



Field Notes Fall 2010

Standing Up and Speaking Out for Sudan



Now is not the time to give up on Sudan. The country stands at an important crossroads. Daily I meet people eager to head in the direction of nonviolent action — eager to take steps to reduce and prevent conflict. Everyone I meet over the age of 5 either lived through or was born into the horror of the 21-year civil war that claimed two million lives and displaced millions more. Still fragile, the country now faces the potentially destabilizing effect of the 2011 referendum on southern unity or independence.

Despite these challenges, the desire is strong to build on the relative stability the country has known since 2005.

Supporting that fragile stability is Nonviolent Peaceforce’s purpose in Sudan. Here at the invitation of Sudanese activists, we aim to protect civilians from violence.

Youth especially need our protection. Over 50 percent of Sudan’s population is under the age of 17. Many have suffered unspeakable brutality, lost families, fled violence and been uprooted from home and community multiple times. Educations have been interrupted. Job prospects are few. Traumatized and disenfranchised, these youth are vulnerable to taking up arms.

Yet, already we have successfully intervened in disputes in schools where violent conflict regularly makes learning impossible. Many of these children are former child combatants raised on war. Yet within the school-based peace committees we are creating, they begin

to reach for means of protecting themselves other than violence.

I am humbled at the aptitude and willingness these remarkably resilient children display for nonviolent action. A vital aspect of our work with children is to ensure access to services that help them work through trauma. Protecting such children protects the future of Sudan.

Evidence of our peacekeeping efforts extends beyond the classroom. Historically, countless deaths have resulted from disputes over land use and the movement of cattle. In one such recent dispute, we intervened to halt the conflict between two communities reacting to a spate of cattle raids.*

Our local and international peacekeepers worked to earn the trust and respect of both sides. They established a safe and neutral gathering space where the disputants could come together. Then, they stood as a neutral third party and witnessed a matter primed for bloodshed reach nonviolent resolution.

The people of Sudan are ready to make a stand for nonviolent action. Please stand with them – stand with Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Thank you.
Tiffany Easthom,
Country Director



* For full story, <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/cattleraid>

Saving Lives in Sudan

My Cousins' Lives Are Lost, But Others Won't Be ...

My name is Liza, and I come from Western Equatoria, though war drove me from Sudan in 1999. It was hard, but hopeful news to learn that Nonviolent Peaceforce had succeeded in settling a cattle dispute in my home state.

Perhaps you've heard stories of land disputes, water disputes, disputes over oil and other resources coming out of Sudan. Maybe you've seen a newspaper article or caught a radio or a TV report that gives my country a few minutes of airtime. Such reports are more than news stories to me. They are real life. They are personal.

I know about bloodshed in cattle-grazing disputes. I know about it not from the newspaper, radio or TV. I know about it because blood spilt in one such dispute in the 1990s came from members of my own family. Apart from the different ending, the story ran as Tiffany Easthom describes on the first page.

An argument over cattle and crops one week. Murder the next. Armed gunmen surrounded my cousins' house at 4 a.m., ordered everyone out and forced them to sit down in one straight line. Then one by one they started shooting. Those who managed to flee left the dead behind. My cousins Abraham, Robert, Tadayio, Silvestor Hakim and Silvestor Laku lay in the hot sun for two days before soldiers buried them. Yesibayi, who was wounded, died later after

long treatments failed to save his life. Such stories were common in the Sudan I grew up in.

It's too late for my cousins. But thanks to Nonviolent Peaceforce, it's not too late for other lives to be saved. Other wives, mothers and children will keep their husbands, sons and fathers because of the courageous efforts of unarmed civilian peacekeepers. I believe the real value of Nonviolent Peaceforce is that its peacekeepers can protect civilians without using violence. Nonviolent action does not separate and divide people as armed protection might. Rather, it brings them together to talk, to heal and to mend differences so people have a chance to live peacefully together. I am proud that many of the peacekeepers in Western Equatoria are local Sudanese. I am proud that they are helping and training their own communities to respond nonviolently to conflict. I am proud to know Nonviolent Peaceforce. Unarmed civilian peacekeeping gives me fresh hope in the possibility of a peaceful future for Sudan.



Liza Mulla now lives in Minneapolis but was born and lived in Sudan for 31 years. Learn more about her life in Sudan at: <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/lizas-story>



Diary of a Peacekeeper in Sudan...

