



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO

ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

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FACES OF PEACE

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Editorial

By Maren Haartje and Agota Hasenfratz, Project Managers at the International Secretariat in Berne, Switzerland.

Dear PeaceWomen and Friends of PeaceWomen Across the Globe,

A hectic and busy, but also very fruitful, year is almost over. A lot has happened over the past year including our exhibition that was shown over fifty times in different parts of the globe. We are also proud to announce that PeaceWomen came together and formed working groups in many countries. We were able to make arrangements for the presentation of seminars and workshops in Indonesia, China, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Azerbaidjan, India, Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Peru, Germany, and Switzerland.

Located in Berne, our small International Secretariat works to create a network of projects with PeaceWomen worldwide. We not only put women in contact with one another but also refer them to organisations and institutions and recommend them as sources of expertise. Through our efforts, Rita Thapa from Nepal and Safaa Elagib Adam from Sudan were invited by the Swiss Foreign Ministry to a conference on UNSCR 1325 in Switzerland. Additionally, based on our recommendation, Dekha Ibrahim Abdi from Kenya was asked to be a member of the Berghof Foundation Advisory Board. For us here in Berne, it is always a very delightful experience to get to know a PeaceWoman and to be able to recommend and connect her with our contacts.

Five of the one thousand PeaceWomen sent us an article that they wrote about their work and their lives. The six thousand people who receive this newsletter will read their stories. We would like to continue building upon our mission of connecting Peacewomen and making their work visible. So dear reader, enjoy the stories about the different faces of our projects. And dear PeaceWoman, if you want to tell us your story, please contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you!



A Thousand Ideas for Change

By Alina Radu, PeaceWoman from Moldova, investigative journalist and founder of the independent newspaper Ziarul de Garda. Alina has revealed many cases of human and organ trafficking in Moldova.

What is it like to live near the European Union border in the poorest European country, Moldova? Everybody wants to leave, because the great opportunities are just across the border.



It is a challenge and an everyday fight, but there are a thousand opportunities to succeed. A few months ago, we discovered a baby and mother living in the streets. We gave them medical care, but we also need assistance from the Social Services.

Recently I received a call from Ala Nemerenco, a medical doctor and one of the PeaceWomen in Moldova. Of course, we did a report about the mother and baby and many others like her. There were similar calls from our newsroom to Dr. Nemerenco's clinic. She does her best to help people in trouble. There are a lot of things to do to help children with tuberculosis, children in the streets, and abused women. And near Ala there are other women ready to help. As for me, I am a member of a great women journalists' team.

We didn't know each other before we were nominated as PeaceWomen, but we had the feeling that we had been working together forever. This is because there is a place for everybody in Moldova to combat poverty, to stop human trafficking, and to empower women. As PeaceWomen, we now have at least a thousand ideas for change to make our voices heard.

A few weeks ago I had a great chance to visit Norway. My visit was related to media issues. But I benefited from a huge assistance from two very powerful women organisations: International Association for Women in Radio and TV (www.iawrt.org); and Soroptimists Union in Norway (soroptimistnorway.no). Both organisations are full of dedicated women like us. We created networks to fight for human rights in Moldova, in Eastern Europe, and in other poor countries. And of course, I wanted to have a meeting with the only PeaceWoman in Norway. It was not hard to find Ingrid Eide, a very known fighter against nuclear weapons. My kind host, Kirsten Bråthen, a journalist from Norwegian TV, knew her from many interviews done last years. She introduced us. We had a wonderful exchange and shared many ideas.

Lats month we Moldovan PeaceWomen visited Braila in Romania, where our exhibition *1000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe* was being shown. It was only a four-hour drive between Moldova and Romania, but it seemed like a very long distance, because there's the European Union border between the two countries. We needed visas and had to gather a lot of papers. But we managed. We will cross all borders for networking and for strengthening our activities. ◀

The website of the newspaper *Ziarul de Garda*: www.garda.com.md/eng.

Haitian PeaceWoman in Danger

By Joan Connors, attorney of Haitian PeaceWoman Rose-Anne Auguste.

PeaceWoman Marie Carmèle Rose-Anne Auguste is in danger and needs your help. Known to her friends as Rose-Anne and to fans of her music as Lody, Rose-Anne and I investigated cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of street children by humanitarian workers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in the summer of 2006. The immensity of what we found shocked and saddened us both. It galvanized us, too, to document every detail of the abuse we discovered.



Fourteen months later, however, the subjects of complaint remain at large. Haitian authorities launched a police investigation into the exploitation and abuse this summer and took one child into protective care. Other children, however, remain at risk.

The End of Donor Dollars

Incensed at the local woman – Rose-Anne – he blames for the end of donor dollars to his charity, one subject of complaint struck out against Rose-Anne this summer.

