



We are hundreds of young Africans impacting positive changes in thousands of lives in Africa! Joins us!



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## EDITORIAL

### NAYD SAYS NO TO THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS IN CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

**T**he Network of African Youths for Development, which is an association of more than 130 youth-led organisations in Africa, decries the use of children in conflicts, armed or not. We subscribe to the UN decision setting 18 as the minimum age for direct participation in hostilities, for recruitment into armed groups, and for compulsory recruitment by governments. We therefore congratulate African countries that have endorsed that decision and call on those still to, to hurry and ratify it. We also strongly invite African nations that have known war to make special provisions for the demobilizations of former child soldiers and their reintegration into society. These moves, we believe will not only bring sunshine to the future of some young Africans, but will also put an end to any future pain caused at diverse levels when a child becomes a soldier. For the entire voiceless youths of Africa ■

**Pochi TAMBA, CEO, NAYD International**

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The editors have taken every care to make sure that the contents of this newsletter are as accurate as possible. The authors have ultimate responsibility, however, for the content of individual articles.

**Are Africa's Natural Resources a Hindrance to Peace and Development?**

Steven Spielberg, famous as the Director of the Star Wars films amongst others, recently resigned as artistic adviser to the Beijing Olympics in protest over China's role in the Darfur crisis. Sudanese forces and militia groups continue to murder, rape and pillage the innocent population despite the global protests. The United Nations admit the situation is spiralling out of control. Although more than 6 months have passed since the signing of the UN Resolution which authorised joint UN/African Union force to bring stability to the region, the Sudanese government has done everything in its power to prevent its deployment. The truth is that whilst China pulls the purse strings and holds the keys to Sudan's prosperity, only a threat from China will make the government listen to international protests and make it take positive action to end the crisis.

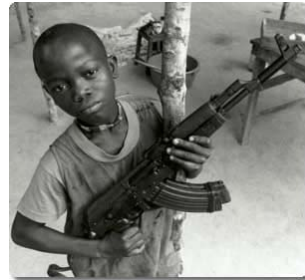
China's demand for raw materials can be provided cheaply in Africa, investing in democracies and dictatorships alike to satisfy its ever expanding economy. Not too many questions are asked about corruption or human rights during the investment process. In return, these countries benefit from their links to Beijing, not only in terms of strategic protection but also through trade deals where, amongst other advantages, modern weapons are offered for sale. Africa is also a huge market for cheap Chinese goods, a process that strangles the efforts of local producers and their products. Yet it doesn't have to be this way. When Botswana became independent in 1966 it was one of the poorest countries in the world, with virtually no health care and just 4km of road. Now it is the 79th wealthiest in the world, has 20,000km of road and each major area has a hospital and school. So how has this transformation come about? The answer is the way a natural resource has been used for the benefit of the nation – a combination of the diamond company's ownership and strategy, within a transparent democracy, by a government focussed on its country's development above everything else. Botswana is the least corrupt country in Africa – throughout the land 'Botswana has zero tolerance for corruption' notices are prominently displayed. The question

is how can this model be developed elsewhere? The answer is having 'clean' politicians in power who have an overwhelming desire to make their country better...and this requires youths, like yourselves, who presently offer their time voluntarily to take up the political reins and 'be the change' for a fairer Africa. It is my belief that only through your efforts will a new, peaceful dawn, rise over the continent. ■ **Paul Shaw**

**Child Soldiers, the Gruesome Picture**

"I would like you to give a message. Please do your best to tell the world what is happening to us, the children. So that other children don't have to pass through this violence."  
15 year old former child soldier after interview with Amnesty International

If this essay was a picture for us to look at, it will be one of the most gruesome to look at.



[http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human/image/p\\_survey.jpg](http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human/image/p_survey.jpg)

Children, as young as 10 years employed to kill or facilitate the process. The problem is most critical in Africa, where up to 120,000 children, some as young as nine, are estimated to be involved in armed conflict. Most child soldiers are aged between 14 and 18, while many enlist "voluntarily" research shows that such adolescents see few alternatives to involvement in armed conflict. Some enlist as a means of survival in war-torn regions after family, social and economic structures collapse or after seeing



<http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/imgs/content/sudan-child-soldier.jpg>

family members tortured or killed by government forces or armed groups. Others join up because of poverty and lack of work or educational opportunities. The countries most affected by this problem are: Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda. Children may begin participating in conflict from as young as the age of seven. Some start as porters (carrying food or ammunition) or messengers, others as spies. And as soon as they are strong enough to handle an assault rifle or a semi-automatic weapon (normally at 10 years of age), they are used as soldiers. One former child soldier from Burundi stated that: "We spent sleepless nights watching for the enemy. My first role was to carry a torch for grown-up rebels. Later I was shown how to use hand grenades. Barely within a month or so I was carrying an AK-47 rifle or even a G3." Girls too are used as soldiers, though generally in much smaller numbers than boys.

