



Centre for
Humanitarian
Dialogue

Annual Report 2007

Highlights of the Year

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The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue is
an independent and impartial organisation,
based in Geneva, Switzerland, dedicated to
improving the global response to armed
conflict through mediation.

www.hdcentre.org

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“In 2007 the HD Centre became a truly global player, enabling us to react more quickly to conflicts around the world.”

‘The Year of Africa’
Women in a Central African Republic
marketplace selling local dishes.

Chairman's address

2007 was 'The Year of Africa' and a turning point in the HD Centre's strategy to focus on conflict mediation



Sir Michael Aaronson

In the development of an organisation, there are pivotal moments that help to define what the organisation ultimately becomes. In this regard, 2007 has been a milestone year in the evolution of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre).

As an organisation established in Geneva nearly a decade ago, the HD Centre's most prominent achievement in 2007 was the broadening of our geographical horizons, most notably in Africa. Indeed, we regard 2007 as 'The Year of Africa', with the HD Centre establishing an office in Nairobi, Kenya, with full-time staff and an agenda that embeds us in Africa for a greater understanding of the issues, players and contexts that comes from working there on a daily basis.

With plans outlined for a satellite office in New York, which will be fully operational in 2008, and our continuing achievements in Asia, thanks to the burgeoning success of our Singapore office, 2007 saw the HD Centre move towards becoming a truly global player. This scope enables us to react more quickly to conflicts across the world and to be proactive in helping governments and regional organisations mediate better.

The second notable achievement in 2007 was the stakeholder review, which culminated in the re-evaluation of our policy programme in order to focus our energies on what we do best, namely conflict mediation. We have always been an organisation that looks to mediate in conflicts: to help facilitate dialogue between warring parties and bring about peace processes. But the stakeholder review has now determined that this is essentially 'who we are' and 'what we do' as our *raison d'être*, in going forward.

As an integral part of this decision we determined that it makes sense to take what we discover as mediators and disseminate those learnings back into the mediation community via a mediation support programme that brings knowledge to those who will benefit most widely from it; namely anyone engaged in mediation and/or a peace process. We made this commitment in 2007, establishing links and developing programmes that will help strengthen mediation efforts around the globe.

2007 has been a year of challenge and change, and we now have the determination and capacity to bring the practice of mediation to a broader audience, wherever we can help: in Europe, North America, Asia and now Africa. In the future we can reduce suffering and help promote peace the world over.

Highlights of the year 2007

January

Small Arms

The HD Centre releases a paper analysing the 2006 UN First Committee and its activities in relation to issues of conventional weapons



23-25 April

African Mediators' Retreat

The first mediators' retreat with a focus on the African region takes place in Zanzibar

June

Stakeholder Review

Michael Aaronson, the HD Centre Chairman, undertakes key stakeholder interviews to add further insights to aid the HD Centre's Strategy Review

August

Philippines MNLF

The HD Centre is involved in negotiations to avoid misencounters while the Armed Forces of the Philippines steps up military operations against the terrorist-listed Abu Sayyaf Group

2-4 February

Philippines MNLF

The release of 11 government hostages taken by the MNLF is successfully negotiated with the help of the HD Centre



20 March

HD Centre in China

The Singapore Regional Office takes part in a seminar in China on 'international diplomacy and peacemaking' with the China Institute of International Studies in Beijing

April

Aceh peace process report

As part of the Negotiating Justice project, the HD Centre undertakes key research into the Aceh peace process, for a report to be published in 2008

26-29 June

OSLO forum 2007

More than 70 participants attend the OSLO forum 2007, sharing experiences and contributing insights from their mediation work to a diverse audience





21 August

Swiss Ambassadors' retreat

The HD Centre helps to prepare a retreat for Swiss Ambassadors, which examines contemporary challenges facing mediators at different stages of peace processes

1 October

HD Centre office, Nairobi

The African HD Centre office opens in Nairobi, Kenya; a landmark event that leads to ongoing engagements in Africa



16 October

Timor-Leste

A multi-party Directive Council on the dialogue process with Major Reinado is constituted by the Prime Minister, and the HD Centre is officially recognised as part of the Council

10-12 November

Philippines MNLF

The HD Centre helps prepare for the tripartite meeting, which takes place in Jeddah



16 December

Philippines NDF

The HD Centre is influential in the GRP announcing a unilateral ceasefire for a period of three weeks over the holiday season

September

Philippines MNLF

In order to institute a provincial gun ban and to disband private armed groups (Civilian Volunteer Organisations), the HD Centre initiates a programme with the Governor of Sulu



20 September

Central African Republic

The HD Centre establishes a local presence in the capital Bangui to achieve long-term aims

27 October

Darfur, Sudan

At the request of an AU/UN Joint Mediation Support Team, the HD Centre second two specialist staff – a Mediation Expert with expertise in Darfur, and a Senior Humanitarian Adviser



10-11 December

Engaging militant groups

In cooperation with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, the HD Centre in Singapore convenes a workshop on the role of dialogue in engaging extremist groups

18 December

Support to the AU

The HD Centre contributes to the AU Commission's efforts to develop the modalities and programme of work for the AU Panel of the Wise

Mediation projects

Successes in Africa and Asia represented the public face of our operational work in 2007, though a number of our mediation projects remained confidential



It is perhaps no surprise, given the developments in Africa with the opening of our new office in Nairobi, that one of our most important projects of 2007 took place on that continent, in the Central African Republic (CAR). Usually the HD Centre's mediation role is to essentially facilitate dialogue between two or more conflicting parties, but our involvement here was somewhat different - we were asked by the President of CAR to help set the scene for an All-Inclusive Political Dialogue, between the Government and opposing factions.

This very public process proved our capabilities in the region, showing how with a presence in Africa we can mobilise in even the most difficult of terrains, in a Francophone country, and actually help to create an all-encompassing peace process. It represented a new challenge for us and is indicative of why having an African base is important to us: to react swiftly and implement processes that can make a real difference in the region.

Our re-engagement in Darfur marked a return to a conflict in which we had previously been involved during 2003-2004. Our input was requested by many parties, including the African Union and the United Nations and we were able to re-engage, following a formal

agreement with the AU/UN Mediation Support Team, in an area of strength for the HD Centre - working with armed groups.

In Asia, where we still operate the majority of our projects, our involvement in Timor-Leste increased and we established a permanent presence in the capital, Dilli, to deal with the issues at hand; facilitating dialogue between the government and Major Reinado and his supporters. In the Philippines, an ongoing project saw us take on new activities, with initiatives on disarmament and security-related issues. As in Africa, the scope of our activities in Asia broadened as we looked to offer assistance in conflicts in different ways.

However, what we can talk about here, and in other publications, is just the tip of the iceberg. One of the factors that makes us the organisation we are, is our ability to act in confidence, when requested. There were many projects in which we were actively involved in 2007, where secrecy was an integral part of the agreement for talks. As a private, impartial organisation, this is something we are proud to offer: history is very often made far from the glare of public scrutiny, and where we can progress dialogue with discretion we will continue to do so.



