



~ Write a Letter to the Editor ~ Partners Toolkit for July/August 2007

Call Details:

Saturday, July 14, 2007
1:00pm - 2:00pm EST
1-800-391-2548
Verbal Passcode: VA317855

Tips on accessing the call:

- Participants should dial in 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, wait for an operator, and verbally give your password to the operator.
- Operators will take your city, state and number of people in the room and connect you to the main conference.

Call Topic: United Nations Peacekeeping; United Nations Emergency Peace Service

Hosts:

- Erica Tafoya, Engagement Team Member, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Rich Stazinski, Engagement Team Leader, Citizens for Global Solutions

Guest Speakers:

- Mark Malan, Peacebuilding Program Officer, Refugees International
- Saul Mendlovitz, Dag Hammarskjold Professor, Rutgers Law School–Newark

Agenda for the Call:

- Welcome, brief overview of call, introduction of Rich Stazinski – Erica Tafoya
- Citizens for Global Solutions and Engagement – Rich Stazinski
- Update on previous Partners' Project – Erica Tafoya
- Introduction of guest speakers – Erica Tafoya
- The current state of U.N. Peacekeeping – Mark Malan
- United Nations Emergency Peacekeeping Service (UNEPS) – Saul Mendlovitz
- July/August Partners' Project: Write LTEs and get them in your local paper; continue with lobby projects/efforts – Erica Tafoya
- Time for questions and answers from call participants

Enclosures:

- Background Reading
 - o U.N. Peacekeeping – pg. 2
 - o UNEPS – pg. 3
- July/August Partners' Project: Letters to the Editor – pg. 4
- News from the Field – pg. 6
- Monthly Report Form – pg. 8
- Next Teleconference – pg. 9

Background Reading

- United Nations Peacekeeping -

(Taken from the United Nations website):

United Nations peace operations entail three principal activities: conflict prevention and peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. Long-term conflict prevention addresses the structural sources of conflict in order to build a solid foundation for peace. Peacemaking addresses conflicts in progress, attempting to bring them to a halt using the tools of diplomacy and mediation. These activities are, by definition, mostly of a low-profile nature, and their quiet successes may even go unnoticed altogether by the public at large.

Peacebuilding is a term of more recent origin that defines U.N. activities to establish the foundations of peace and provide the tools for building on those foundations. Peacebuilding includes, but is not limited to, reintegrating former combatants into civilian society, security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law, improving respect for human rights, providing technical assistance for democratic development and promoting conflict resolution and reconciliation techniques.

In operational and financial terms, however, the United Nations' largest and most visible engagement in peace operations is peacekeeping. Peacekeeping, a U.N. endeavor born almost six decades ago, has evolved rapidly in the past 15 years, qualitatively and quantitatively. In the first 40 years of the United Nations' history, for example, only 13 peacekeeping operations were set up. In the 20 years since then, 47 missions have been deployed.

The context and models have also changed: peacekeeping began primarily with a military model of observing ceasefires and separating combatants after inter-state wars. Today, peacekeeping has evolved and expanded into an integrated system of many elements, military, police and civilian personnel working together to build peace in the dangerous aftermath of conflict. Since the end of the Cold War, U.N. peacekeeping has often combined with peacebuilding in complex multidimensional operations deployed into settings of intra-state conflict.

During his talk on the Partners' call, Mark Malan, Peacebuilding Program Officer at Refugees International, will address some of the following questions about U.N. peacekeeping:

- What is peacekeeping and why is it essential?
- Peacekeepers: Who are they? Where do they come from? How are they compensated?
- How big is U.N. peacekeeping? How many current missions are there and can you elaborate on a couple of them?
- How is the success of a peacekeeping operation/mission measured?
- How is U.N. peacekeeping paid for?
- What is the role of the United States in U.N. peacekeeping? How much of the U.N. peacekeeping budget is the United States responsible for and do we hold up our end?

- Is there a preventative component to U.N. peacekeeping?
- How does the United Nations work with local governments, organizations and groups in areas where peacekeeping operations exist?

- United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) -

In order to address ever-increasing needs for the international community to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging crises, the United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) was proposed as a permanent emergency response service designed to complement, not replace, existing peace operations. UNEPS would have first in–first out capabilities, designed to supplement the United Nations’ capacity to provide stability, peace and relief in deadly emergencies.

The need for UNEPS was best explained by former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. He compared his job of building support and raising funds for each new U.N. peacekeeping mission to that of a volunteer fire chief who is forced to raise funds, find volunteers and secure a fire truck for each new fire. “The core challenge to the Security Council and to the United Nations as a whole in the next century,” he declared, is “to forge unity behind the principle that massive and systematic violations of human rights—wherever they may take place—should not be allowed to stand.”

The creation of UNEPS is supported by organizations such as Citizens for Global Solutions and Human Rights Watch. Representatives Albert Wynn (D-MD) and James Walsh (R-NY) introduced legislation in the 110th Congress (H. RES. 213) in support of UNEPS.

