

Nonviolent Peaceforce (nonviolentpeaceforce.org) is an unarmed, professional civilian peacekeeping force that is invited to work in conflict zones world-wide. With international headquarters in Brussels, Nonviolent Peaceforce works in the conflict areas of Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Sudan. Among other activities, it works with local groups to foster dialogue among parties in conflict, provide a proactive presence and safe spaces for civilians, and develop local capacity to prevent violence. Its staff includes veterans of conflict zones and experienced peacekeepers.

Year 2010, Issue 1

April 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

Sri Lanka	2
Philippines	3
Sudan	3

NP Internal News	5
------------------	---

Europe, Vote for Peace!	6
-------------------------	---

Highlights from NP member organisations	7
---	---

EXTENSIVE TRAINING PREPARES CIVILIAN PEACEKEEPERS

In February, NP concluded its mission preparedness 10-day training in northern Thailand and received much positive feedback. The training gathered participants from across the globe with previous field experience in order to prepare them for deployment to NP projects in the near future. *(Read more on page 5)*

'EUROPE, VOTE FOR PEACE!' - CELEBRATING PEACE PROJECT EUROPE

Citizens all over Europe will be celebrating May 9th as Europe Day, an annual celebration of peace and unity across the continent. In honour of this, many European NGOs and individuals will gather in Lyon, France between May 6-10, 2010 and take part in a series of events. *(Read more on page 6)*

Mindanao, the main southern island of the Philippines, is affected by a protracted armed conflict. In close collaboration with its partners, NP is engaged in a number of fields- protection of civilians; start early warning systems and early response programs; launch community-based human rights workers programs; and organise high level forums and meetings as well.

NP PROGRAMME IN MINDANAO (PHILIPPINES)

The resumption of the peace negotiations in December 2009, between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GoP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), renewed the mandate of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and of NPP's role in the Civilian Protection Component (CPC). NPP is now an official custodian of certain responsibilities under the CPC and will carry out its activities through its existing field offices. *(Read more on page 3)*



Tim Wallis (left) and Carlos Lopes of UNITAR (centre) sign a MoU in Geneva on 13 April 2010. (Read more on page 6)

Since 2003 Nonviolent Peaceforce is deploying multinational professional peace teams in Sri Lanka to increase security of civilians, especially the most vulnerable ones and those working for peace and human rights.

NP PROGRAMME IN SRI LANKA

Presidential elections were held in Sri Lanka on 26 January 2010 and incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa won by a comfortable majority. NPSL worked with its three local election monitoring partners throughout the presidential elections and again during the parliamentary elections of 8 April. The project was carried out in Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Jaffna Districts. NPSL launched its Capacity-Building pilot project, in partnership with UNDP, and trained community leaders in Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP) in Batticaloa District. *(Read more on page 2)*

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended Sudan's generation-long North-South civil war in 2005 is at risk. National elections are scheduled but uncertain; citizens remain polarised along political and tribal lines, and arms are abundant.

SUDAN PROSPECTIVE PROGRAMME

The situation in North and South Sudan continues to be volatile as the April 2010 national elections are underway and a 2011 referendum for southern independence approaches. NP's main focus will be on the prevention and reduction of violence in the lead-up to the referendum vote which is due to take place in January 2011. *(Read more on page 3)*

NP PROGRAMME IN SRI LANKA

IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF LOCAL ELECTION MONITORS

NPSL continued the work already begun in December 2009 with its three election monitoring partner organizations, PAFFREL (People's Action for Free and Fair Elections), CaFFE (Campaign for Free and Fair Elections) and CMEV (Centre for Monitoring Election Violence) and carried through its activities on the Elections Project in Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Jaffna Districts. These activities included:

- **Security and safety measures training of 45 CMEV and 15 CaFFE election monitors** was organized at the request of the local partners;
- NPSL hired four additional International Protection Officers (IPOs) from Nigeria, France, the Philippines and Kenya;
- In the Batticaloa district, NPSL accompanied election monitors to a total of **50 polling stations in Batticaloa itself and to 38 polling stations in neighbouring Valaichchenai**;
- In and around Vavuniya, where the majority of voters were Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) still living in camps in Manik Farm, **NPSL accompanied election monitors to a total of 46 polling stations**;
- In Jaffna, the turnout of voters both in January and April was reported to be low and NPSL was not requested to provide services at the time.