Since 1989, young soldiers have fought in armed conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, often crossing borders to fight for personal economic gain in neighbouring countries. During the thirteen years of civil war in Burundi, children were recruited and used as combatants and general help by all sides in the conflict. More than 15,000 child soldiers fought on all sides of the Liberian civil war, and many units were composed primarily of children. Children's rights groups have estimated that as many as 11,000 children were involved in the last years of the fighting in Angola. These child soldiers are still to be demobilized. In Uganda, children as young as 8 years, have been abducted and some killed by the Lord's Resistance Army. Many of whom were turned into combatants, forced labourers, and in the case of girls, "wives" to rebel commanders

An often overlooked problem is also regarding the demobilization and reintegration into society of these children, who are often severely traumatized, after a conflict has ended especially when that society may be the very same one where these young children may have been forced to fight and kill.

According to UNICEF, recent developments in warfare have significantly heightened the dangers for children. During the last decade, it is estimated that child victims have included:

- 2 million killed;
- 4-5 million disabled;
- 12 million left homeless;

More than 1 million orphaned or separated from their parents;

Some 10 million psychologically traumatized.

There are an estimated 120,000 child soldiers in Africa. This is nearly half the total of 300,000 around the world. In April 1999, there was a meeting in Maputo, Mozambique where a declaration to stop the use of child soldiers was made. Almost all the required number of countries to put it into effect has ratified it with the hope that it would be one more step to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of children as soldiers in Africa.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), in its 1999 Conference, proposed Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention. While it had almost been adopted it failed to disallow the use of children in armed conflicts. This was because Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, San Marino, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States were all opposed to the notion which would have prevented children under 18 from being involved in what Amnesty International describe as the most hazardous and exploitative forms of child labour.

The overwhelming majority of African States set 18 as the minimum age for recruitment, whether voluntary or through conscription. Burundi and Rwanda have the lowest legal recruitment ages on the African continent, seemingly 15 or 16 years for volunteers, although Uganda has formerly claimed to accept children with the apparent age of 13 to be enrolled with parental consent. In Chad, parental consent appears to allow the minimum age of 18 to be effectively reduced. In a statement to the United Nations Security Council on 12 February 1999, Carol

Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, declared that "We would be derelict if we did not reiterate, in the strongest possible term that until the minimum age



<http://blog.politicalnonsense.com/images/posts/vertchildsoldiergiapf.jpg>

of recruitment is universally set at 18 the ruthless exploitation of children as soldiers will continue." The Network of African Youths for Development endorses this declaration. You can read more and hopefully take action by checking out the following websites that document details about child soldiers.

Resources from *Coalition; Anup Shah's Children, Conflicts and the Military*, [www.GlobalIssues.org](http://www.GlobalIssues.org) & *Human Rights Watch*.

■ **INSPIRE Team**

### They Have Been There: Their Testimonies

Text taken from the website of the coalition to stop the use of child soldiers

#### Central Africa

*"I feel so bad about the things that I did. It disturbs me so much that I inflicted death on other people. When I go home I must do some traditional rites because I have killed. I still dream about the boy from my village that I killed. I see him in my dreams, and he is talking to me, saying I killed him for nothing, and I am crying."*

A 16-year-old girl after demobilization from an armed group (Source: U.S. State Dept. TIP Report 2005)

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

*"When they came to my village, they asked my older brother whether he was ready to join the militia. He was just 17 and he said no; they shot him in the head. Then they asked me if I was ready to sign, so what could I do - I didn't want to die."*

A former child soldier taken when he was 13. (BBC report.)

*"They gave me a uniform and told me that now I was in the army. They even gave me a new name: 'Pisco' They said that they would come back and kill my parents if I didn't do as they said."*

Report of interview with a 17 year old former child soldier in 2006

*"Being new, I couldn't perform the very difficult exercises properly and so I was beaten every morning. Two of my friends in the camp died*

*because of the beatings. The soldiers buried them in the latrines. I am still thinking of them".*

**Former child soldier interviewed in 2002.**

#### Sudan

*"I joined the SPLA when I was 13. I am from Bahr Al Ghazal . They demobilized me in 2001 and took me to Rumbek, but I was given no demobilization documents. Now, I am stuck here because my family was killed in a government attack and because the SPLA would re-recruit me. At times I wonder why I am not going back to SPLA, half of my friends have and they seem to be better off than me."*

Boy interviewed by Coalition staff, southern Sudan, February 2004.

#### Uganda

*"Early on when my brothers and I were captured, the LRA [Lord's Resistance Army] explained to us that all five brothers couldn't serve in the LRA because we would not perform well. So they tied up my two younger brothers and invited us to watch. Then they beat them with sticks until two of them died. They told us it would give us strength to fight. My youngest brother was nine years old."*

Former child soldier, aged 13.

#### Zimbabwe

*"The men and youths would come into our dormitory in the dark, and they would just rape us - you would just have a man on top of you, and you could not even see who it was. If we cried afterwards, we were beaten with hosepipes. We were so scared that we did not report the rapes. The youngest girl in our group was aged 11 and she was raped repeatedly in the base."*

19-year-old girl describing her experience in the National Youth Service Training Program.

#### Uganda

*"In Sudan we were distributed to men and I was given to a man who had just killed his woman. I was not given a gun, but I helped in the abductions and grabbing of food from villagers. Girls who refused to become LRA wives were killed in front of us to serve as a warning to the rest of us."*



*A 14-year old girl, was abducted from Kitgum in Uganda and taken to Sudan by the LRA.*

*"I arrived here in the prison on October 7, 2005. I spoke to a magistrate and she told me my case was in the courts but I don't really know what is happening. I have been here a long time and I want to go home now."*

Fifteen-year-old former FNL combatant currently in prison.