UNEPS would individually recruit, train and employ 10,000–18,000 personnel with a wide range of skills, including civilian police, military, judicial experts and relief professionals. This ensures that missions would not fail due to a lack of skills, equipment, cohesiveness, experience in resolving conflicts or gender, national or religious imbalance. The service would have special expertise in conflict resolution, environmental crisis response and emergency medical relief. Its military component would have two complete mission headquarters with military, police and civilian staff, technical reconnaissance units, light armored reconnaissance squadrons, motorized light infantry, armored infantry, a helicopter squadron, an engineer battalion and a logistics battalion.

In Darfur, the Sudanese government has effectively prevented the United Nations from deploying peacekeeping forces, which has contributed to the unraveling of the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement. If the international community had UNEPS in its arsenal during negotiation of the peace accord, the deployment of a UNEPS mission to Darfur could have been included in the Darfur Peace Agreement. By the time national peacekeepers were ready to replace UNEPS, the situation on the ground would have stabilized or, at a minimum, become more manageable.

UNEPS would help prevent early stage crises (caused by violent conflict or natural phenomenon) from escalating into national or regional disasters. It is a timely and important step in providing the world community with the international emergency service it desperately needs in order to fulfill its “responsibility to protect.”

Saul Mendlovitz, Dag Hammarskjold Professor at Rutgers University Law School, will get into greater detail on UNEPS, what an emergency peacekeeping force would look like, why it is important, what current and future situations could (have) benefit(ed) from it, how would it be funded, what the likelihood of creating UNEPS is, and what the role of the United States would be in the creation and maintenance of such a force.

July/August Partners' Project: Write a Letter to the Editor of Your Local Newspaper

- Letters to the Editor: What's the Importance? -

Most of you are familiar with Letters to the Editor (LTEs). Many of you have even had yours published in local newspapers—congrats! But have you sat down recently to think about the power your LTE can really have?

Working with local media to cover the issues that are important to you is a great way to be a successful activist. Media has a strong effect on politics and on the way people perceive issues that are important to all of us. In fact, working with the media in your community can be a powerful way to demonstrate to policymakers that local citizens are aware of the connection between global issues and local concerns. Communicating through the media also allows you to reach a larger audience.

A well-written and strongly supported LTE can have an impact on your entire community and those who govern it. The media can be, and has been, successfully utilized as a conduit for change. Voicing your opinion in local news outlets is an important part of activism. Nevertheless, media work can be a daunting experience if you've never done it before. We are here to tell you that it doesn't require expertise or experience; successful media advocacy work only requires a little bit of practice, lots of persistence and a commitment to making a difference.

- Writing a Letter to the Editor -

The Letters to the Editor (LTEs) sections in newspapers provide a forum to voice your opinion and send a message to your community and its leaders. They are sent to publications to raise concern about an issue and are often in response to previously published articles or current issues. LTEs are generally about 250 words or less, and are a great way to begin press activism.

During the months of July and August, while you're busy lobbying your leaders on the issues that matter to you, we encourage you to also take the time to write a Letter to the Editor. If you don't feel comfortable writing one from scratch, don't worry, we'll have plenty of sample LTEs for you to choose from on all the issues we're trying to tackle this summer. Just visit the Partners for Global Change webpage later this week or early next week to see and use these samples: <http://globalsolutions.org/partners>.

If you're brave enough to write your own LTE, below are some simple hints to help get you started.

Helpful Hints for Writing Your Own LTE

1. Planning

- Pick one point or topic to discuss.
- Review previously published letters and identify any similarities.
- Research the publication's audience and write your letter accordingly.

2. Writing Rules

- Comment on a recently published article in the publication.
- Use facts and evidence to support your point.
- Keep it clear, succinct and memorable. LTEs are short, so get straight to the point.

- Follow instructions. Consult the newspaper's specifications on publishing a letter to the editor. For example, word limit, author information, format, etc. Always include your name, signature, address, and telephone number.
- Connect your article to current events. Putting your letter in the perspective of today's world makes your letter relevant.
- Use a unique angle. Newspapers normally receive hundreds of letters on the same subject and are more likely to use a letter that stands out and has a refreshing perspective.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD, May - June, 2007

- **California Region**
 - California Region's annual meeting will be held July 28.
 - The **San Diego Chapter** had a booth at an Earth Day celebration in Balboa Park. They gave out brochures, sold books, and gained new supporters.
 - The **Orange County Chapter** collected signatures for the End Torture Campaign petition at the Great American Write-In. They sent these signatures to their members of Congress.
 - The **Santa Barbara Chapter** (with the help of the California Region) co-sponsored a public forum with the Coalition for Global Dialogue called "Palestine and Israel: A Search for Common Ground." They plan to co-sponsor another event titled "Youth in Peril" at Santa Barbara City College in the near future.
 - The **Sacramento Chapter** is focusing on urging Congress to support the establishment of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service.