NPSL received positive feedback and appreciation from its local.



*"You have taught us to work with confidence."
- UCP Training participant*

WOMEN TAKE THE LEAD IN COMMUNITY-BASED UCP

In November 2009, NPSL commenced a pilot project in partnership with the UNDP in the Eastern district of Batticaloa, to share the skills of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP) with Sri Lankan communities so that they can effectively and non-violently increase the security of their own people.

Five remote villages were targeted, and with the help of village-level government agents, in each area, **twenty community leaders were identified to take part in the introductory training programme** held in February 2010. The training was met with resoundingly positive feedback from participants, all of whom shared a desire to be a part of UCP teams in their villages, and to train others in the skills and knowledge to which they had been exposed.

"You have taught us to work with confidence," one participant stated following the training, while several others shared how practical it had been for them, and requested that in the future the project be implemented in other vulnerable areas, particularly border villages.

A group of women utilised their newly acquired skills to advocate through the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission (HRC) for the release of two young men from their community who have been arrested without charge and are being held in a local prison. The HRC is now advocating for their release to national authorities. Another group of young women who participated in the training are using what they learned to post safety and security messages throughout their villages aimed at reducing violence and harassment.

NPSL also facilitated a **four-day training-of-trainers (ToT), for ten of the initial participants (8 female and 2 male)** self-selected by fellow community members from the five villages to give them the ability to sustain this work by training others in their communities.

The aim is to assist in the implementation and creation of the **space and capacity needed to enable local community leaders**, such as the women mentioned above, to together play an active role in determining their futures.

Visit our website for more information on NPSL

NPP JOINS THE CIVILIAN PROTECTION COMPONENT OF THE IMT

Formal peace negotiations were resumed between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on 9 December, 2009. Both Peace Panels, in their joint statement that day, renewed the mandate of International Monitoring Team (IMT) comprised of Malaysia, Brunei, Japan and Libya and of, Nonviolent Peaceforce, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Mindanao People's Caucus (MPC) who will comprise the Civilian Protection Component (CPC) of the IMT.

On 17 December, 2009, Nonviolent Peaceforce Philippines (NPP) officially accepted the invitation extended by both Peace Panels of the GRP and the MILF. Throughout the early months of this year, meetings have taken place between with representatives of the IMT, CPC and GRP to discuss the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the CPC and the IMT as well to discuss cooperation between the Security Component and the CPC.

NPP WITHIN THE CPC

Under the CPC, NPP's overarching goal will be to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and civilian property under international humanitarian and human rights law. NPP will:

- Increase its number of International Civilian Peacekeepers (ICP) from 15 to 26;
- Deploy 45 International Civilian Protection Monitors (ICPMs) and 26 National Civilian Peacekeepers to 13 different locations throughout the Philippines;
- Start the CMC process through its existing Main Office, Liaison Office and its 6 field offices;
- Open 6 more field sites to accommodate the needs of its program under the CPC;
- Hire a Policy Liaison Officer at the Manila Liaison office to engage various Secretaries, Cabinet Members, Generals and other higher level government officials;
- Monitor, verify and report noncompliance by the Parties to their basic undertaking to protect civilians and civilian communities.

It should be noted that under the TOR, the Civilian Protection Component is to remain in place and continue to perform its functions, whether or not the IMT continues to operate.

Visit our website for more information on NNP

NP SUDAN

PREPARING FOR INITIAL DEPLOYMENT

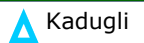
The NP project development team has finished its preparatory work and submitted their report with full recommendations, including that NP establish its program in Mundri (Western Equatoria) and begin to build relationships with the stakeholders in Kadugli (South Kordofan), as the Transitional Area of South Kordofan is expected to be a hotspot as the January 2011 Referendum date approaches.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreements (CPA) officially ended the Second Sudanese Civil War and granted autonomous status to ten states, including South Kordofan and Blue Nile, with power-sharing between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The 3 areas of Nuba Mountains, Abyei (both within South Kordofan) and the Blue Nile are each expected to hold their respective referendums under the CPA.

NP's first deployment in Southern Sudan is expected soon. **3 International Civilian Peacekeepers (ICPs) have been selected** from the Core Mission Preparedness Training (CMPT) and Bernard O'Sullivan (NP's Security and Safety Coordinator) has been appointed interim country director for NP Sudan.



Where will NP be?



