistan's post-conflict transition looks more uncertain than ever. Driving this uncertainty is a security environment that has steadily deteriorated with each passing year, creating a level of instability even greater in Iraq, according to some indicators. However, insecurity is not the only dilemma that has threatened to undercut Afghanistan's transition to peace and stability. Problems of corruption and poor service delivery in the state coupled with the failure of the internationally supported reconstruction process to improve the quality of life for so many Afghans trapped in poverty has begun to erode public confidence in the new political order. This volume seeks to understand the reasons for the present crisis in Afghanistan. By charting the history of the Afghan state-building process, analysing trends in its political, economic and security spheres, it offers some insight on how to

overcome the imposing challenges that exist. The book also takes a close look at Canada's evolving role in Afghanistan, which is emblematic of the experience of other NATO countries that have struggled to sustain domestic support for an increasingly dirty and complicated mission that shows no end in sight.

Afghanistan, Arms and Conflict

Michael Vinay Bhatia & Mark Sedra
New York: Routledge 2008
ISBN 978 0203928431

The first comprehensive assessment of small-arms and security-related issues in post-9/11 Afghanistan, this book examines case studies drawing on field research on hitherto neglected regions of the country, providing a balance of thematic analysis, conceptual models and empirical research. It offers important insights into issues such as the efficacy of international assistance, the 'shadow' economy, warlordism, and the Taliban-led insurgency. In an effort to deconstruct and demystify Afghanistan's 'gun culture', it also explores some of the obstacles and opportunities facing the country in its transition phase. In so doing, the book offers valuable lessons to the state-builders of Afghanistan as well as those of other countries and regions struggling to emerge from periods of transition.

The Power in the Writer: Collected Essays on Culture, Democracy and Development in Africa

Mwalimu George Ngwane
Cameroon: Langa Publishers 2008
ISBN 9789956558377

Ngwane examines the creative industries of Cameroon and Africa and makes the triumphant assertion that Africa is home to some of the most diverse cultural patrimony and the most versatile creative professionals. He also discusses indigenous development models and questions the rationale for Eurocentric democratic paradigms, which have partly contributed to the demise of a concrete democratic

development entitlement in most African countries. Ngwane weaves both the cultural and political strands into a search for a homegrown development web, which he calls 'glocalisation'.

The Democratisation Project: Challenges and Opportunities

Swedish Network of Peace, Conflict and Development Research
Ashok Swain, Ramses Amer & Joakim Ojendal, editors
London: Anthem Press 2009
ISBN 978 1843313144

Democratisation is a field where unexpected and sudden events have repeatedly challenged conventional wisdom. For example, who in the mid-1970s would have foreseen the democratisation of Cambodia, Albania, South Africa or East Timor? The current 'wave' of democratisation is complex and diverse and understanding it requires a variety of theoretical approaches. Most of the literature on democracy assumes that it is the best form of government. Theoretical works have also emphasised the internal conflict resolution capacity of democracy. It has been reasoned that democracy reduces the likelihood of discrimination, especially of ethno-political minorities, and thus the possibility of political repression. However, the democratic peace theory has not been explicitly tested with reference to post-colonial states in the developing world. Certainly, there is a dearth of practical advice for policy makers on how to design and implement democratic levers that can make internal peace and stability endure in the South. This volume, drawing on the work of a variety of scholars, will contribute to identifying and understanding the challenges and opportunities of this 'democratisation project' to the peace and development of the world both at the domestic level in selected countries, trends in regions of the world, and in the global system since the end of the Cold War.

Brokering Democracy in Africa: The Rise of Clientelist Democracy in Senegal

Linda J. Beck

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2008

ISBN-10: 0-230-60283-5

This book examines the achievements and limitations of democratisation in Senegal – and Africa more broadly – as a result of the continuing political culture of clientelism. Senegal is an exemplary case study of democracy in Africa, yet there have been very few books in English that take an in-depth look at Senegalese politics. Beck's knowledge of Senegalese politics and competing literature in the field make her the ideal author to further scholarship on the topic.