### Burundian Youths towards Peace Building

**B**elieve it or not, it has happened in my home country which is Burundi. Burundi, which is currently part of the East African community and great lakes areas, has suffered from an ongoing political crisis lasting around 12 years.

The outset of the conflicts is the assassination of the first democratically elected president from the Hutu ethnic group in 1993. The conflict has been fuelled by some of the political leaders interested in benefiting from the turmoil. To reach their ends, the political leaders used youths to kill each other and plunder - hence destroy the country and the future of the youths; many of them have been affected by psychological problems. The losers are the youths while the victors are the politicians. The latter has not expressed his hidden interests to the hot blooded youths but only paid him meagre salary to keep running the youth liberty and abusing it.

Indeed, Burundi has been torn asunder by young people- currently called sacrificed generation. The strength and endeavour due to be put on the service of the nation development has been misused to shutter into rubble our mother land Burundi. Still, children have been recruited by belligerents to cook or carry the ammunitions, learning related atrocities as well. That is the reason why there are plenty of child soldiers in Burundi, whereas they constitute the main strength for the future.

As days went by, Youths have realized that they have been wrongly manipulated for the sake of prominent figures. They have revived their awareness in town and in up country after they remarked they are serving the political leaders interests. They have eventually said no to the

violence by learning pacific conflicts resolutions.

The strength used to kill, destroy and jeopardize the security along with belligerents is nowadays used to rebuild the nation. It has been a very pitiful experience for youths in Burundi to be excited in partaking in conflicts. They have however chosen to join in peace building as they have seen that the major drifts are overshadowing their future. ■ **Gorgon Sabushimike, Bujumbura-Burundi**

### Was the Kenyan Peace Deal Brokered by Kofi Annan (Former UN Sec. Gen.) choreographed or was it a Kenyan Solution?

**T**his is the question exercising the minds of Kenyans, their East African neighbours and the entire African continent. The pressure from the international community and especially Americans and the European Union have left many questioning the statement made by Mr Annan on his arrival in Nairobi mid-January 2007. The former UN boss told the Kenyan population that he did not have a solution to the Kenyan problem. "The solution will come from Kenyans themselves", Mr Annan told the Kenyan population that was in the throes of a crisis. When he arrived in the country, violence was the order of the day in western parts of the country as well as the Coast. Also affected were the informal settlements (slums) around Nairobi. At the time an estimated 1,500 Kenyans had been killed in ethnic fighting while another 600,000 had been displaced from their homes and farms. The chaos had erupted following the December 27, 2007 general elections that saw incumbent President Mwai Kibaki retain his position while the leading opposition figure Mr Raila Odinga emerge as close second. Mr Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) disputed the presidential results claiming the Party of National Unity (PNU) had stolen the vote. Consequently, the Mr Odinga and ODM rejected the results and proceeded to call for nationwide mass action to force President Kibaki out. The calls for mass action however deteriorated into ethnic fight pitting communities allied to Mr Odinga and Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe. As the country descended into chaos, regional leaders led by former Nobel Peace prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu

of South Africa flew into Nairobi into an effort to stem Kenya's slide into a failed state. He was soon followed by a team led by former African presidents that included Joaquim Chissano (Mozambique), Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia), Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania) and Festus Mogae (Botswana) among others. But all these efforts failed as both PNU and ODM dug in with each side giving tough conditions for entering into any negotiations. The PNU side claimed to have fairly won the December 27 election, demanded that ODM takes its position on the opposition benches and seek redress through the courts if they felt aggrieved. The party further rejected any international mediation saying the problems in Kenya could be adequately addressed internally. But ODM on the other hand laid its claim on the presidency saying its numerical strength in Parliament was testimony to their victory. It listed its amassing of the popular vote in six of the eight provinces as its reason for Mr Odinga to lay claim to the presidency. Further it ruled out going to court saying the judiciary was an extension of the executive under Kibaki. It thus demanded that Kibaki steps down as president, a re-run of the presidential race be repeated in six months and the entire Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) be disbanded. While the country literally went up in flames, the two parties adopted hard-line positions with the international community demanding that they enter into negotiations to share power. Ghanaian President John Kuffuor was the first to be dispatched to bring the two parties together. But even he could not bridge the gap between the two groups. He left after two days without achieving anything significant.

However, he set the negotiations in motion and suggested Mr Annan as the person who could lead the two sides into a deal. The former UN boss was accepted by both sides and each picked four negotiators for the 41-day discussions that culminated in the signing of a power-sharing deal on February 28, 2008.

