

EDITORIAL

With great pleasure we introduce *IFOR in ACTION* #53, "Europe" edition. This issue focuses on *IFOR* actions and BGAs of Europe. In using this new approach we take a closer look at the work being done in different regions of the world, and the challenges faced due to environmental factors.

The Spring issue of *IFOR in ACTION* will focus on *The Americas*. We especially invite contributions from our members in *The Americas*, we're sure they will be as plentiful. We now call on all our Branches, Groups and Affiliates to send their contributions by Friday, 5 February 2010 for inclusion in *IFOR in ACTION* #54.

— Stan Morris, Editor

## HILDEGARD GOSS-MAYR, HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION, RECEIVES THE PACEM IN TERRIS 2009 PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

by Richard Deats

*Goss-Mayr is one of the world's preeminent teachers of active nonviolence*

On September 20, 2009 Hildegard Goss-Mayr received the prestigious Pacem in Terris 2009 Peace and Freedom Award at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa before hundreds of attendees. TV and press interviews, religious and academic meetings and book signings reflected the widespread importance of the Award.

The Award was established in 1964 in the spirit of the Pacem in Terris Encyclical of Pope John XXIII, issued during the Vatican Council. The Council was called at a time of worldwide fear of war created by the Cuban Missile Crisis and the growing arsenals of weapons of mass destruction of both East and West. Political and religious institutions were polarized by the deep ideological gap between communist and capitalist nations. Pope John XXIII took courageous measures to end this move toward international conflict. and his 1963 Peace Encyclical has had a strong and lasting influence.

In the spirit of the Encyclical the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council established the Award in 1964. It has subsequently been given to persons such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Sr. Helen Prejean, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Dom Helder Camara.

Dr. Goss-Mayr received this year's award for her decades of work for peace on every continent. With her husband, Jean Goss (now deceased), they worked for reconciliation

**In this issue:**

- HILDEGARD GOSS-MAYR PEACE & FREEDOM AWARD p 1
- FOR ENGLAND p 3
- TIME FOR RECONCILIATION p 5
- FOR AUSTRIA NEWS! p 7
- NONVIOLENCE IN IRAN p 8
- SECRETARIAT UPDATE! p 9
- BOOK WATCH p 10
- EVENTS p 11
- NEWS p 12
- OPPORTUNITIES p 13

Photo: Richard Deats



*Hildegard Goss-Mayr, recipient of Pacem in Terris Award at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, pictured here in the university chapel with Richard Deats, Author of MARKED FOR LIFE, THE STORY OF HILDEGARD GOSS-MAYR*

East and West in the Soviet bloc; they played an instrumental role in the Catholic Peace Lobby during the Vatican Council and in subsequent ecumenical and interfaith peace efforts. Goss-Mayr is one of the world's preeminent teachers of active nonviolence and has had wide influence in such historic events such as Solidarity in Poland, the

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**Hildegard Goss-Mayr...**

People Power Revolution in the Philippines and liberation struggles in Latin America and Africa.

Hildegard Goss-Mayr was introduced at the ceremony by Richard Deats, editor emeritus of Fellowship magazine and author of the 2009 biography, *Marked for Life: The Story of Hildegard Goss-Mayr* (New City Press). The Award was presented by Most Rev. Martin Amos, Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport.

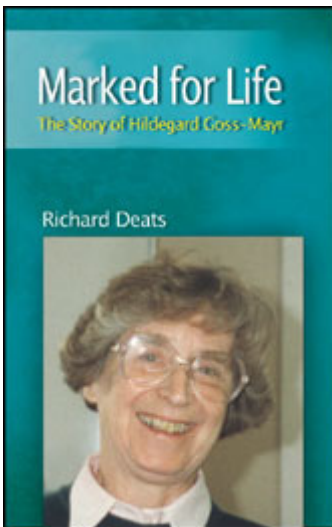
Goss-Mayr lives in Vienna, Austria and is still active teaching, writing and speaking.