SOUTH CAUCASUS EXPLORATION

The South Caucasus region is being often afflicted by violent conflicts for its geographical position as well as complex ethnic composition. The last major outburst was the August War between Georgia and Russia that brought to the Russian recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. This brought to further displacement of local populations after the massive one already experienced in the early Nineties, to civilian casualties, to a difficult situation for populations living around the “boundary lines”, also from the human rights and economic point of view.

Nonviolent Peaceforce received request from local human rights and community organizations to start a programme in South Caucasus as an important and strategic region for deploying unarmed civilian peacekeepers. The needs highlighted by the local and international stakeholders interviewed in the NP’s exploration trips were mainly:

- Insufficient trust by authorities and certain parts of civil society to proceed in confidence-building
- Local population’s security and freedom of movement in districts neighbouring Abkhaz boundary line ;
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and journalists working on human security, human rights and community dialogue issues need support and sometimes protection
- In Shida Kartli (Georgian province bordering South Ossetia) and in South Ossetia accessible areas, human security of populations neighbouring boundary line is not perceived as sufficient
- Human Rights Defenders are not / do not feel safe enough to do their work in all areas

NP management and governing bodies are now considering the recommendations of the exploration team and will decide on the next steps of NP engagement in the region.

“More work by NGOs on reconciliation activity would be possible, if NP field teams worked here”

- Chair of a Georgia-based Multi-ethnic Women Organisation



IDPs settlement North of Tbilisi, Georgia.

HONDURAS EXPLORATION

Since the military ousting of president Manuel Zelaya in June 2009, there has been escalating violence in the Central American country. Despite Porfirio Lobo’s (the newly elected president of Honduras as of November 2009) claim to restore order, violence levels in the country remain very high. A recent article by Reporters Without Borders, affirms that with the latest levels of violence, particularly aimed at journalists, Honduras is the world’s most dangerous country for journalists today. NP is currently developing a detailed proposal and identification of potential funding sources for a protection project in Honduras.



EXTENSIVE TRAINING PREPARES CIVILIAN PEACEKEEPERS



*Simulation exercise in Chang Mai, Thailand.
Accompanying IDPs.*

Nonviolent Peaceforce's intense and substance-packed 10-day Core Mission Preparedness Training (CMPT) concluded successfully on 27 February 2010.

The training took place in Chang Mai, northern Thailand, in a small village that welcomed **23 trainees from 14 different countries**. This was NP's first 10-day training which meant that trainees had to undergo a more finely planned and focused curriculum than the previous 21-day training that took place in Mindanao in 2009. **Participants were challenged emotionally, cognitively and psychologically** throughout the intense and well-balanced sessions. More than any previous training, NP tapped into its own resources and strengths and incorporated its strong field experience to the curriculum, adding to the reality and effectiveness of the simulation exercises.

At both ends, participants and trainers, were very pleased with the final result and, thanks to the feedback received,

efforts are underway at NP to develop a 15-day training curriculum for candidates who have less field experience.

"I will perceive and behave towards conflict differently as a result of this training."

(Trainee from Kenya)

"Very well planned and balanced training. I could learn as well as feel the importance of the work NP does." (Trainee from India).

Most of the participants will now go forward to deployments in NP projects in the Philippines, Sudan and possibly Sri Lanka.

NP OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

NP INTRODUCES UNARMED CIVILIAN PEACEKEEPING TO CONGRESS OF MUSLIM PHILANTHROPISTS

Mel Duncan (NP Outreach Director), Atif Hameed (NP Country Director in the Philippines), and Ali Palh (NPSL Co-ordinator of HRD Unit in Sri Lanka) attended the Third World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) in Doha, Qatar on 21-22 March 2010.

The Third WCMP, entitled "*Building a Better World: New Horizons-Sound Strategies*", focused on **how the integrated efforts of philanthropic, public and private sectors can effectively respond to** the worsening global issues of hunger, poverty, disease, climate change and **most importantly conflict and violence**. Many high profile delegates were in attendance from all over the world.

Mr Hameed was a speaker at the conference and effectively described the role played by civilian peacekeepers in protecting civilians during conflict. He stressed that strategic philanthropy aimed at alleviating poverty has to include civilian protection and conflict prevention as its foundation. ***"Human development and human security go hand in hand."*** He said.