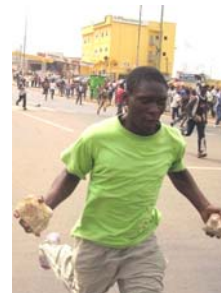
However, it is the signing of the deal and the process used to achieve the results that have raised more questions than answers. While the US and the EU insisted on real power-sharing, it was Annan who let it be known that there was need for a grand coalition. With the government side protesting about this statement coming from the chief negotiator, the former UN boss claimed to have been quoted out of context. But pressure from US secretary of State Ms Condoleezza Rice and other world leaders left no doubt that a grand coalition was the way to go. It therefore came as

no surprise when Mr Annan suspended the negotiations on February 25 so that he could meet the two principals in the talks. The former UN boss claimed that the talks were not making progress because the negotiators could not resolve the issues on the table. The suspension was followed a day later by the arrival of Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete who is the chair of the African Union. As the two carried out shuttle diplomacy between the two principals, it took only 60 hours for a deal to share power to be struck. In the new arrangement, Kenya almost reverted to its independence constitution which provided for the position of prime minister. Mr Odinga will now become the prime minister with specific duties of co-ordinating and supervising ministries while Mr Kibaki would serve as head of State. Also to be created are two positions of deputy prime ministers to be shared by the two protagonists. The two will also choose a cabinet drawn from the two sides on a 50-50 basis and they will work together to give Kenya a new constitution within 12 months.

As the country gears for constitutional amendments to accommodate the peace deal, many Kenyans will be waiting to see whether the issues that led to the chaos on December 30, 2007 will be addressed. But the story of betrayal in Kenya in so far as the new constitution is concerned has been with its people since 1992. Will 2008 be the year when Kenyans' dreams are fulfilled? Time will tell. ■ **David Okwembah**

### Is Cameroon's Peace Stable and Sustainable or Fragile and Quizzical?

When Cameroon's taxi and transport drivers syndicate launched a strike on the Monday 25th



An angry & discontented youth during strike

February 2008 to express their discontent and call for an immediate dwindling of the hike in the price of fuel at the pump stations, many people thought it was to be transient and that activities had to continue normally the next day.

This was not the situation for it was just a trigger move than span

to provide an avenue for the mass of Cameroonians that live in misery, marginalization and all forms of injustice to go down the streets with much anger to exhume their discontent with the present regimes ill management of the state. The youths that form the majority of the discontented population were visibly seen with many very violent in destroying some public utilities that represent to them symbols of the corrupt and spoilt regime in place. Unofficial sources say more than 100 people lost their lives in clashes between demonstrators and police in Cameroon during the strike that ran from the 25th to the 29th February 2008. This strike against a rise in fuel



Cameroon Police using every means to quell down angry demonstrators

prices and protests at a general high cost of essential products (rice, flour, cooking oil a few to

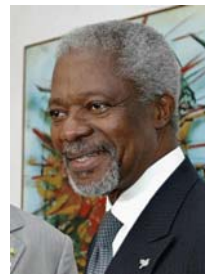
happen together with political opposition to a proposal that would enable President Paul Biya, in power since 1982, to run for another term in 2011. In one incident, a group of demonstrators were trapped on the Wouri Bridge (in Douala) between security forces stationed at both ends. Many people leapt into the water. Eighteen bodies have been recovered. But fishermen have been threatened, if they talk.

Cameroon has experienced peace for a considerably long period (about 17years). But this peace and stability that has been a good reference for other countries in Africa and the world is becoming fragile at the real look of things. Such a situation could be accounted for by the existing undemocratic and corrupt machinery at the heart of the regime in place. Greed overrides common interest in Cameroon. We have handful cobalt of persons that live in enormous wealth and happiness at the expense of the masses who live in abject penury and no hope. This cobalt put everything in place to maintain the regime so as to continuously profit while giving the impression to the president that all is well with Cameroon. The truth is that Mr. Paul Biya does not know his people, how they subsist. In fact, he is far from where the shoe is pinching them. Today Cameroon's peace is very

quizzical if something is not done to improve on the lives of Cameroonians and the youths that have been totally left out and abandoned. In Cameroon there is nothing that covers youth empowerment in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. (PRSP). There is no youth policy in place. This strike, many youths say is just a tip of an iceberg. So let us commonly work for peace. ■ **Christian Phuebong T.**

### Who said Peacekeeping was Easy?

*Kofi Annan's experience in Nairobi, Kenya*



**B**efore he arrive Kenya, one of the government ministers commented "If Kofi Annan is coming," John Michuki, a member of Mr. Kibaki's inner circle said, "He is not coming at our invitation. As far as we are concerned, we won an

election." Talk of a welcome message. An invited and obviously an unwanted guest, Kofi Annan braved the odds and took up a suit in Nairobi to start his 14 hour a day job. A job that had proved tough for previous International negotiators. At the airport, Mr. Kibaki refused to meet him, and ignored him throughout the first the day. But his cajoling, arm-twisting and occasionally threatening of both parties, has paid off. For almost a month, he and negotiators from the government and main opposition party spent most of their days holed up in a meeting room. Deadlines set failed to be respected, announced "major breakthroughs" turned out to be just agreements to continue talks. And finally, a peace deal was reached, with Kibaki accepting to share power with the top opposition leader Raila Odinga. Tough job, it is, keeping peace, isn't it?