Her latest book, *How Enemies Become Friends*, has been published in German, Italian, and French. (See on Fellowship [http://www.forusa.org/fellowship/sep-oct\\_99/deepeningwork.html](http://www.forusa.org/fellowship/sep-oct_99/deepeningwork.html) ).

She is one of the 1000 women proposed for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005. She says: "The life of every person has an absolute value."

*Hildegard Goss Mayr is one of the world's leading experts on non-violence. She is the honorary president of International Fellowship of Reconciliation, the world's oldest organization dedicated to the principles of non-violent resistance. The efforts and training of*

*Hildegard Goss Mayr, along with those of her husband Jean Goss, were a major factor in the successful and peaceful overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines.*



*Richard is a writer, story teller, humorist, musician, preacher, activist and nonviolence trainer who has witnessed internationally for justice and peace. His most recent book, *Marked for Life*,*

*is about international FOR trainer Hildegard Goss-Mayr, and is a companion to his books on Martin Luther King, Jr., (*Spirit-Led Prophet*) and Mahatma Gandhi (*Nonviolent Liberator*). Earlier books include *Ambassador of Reconciliation: A Muriel Lester Reader*, *How to Keep Laughing Even Though You've Considered All the Facts*, and *Active Nonviolence: A Way of Life, A Strategy for Change*.*

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**News from The Philippines**

by Bobet Corral

(Hildegard Goss-Mayr was influential in the "People Power Revolution" in the Philippines.)

On 17-18 October 2009, AKKAPKA organized a two-day Writeshop on the AKKAPKA Trainers' Manual on Gender-Sensitive Active Nonviolence (GS-ANV) at the Sta Rafaela Maria House of Spirituality, in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. This workshop builds from the Training of Trainers (TOT) on GS-ANV which AKKAPKA organized in Cotabato Nov 2009, with a grant from IFOR-Women Peacemakers Program. The Writeshop also aimed to design appropriate modules for ANV training for former combatants, which AKKAPKA is organizing in November in Visayas (Bacolod) and Quezon (Lucena), in coordination with the Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

The Writeshop benefited from the inputs and collective reflections and insights from AKKAPKA's community of ANV and/or gender trainers (10 women, 7 men) from Metro Manila, Cavite, Cotabato, and Ifugao. Staff from OPAPP's SIP (Social Integration Program) and PIDO (Peace Institutions Development Office) units also provided input. In the design of the ANV training workshop for former combatants, the participants agreed that.

- (a) It is immaterial whether former rebels have been given assistance by OPAPP or not; what is important is the person's willingness to participate in the training.
- (b) Whatever "revolutionary spirit" that still exists within the rebel returnee shall be provided a venue for expression through active nonviolence.
- (c) Sharing the option and message of active nonviolence.
- (d) The ANV training reinforces the "Healing & Reconciliation" component of OPPAP's SIP.

*...cont. on page 6*

## FOR ENGLAND

by Chris Cole

*In September, FoR England Director, Chris Cole was arrested during a protest against Europe's largest arms fair.*

FoR England continues its core work of educating young people about nonviolence, campaigning against militarism and supporting nonviolent peacemakers both here in the UK and in areas of conflict around the world.

FoRE continues to publish our outreach magazine, *Peace by Peace*. In the last couple of issues we have had articles on reconciliation, an interview with FoR Wales secretary, Arfon Rhys, reviews of new peace resources and research about increased military spending in the UK. The magazine is well received and very popular. We use the magazine as a basis to write to all UK church leaders urging them to be more outspoken for nonviolence and against war – we have had a few (!) positive responses.

*Photos: FoR England*

# e-newsletter

In June our Young Peacemakers Network held a residential training weekend in London attended by 30 young people from around the country. The weekend was a chance for those both new to the subject and old-time campaigners, to learn new skills and practices and to discuss nonviolence as a tool for social change. One particular highlight was a workshop from Beatrice Amony of FoR Uganda on her work with young people in Uganda. Recently, our youth worker for the past four years, Martha Beale, has moved on and we are in the process of recruiting someone new to the position.