January

Darfur Sudan

The HD Centre receives requests from the Darfur opposition movements, donors, and the AU/UN to re-engage in Darfur

March

Darfur Sudan

The HD Centre conducts field-level assessments, meeting with representatives of all opposition movements in Darfur, Chad and in Europe

15-21 May

Timor-Leste

The HD Centre undertakes the first of two assessment missions to Timor-Leste, during which it holds several meetings with newly elected President Jose Ramos-Horta



19 August

Timor-Leste

The HD Centre facilitates a crucial meeting between Major Reinado and President Ramos-Horta

16 October

Timor-Leste

A multi-party Directive Council on the dialogue process with Major Reinado is constituted by the Prime Minister, and the HD Centre is officially recognised as part of the Council



17-18 December

Myanmar

The HD Centre attends an informal workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, to discuss how the road map might be modified in order to build real bridges for change

2-4 February

Philippines MNLF

The release of 11 government hostages taken by the MNLF is successfully negotiated with the help of the HD Centre

11 April

Philippines MNLF

The HD Centre helps secure safe passage for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through an MNLF camp

July

Central African Republic

The HD Centre undertakes an assessment mission and is consequently invited to chair a two-day meeting in the capital Bangui, in the following month, entitled *Réunion de Concertation*



20 September

Central African Republic

The HD Centre establishes a local presence in the capital Bangui to achieve long-term aims

10-12 November

Philippines MNLF

The HD Centre helps prepare for the tripartite meeting, which takes place in Jeddah



16 December

Philippines NDF

The HD Centre is influential in the GRP announcing a unilateral ceasefire for a period of three weeks over the holiday season

“**hd**”

April

Myanmar

The HD Centre undertakes the second of two missions to Yangon

Central African Republic

Leading the way in preparing for an All-Inclusive Political Dialogue

The HD Centre's involvement in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2007 aimed to improve peace and security in the north of the country by ensuring the participation of representatives of armed groups and of the mainstream political opposition in an All-Inclusive Political Dialogue (AIPD).

The HD Centre undertook an assessment mission in July 2007, and was invited to chair a two-day national concertation meeting during 23-25 August in Bangui. Following that meeting, there was a consensus among the key stakeholders for the HD Centre to help organise and facilitate the AIPD. Consequently, the HD Centre was nominated as the President of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of the AIPD.

Under the HD Centre's chairmanship, the PrepCom succeeded in bringing and keeping on board the three main rebel groups along with the presidential majority and the opposition and in fulfilling its mandate in due time by adopting a consensus document. Soon after the PrepCom mission led by the HD Centre in Gabon, a peace agreement between APRD and the Central African Republic government was signed in Libreville, under the auspices of President Omar Bongo.

Darfur, Sudan

Re-engaging to support a new AU/UN-led peace process

When a new African Union/United Nations peace process began in early 2007, the HD Centre received requests from opposition movements, donors and the AU/UN to re-engage in the Darfur peace process.

The HD Centre created an initiative aimed at building greater coherence within the opposition movements of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), supported by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The overall aim of the HD Centre's initiative was to allow for the SLM factions to re-unite in order to facilitate the comprehensive participation of the SLM in the process. The initiative was coordinated and supported by the AU/UN, and withdrawn when a potential overlap developed within an AU/UN-led meeting convened in Arusha, Tanzania.

In October, the UN requested that the HD Centre second two expert staff to the AU/UN: a Mediation Specialist with Darfur expertise and a Senior Humanitarian Adviser. The Mediation Specialist acts for the AU/UN as a focal point for contact with the opposition movements, while the Senior Humanitarian Adviser advises on the humanitarian aspects of the peace process.

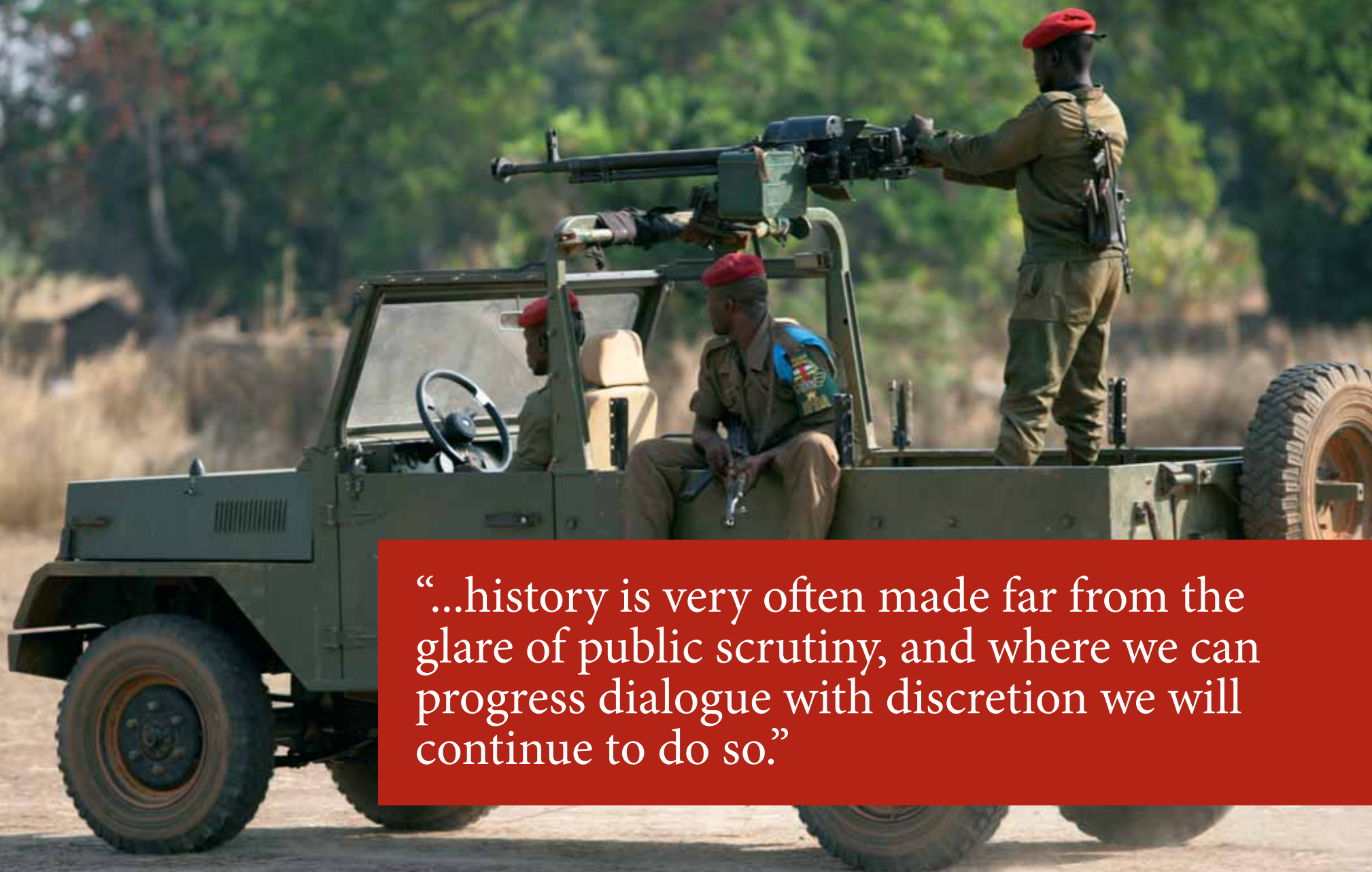
Myanmar

Working for inclusive change through informed dialogue

In a year of upheaval and social unrest, which resulted in the government crackdown in September, the HD Centre monitored developments and maintained links with many of the important figures across Myanmar's political spectrum with help from contacts inside and outside the country. Through its Representative in Bangkok the HD Centre provided support to Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Myanmar, who introduced during the year an important new element to the UN's efforts by improving dialogue with Myanmar's Asian neighbours.