### Peace in Africa

**H**ow many deaths will it take till we know that too many men have died? Or child soldiers..... the answer is blowing in the wind

What do I know about Africa and the pressures internal and external each country has to withstand? You could argue that I come from a

rich ex colonial power (Britain) we used to say Great Britain but now we are not so great and now many of us feel that what we did in Africa was not so great either We of course were not alone in the rape of Africa we were ably assisted by our European neighbours who in time split so far apart in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that it took two world wars and a cold war of another forty years after they were done slaughtering each other

When the war in Korea ended without resolve did the West learn a lesson? , you know the kind of lesson we try to tell to Africans. We are only bombing Afghanistan and Iraq for their own good and of course to achieve peace

It was certainly confirmed that we had learnt very little when the West went to war in Vietnam but something happened at that time The Americans did not come out because they lost or won or even for the fact that they could not win without dropping nuclear bombs no the USA made a tactical withdrawal because of a fantastic ground swell of public opinion which originated in the young people of America and to a lesser but nonetheless committed European youth.

I was part of that peace movement and we were inspired by our heroes ,Bob Dylan, John Lennon who told us in song about the “Masters of War” and to give “Peace a Chance” a lot of this coincided with the struggle of black Americans for civil rights led by Martin Luther King his speech on having a vision from the mountain top was unforgettable and when Dylan told the U.S. politicians to get out the way for the “Times Were a Changing” they knew that this young peoples movement wasn’t something which would go away.

I am just as concerned today as I was 45 years ago in the sixties because I know that these wars are borne out of the desire of a capitalist system for power and money and “this is where you come in” RAW MATERIAL..... your African raw material is what they are after now 25% of the US oil usage now comes from Africa and they now know that the Chinese also have designs on that too.

Gold, Oil, Diamonds and now mountains of Uranium await the super power that can persuade African governments that theirs is the best offer and of course they will sugar it with writing off African debt and a few projects from the World Bank.

While world opinion says that it may be good for Africans to help them build up infrastructures sustainable enterprises I shall translate for you

“ If you toe the line and embrace the West’s ideology of democracy and civil rights your country will rise out of poverty “ This is what Bush and Blair called winning the hearts and minds of African the truth is that it is much cheaper to bribe the country than declare war on it and invade

Ask any Indian or Pakistan( Muslim/Hindu) what impact the imperialists policy of “divide and rule” had on their communities thousands died as they fought one another same thing happened here in Ireland “Protestant /Catholic” now these examples consisted primarily of merely two factions

What awaits Africans then? when tribal communities co-existing in perfect peace can be reduced to butchery by the result of a flawed election, Africa I am afraid is a powder keg waiting for the fuse to be lit My fear is that it will be lit by external forces such as the Chinese and ourselves in the West as we strive to in the name of progress rape Africa all over again

The people of Africa must unite against this and the poor who are so easily exploited must share in any wealth which is created ,right now the gap between the rich and the poor is still widening despite all the billions poured in the ordinary villager never sees anything in real terms from the infrastructure builders or from tourism the people in power, Politicians, South African/ European/ Arab businessmen have all of Africa tied up while internally manipulated tribal wars have raged in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia Nigeria/ Biafra Darfur/Sudan Uganda, Rwanda, Eritrea/Ethiopia and now Kenya.

Young people you and you alone are the only human hope I hear you say what can I do I thought like that when I was young but after many years of campaigning and speaking out against the bigots we prevailed and the greatest world power had to bow the knee to us and get out of Vietnam

Get educated get others educated and without discarding traditions tribal or otherwise place them below the struggle for peace. Make that your goal march united to your government palaces and demand that wealth coming in from



the super powers be distributed *all over Africa!!!!* to relieve poverty, wipe out Aids, Malaria T.B. and the rest

But do not stop just in the countries which have the raw materials (many border skirmishes and wars are a result of Western powers drawing up borders) cross the borders and take it to your neighbour

If people are hungry and poor it is not surprising that they will fight to keep what little they have and that is what is exploited by the political powers but if people are filled with food and hope they cannot be frightened into fighting one another they will stand together

Naydians I trust the peace and hope of all Africa to you. **Jim Rae**

### Poem on Peace 'Henry Wadsworth Longfellow'

I heard the bells on Christmas day

Their old familiar carols play  
And mild and sweet the words repeat,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had roll'd along th' unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bow'd my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

### Profiles of Peace Icons

#### 1. Ghandi's The Doctrine Of The Sword

by M. K. Gandhi

I do believe that where there is only a choice between cowardice and violence I would advise violence. Thus when my eldest son asked me what he should have done, had he been present when I was almost fatally assaulted in 1908, whether he should have run away and seen me killed or whether he should have used his physical force which he could and wanted to use, and defended me, I told him that it was his duty to defend me even by using violence. Hence it was that I took part in the Boer War, the so called Zulu rebellion and the late war. But I believe that

non-violence is infinitely superior to violence, forgiveness is more manly than punishment, forgiveness adorns a soldier. But abstinence is forgiveness only when there is the power to punish; it is meaningless when it pretends to proceed from a helpless creature. A mouse hardly forgives cat when it allows itself to be torn to pieces by her. I therefore appreciate the sentiment of those who cry out for the condign punishment of General Dyer and his ilk. They would tear him to pieces if they could. But I do not believe myself to be a helpless creature. Only I want to use India's and my strength for better purpose.

Let me not be misunderstood. Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will. I am not a visionary. I claim to be a practical idealist. The religion of non-violence is not meant merely for the Rishis and saints. It is meant for the common people as well. Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute.

Non-violence in its dynamic condition means conscious suffering. It does not mean meek submission to the will of the evil-doer, but it means the putting of one's whole soul against the will of the tyrant. Working under this law of being, it is possible for a single individual to defy the whole might of an unjust empire to save his honour, his religion, his soul and lay the foundation for the empire's fall or its regeneration.