In the early morning hours of 19 July Rose-Anne woke to the ring of her mobile phone. A caller identifying himself as one of the subjects of complaint demanded our investigative report and threatened to come rip it from Rose-Anne's hands. Shaken but clearheaded, Rose-Anne notified the organization that hired us then filed an official complaint with the police. She immediately went into hiding, moving constantly over the next six weeks to throw off anyone who might be following her.

Port-au-Prince's Commissaire du government has promised Rose-Anne safety, which allows her some respite, but still she remains on guard. It is easy - and cheap - to hire someone to do your killing in Port-au-Prince.

Rose-Anne's renown as a human rights activist affords her some protection. Known and respected for her life-long activism, Rose-Anne has close friends and comrades in government and within Haiti's vibrant network of human rights defenders. Trained as a nurse, Rose-Anne founded a women's medical clinic in one of Port-au-Prince's poorest areas in 1991, treating women who had been raped and tortured and providing medical documentation of human rights abuses. A 1994 recipient of the Reebok Human Rights Award, Rose-Anne can be found at the center of human rights efforts in Haiti today, most recently in the campaign against the feminization of HIV/AIDS spearheaded by ActionAid International. Former United States President Jimmy Carter said, "Rose-Anne Auguste's commitment to the protection and well being of her fellow Haitians is inspiring."

How You Can Help

But even a brave, bold PeaceWoman like Rose-Anne Auguste gets tired. It gets old looking over your shoulder, taking the long way around, sleeping in beds that aren't your own. That is why Rose-Anne asked me to reach out to PeaceWomen Across the Globe for help.

We encourage you to write directly to the top officials in Haiti's government urging them to protect street children from sexual exploitation and abuse, and to assure Rose-Anne's safety. They are: President of the Haitian Republic M. René Garcia Préval, Justice Minister Me. René Magloire, and Secretary of State for Public Safety M. Luc Eucher

Joseph.

Finally, send Rose-Anne your highest and best thoughts to give her strength to continue the struggle for human rights in Haiti, one day at a time. ◀

The eMail of Rose-Anne: auguste_lody@yahoo.com.

A Face for Peace

By Nicole Winkler-Krämmer, Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Media Communications at the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt.

«Ce que tu donnes, c'est à toi pour toujours; ce que tu gardes, c'est perdu à jamais.»¹

PeaceWomen Across the Globe offer all the things that are without a doubt missed mostly to those who are in dire need: the meeting of elementary needs, as well as hope, courage and confidence, even if their own life is at stake - a fate of which we have recently become painfully aware in respect of the PeaceWoman Anna Politkovskaja. Her fate is also further step to make the work of the PeaceWoman visible, who act worldwide for establishing peace. PeaceWomen Across the Globe embody *raison d'être* and idol for all women around the world, who continuously dedicate their life to appeasement with courage, insistence and single-mindedness.

Not only my participation in a coordinators' meeting which was alive with so much enthusiasm, but also the reading of some of the biographies was so moving, and so exemplary and catching as an example of their will-power that even today I still cannot get it out of my mind. Therefore I decided to scientifically explore the potential of the project in my doctoral thesis with special consideration to the media and their dealing with the initiative *1000 Women for the Peace Nobel Prize*. My goal is to show whether the media have tackled the initiative's potential and its visible activities for peace, and in which way the initiative was mentioned in the media coverage to generally report on peace. A further aim is to explain how women are more and more actively replacing the role of the war victim with the role of the peace activist.

What's more, the media reports reveal a plain tendency: Many media take this excellent project as an example for adding socio-political issues to the agenda. The qualitative analysis of the research to date reveals for instance that the project has mainly been referred to within the context of gender relations. On the one hand a feminist point of view was chosen which focused on the many palpable starting-points to change global patriarchal relations of power that are to be made public by this initiative. This is especially the case with the articles being published in feminist magazines. Here representatives of the initiative are given a voice and, by portraying them each, they are introduced as impressive and courageous role models for peace activities. On the other hand the initiative is shown as a group attacking existing rules and social conventions, and thus seen as an assault on the patriarchy in the critical media coverage. In these articles, the women are accused of a lack of any sense of reality – actually they should know that is it impossible to prevail. At the same time strategies are adjudicated to these women which thoroughly enable them to assert their claims. At one point it is implied that the women, in supporting and helping each other, can actually change the *status quo*. And in another text the potential of women to seduce men is mentioned. All in all the latter is constructed as a threat (mainly by male authors), in one case even to such an extent that

¹ What you give is yours forever. What you keep, you lose. (Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran)

the author suggests to remove the women peace activists to a museum. A first estimate of the quantitative analysis has shown that the interest in the initiative had its peak during the period from 2003 to 2005, followed by the publication of the 1000 names of the women nominated. Altogether, the media coverage on the initiative was largely positive and affirmative, and was carried out in publishing organs of social institutions, but also in regional and national papers and magazines.