In his closing remarks, Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, suggested that attendees learn more about Nonviolent Peaceforce. ***"We are taking a look at them at the UN."***

NP in JAPAN

Nonviolent Peaceforce's Executive Director, Tim Wallis, spent a week in Japan in March where he gave a number of public talks and met with NP Japan, the Japanese Foreign Ministry, a Japanese foundation along with one of NP Japan's member organizations, Peace Boat.

Tim offered support to NP-Japan and made several contacts during his trip. NP is actively seeking to further develop its cooperation with the Japanese.

LOBBYING EUROPE

'EUROPE, VOTE FOR PEACE!' - MAY EVENTS IN LYON

PEACE PROJECT EUROPE: CELEBRATING PEACE PROJECT EUROPE

Following the October 2009 events that took place at the European Parliament in Brussels, the "Peace Project Europe—Civil Society Dimension" is leading its second event in Lyon. Between **May 6th and May 10th 2010, 100 NGO representatives and active citizens from all over Europe will gather in Lyon** for a network meeting. On working days there will be discussions and planning sessions of the European Network for Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS), the European membership of Nonviolent Peaceforce and the members of the French Comité d'Intervention Civil de Paix (ComitéICP).



On the weekend of May 8-9, there will be a series of events to draw the French public's and local politicians' attention to the nonviolent alternatives of dealing with conflict. Together with a broader audience, the organisers will present and discuss proposals on how the European Union could reinforce its founding principles and promote peace and democracy through mechanisms such as a European Civil Peace Service programme.

Nonviolent Peaceforce will be sending a team of representatives including its Executive Director that will actively take part in the events. *More info on <http://www.civilpeace.eu/news>*

NP AT UN

NP AND UNITAR SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Nonviolent Peaceforce's Executive Director, Tim Wallis, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Carlos Lopes, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the UN Headquarters in Geneva on April 13th, 2010.

The signing of the MoU followed in-depth discussions, which began in June 2009, between Phil Esmonde, NP's Capacity Building Director, and UNITAR, regarding collaboration on an online introductory course on Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP). The MoU is an umbrella MoU that will last for 5 years and allows and encourages the exploration of opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the two organizations.

The cooperation envisioned under the MoU include the following broad areas:

- The design and development of training and capacity building activities (e.g. On-line courses, curricula, conferences, workshops and seminars) that produce results in accordance with outcomes agreed upon by the Parties;
- The exchange/sharing of knowledge resources such as reports, studies, policy papers, training materials, research, books and periodicals.

This document is indeed a great opportunity for a fruitful collaboration between the two organizations.

FEATURED NP MEMBER ORGANISATION



Federation for Civilian Based Defense (Bund für Soziale Verteidigung - BSV)

BSV is an independent non-governmental organization based in Germany. It was founded in 1989 and unites 400 members and 49 member organizations who consider non-violence the only answer to the threats and dangers human kind faces. BSV has co-developed and promotes the German Civil Peace Service. It has been involved in the international coalition project Balkan Peace Team and was a founding member of the European Network Civil Peace Services (en.cps) and the Nonviolent Peaceforce. Since 2008 Outi Arajärvi is representing BSV (and the European member organizations in the International Governing Council of Nonviolent Peaceforce. We are

supporting the networking between European member organizations and raise awareness for NP within the German public.

BSV is working in three areas:

Nonviolent Intervention: We mainly support nonviolent grassroots networks in the field of Rights Defense. Currently we are active in Belarus and preparing a "week of nonviolence in Palestine" in July 2010 and are developing options to support the Iraq network "no to violence – la onf". We actively lobby German MPs and the public to advocate civilian institution building in order to develop nonviolent alternatives in crisis prevention.

Anti-Militarism & Pacifism: We are active within the German peace movement mainly in nonviolent actions, conferences and publications to criticize the current military build up and to foster nonviolent alternatives.

Training and Education: Our main activities are the organization of the two yearly congress for peer-mediators (www.streitschlichtungskongress.de) and the propagation of the No Blame Approach against bullying in schools (www.no-blame-approach.de)

BSV has its own line of publications. (see [here](#)) including a brochure, an exhibition and a flyer about Nonviolent Peaceforce in German.