Following the September troubles, the HD Centre organised a meeting of experts in Bangkok to consider a framework for an inclusive process of change based on the Government's road map. This framework was submitted to Ibrahim Gambari in advance of his UN mission to the country in November. The HD Centre regularly briefed representatives of the international community on the situation.

The HD Centre also attended an informal workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, in December to discuss ways in which the road map might be modified in order to build real bridges for change.



“...history is very often made far from the glare of public scrutiny, and where we can progress dialogue with discretion we will continue to do so.”

Philippines MNLF
Armed members of the Moro National
Liberation Front (MNLF) hold a
gathering at one of their camps in
the southern Philippine city of Sultan
Kudarat, Maguindnao.

A photograph showing a line of armed men in camouflage uniforms, identified as MNLF fighters, standing in a forest. They are wearing hats and carrying rifles. Some have "BAF" patches on their uniforms. A red banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

“In the Philippines, an ongoing project saw us take on new activities, with initiatives on disarmament and security-related issues.”

Philippines MNLF

Aiding the OIC and its member states to resume peace talks

The HD Centre aided the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and its member states to resume the first peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) since the 1996 Final Peace Agreement. At the talks, the two parties agreed to implement the 1996 agreement and formed Joint Working Groups to assist in this endeavour.

In February, MNLF fighters in Sulu took 11 government representatives hostage, demanding the convening of the long-delayed Tripartite Meeting. The HD Centre helped to secure the release of the hostages, and an agreement was reached enabling the tripartite meeting to take place. In March and April, the HD Centre developed short-term arrangements known as the 'Gentlemen's Agreement' to ensure safe passage for the AFP through an MNLF camp and a longer-term arrangement to minimise encounters between MNLF and AFP forces.

The HD Centre also initiated a programme with the Governor of Sulu to institute a provincial gun ban and to disband private armed groups, known as Civilian Volunteer Organizations (CVOs). In October, the HD Centre co-sponsored a conference providing details of the framework and action plan to international delegates, senior government and MNLF representatives.

Philippines NDF

Supporting the Royal Norwegian Government in its role as third-party facilitator

The HD Centre continued its support of the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG) in the dialogue process between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF)/Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

In administering the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) in Manila, the HD Centre carried out its responsibilities of receiving, disbursing and administering funds from the RNG to the JMC office, as well as providing advice to the two parties on its operations. The HD Centre conducted a third assessment of the JMC on behalf of the RNG, and produced a set of recommendations for improving its functioning. The report revealed that the JMC had been active in training and education programmes as well as in documenting human rights abuses. The JMC also provided assistance to the UN Special Rapporteur during his visit.

The HD Centre and RNG were also actively engaged in behind-the-scenes efforts to influence both parties to return to the negotiating table. The main agenda items were a ceasefire, the terrorist listing of the NDF, and social, economic, political and constitutional reform.

Timor-Leste

Beginning the search for a solution to Timor-Leste's armed conflict

In 2007, the HD Centre played a key role in efforts to find a resolution to the confrontation between the Government of Timor-Leste and Major Alfredo Reinado and his renegade group and to resolve the issue of the "petitioners". On 19 August the HD Centre facilitated an historic meeting between Major Reinado and President José Ramos-Horta, the first since his swearing in, marking the formal opening of a process of dialogue, publicly called for by both sides.

This also paved the way for the establishment of a national Task Force. In October, a multi-party Directive Council on the dialogue process with Major Reinado was constituted by the Prime Minister. This Council consisted of representatives of the Government Task Force, Major Reinado's group and the facilitator/mediation group. The HD Centre was officially recognised as part of this last group.

Other meetings between the parties, facilitated by the HD Centre, took place in October, November and December. A meeting on 16 December, requested by Major Reinado, was scheduled to take place at the Office of the President in Dili. Unfortunately, Major Reinado and Lt. Salsinha decided not to attend the meeting due to the former's unmet condition of having two of his men freed from jail.

Mediation support

What we learn in our operational work, we now actively feed back to the mediation community, supporting mediation efforts through sharing best practice