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Documents and Reports

Post-conflict Economic Recovery: Enabling Local Ingenuity

United Nations Development Programme, New York

<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2008/october>

This report presents a comprehensive analysis focusing on the importance of local ingenuity to guide recovery, the state's role in promoting this ingenuity, and the policies needed to rebuild battered economies and reduce the risk of conflict recurrence. Cases are examined of countries that have succeeded in rekindling post-conflict economies and those that continue to flounder. In emphasising that recovery programming must be based on sound understanding of local dynamics, the report offers important lessons for the international community and calls upon international partners to support debt relief, especially in the early post-war years; to create jobs, which is the best way to ensure that economic growth benefits the majority of the population; and to support national efforts to rebuild the capacity of the state and secure its legitimacy.

Local Peace Committees: Some Reflections and Lessons Learned

Andries Odendaal & Retief Olivier

USAID, Kathmandu

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN032148.pdf>

Local peace committees (LPCs) are formed at the level of a district, municipality, town or village with the aim of encouraging inclusive peacemaking and peacebuilding. They are implemented as part of a national

peace process, or by civil society organisations in contexts of debilitating conflict. The rationale for implementing LPCs for the Nepal Transition to Peace Initiative in 2008 was the need to secure peace at local level to strengthen the sustainability of the national peace process. The deep-rooted nature of conflict at local level, the psychological effects of violence and neglect on local communities where protagonists had to co-exist, the prospect of intense political competition in the context of a fragile peace, and the dynamics and inherent instability of transition periods gave enough reasons for considering the implementation of LPCs.

Haiti: Confronting the Gangs of Port-au-Prince

Michael Dziedzic and Robert Perito
United States Institute of Peace,
Washington, DC
www.usip.org

The armed gangs of Port-au-Prince were exploited by powerful elites as instruments of political warfare, providing them with arms, funding and protection from arrest. In 2006 and 2007, the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti conducted a series of successful military and police operations against armed gangs that had terrorised the populace. The mission's campaign is a model for other UN missions and for national governments that face a similar challenge from illegally armed groups. Based on field research, the report describes the conduct of military and police operations against the gangs and the overwhelmingly positive attitude of Haitian citizens toward the UN operation and its results.

Would You Fight Again? Understanding Liberian Ex-combatant Reintegration

Richard Hill, Gwendolyn Taylor & Jonathan Temin
CHF International, Silver Spring, MD
www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr211.html

A survey conducted in collaboration with the National Ex-combatant Peacebuilding Initiative polled more than 1,400 ex-

combatants from the 14-year civil war in Liberia. Reintegrating ex-combatants into society is a challenging task — for the nation, aid organisations, and, most of all, the former fighters themselves. The respondents give their views on how well they are assimilating into peacetime society: the challenges, their hopes and dreams, and what, if anything, might prompt them to take up arms once more.

Enhancing Leadership in Justice, Healing and Transformation focusing on Kenya

Babu Ayindo & George Kut
Nairobi Peace Initiative-Africa
www.npi-africa.org/documents/pbi08.pdf

The violent upheaval in Kenya in reaction to flawed 2007 general elections attracted varying interventions by the peace community. NPI-Africa undertook 'listening visits' to western Kenya and the Rift Valley and places beyond in early 2008 to survey the ideas, stories and images of the peoples of Kenya. The findings, reported in this paper, show that the kind of justice and reconciliation that people seek is far from the narrow 'political justice' and 'political reconciliation' that is so common in the global South. They further suggest that peace researchers and practitioners need to take the lead in clarifying and fashioning anew the terms being used and decisions being made with regard to peace, healing, justice and reconciliation.

Security and Development for Southern Africa

Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town
www.ccr.uct.ac.za/index.php?id=447

This report stems from a policy advisory group seminar co-hosted by the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Southern African Development Community and the Centre for Conflict Resolution. The seminar brought together policymakers, academics and civil society actors to identify ways of strengthening SADC's capacity to develop security and development initiatives for southern Africa.