David is 4, gap-toothed, smiling and wears a straw hat. He has long, tremulous downcast lashes that hide his eyes. He is small. Stunted for his age. Though, thanks to the Child Support Center, he bears no outward signs now of the long, terrifying journey or malnourishment that made him so. Like one-third of the children in Sudan, he knows what it is to live with an empty belly too long. And like so many other boys and girls, he knows too what it is to be alone in the world.

Separated from his family, David ran for days to escape the attacks on his village. Now, he wants nothing more than to sit on my lap and be held. His small body is warm and fragile in my arms. Suddenly, his shyness evaporates in a burst of childhood exuberance. A loud giggle cracks into a grin, and his ribs rise and fall in a quick gust of laughter.

I try to fathom all this little boy has endured in his 4 years. I cannot. But Joseph, a Sudanese youth worker in his 20s training with Nonviolent Peaceforce, can. Joseph is a small man in a country of tall men. But among the children he works with, his ready smile and easy warmth have earned him stature.

Joseph has already lived David's story and worse, which is why he wants to work with Nonviolent Peaceforce. He is determined David, and boys like him, won't travel any farther in the footsteps he himself was forced to take.

Joseph, like David, had to flee his village many times as a child. The last time, at age 14, he was separated from his family, captured and forcibly recruited to take up arms. When he tells me he killed people, his eyes hold mine, and in them I see sadness beyond compare mixed with the shame and guilt of which he

speaks. But I see something else. It's the same thing I see looking out at me from beneath David's lashes. It is the same thing I see every day in Sudan: resilience. It's a resilience Joseph draws on in his determination to protect David and other orphans like him.

It's the same resilience the local people display when they put down violence and take up nonviolent action, which many do by signing up for unarmed civilian peacekeeper training. As a trainer and peacekeeper, I find my own resilience strengthened from watching men, women and youth learn about their rights, how to increase their own security, how to access resources and how to protect themselves and their communities.

Among the most vital rights in need of protection in South Sudan is the right to an education. The role Nonviolent Peaceforce plays in protecting children extends to helping ensure their right to attend school. Today, violence blocks 93 percent of secondary-age schoolchildren from going to school here in South Sudan. As a peacekeeper, I work to create safe spaces for children and provide protective accompaniment for them.

Because the violent tensions within the community get reenacted in the schoolroom, our proactive presence within the schools is critical. In partnership with highly committed teachers, we work directly with students to help them learn and practice nonviolent ways of solving disputes. The future of Sudan rests in these children's hands. They deserve all the support they can get to learn to use their hands, their heads and their hearts nonviolently.

This is the first diary entry in a series coming to you straight from our peacekeepers in the field. Stay tuned for more personal accounts from our unarmed civilian peacekeepers.



Legacy Circle

Give future generations a chance to live in a world without war. Become a member of the Legacy Circle by remembering Nonviolent Peaceforce in your will.

For more information about the Legacy Circle, contact Erika Shatz at 1 612 871 0005 ext. 14 or eshatz@nonviolentpeaceforce.org, or visit: www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org and click on DONATE.

Internal Displacement: A Global Challenge

Internal displacement affects at least 27 million people across the world¹. That's a population the size of Texas, forced to flee their homes by armed violence and human rights abuses. Unlike refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) did not cross international borders, and as such are not entitled to the same protection under international law. IDPs now outnumber refugees by two to one, though their situation receives far less global attention.

Africa is the continent most affected by internal displacement, with over 11 million IDPs in 21 countries. Yet a total of 23 countries saw new displacements last year, with the largest relative increase in the number of IDPs in Southeast and South Asia, where over 800,000 people left their homes². The table below provides figures on internal displacement in three countries where Nonviolent Peaceforce is active:

Country	IDP population
Philippines	25 000+ ³
Sri Lanka	94 000-113 000 ⁴
Sudan	4.1 million ⁵

Responsibility for the security and welfare of IDPs rests mainly with national government, which is sometimes unwilling or unable to live up to its obligations. As a result, the displaced are especially vulnerable to violence, violations of their human rights and long-term poverty. Often, IDPs struggle to secure access to livelihoods, food and safe drinking water, education for their children and affordable health care. Their voices are seldom heard by political leaders whose decisions affect them most.