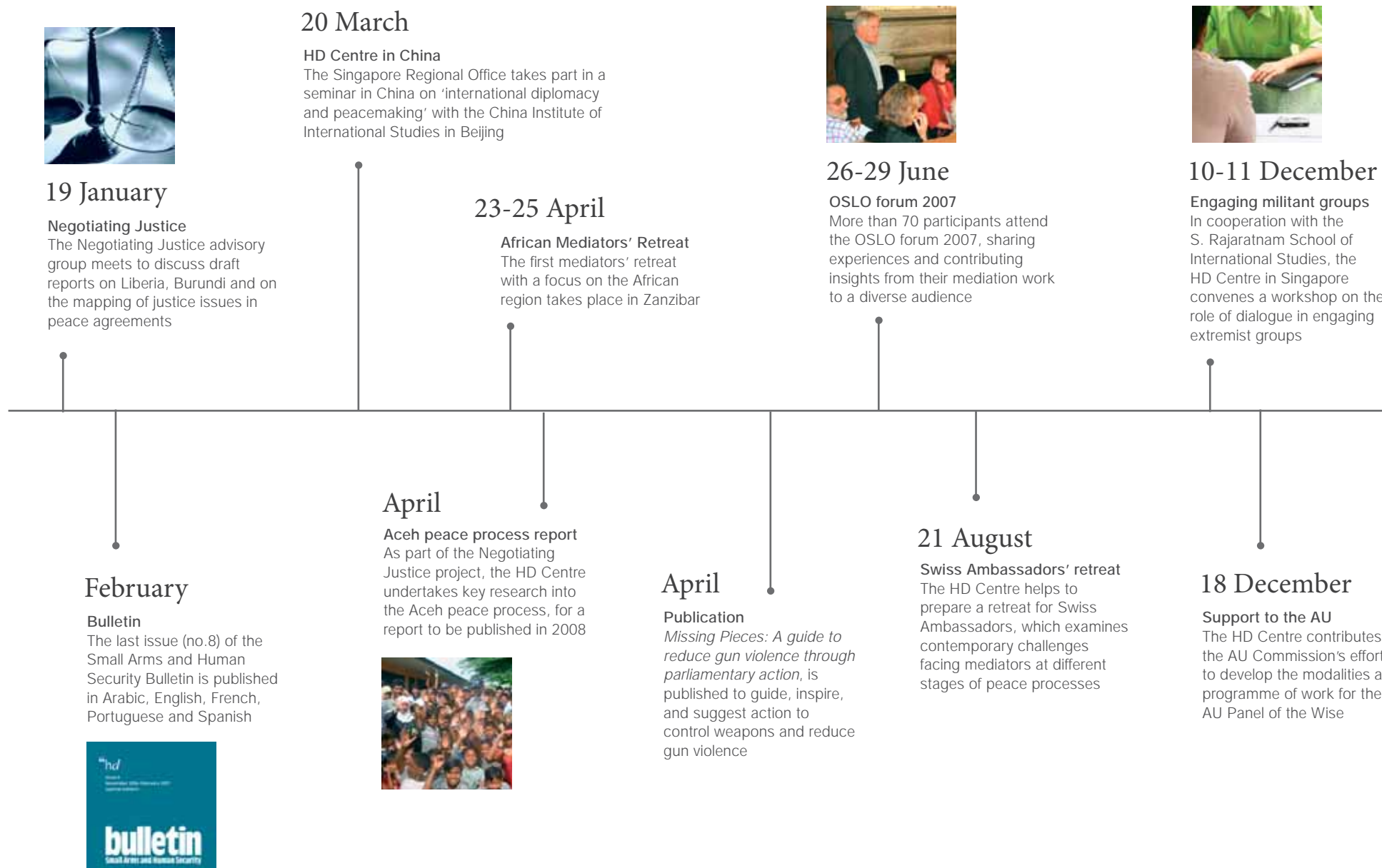


During the course of the year a stakeholder review was held with the aim of identifying how we could maximise our efforts as an organisation committed to mediation and conflict resolution. The main conclusions of this review helped us to align our operational work with a programme of learning, shared experiences and practical support under the umbrella title of Mediation Support. Here the focus is on reflecting our operational work, rather than on peripheral issues, which merely impact upon mediation. As an organisation committed to developing the art of mediation, we believe it makes sense to not only act as mediators ourselves, but also to use the knowledge gained from our operational experiences to support the broader mediation community, governments and regional organisations.

One of the first major undertakings in offering Mediation Support was in establishing relationships with regional organisations, most notably the African Union (AU), as well as sub-regional organisations, including IGAD and ECOWAS. We engaged with these organisations, successfully laying the foundations for what are now significant programmes with all three entities.

The OSLO forum 2007, an ongoing process of mediators sharing experience, and increasingly recognised as the annual global mediation event, was the most successful to date, doubling in size since 2006. Of the many interesting presentations, Northern Ireland proved a persistent theme, reflecting the achievement of a mediation process that resulted in success.

Our first African Mediators' Retreat was held in Zanzibar and displayed much about the region and its people's efforts in the field of mediation. In what proved to be a very cohesive event, the Retreat was attended by people committed to solving the deep-rooted socio-political problems of Africa. As 'The Year of Africa' unfolded, it gave us further insight into the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead of our work in Africa.



Civilian Protection

Working towards greater civilian protection in African conflicts

The international community has shown an increasing commitment to the protection of civilians in conflicts. However, civilian suffering in Africa, as seen in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, among other places, is often an integral characteristic of African conflicts.

The HD Centre designed the Civilian Protection project in 2007 to specifically target African conflicts by offering expertise on negotiating, drafting, designing and implementing effective civilian protection measures in peace processes. Project activities in early 2007 focused on determining the best opportunities for practical involvement in conflict resolution. Given the HD Centre's renewed focus on Africa, coinciding with the opening of its office in Nairobi, it was decided that the project would have a similar regional focus, and was entitled '*Promoting Civilian Protection in Conflicts: African Dialogues*'.

The HD Centre conducted a comprehensive mapping of Africa-based organisations engaged in protection-related activities. The results of this exercise were presented at a meeting with a number of humanitarian organisations engaged in protection activities in Geneva in December. The meeting also served to test the focus of the project, and to plan activities for 2008.

Gender & Mediation

Encouraging the role of women in global peace processes

In 2007 the HD Centre pursued its efforts to promote the representation of women as mediators within the UN, regional organisations and with national governments through the development of an informal database of names of potential women candidates to be suggested for senior peacemaking vacancies.

The HD Centre convened senior-level decision-makers in and around the UN system in New York. Furthermore, the number of women in mediation and peace processes was tabled as a key issue at the OSLO forum, its flagship annual meeting for senior conflict mediators. An informal session was organised and attracted more than 40 participants (an equal number of men and women). The group included potential 'agents of change', who are directly involved in recruitment processes, and who have since consulted with the HD Centre on suitable candidates for upcoming positions.

Encouraged by its efforts in 2007, the HD Centre will look further into the empirical and practical contributions of women's perspectives to peace processes and gather case material to substantiate the call for more gender awareness, in support of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Mediation Mentoring

Sharing experiences on mediation processes, techniques and tools

The HD Centre believes that third-party mediation of peace processes can be significantly improved through better informed practice and support, especially within governments. To this end, in 2007 the HD Centre collaborated with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), participating in two mentoring activities.

The HD Centre worked with the DFA to prepare a workshop for junior Swiss diplomats on the various types of peace processes, the role of different mediation actors, mediation techniques and skills, and specific examples of past Swiss involvement in peace processes. Four HD Centre staff contributed in leading sessions and giving expert presentations.

This workshop was followed by the HD Centre's contribution to the preparation of a retreat for Swiss Ambassadors. The retreat examined contemporary challenges facing mediators at different stages of peace processes and the potential for Swiss Ambassadors to contribute to mediation efforts. The HD Centre also prepared and led a seminar for 25 advanced graduate students from the University of Geneva on mediation practices, the key actors in international conflict resolution and some of the contemporary challenges.

Negotiating Disarmament

Promoting disarmament negotiations in peace processes

In 2007 the HD Centre provided suggestions for action on weapons control, security and armed violence reduction to a range of actors, particularly those directly engaged in peace processes, with 'Negotiating Disarmament' taking centre stage in our arms and violence reduction work.