**Source: *Young India*, Ahmedabad, Wednesday, 11th August, 1920**

#### 2. Martin Luther's Definition of Non-violence

Now when the crisis develops in a society there is always an attempt to solve the problem developed as a result of the crisis and to get rid of the precipitating forces. Certainly those who have been oppressed or who have been the victims of the forces of domination are always seeking to deal with the crisis. And there are three ways that oppressed people can get grapple with their oppression.

One method is that of acquiescence there are those individuals who feel that the only way to deal with their oppression is to resign themselves to the fate of oppression. There are those who surrender and find themselves becoming conditioned to things as they are. They feel that it is better to live with these things than to go through the ordeals of



changing the old order to the new order. There was a man who lived in one of the Negro communities in Atlanta some years ago; he used to play his guitar and sing various songs, and one day he was heard singing a song that went something like this: "been down so long that down don't bother me." I guess he had achieved a level of freedom-a freedom of exhaustion. He had given up the struggle.

So this is the method of acquiescence- but it is not the way. It may be the easy way at times; it is a cowardly way for the individual who adjusts to an evil system, and he must take some of the responsibility for the perpetuation of the unjust system.

There is a second way that oppressed people can deal with their oppression and that is to rise up with the violence and corroding hatred.

Now of course we know about this method. We know about violence and I am not here to say that violence has never worked. One who studies history soon discovers that nations have often received their independence through violence. Violence has often brought about momentary victories, it can never bring about permanent peace and it ends up creating many more social problems. If we succumb to the temptation of using violence in the struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of long and mighty bitterness.

There is another method, a third method of non-violence resistance. I feel that this is the method which must guide us through this tense period of transition. We are moving from the old order to the new order. We have the inevitable birth pains, the inevitable tensions that accompany the birth of the new age.

But I believe that non-violence is the method that can achieve the ideals and goals and principles of the new age. And so the practitioner of non-violence will say to his opponent, "We will meet your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws, throw us in jail and as difficult as it is, we will go to jail and still love you. We will still love you, but be assured that we will wear you down by your capacity to suffer and one day we will win freedom for ourselves; we will so appeal to your heart and your conscience that we will win you in the process and our victory will be a double victory."

This is the meaning of non-violence in its deepest dimensions and that is something that frustrates the opponent.

### More resources on Child Soldier

Please if you want to know more child soldier trawl the following through any search engine online

- [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com)
- [www.warchild.org.uk](http://www.warchild.org.uk)
- [www.child-soldiers.org](http://www.child-soldiers.org)
- [humanrightswatch.org](http://humanrightswatch.org)
- Save the Children Fund UK
- \* Centre for Defence Information Resources:
  - A section on child soldiers
  - Their transcript on a Child Combatant's Road to Recovery
  - A Defence Monitor brief about Child Combatants.
- \* [www.boes.org](http://www.boes.org) is a site devoted to child rights.
- \* War: A Child's Game from Amnesty International looks at the issue of child soldiers and campaigns to do away with this.
  - \* Foreign Policy in Focus looks at the US role and policies in a report called Use of Children as Soldiers
    - \* From the International Committee of the Red Cross web site, there is a large section called Children In War
      - \* Child Rights Information Network provides information to support the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
        - \* Child Rights from this web site looks at additional issues.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Job Opening: 'Computer Operations Assistant' (G-7 Position),** Secretariat of Multilateral Fund in Montreal. The deadline for this vacancy expires on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008. For more information about this vacancy go to [http://www.unep.org/vacancies/default.asp?vac\\_level=GS](http://www.unep.org/vacancies/default.asp?vac_level=GS)

**Job Opening: Field Location Manager – War Child Netherlands – Sudan**

*Starting date + period: ASAP* (both interim and long term candidates will be considered and a combination of the two. For long term; start date more flexible)

*Job Location: Sudan, Juba*

For more information and the application procedure, please visit:

<http://www.warchild.nl/?paginaid=108&contentid=135>



**Job Opening: Research & communication intern legacy initiative – International Rescue Committee – Sierra Leone**

*Deadline for application:* not set

*Duration:* 12 months

*Location:* Freetown , Sierra Leone

*Responsibilities*

Under the supervision of Regional Director and Regional Technical Staff, the Research and Communication Intern will perform the following activities:

- Assist with research projects in education as needed - literature review, administrative tasks, writing, editing of reports
- Assist with collating information, drafting, and editing quarterly donor reports
- Assist with planning workshops and conferences
- Assist in the implementation of Legacy publications including design, writing, editing, etc.
- Assist in the maintenance of log frames and work plans
- Assist in the writing of project status reports using data from the field
- Help with administration of project website – including providing content
- Participate in workshops and/or conferences as needed
- Other tasks as assigned by the Director

*Qualifications*

- Bachelors degree in international development or a related human development field
  - Excellent written communication skills
  - Good interpersonal skills, with experience working with diverse cultures
  - Ability to work independently; manage projects on a daily basis with minimal supervision; detail oriented
  - Fluency in English required
  - Fluency in French highly desirable
  - Strong research and analytical skills
  - Knowledge of action research methodology
  - Strong computer skills: facility with MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and email/internet software.
- For more information and application procedure, please visit: [www.IRCjobs.org](http://www.IRCjobs.org).