- **Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, MA**
 - Members wrote postcards to Congressional delegates on some of the bills highlighted in the May Partners' national teleconference call.
 - Members helped prepare a public meeting on nuclear disarmament with a speaker from Peace Action. The meeting was followed by letters written to members of Congress on nuclear disarmament.
 - Constantly raising awareness on Darfur at events, etc.

- **Greater Portland Chapter, OR**
 - Members wrote thank you letters to the Oregon delegation representing the Portland area on their report card grades.
 - Members joined Africa Action in sending e-mails to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations about peace in Darfur since the United States is currently presiding over the U.N. Security Council.
 - Members gave three presentations on Darfur to:
 - The Men's Club at the Unitarian Church in Hillsboro;
 - Students at Centennial Alternative High School;
 - Maryknoll Portland Affiliates.
 - Members continue to gather signatures for the End Torture petition; some members wrote to select Senators about their concerns on the issue of torture.
 - Members are reading *Enemy Combatant* by Moassam Begg.

- **Greater St. Louis Chapter, MO**
 - Ron Glossop was able to get Bill Clay, District 1 Rep., to co-sponsor HR 1234.
 - Members visited District 3 Congressman Russ Carnahan, member of the House International Relations Committee. The meeting went well.
 - Member wrote letters to the editor on HR 1234, which was published in the *Kirkwood-Webster Times*.

- **Hawaii Chapter**
 - Sent a letter to prospective members and supporters in Hawaii about Citizens for Global Solutions, the Hawaii Chapter, what we're doing, the Congressional Report Card, urging folks to get involved.

- **Milwaukee Chapter, WI**
 - Debbie Metke had a letter to the editor published in the *Washington Times* in late April.
 - Members have been sending postcards out to their representatives in support of stronger U.S. cooperation with the United Nations. They also sent letters to President Bush, urging him to take action in Darfur.

- **National Capitol Area Chapter**
 - Co-sponsored, with the Streit Council for Union of Democracies, a June 7 event: “Global Warming at the G8: The effort at the G-8 Summit to draw the U.S. into serious cooperation against climate change.” Keynote speakers included John Boright, U.S. National Academy of Sciences International Affairs Director, and Anatol Leiven, The New America Foundation Senior Research Fellow.

- **Pittsburgh Chapter, PA**
 - On May 19, as part of their high school programming, the Pittsburgh chapter hosted their 2nd teacher’s seminar: “Human Rights in the Classroom.”

- **Whitewater Chapter, WI**
 - Members continue to read Linda Fasulo’s *An Insider’s Guide to the U.N.*
 - Rollie Cooper participated in a panel as part of a UW-Whitewater Earth Day celebration. The panel explored ways to make Whitewater more ecologically sustainable through the adoption of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Other participants included Whitewater’s City Manager, WI 43rd District Assembly Rep., a UW-W professor of economics; and a professor of biology.
 - Rollie Cooper and Tony Pavlick have completed an eight-week course: *The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Can Change to Sustainable Practices.*
 - Vivian McQuoid wrote a letter to the editor, “Reader: It’s Time to End Torture,” and had it published in the April 28th edition of *The Week*.
 - Members attended congressional listening sessions, one in which Betty Refior and Vivian McQuoid lobbied Senator Feingold’s staff on the issues of climate change, ending oil aid, removing the peacekeeping cap and UNEPS.
 - Betty Refior had a letter to the editor, “Reader: Time for UN to be Transformed,” published in the May 31 edition of the *Whitewater Register*.
 - On May 13, The Everett Refior Library was dedicated at Winona Lake, IN. Betty Refior made all preparations; it was a great occasion for old friends to meet and pay homage to a great world federalist, the organizer and longest-term member of this chapter.
 - Betty Refior wrote a poem for the Spring 2007 Virtual Poetry Slam, but it was not submitted.

Monthly Report of Your Accomplishments

Chapter _____ Leader _____

What is your chapter working on? How are your events and meetings going?

Did you carry out the May/June project?

Have you worked on any other past Partners' Projects in the last two months?

If so, what did you like about the projects and what didn't you like?

Do you feel this project made a difference?

Is there anything the national office can help you with?

*****Please remember that you don't have to do ALL of the projects, but please do let us know about which ones you have chosen to work on.***

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Did you write any letters to the editor or op-eds?

(Please note them here even if you are enclosing copies)

Total Submitted	Total Printed	Type: LTE, op-ed	Topic	Written By	Paper	Date It Ran

Other Political or Media Activities Your Chapter Engaged In:

Use another sheet if necessary to continue your report. Please detach and return to Erica Tafoya by August 17th so your accomplishments can be published in the next mailing.

Mail: Partners Monthly Report
Attn: Erica Tafoya
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END OF REPORT

EVERY DAY YOU'RE CHANGING THE WORLD!

NEXT PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL CHANGE TELECONFERENCE CALL:

**Saturday, September 8, 2007
1:00pm – 2:00pm EST
1-800-391-2548
Verbal Passcode: VA317855**

***If you have ideas for call topics or requests for special projects, please send your ideas to: outreach@globalsolutions.org**