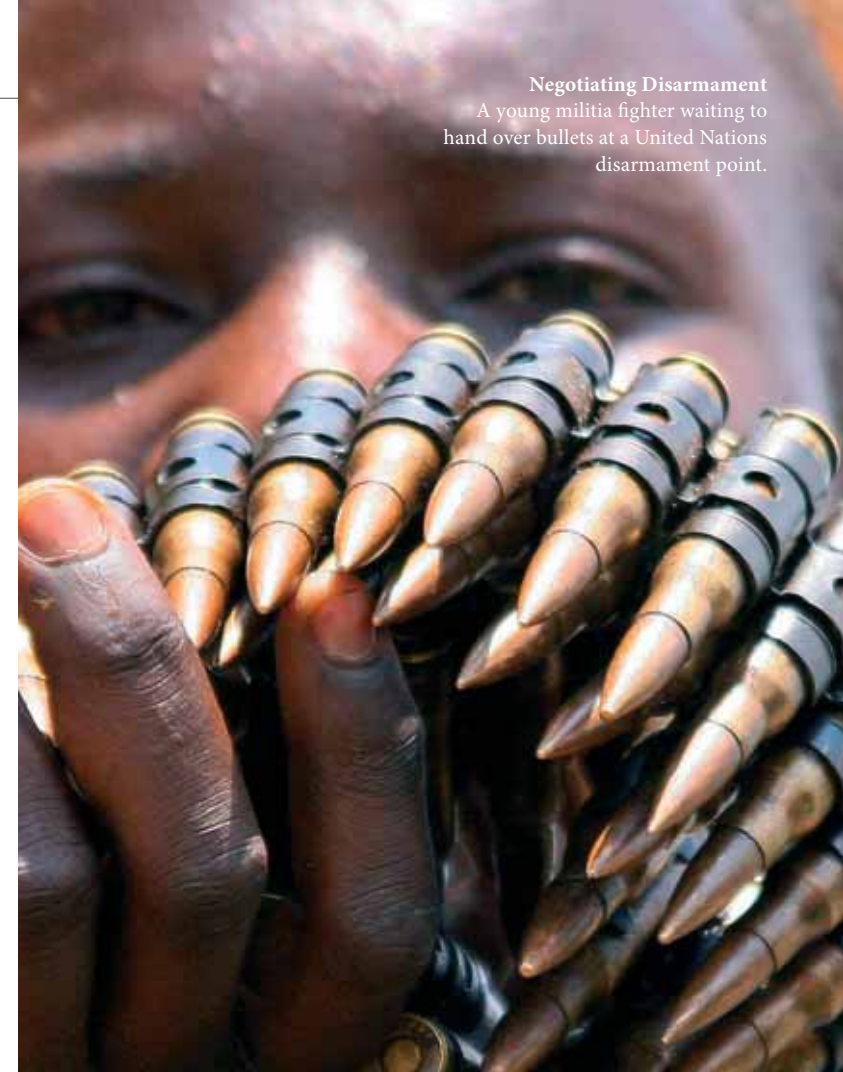
A diverse range of activities in this area included primary research on how weapons issues, such as violence reduction, and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR), featured in the negotiations of the South Sudan, Burundi and El Salvador peace accords. We also convened a meeting of former combatants from armed groups to discuss their experiences of DDR and transitions from fighting forces to civilian life, whilst at the OSLO forum, an assembled panel on the Northern Ireland peace process focused on disarmament.

The HD Centre also built a database of clauses related to weapons control, DDR, violence reduction, and victims and survivors of armed violence in peace agreements over the last 60 years. Other activities included the commissioning of short 'opinion pieces' from those with direct experience of negotiating these concerns and a series of interviews with participants and observers of peace processes.

Elsewhere in the HD Centre's work on Arms and Security issues, 2007 saw the winding down of the Bulletin project after eight highly successful issues. The Bulletin distinguished itself in the weapons control policy, research and advocacy community by being the only regular bulletin or newsletter available in multiple languages - English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese. Our 'Putting People First' project also ended in 2007, after seven years of intense policy, advocacy and research activities directed at promoting a human security approach to reducing weapons availability and misuse.

Finally, a second version of the 2005 publication, *Missing Pieces: Directions for Reducing Gun Violence through the UN Process on Small Arms Control*, was also developed in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. This included updated information and analysis of particular interest to parliamentarians. The publication was widely disseminated and translated from English into French and Spanish.

“We convened a meeting of former combatants from armed groups to discuss their experiences of DDR and transitions from fighting forces to civilian life.”



Negotiating Justice

Giving practical guidance to mediators on the treatment of justice issues

In 2007 the HD Centre initiated a project that considered a range of justice issues including impunity, institutional reform, prisoner release, the role of informal justice mechanisms, and vetting. The aim of the project was to help warring parties and other actors involved in peace processes to respect international standards while achieving a workable consensus in peace negotiations.

The project's advisory group met in January to discuss draft reports on Liberia, Burundi, the mapping of justice issues in peace agreements, emerging conclusions and to provide advice on the final stages of the project. Several topics for further research were suggested, including amnesties, the meaning of reconciliation and the issue of victimisation in peace processes. Field studies on Liberia and Sierra Leone were completed and the reports were published in November and December respectively. The mapping report was published in September. A consultant was also engaged in May to carry out research on the Aceh peace process.

Thematic research was also conducted on amnesties and impunity issues, and interviews carried out with mediators on their particular experiences in dealing with justice issues. The HD Centre chaired a workshop in June entitled 'Negotiating Justice' at the Nuremberg conference 'Building a Future on Peace and Justice'.

Strengthening Mediation Practice

Laying the foundations for assisting governments and organisations to mediate better

In 2007 the HD Centre engaged in a number of preparatory and exploratory projects with the goal of developing a comprehensive and full-fledged Mediation Support Programme in 2008.

Throughout the year, the HD Centre consulted with representatives of the AU, IGAD and ECOWAS on ways to work together to strengthen their mediation capabilities. These consultations began at the African Mediators' Retreat in April in Zanzibar and continued with the HD Centre's participation in a workshop prepared by the IGAD Secretariat in July in Mombassa as well as with visits to the headquarters

of ECOWAS and the AU. Through these consultations, the HD Centre and its counterparts identified a set of collaborative activities which will take place through 2008-2009.

As part of this preparatory work, the HD Centre contributed to the AU Secretariat's efforts to finalise the establishment of a Panel of the Wise, a conflict prevention mechanism mandated to work closely with the AU's peace and security arrangements. The HD Centre will continue to work with the Secretariat in supporting the Panel in 2008-2009.

In Asia, the HD Centre consulted high-level officials, including the incoming Secretary General, of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in order to determine the organisation's needs and the HD Centre's possible contribution.

Darfur, Sudan

AMIS (African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan) soldiers march through an IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp.



“One of the first major undertakings in offering Mediation Support was to establish relationships with regional organisations, most notably the African Union (AU), IGAD and ECOWAS.”

Sharing experience

The OSLO forum 2007 and the Mediators' Retreat in Africa brought mediation specialists together to share insights and experiences and to discuss the status of mediation efforts in specific conflicts



OSLO forum 2007: Annual Mediators' Retreat

The OSLO forum is a unique process that looks to bring together those engaged in mediation and peace processes to share their experiences and discuss the issues affecting conflict resolution. This year's OSLO forum, co-hosted with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the fifth and biggest in the series, bringing together more than 70 senior mediators and other key peace process actors (almost double the number of attendees in 2006).

While the focus in 2007 remained on practitioners, both those that lead mediation teams and those that support them, the retreat continued its policy of including a small selection of well-regarded specialists on specific, relevant topics. The OSLO forum 2007 aimed to confront mediators with the experiences of these critical actors, also involved in peace processes,

in order to present new insights and perspectives on mediation. This, together with a strategy of designing the agenda around the expertise and interests of the participants rather than around abstract concepts, proved successful, leading to the liveliest event the OSLO forum has yet seen, with as much discussion and networking activity taking place between sessions as during them.

Participants at the forum included representatives from international and regional organisations, governments, but also private entities, including some of the world's most eminent mediators such as former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan and former Finnish President, Martti Ahtisaari.

The meeting included discussions on the processes in Darfur, Kosovo, Lebanon, Nepal and Sri Lanka, as well as on innovative tools in mediation such as psychological analysis and public opinion polling. Participants also looked at the potential for dialogue in Somalia, Afghanistan and Iran and benefited from Nepali Maoist and Sinn Féin perspectives on the challenges armed groups face in their transition into mainstream politics.

African Mediators' Retreat 2007

Africa once again took centre stage for the HD Centre, which co-hosted with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the African Mediators' Retreat in April (23-25), which also benefited from cooperation with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation.