The initiative *1000 Women for the Peace Nobel Prize* gave peace a face. It would be great if we could constantly meet it, and if it were our own. ◀

Drawing a Smile on Faces

By Edna Angelica Calo Livne, PeaceWoman from Israel, educator and advocate of peace through arts among children and founder of the Beresheet LaShalom Foundation.



The past two years have been very intense and momentous for me. Being one of the 1000 PeaceWomen became a significant detail on my business card. On September 2006 in Trani, Italy, I received the Carthago Academy Prize, a special recognition to those who have extraordinarily contributed to the social and cultural development in Italy and abroad.

Then in May 2007, I was awarded the Mamma Lucia for Mother Courage-

International Prize in Cava de Tirreni with a Palestinian woman, Maysa Baransi Seniora. Another noteworthy experience was when I presented a workshop on "Multicultural Development" in several Italian cities and at the International Master of Florence University, wherein Prof. Paolo Orefice, Head of the Education Department of Florence University, consequently decided to come to Israel with a delegation of colleagues to initiate a project with the International Chair of UNESCO. In addition, I wrote a daily diary under the rockets for Repubblica, one of the important Italian daily newspapers during the war between Israel and Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

We work intensively to diffuse our ideals of dialogue among different cultures and beliefs and to involve more and more people. We continue our activities and even increase them:

- "To draw a smile on their faces" events and activities with families wounded by terrorist attacks. This year the trip to Italy consisted of war victims who are Israeli Jews and Arabs from Zadal, and Christians from Lebanon who are living in Israel.
- "Arcobaleno–Rainbow Theater" change Theater with Arab and Jewish youngsters from the Galilee
- Radio Program "Shalom Lecha Salaam" with the youngsters of the Theater broadcasting from Galilee, Jerusalem and Ramallah
- Collaboration with the Italian Culture Institute in Israel with several projects (camps, festivals, events)
- Coordination of a soccer team of Jewish and Arab children

I need a lot of strength to pray, to invent new ways to educate on peace, to find friends beyond the border and women like me who believe in life, in the future and in dialogue. I

dream to build a Multicultural Ecological Center to educate people to dialogue for peace and environment and to teach values like respect for different cultures, mediation, and dialogue development. Since Galilee is the center of many cultures in Israel, it would be the best place to realize this project. The center will be able to host activities and guests from all over the world.

I wish to bless all the like-minded PeaceWomen in the world who still believe that it is possible to give our children a better future. It will be another dream come true if I could assemble these women in a big gathering to know these women, and to share our feelings and our struggles for a better future! ◀

For more information on Beresheet La'Shalom visit: www.beresheetlashalom.org.

Woman of Courage

By Sandy Fong, PWAG coordinator for the Pacific.

In June, Solomon Islands PeaceWoman, Apollonia Talo, was awarded the United States Secretary of State's Award for International Women of Courage. I met with Apollonia in Honiara in August and was able to learn about her views regarding the award, rearmament of the police and reconciliation process in the Solomon Islands.

...We totally disagree that there should be any armament and I strongly oppose it. Other women also oppose it and I just come out very clearly on some areas where some police officers are not happy about so I was asked to pay compensation for what I said in the media. But I refuse to pay compensation and I just tell them that you can even arrest me and put me to jail but I will not pay compensation until the government himself pays the compensation to the people who are victims of the ethnic tensions voiced Apollonia when asked about her view on the rearmament issue in the Solomon Islands.



Apollonia was among many who had strong opposition towards the idea of the rearmament of Solomon Islands police, and was asked to apologize and pay compensation for her strong statement about her lack of confidence in the police during an open forum in Honiara.

Apo (as she is fondly called) stated that if arms were reintroduced, it would mean that all the work done earlier to remove weapons and firearms from villages were a waste of time. She was part of the monitoring peace council that traveled around the Solomon Islands after the ethnic tensions to remove arms and conduct awareness programs. She added that although the events took place in Guadalcanal, women and children also experience the trauma and some are still traumatized. *"And I no longer trust the police officers because they are the ones involved in the ethnic tensions so how much more when they have guns in their hands. They can shoot anybody because the law is in their hands"*.

With regards to the reconciliation processes, Apo shared that there is some reconciliation taking place and voiced the need for women to be part of the reconciliation process,

“...when women take part in doing things. They always look at many angles before making a decision...” She also added that reconciliation should start within the communities.