**Job Opening: Internship early warning and early response - European Center for Conflict Prevention - The Netherlands**

*Deadline for applications:* 1 April 2008

*Tasks for the Intern*

The goal of the internship is to assist in the

development and implementation of the early warning and response sub-programme through conducting background research and assisting in the organization of an international consultation meeting planned in spring 2008. More specific:

- ▶ Assisting in the further development of a clearing house on EWER
- compile and or write profiles of civil society initiatives in early warning and early response
- research innovative approaches, good practice and lessons learned
- research through internet, contact organizations if needed, and digest the information that is already available in ECCP for making available to partner organizations
- map relevant departments, policy makers and other actors dealing on issues related on Africa at the European Union
- ▶ Assisting in the organizing of the international consultation meeting g on early warning and response
- assist in practical arrangements such as travel, visa and communication with participants
- preparing resource material, reader, etc.
- ▶ Providing general practical assistance and taking part in planning meetings (up to half a day per week)

*Requirements*

- Fluency in English, both written and spoken
- Relevant educational background (university level); preferably peace and conflict research
- Experience in independent research and relevant practical experience
- Organisational experience, preferable with organising events or conferences
- Interest in and commitment to peace, conflict resolution and early warning and early response
- Computer literacy (word, internet)
- Flexibility and capability to work independently

Work experience in the field is not a requirement but an advantage.

This is an unpaid internship but ECCP will compensate daily travel expenses to and from our offices in The Hague (up to a maximum of 20 Euro per day). The intern will have an own desk, computer and email address.

*To apply*

Please send your CV, cover letter and a writing sample, all in English, to Ms. Juliette Verhoeven at [j.verhoeven@conflict-prevention.net](mailto:j.verhoeven@conflict-prevention.net)

**International Fellowships**

International Fellowships is available at the World Forest Institute, Portland, Oregon, USA. The World Forest Institute Fellowship Program



brings forestry and natural resources professionals from around the world to work at the World Forest Institute for 6 to 12 months. Fellows conduct an independent research project developed in conjunction with his/her sponsor. Projects are typically either policy or marketing studies, and may be environmental, social or economic in focus. Activities involve information gathering through interviews, meeting with forestry organizations, and taking organized field trips. Fellows typically summarize their projects in a report and poster published by the WFI. A large component of the program involves travelling and visiting with professionals in the Pacific Northwest forest sector. Fellows visit forestlands, research sites, manufacturing facilities, and NGOs. Additionally, Fellows gain valuable cultural experience and English language skills. Project proposals are now being accepted, and a matching grant is available to cover up to half of the Fellowship fee. WFI is located in beautiful Portland, Oregon, a short drive to forests, mountains, beach, and desert. Oregon is the largest producer of forest products among the 50 US states. For more information visit <http://wfi.worldforestry.org> or contact Angie DiSalvo at [adisalvo@worldforestry.org](mailto:adisalvo@worldforestry.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NAYDians selected to attend the 4th World Youth Congress in Canada 2008

1. Pochi Tamba  
Organisation: Maya Initiatives, Cameroon
2. Kitooke Ssali Ivan  
Organisation: Conflict resolution by youth, Uganda.
3. S. Urias Goll  
Organisation: Mano river union youth parliament, Monrovia, Liberia
4. Tanchie Cletus Enow  
Organisation: Green planet common initiative group, Cameroon
5. Chi Primus Che  
Organisation: International centre for conflict and human rights analysis Cameroon.
6. Chi Tansinda Valerie, public affairs officer.  
Organisation: International centre for conflict and human rights analysis, Cameroon.
7. Lyse iradukunda  
Organisation: Nayd-burundi, Burundi
8. John kimani

Organisation: Young Christian workers movement, Kenya.

9. Toguem Ouabo Roger  
Organisation: NAYD Cameroon
10. Lydia Ejani Epse Ngando Monono  
Organisation: va na va ndinge buea.  
Practical association (pracass) & zamang network of associations movements (zanim).  
Project title: Computer/ict training & education project (cicttep)
11. Mary Efosi Njembe  
Organisation: va na va ndinge buea.  
Practical association (pracass) & zamang network of associations movements (zanim).  
Name of Project: vavan agricultural sustainable project.
12. Nalova Becky Etinge  
Organisation: practical association (pracass) & zamang network of associations movements (zanim).  
Project title: pracass zanam community vocational training institutions (pacvte) bokoko Buea.
13. Catherine Nalova Nganje  
Organisation: practical association (pracass) & zamang network of associations movements (zanim).  
Project title; youths risk reduction project (yorrep).
14. Nganje Kelvin Mbotake  
Organisation: practical association (pracass) & zamang network of associations movements (zanim).  
Project title: Bomowo community water project (bocowap).

### NAYD member receives an award.

NAYD's Regional Director for West Africa, Mr. Thomas Mitchell on February 8, 2008 received a humanitarian award from the Human Relief Organization in the United States of America.