The Retreat, which took place in Zanzibar, brought together 40 senior mediators actively involved in peace processes throughout Africa, including representatives of the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as well as analysts and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

Issues were addressed that directly related to the concerns faced by those working at the Track 1 level in Africa to facilitate negotiated solutions. One of the key messages of the Retreat was the need to support African institutions to perform the tasks of conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

Participants considered the challenges to long-term peace-building in Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the current mediation efforts in Darfur and Somalia,

and prospects for implementing peace agreements in southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire. All discussions were informal and conducted under Chatham House rules in order to enable participants to exchange opinions as freely as possible.

The Retreat was opened by a welcome address by the President of Zanzibar HE Amani Abeid Karume, who warmly expressed his support for the Retreat, as well as calling for other efforts to improve the practice of conflict mediation in Africa. The Former President of Tanzania, HE Benjamin Mkapa, a special guest at the

Retreat, led the discussion on the future of conflict resolution in Africa, in a keynote speech, during which he urged African governments and institutions to invest more financial and material resources in conflict mediation and prevention.

Other presenters of note included the former President of Sri Lanka HE Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who spoke of her experience in peacemaking and stressed the importance of dialogue between governments and armed rebel groups, even in circumstances which may seem to make dialogue difficult.



Publications

As part of the contribution to improve the practice of mediation, the HD Centre's published output includes:

Opinions

The case for royalty in Myanmar

by Michael Vatikiotis

4 January 2007 (Asia Times online)

Garuda soars to a bright future

by Michael Vatikiotis

10 January 2007 (The Brunei Times)

Will there be peace after the terrorists have gone?

by David Gorman and Michael Vatikiotis

22 February 2007 (Jakarta Post)

Why mediation matters in Africa

by Martin Griffiths

26 April 2007 (New Vision, Uganda)

Don't cheapen talk, make dialogue work

by Jonas Gahr Støre & Martin Griffiths

9 August 2007

De-demonizing Southeast Asian Islam

by Michael Vatikiotis

22 August 2007

Religion and Politics in Asia

by Michael Vatikiotis

21 September 2007 (Straits Times)

Whither Myanmar? Change will be slow and painful

by Michael Vatikiotis

2 October 2007 (Straits Times)

Al-Qaida: from centre to periphery

by Ram Manikkalingam & Pablo Policzer

9 October 2007 (Opendemocracy)

Time for Asean, China to act on Myanmar

by Michael Vatikiotis

22 October 2007 (New Straits Times)

A man and a plan in war-torn Philippines

by David Gorman

1 November 2007 (The Asia Times)

ASEAN's megaphone diplomacy: strong words,

yet no action

by Michael Vatikiotis

26 November 2007 (Jakarta Post)

Background Papers

Mediation in African conflicts: the gap between mandate

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by Laurie Nathan

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by Katia Papagianni

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a U.S. perspective, by Ivan Arreguin-Toft

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by Bruce D. Jones, June 2007

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by Susanne Gentz

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elements of peacemaking

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Iran and the real possibilities of engagement

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Negotiating Justice? Building A Future on Peace
and Justice

by Kristina Thorne

25 June 2007

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lessons for policy-makers

by Audrey Kurth Cronin

1 December 2007

Articles & Bulletins

Small Arms and Human Security Bulletin - Issue n° 8
by the HD Centre
15 February 2007

Terrorist lists and humanitarian assistance
by Kristina Thorne, 15 March 2007
This article was written for the Humanitarian Exchange Magazine, published by the Overseas Development Institute.

Books & Guides

Missing Pieces: a guide to reduce gun violence through parliamentary action
by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Interparliamentary Union

A guide to mediation: enabling peace processes in violent conflicts
by Hugo Slim
1 October 2007

Killing Civilians: Method, Madness and Morality in War
by Hugo Slim
28 November 2007

Reports

Charting the roads to peace,
by Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
June 2007

Accountability and peace agreements: mapping trends from 1980-2006
by Dr Leslie Vinjamuri & Aaron P Boesenecker
1 September 2007

Negotiating peace in Liberia: preserving the possibility for Justice
by Priscilla Hayner
1 November 2007

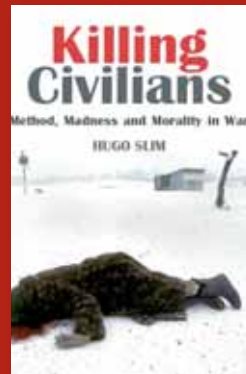
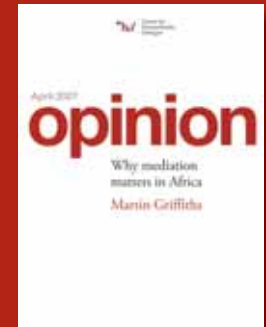
Negotiating peace in Sierra Leone: confronting the Justice challenge
by Priscilla Hayner
1 December 2007

Why mediation matters in Africa

By Martin Griffiths

Why has mediation, as a useful tool to end conflict through negotiation, been given so little attention in Africa so far, despite numerous so-called intractable conflicts on the continent ending through negotiations in the past years? In this opinion piece, Martin Griffiths, Director of the HD Centre, argues the case of the usefulness of mediation in solving African conflicts, and explores the lessons which can already be learned from Africa's rich experience in solving its conflicts through mediation.

26 April, 2007



Killing Civilians: Method, Madness and Morality in War

By Hugo Slim

Most civilian suffering in war is deliberate and always has been: massacres, rape, displacement, famine and disease are usually designed policies in conflicts. The principle that unarmed and innocent people should be protected in war is an ancient, precious but fragile idea. Today, this principle is enshrined in modern international law. But, in practice, leaders in most conflicts reject it.

Using detailed examples, Killing Civilians looks at the many ways in which civilians suffer in wars and analyses the main anti-civilian ideologies which insist upon such suffering. But, above all, this book looks deeply into the reasons and arguments for limiting human violence in war.

28 November 2007

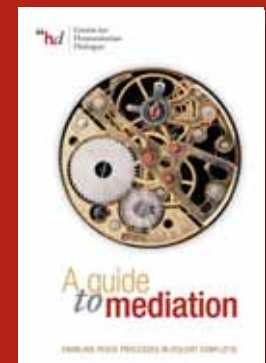
A guide to mediation: enabling peace processes in violence conflicts

By Hugo Slim

A Guide to mediation is an easy-to-use booklet which offers practical guidance and support to professionals engaged in leading or supporting mediated peace processes.

Developed in consultation and with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, it provides an accessible and simple frame of reference to support ethical, thoughtful and professional decision-making. It is divided in three sections: a reminder of the main elements of mediated processes; a description of the most common difficulties and dilemmas faced in peace processes, and a presentation of the core values and operational principles to be applied.

1 October 2007



HD Centre offices

2007 saw the opening of a new office in Nairobi, Kenya, and plans drawn up to establish a New York entity in 2008, which will give us a presence on four continents



With our Asian office in Singapore and now a permanent African base in Nairobi opened in 2007, the HD Centre is establishing itself as a global organisation. This better enables us to react to regional tensions through embedding the organisation in those continents where the majority of conflicts that require mediation arise.