It's not the interest from the whole people from the two provinces that create the ethnic tensions. It's only some people's intentions.... We have oppositions among ourselves. So killings going on, raping going on, burning of houses going on. All these destructions going on is creating fear, anger within the village themselves. So even people within Guadalcanal are against each other. They are killing each other, they are destroying each other so they have to reconcile. Guadalcanal themselves have to reconcile themselves before they reconcile with the other and same to the Malaita people...so we have to reconcile within the province, within the community, within our constituency before we do the national reconciliation said Apolonia

With tears streaming down her face, Apo shared about the recognition for all her hard work when she received the United States Secretary of State Award as the International Woman of Courage.

I am very proud and I thank all my sisters, all women from the Solomon Islands whether from village or town. I know they all participate in helping me in one or the other in getting this award. I am just like other women who participate in programs in doing works for helping each other in their country. So I thank my fellow sisters for their support, without them I cannot manage to do this.

Since the nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, Apo has been busy working with various organisations in Solomon Islands such as the National Council of Women, Family Support Centre, Vois Blong Mere, and Kustoms Garden. She has also been working at the provincial level focusing on establishing the Women's Resource Centre. ◀

The work must go on

By Rita Thapa, PeaceWoman from Nepal, founder of Nagarik Awaz, an organisation that works for the empowerment of women and peace-building in Nepal.

My work as a feminist activist in Nepal spans over 25 years. Initially, I created organizations to address gender gaps by identifying alternative development models and structures. In 2001, I founded Nagarik Aawaz through Tewa, the Nepal women's fund, for the purpose of responding to escalating violence in Nepal. Working as an activist has many challenges arising not only from rapid political & economic transitions in predominantly patriarchal settings but also from being overtly dependent on foreign aid. “Development” is likely to become equated with “jobs” and “projects”. Over the years, I have realized that mainstream structures, devoid of representation of women or with women's token participation, have little understanding and comprehension of women's issues. They are incapable of adequately addressing the gaps in equity and more importantly, the sharing of power. Consequently, most of our work continues to be one of lobbying, advocacy and demonstration of models, all of which limits broader impact.



When Regina Muller, a Swiss woman residing in Nepal over many years, asked if she could nominate me for as one of the PeaceWomen, I promptly said, “Yes”. I already

understood the importance of making women's collective work visible and valued in our world, and this initiative, ambitious as it seemed, could do this most effectively. Globally, this initiative was an excellent way of demonstrating what's possible and also recognizing what is yet to be done. While this initiative paid tribute to the nine women selected from Nepal, it also raised questions as to why there were only nine selected. Luckily, this was not a lasting debate in Nepal. However, so many women had done so much work but, it was not celebrated to the extent it should have been to acknowledge our collective strength.

Since then, the PeaceWomen Across the Globe Secretariat has worked hard to not only make the work of peace women visible, but to assert that it is women's participation and work that makes a peaceful world possible. We first came together in the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January this year and were enriched by the wisdom, experience, and caring of our colleagues. Coming to Berne in August² to share experiences and gaining insights on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Nepal, I now realize that doing this work lies with us. The UNSCR 1325 is a great tool to ensure that peace processes prevent gender-based violence, give protection to girls and women, and secure the participation of women at all levels. But to ensure its implementation, it is critical that we continue our work in our communities. Therefore, the experience and insights of the peace women are necessary for UNSCR 1325 to become a reality.

The Secretariat of PeaceWomen Across the Globe is providing great service by making these connections and by helping to make women's peace work visible globally. I feel lucky to have been invited to engage with and influence on such an important topic as the UNSCR 1325. For us the work MUST go on, but those who exert most power must also take the most responsibility. ◀

Thank you!

In August we sent out a request into all our networks worldwide looking for volunteer translators. To our big surprise we received a lot more answers than we would have ever dreamt of, over one hundred people from many different countries offered us their help with translations and proofreading. Thanks to all these volunteers we were finally able to get moving with different works where before we had language barriers.

Thanks to this we are able to widen our network and to get our message through to women, who speak languages that we in the team are not able to.

We would like to thank the following people who have voluntarily been helping us with translations and proofreading in the last months. We hope we haven't forgotten anyone:

Maria Fichte, Morven McLean, Beatrice Heine, Ruth Pierce, Charlotte Fehr, Alison King, Idamaria Tudora, Lucie Rozshazy, Geraldine Gilbert, Marlene Shigekawa, Tahmina Khakimova, Sol Peridelli, Geraldine Gilbert, Doris Kunzmann, Amina Grunewald, Margrit Steinlin, Celia Swan, Marlene Shigekawa, Lucinda Gidlow, Carola Klingele, Sherbet Katigbak, Anna Voss.

² On August 31 2007 there was a seminar in the Kursaal in Bern on „1325: The challenges for Swiss Peacebuilding” with the participation of three PeaceWomen.