## HELP REQUEST

### NAYD International

Contact Person: Pochi Tamba  
Tel.: +0023796509761,  
Email: [pochitamba@nayd.org](mailto:pochitamba@nayd.org)  
NAYD International would like to invite Sponsors to assist its members participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 in Québec, Canada



**NAYD Cameroon**

Email : [naydcameroon@yahoo.com](mailto:naydcameroon@yahoo.com)

Contact Person: Chi Primus

Help Request: Funding to support 2 initiatives 'Poverty reduction strategies and young people' 'Young people and the preservation of community water catchments'

**BAPESU**

Email: [donate2bapesu@gmail.com](mailto:donate2bapesu@gmail.com)

Tel. +237 77 49 13 45 Fax: +237 3347 11 86

Contact Person: Christian P. Tabifor

Help Request: Benevolent Association for the Protection of the Environment and the Socially Underprivileged "BAPESU" is urgently appealing for the donation of a website (domain registration and hosting) from kind individuals, organizations, companies, business etc. This will make us achieve our mission with efficacy and efficiency. If you or someone would like to help BAPESU, please contact us.

**Youth Voice Fm International**

Email: [yofsor@hotmail.com](mailto:yofsor@hotmail.com)

Contact Person: Anyanwu Chisomaga

Location: Imo State, Nigeria

Tel: +2348064322750

Help Request: I want the voice of youths in my community to be heard, I want development partners to come and collaborate with me and other youths to establish a youth based FM radio station in my community. We are now eleven in number ready to turn our ideas into sustainable innovations. One of our team members have volunteered to give his room for the studio of YOUTH VOICE FM INTERNATIONAL. So far we need equipment to help in transmitting our voice to the public. This project will provide employment, campaign against the spread of AIDS, give opportunities for youths to know the current activities going on such as : youth conferences, scholarships, internship, entertainment and promote the Millennium Development Goals MDGS. We need these materials to start working: micro phones: CD players: a computer set: transmitter and tape recorders.

**Focus Kenya**

Email: [forcus20002004@yahoo.com](mailto:forcus20002004@yahoo.com) or

[romankariuki@yahoo.com](mailto:romankariuki@yahoo.com)

Tel: +2540723725942, +2540720366493

Ruiru Kiambu Road Next To Hega Centre

P.O Box 27 00232, Ruiru - Kenya

This is humble request! FOCUS Kenya does not have a website we will be very happy and

grateful if someone will help us to develop one, so as to enable us spread wings to different part of the world. If you would like to know more about FOCUS make a donation, have an exchange program or volunteer contact us.

Email: [jude4prosperity@yahoo.com](mailto:jude4prosperity@yahoo.com)

Contact Person: Jude Chijioko

Help Request: I am intending to set up a cassava processing factory in a community that produces cassava. I would require assistance in the area of preparing the project business plan, especially the SWOT analysis, profit and loss statement, etc. I will also appreciate assistance as regards sourcing of equipment and machineries, and other technical advice.

**Focus Youth Centre in Ruiru Kenya**

Email: [romankariuki@yahoo.com](mailto:romankariuki@yahoo.com)

Contact Person: ROMAN NYANJUI KARIUKI, Focus Youth Centre in Ruiru Kenya

Help Request: Hi I am a young person running an orphan and vulnerable children centre in Ruiru, KENYA, together with my youth team. We use art to address topical social issues and raise funds to support the centre. We are not able to raise enough money to offer quality care to these little angels. I am requesting if there are any organisations, individuals or companies that can come to our rescue. We will be more than glad to work with them. If any information is needed about our organisation it can be provided.

**Wisdom from the NAYD Members!**

"There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved". **Christian P. Tabifor**

"Peace without social justice is like war without killing". **Munu Thaddeus**

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". **Gandhi**

"It may be long before the law of love will be recognised in international affairs. The machineries of government stand between and hide the hearts of one people from those of another". **Gandhi**

**IN THE NEXT EDITION**

In the twelfth edition of INSPIRE you'll find the following topics and issues amongst others

- A report on BAPESU seedling.
- More and more news on how African youths are impacting changes in the lives of people all over Africa.
- Events, Opportunities and Resources.

**For inquiries, please write to**  
[nayd2007@yahoo.com](mailto:nayd2007@yahoo.com)

### What is NAYD?

NAYD is the Network of African youths for Development .It began in 2006 and today involves close to 40 youth-led projects in about 20 African countries.

### How can you join NA YD?

You are welcome to join NAYD and support the activities of its members. Write to [nayd2007@yahoo.com](mailto:nayd2007@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Have something to say!** Great! Write to us at the above mentioned email and we shall put your article on the newsletter. We invite you to tell the world through our **INSPIRE**: whatever you want to share on development. Are you part of an organisation helping people to be positive? Are you dreaming of a better Africa? Join us and make your voice heard. Send us a mail. Specifically, the objectives NAYD as outlined in its constitution are:

- To promote and encourage the work done by young ● Africans in effecting positive change on the continent. ● To facilitate exchange between youths involved in development, by creating a network of exchange. □ To further the networks formed by and for young Africans for the development of the continent. ● To promote recognition of, mobilise and enhance the capacity of Young Africans internationally and provide them with leadership skills to take action against poverty. To achieve its vision, NAYD works with associations and groups of youths across the African continent and beyond to educate, inform and inspire others to use their power, privilege, skills and abilities to create a better world for current and future generations.

### NAYD TEAM

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