Nonviolent Peaceforce works to protect and advance the interests of IDPs in countries where it operates. Our peacekeepers work with IDP advocates, facilitating their access to local service providers, law enforcement officials and public policymakers. By establishing a visible international presence in the often remote and rural places where IDPs settle, Nonviolent Peaceforce ensures that displaced people do not become invisible, and abuses targeting them are not ignored. Most importantly, by building the capacity of community-based protection and security mechanisms, we help create the safe conditions that encourage IDPs to return to their places of origin.

Nonviolent Peaceforce cannot hope to solve the complex problem of internal displacement. The international community must focus its efforts on enforcing minimum standards for IDP protection and working to prevent the conflicts and human rights abuses that drive new displacements. In the meantime, our peacekeepers have pioneered a range of effective strategies to reduce the vulnerability of people who are displaced, empower them to promote their interests, and enable them to return home — and stay home.

¹IDMC, December 2009. Available: <http://bit.ly/9WfsCN>

²IDMC, May 2010. Available: <http://bit.ly/ckkshV>

³IOM, August 2010. Available: <http://bit.ly/cYJL8b>

⁴Government of Sri Lanka, September 2010.

Available: <http://bit.ly/dxrBPF>

⁵UNHCR, January 2010. Available: <http://bit.ly/9RNVzR>

Needs

Sudan ~~Wish~~ List

- Support a peacekeeper in the field for a year: \$25,000
- 2 Land Rovers: \$50,000 each
- 4 Satellite Phones: \$1,000 each
- 20 sleeping bags: \$140 each
- 20 sleeping pads: \$80 each



Peacekeepers Face Urgent Needs in Sudan

Our peacekeepers are increasingly busier week to week here in Western Equatoria, South Sudan. News of Nonviolent Peaceforce spread rapidly across the state following our arrival in May. Demands for protection, accompaniment, crisis response and dispute intervention pour in daily from remote villages across the territory. With only 30 miles of paved road in the entire state, a journey of 100 miles can take five hours. We need more peacekeepers to staff expanded mobile teams, more Land Rovers to transport them and more satellite phones because cell phone coverage is so unreliable. Most goods are imported here, which drives the cost of living sky-high. Items as simple and vital as sleeping bags and mats are hard to come by, but are essential to our staff. We're doing our best, and with your support we can do even better.

On the Road with Nonviolent Peaceforce Cofounder Mel Duncan

speaking engagements:

October 6 – 9:

Youngstown, Ohio

October 17:

Roseville, Minnesota

October 20 – 25:

San Francisco, California

October 28 – November 1:

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 14:

Underwood, Minnesota

For information about these engagements or to invite Mel to speak at an event, contact Karen Lehman at:
612 871 0005 ext. 29, or
klehman@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Nonviolent Peaceforce
and The Hartsough-Duncan Founders Circle invite you to
**A Celebration of the Life's Work of Nonviolent
Peaceforce Cofounder David Hartsough**

At the Arch Street Meeting House
320 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
Convenient to public transit — Free parking
Sunday, October 31, 2010, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM



Field Notes

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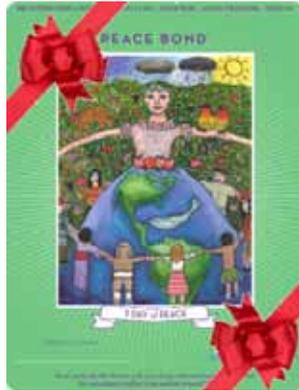
Give the Gift of Peace!

This holiday season resist the urge to buy another gift card or the latest gadget. Instead, give a gift that matters – **give a Peace Bond.**

Peace Bonds are striking works of art designed by artists around the world. Your Peace Bond purchase will enable unarmed peacekeepers to go into conflict zones and protect vulnerable families, monitor elections, and help people displaced by violence to return home.

There are Peace Bonds for every budget, from \$10 to \$500. Trust us, your Peace Bond will be the best gift you'll give all year. You can even add Peace Bonds to your holiday wish list and ask friends and family to buy them for you.

Browse the designs and buy Peace Bonds online at www.buypeacebonds.org, call 612.871.0005 x 11, or fill out the order form on the enclosed envelope.



Thank You! Hartsough-Duncan Founders Circle Members

Your 2009 pledges earned us a \$500,000 matching gift for civilian protection. Not a member yet? Double your impact today. Join the Hartsough-Duncan Founders Circle.

Thanks to an additional \$210,000 CHALLENGE, your pledge can be matched too!

Make or renew your three-to-five year commitment by December 31st 2010 and it will be matched up to \$210,000!

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