2007 also saw plans put in place to open a New York office in 2008, giving us access to the UN and the diplomatic community there, as well as recognising the strategic importance of the US as a global power and influence in world events.

Geneva Headquarters

The Geneva-based Headquarters of the HD Centre houses our organisational functions, including the Director's Office, Centralised Administration, Finance, IT, Fundraising and Communications Support. Our programme of projects is also developed out of Geneva and it is at our venue by the shores of Lake Geneva that the Board convenes, throughout the year.

A significant increase in staff in Geneva in almost every function reflected the growth of the organisation that typified the year.

A meeting of minds

As well as a base for our staff here in Geneva, the Villa Plantamour is also a venue for meetings and conferences for organisations acting in the humanitarian and diplomatic spheres.

In 2007 just short of 100 meetings took place at the HD Centre, with organisations including UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, the World Economic Forum and the Norwegian Refugee Council all meeting to discuss conflict and related humanitarian issues of the day at our Geneva venue. These meetings are considered an important part of reinforcing our network with the humanitarian community here in Geneva and a way of giving something back to the city that hosts us.

The HD Centre Nairobi, Kenya

The HD Centre office in Nairobi was opened in October 2007, initially with a staff of five people, including an Acting Regional Director, one Project Officer and three Administration staff. Most of the staff are Kenyan or African native born.

Nairobi was chosen for a number of reasons, including: being an important location for the UN in Africa and also a number of key regional offices for NGOs and other international and regional organisations. It also has good transport connections to the rest of the continent.

In its inaugural year, the HD Centre office in Nairobi was actively involved in developing collaborations with regional organisations such as the African Union (AU), IGAD and ECOWAS, and the HD Centre is now developing a number of Mediation Support programmes with these organisations, in order to help improve the practice of mediation in Africa.

Most importantly, a presence in Africa has helped us develop a greater understanding of how things work on this vast and diverse continent; to improve our network there; to get a truer perspective of the issues; and to react more quickly when called upon.

The HD Centre in Singapore

The HD Centre has always had a strong Asian focus, having started its first mediation project in Aceh in 1999. With the opening of the HD Centre's Singapore office almost two years ago, we have now established a strong base to build on this experience and 2007 proved an eventful year, on many fronts.

In March, the Singapore office held its first event in China, with a seminar on 'international diplomacy and peacemaking' with the China Institute of International Studies in Beijing. The seminar, supported by the Ford Foundation and the Government of Norway, provided Chinese scholars and officials with insights into modern practices on conflict resolution through the experiences of senior mediators.

The HD Centre launched a new mediation project in East Timor, in May 2007, facilitating a dialogue between the former chief of military police Major Alfredo Reinado and his armed followers and the government. Other projects of note included our efforts in the Philippines and Myanmar (see *Mediation projects* pp 8-13).

The year ended with a workshop in Singapore on dialogue with militants, which was supported by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the S. Rajaratnan School of International Studies, and was attended by government negotiators and security officials from around South East Asia. The workshop was designed to discuss ways in which dialogue and mediation could be deployed to address internal conflicts and the transnational terrorist movements that have exacerbated them.

In the broader field of private diplomacy, the HD Centre in Singapore has also worked over the course of the year with the Indonesian government on promoting engagement in the Middle East peace process.

In order for us to fulfill Singapore's burgeoning commitments, the office acquired two new staff members in 2007. Ouseph Tharakan from India and Marc Probst from Switzerland (on secondment from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs) came on board, providing essential support and expertise.

Stakeholder review

In 2007, the HD Centre Board appointed its Chairman, Sir Michael Aaronson, to lead a review of the HD Centre in relation to its place in the world of conflict resolution and peacemaking, after nearly ten years of operation



Through working with the Director, other Board members, and members of the Senior Management Team, the aim of this review was to articulate a strategic direction for the HD Centre, built largely on the input of a wide variety of stakeholders.

The first stage of the project was an extensive series of stakeholder interviews conducted in Washington, New York, Geneva, and Oslo, and also at the annual OSLO Forum. The interviews were designed to elicit views about how the field of conflict resolution and peacemaking is evolving, and the HD Centre's place within it.

An initial presentation of the findings was made to the June 2007 Board meeting, where the Board was invited to consider implications for the future direction of the HD Centre's work. Following this discussion, in September 2007, the Board confirmed that the HD Centre's mission is to improve the global response to armed conflict through mediating directly between warring parties, advising or supporting other mediators, and developing initiatives to strengthen the practice of mediation generally. The HD Centre's programme would henceforth bring together these distinct strands into a coherent whole.

In parallel with this appraisal of the HD Centre's strategic goals, the management team launched a comprehensive assessment of organisational capability. Through internal questionnaires, focus groups, and workshops, this assessment looked at issues of systems, structure, staffing, skills, and shared values. The main outcome in 2007 was a reorganisation of key staff roles and responsibilities as the basis for a substantial and continuing process of recruitment to new posts. Some of the findings of this organisational assessment also led to continuing initiatives, particularly in the areas of strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, and organisational values.

In undertaking these twin reviews, the HD Centre took a major step forward in clarifying future direction and determining the organisational changes and capabilities needed to achieve it. With our growth into new regions, an expanded team, and a renewed commitment to organisational excellence, we believe that the HD Centre is well-positioned to meet our new goals and go forward with a greater understanding of its own place in the world.



HD Centre Board Members 2007

Sir Michael Aaronson
Chairman of the Board

Ernst A. Brugger
Board Member

Narcisa Escaler
Vice Chair of the Board

Karin Jestin
Board Member and Member of the
Audit & Finance Committee

Thierry Lombard
Board Member and Audit &
Finance Committee Member

Ambassador Jenö C. A. Staehelin
Board Member

Gerald Walzer
Board Member and Chairman of the
Audit & Finance Committee

“... the Board confirmed that the HD Centre’s mission is to improve the global response to armed conflict through mediation.”

Funding & Financial Statement

The HD Centre focused its fundraising efforts in 2007 on building stronger ties with existing and potential donors



We are an independent, impartial organisation that is largely funded by governments, in keeping with the evolution of how state entities are increasingly looking to organisations, such as the HD Centre, to provide specialist experience and capacity. We are also attempting to increase financial support from more diversified sources, including foundations and philanthropists.

Having a fundraising function within the the HD Centre enables us to maintain close links with our donors, to clearly present our objectives at any one time and to report on the success, or otherwise, of our efforts where particular funding has been allocated. However, as well as the efforts out of our HQ office, our Project Managers also generate funding and establish long-term relationships with donors, with the full backing and support of the organisation.

The HD Centre provides potential funders with opportunities to make a real difference in an important area of humanitarian concern, namely conflict resolution and the promotion of peace processes. We are able to offer innovative ways to support peacemaking and are convinced that the private sector has much to offer the pursuit of peace.

Income

The HD Centre's income for the financial year 2007 was CHF 14,724,915, an increase of approximately 8% from 2006.