*Peacemakers Network held a residential training weekend in London*

In March we organised vigils around the country and outside Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence to mark the 6th anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq. As in previous years Christian in the UK and USA marked the day by recalling the suffering of people in Iraq and by praying for forgiveness and healing. Names of the dead, both Iraqi and British were read out and their family and friends prayer for.

In September, FoR England Director, Chris Cole was arrested during a protest against Europe's largest arms fair. Chris, who faces trial at the end of the year was quoted in the press: "Especially in a time of war, we are called to resist the great lie that our security and well being lies in bigger and better weaponry. The truth is that only justice and love will in the end, bring real peace and real human security to our nation and the world as a whole."

Through the International Peacemakers Fund (IPF) we have been able to make available some small grants to a number of nonviolence projects outside the UK, mainly through the IFor network. In 2009 we have supported projects in India, Pakistan, North Ossetia, South Sudan, Uganda, Palestine and Sri Lanka. Details on applying for a grant from FoR England's Peacemakers Fund can be found on our website: [www.for.org.uk/ipf/apply](http://www.for.org.uk/ipf/apply).

In the UK too we try to support peacemakers. In January, we organised an invitation only conference in association with Peace News for committed peacemakers. A number of people involved in long-running peace campaigns came together to reflect on their work and how we can work better and more effectively together. We are hoping to follow up the gathering again in 2010.

*...cont. on next page*

**FOR England...**

Finally, our new home, Peace House, in Oxford is beginning to take shape. We have rented out the top floor to bring in some funds and are developing the new peace library and the training room. We send greeting to all brothers and sisters around the world working for peace and nonviolence.

*Chris Cole is the Director of FoR England.*

*FoR England began in 1914 when, on the brink of war, a German and an Englishman parted company on Cologne station with the words "We are one in Christ and can never be at war." Inspired by that pledge, about 130 Christians of all denominations gathered in Cambridge, England at the end of 1914 and set up the FoR. They recorded their general agreement in a statement which became 'The Basis'. In 1919 representatives from a dozen countries met in Holland and established the International FoR, which now has about seventy branches and groups in all five continents.*

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e-newsletter

## TIME FOR RECONCILIATION

by Ueli Wildberger

*Tournee of Adolfo Perez Esquivel (Nobel Peace Laureate) and other SERPAJ-Representatives in Switzerland*

Forum für Friedenserziehung  
Swiss-German Branch of IFOR  
17 October 2009

Our Swiss-German IFOR branch took the initiative to form a coalition of 12 peace organisations to celebrate the UN-Year of Reconciliation 2009. A Time for Reconciliation was initiated between Sept. 21st (World Peace Day) and Oct. 2nd (International Day of Nonviolence) with a common declaration and many local peace and reconciliation projects of the NGOs.

Forum für Friedenserziehung contributed with a Tournee of 4 days with SERPAJ-Representatives, amongst them, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Laureate from Argentina, invited by Mission 21 and organized by our small, small SERPAJ- Support Group with Wolfgang Krobath and Tildy Hanhart. In Basel, Adolfo and Gustavo Cabrera, continental coordinator of SERPAJ-Latin-American, spoke in a public forum about their vision and experiences with nonviolent resistance. Ueli Wildberger from the Swiss-German FOR focused on the need to struggle against and change the systems of domination from our side and from within the rich, industrialized countries.

On Sept. 26th a seminar took place in Lucern, where Adolfo spoke about reconciliation and the need to overcome impunity in order to restore justice and truth as part of social reconciliation. Mariela Espindola from SERPAJ-Chile and Ana Juanche, International coordinator of SERPAJ from Uruguay, led a workshop on their experiences with "Dealing with the Past" on military dictatorship and repression in their countries.