CSDC—Centro Studi Difensa Civile

On February 25th CSDC coorganized a round-table discussion at the Instituto Affari Internazionale (IAI) in Rome dedicated to the following subject: Italy in EU Civil Missions: "What Role for Civil Society?" The event was followed by a panel discussion with representatives of the Italian peace-committed civil societies including scholars and NGO members.

forumZFD—Ziviler Friedensdienst

The Forum Civil Peace Service (*forumZFD*) of Germany is currently exploring the possibility of CPS projects in Indonesia. This would extend the organisation's presence in South East Asia where it is already active in Mindanao/Philippines. For its Western Balkans programme, *forumZFD* is working out new country-specific strategy papers as well as training courses for field staff so that they can better integrate a European Union dimension into their project work – with regards to advocacy as well as funding prospects. At the Forum's Academy for Conflict Transformation, new 9-week and 4-months qualification courses began in February. In the autumn, the Academy will offer its first course especially designed for people who wish to continue their employment whilst training to become peace consultants.

NOVA—Centre per a la Innovació Social

NOVA is supporting the creation of a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) based platform for the promotion of a Civil Peace Service (CPS) in Catalonia. A project to identify the potential CSOs interested in Catalonia, and to gather material to raise awareness for CPS in the region has just been submitted. The study is being coordinated by the International Catalan Peace Institute and is now undergoing its final evaluation phase before being forwarded to the Government.

NEAG—Nederlands Expertisecentrum Alternatieven voor Geweld

People Building Peace Netherlands (with NEAG functioning as its secretariat) is developing a Local Peace Index in analogy to the already existing Global Peace Index, with the help of Utrecht University. The Local Peace Index is a set of indicators to monitor the achievements of municipalities with regard to a peaceful society. The working group on this issue is looking for good practices from other European (and other) countries.



Nonviolent Peaceforce

Rue Belliard 205
1040 Brussels
Belgium

To make a donation:

NP Bank Account
PARIBAS FORTIS Bank - Rond Point
Schuman, 10 - 1040 Brussels

IBAN = BE67 0013 9271 5387
BIC (formerly SWIFT) = GEBABEBB
(transfers within Europe are free of charge)

Tel: +32 (0)2 648 0076
npeurope@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE (NP)

We are an International NGO engaged in the creation of a large-scale international unarmed peacekeeping force, composed of trained civilians.

In partnership with local groups, NP members **apply proven non-violent strategies to protect human rights, deter violence and help create space for local peacemakers to carry out their work.** Launched in 1999 at the Hague Appeal for Peace and established at the convening event in Surajkund, India in 2002, NP brings together over 69 Member Organisations from around the world and is endorsed by 9 Nobel Peace Laureates.

NP

Deploys international, trained, civilian field teams to conflict areas upon invitation by local peace groups.

Builds capacity for nonviolent intervention through trainings, assessment, recruitment, rosters, and rapid response mechanisms in crisis areas.

Conducts public awareness campaigns and political advocacy to increase international support and recognition of civilian nonviolent intervention's effectiveness in preventing violence and fostering a global culture of peace.

VISIT OUR REVAMPED WEBSITE:

WWW.NONVIOLENTPEACEFORCE.ORG

NP WELCOMES...

Kimberly Sanberg—Individual Gifts Officer

Kimberly comes to NP with a diverse background in fundraising. Her previous professional experience includes stints as Director of Online Strategy at Ignitus, a tech-savvy fundraising consultancy based in Minnesota; Director of Online Outreach at the Environmental Working Group; Development Associate at the Family Equality Council; and Programme Assistant at the Advocacy Institute. She is currently Vice-President of the Board of Directors of Longfellow Community Council.

Kimberly will be taking on the Every Donor fundraising portfolio, which encompasses thousands of individual small-scale donors across the United States and provides a crucial component of NP's annual core resources.

NP IS LOOKING FOR...

Interns

If you are hungry for a challenge, possess immense enthusiasm and stamina, and see an intern placement as a springboard to your international career, check out our placement profiles at:

<http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.com/participate/work-us/internships>

facebook

Watch our 18 minutes video on NP's work (divided in 2 parts) at:
www.youtube.com/user/NonviolentPeaceforce



Join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/people/Nonviolent-Peaceforce/777052788



www.BuyPeaceBonds.org

BUY PEACE BONDS: GIVE THE GIFT OF PEACE AND SUPPORT PEACEKEEPERS WORLDWIDE

NP Europe Newsletter editor: Alexandra Benedict (abenedict@nvpf.org) under the supervision of Alessandro Rossi (arossi@nvpf.org)