Contribution

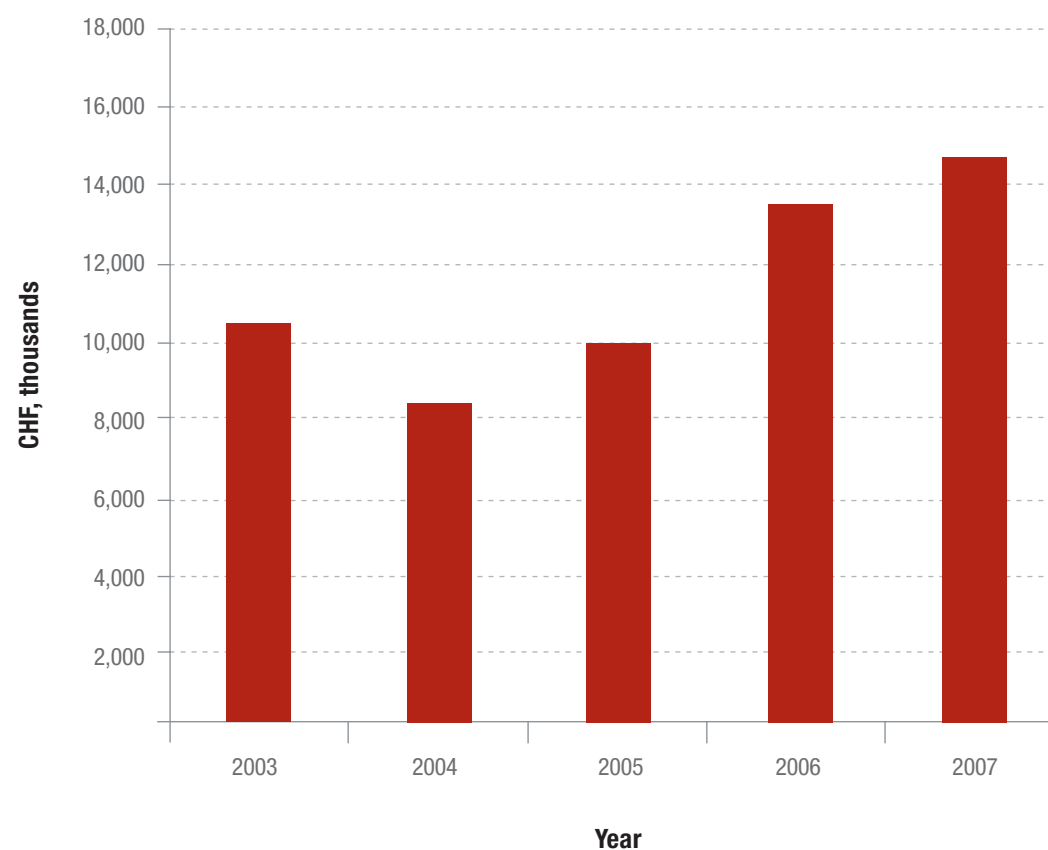
Of the total contribution, CHF 12,597,896 (86%) was allocated to projects and CHF 2,127,019 (14%) to general administration and management.

The major donors for project funding were the Governments of Norway and Sweden. The HD Centre also received project support from various other donors including the Governments of Canada, The Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States of America, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the African Union.

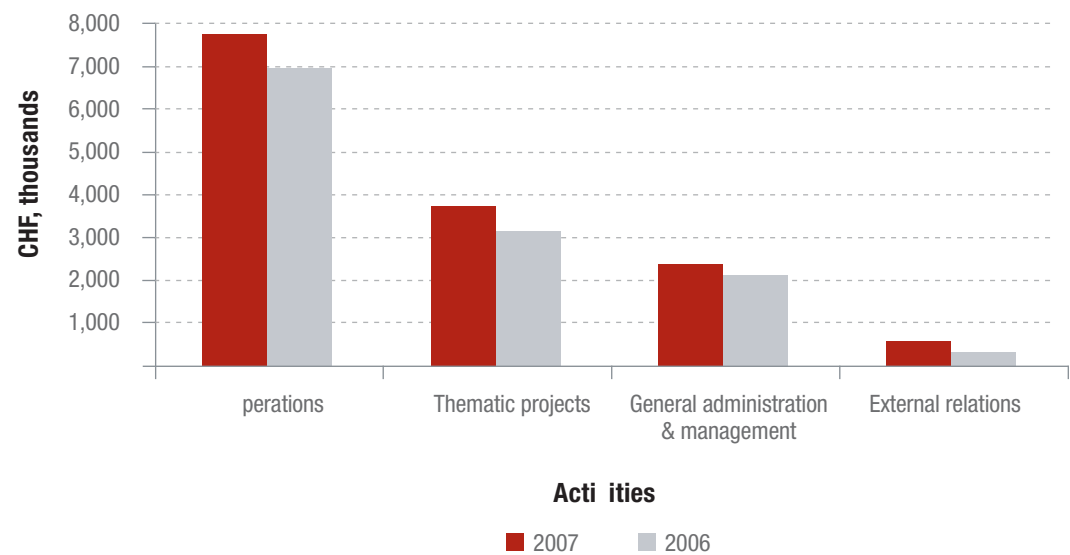
Donors providing un-earmarked funding included Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the City of Geneva, as well as a variety of foundations and philanthropists.

Year	Amount in CHF (in '000)
2003	10,419
2004	8,557
2005	9,961
2006	13,652
2007	14,724

Income 2003 - 2007



Expenses 2007 vs. 2006



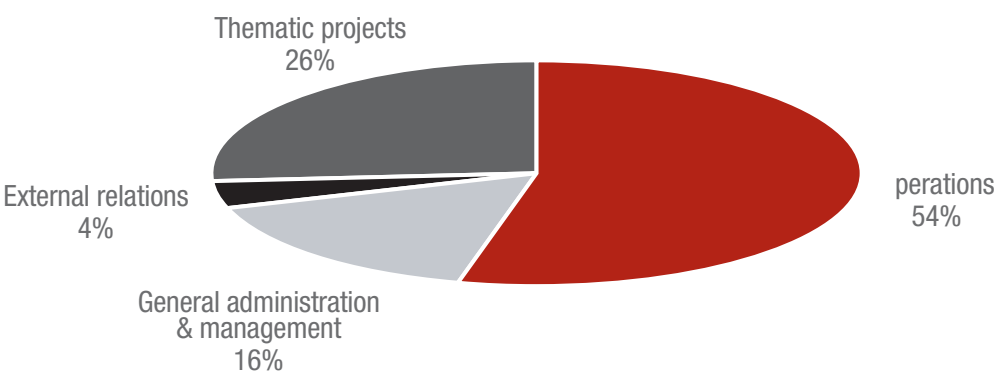
Expenses

The HD Centre's total expenses in 2007 amounted to CHF 14,717,685 compared to the expenses of CHF 12,549,605 in 2006. This increase of 17% from the previous year was due to additional mediation activities and the expansion of the HD Centre with the establishment of a regional office in Nairobi and an increase in activities in Singapore.

Going forward with funded support

In pursuit of its mission, the HD Centre expects to increase its income and diversify sources of funding in order to support its operational activities and reinforce its independence. In 2008 the HD Centre will be making a concerted effort to diversify its sources of funding.

Overall expenses in 2007



	2007	2006
Operations	7,894	6,960
Thematic projects	3,786	3,117
General administration & management	2,380	2,105
External relations	658	367

Amounts in CHF (in '000)