In Zurich they participated in an Ecumenical mass. The theme dealing with the past was also the focus in a Round Table of Swiss Peace in Berne, where Adolfo stressed the fact, that individuals can and shall forgive, but society and state have to re-establish truth, justice and law first and stop violence, before social reconciliation can take place.

SERPAJ Argentina works with high officers of the marine to redefine their role: The military are in the service of the people and have to protect them instead of persecute them in the name of a false ideology. In St. Gallen finally Adolfo and Ana described the domination system of Western countries and multi-nationals, especially from the US, which controls not only economically and strategically Latin-American (military bases in Colombia and Honduras),



Photo: Ueli Wildberger, Forum für Friedenserziehung deutschschweizer Zeig des internationale Versöhnungsbundes (IFOR)

but also culturally (through media agencies spreading their views and definitions of reality) and ideologically, influencing the thinking of Latin-Americans (e.g. war on terrorism). An actual and drastic example is the putsch in Honduras, which couldn't have happen without the consent of US militaries, and which was in fact also a putsch against Obama. Esquivel wrote a moving open letter to the Cardinal in Honduras, urging him to take the position that the church has to stand on the side of the poor and oppressed instead of aligning with the putschists.

*The Forum für Friedenserziehung (Forum for Peace Education) is the Swiss-German branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a worldwide network of spiritually rooted, nonviolent peace groups. Ueli Wildberger is a member of FOR Switzerland, the Swiss-German branch of IFOR.*

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Website: <http://www.friedenserziehung.ch> ■

The Philippines...

Photo: AKKAPKA



(e) Sustainability of the program should also be considered (e.g. ACP, 'projection' session).

(f) Engender the training through women/gender, peace and development perspectives.

(g) Include session on gender awareness and use modules, exercises, energizers that surface gender issues.

The Writeshop and ANV trainings for former combatants are three activities under AKKAPKA project on "Promoting Gender-Sensitive Active Nonviolence as a Way of Life & towards a Culture of Peace" that is being funded under

GOP-UNDP Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Programme (CPPB), in partnership with OPAPP.

[ Photos: <http://akkapka.multiply.com/photos> ]

*Bobet is editor and publisher for the AKKAPKA Foundation, AKKAPKA is a member of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR).*



Photo: AKKAPKA Writeshop on Trainers' Manual for Gender-Sensitive ANV

**FOR AUSTRIA NEWS!**

by Gregory Kennedy-Salemi

*IFOR Austria Global Education English Project Week Program...*

IFOR Austria is quite fortunate at present, as we have some incredible new people working with us including Stuart Jolley, a young extremely talented British guy who comes from the British television industry and who is working with me, Gregory Kennedy-Salemi, side by side in schools on our all new IFOR Austria Global Education English Project Week Program, which is really taking off.

**e-newsletter**

Our Global Education English Project Week Program is a 5 day, 30 hour, 6 lessons per day program conducted in Austrian high schools throughout Austria, where students work in a highly active and creative environment, culminating in the production of Global Education poems and films. Students pay 119.00 Euros per student for the week, and so far, since the program launched in September, we have signed up 9 schools and 230 students.



The program has been in the planning stages for over a year and is highly organized and structured, so that each activity builds upon each other. Our Global Education English Project Week Program and our new film project, Creative Conflict Transformation in Schools and Society was featured just this past Friday on FM4, Austria's biggest radio station during their educational segment "Jugendzimmer," which has over 50,000 students & teachers tuned in!

We have also just received an Austrian government supported film / media project titled "Creative Conflict Transformation in School & Society." We have so far in the last month and a half interviewed (half of the interviews utilizing our portable Green Screen kit) Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner from Argentina [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1980/esquivel-bio.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1980/esquivel-bio.html) , Playing for Changes, Omagh Community Youth Choir in Northern Ireland [http://www.playingforchange.com/journey/musicians/64/Omagh\\_Community\\_Youth\\_Choir](http://www.playingforchange.com/journey/musicians/64/Omagh_Community_Youth_Choir) , Pfarrer Pucher from the Vinzihaus in Graz, Dr. Hildegard

Goss-Mayr, IFOR Honorary President [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard\\_Goss-Mayr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard_Goss-Mayr), and several others. Plus, in December we will interview Zlata Filipovich, best selling author and called the Bosnian Anne Frank [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zlata%27s\\_Diary:\\_A\\_Child%27s\\_Life\\_in\\_Sarajevo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zlata%27s_Diary:_A_Child%27s_Life_in_Sarajevo).

We will travel to Norway to film in the Nobel Peace museum (they have a new exhibit from MLK to Obama), where we have a friend who has worked there for over 20 years, and finally, hopefully, on to Holland to film at the "Anne Frank Haus," visit the IFOR Secretariat in Alkmaar and interview Dutch locals regarding issues of free speech versus tolerance. Plus, an FM4 Protest Song Contest band, Die Söhne der Liebe, a Creative Commons open source music group <http://www.myspace.com/theshummeroflove> , heard about our project and is creating a song just for our project, which will be made into a Music Video partially filmed by students.

Additionally, Celia Mara, a very engaged Brazilian singer / activist [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celia\\_Mara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celia_Mara) and one of Europe's top 10 world music performers, has just informed us that she would love to participate in our project.

Below are links to our IFOR Global Education Facebook page and Youtube, so you can see the innovative new media & film stuff that we are doing.

IFOR Austria maintains permanent representatives at the United Nations in Vienna, Geneva and New York and has consultative status to the UN's ESOSOC and UNESCO divisions.

Please visit us at [www.ifor.at](http://www.ifor.at) for our New & Innovative Global Education English Project Weeks, headed by Gregory Kennedy-Salemi (Global Education Coordinator) & Stuart Jolley (New Media Coordinator) .

Visit us on YouTube:  
<http://www.youtube.com/iforgloaledweeks>

FaceBook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/IFORAustriaGlobalEducationEnglishProjectWeeks>

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

Website: [www.ifor.at](http://www.ifor.at) ■

## NONVIOLENCE IN IRAN

by José de Vries

*The IFOR Women Peacemakers Program supports the US Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR USA) in its appeal to the demonstrators to affirm that the protests and demonstrations are done in a nonviolent manner.*

When I visited Iran in December 2008, I was welcomed by a one-of-a-kind hospitality and warmth —no axis of evil, no hatred against Western countries. The Iranian people approached me with an open attitude, being very interested in what I thought of Iran. They urged me to share my positive impressions of Iran with other people, in order to change the somewhat negative impression that many people had of Iran.

I spoke with a lot of young people, very aware of the image that Iran had in the “outside world.” I listened to stories of people who loved their country, but who were dissatisfied with its regime. One of the statements that I heard most often was, “Iran is great, I love my country, but we don’t like the wrong impression of Iran that’s given to the outside world. I watch BBC News, as well, via satellite and I see the image that we have here. It’s not how Iran is. People are friendly and we are very open. We want change.” Of course, I can’t rightly claim that this is the overall general perspective of all the Iranian people. But I do know that the outcome of the 2009 elections does not represent the atmosphere that I felt when I was in Iran.

When I was there, I felt the energy of young people that wanted and needed change. Nearly two out of every three people is under thirty. Many of them highly educated, including many women. A hope for change is what brought millions of women and men to the ballot boxes. A hope for change brings these same people to the streets now. Demanding their rights and demanding their votes to be heard.

On Friday June 19, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei banned protests, which prompted street violence in which reportedly at least 10 people died. The use of violence against the demonstrators is increasing. It has become increasingly difficult for official journalists to do their work in Iran, since they are not allowed free access. However, new media tools such as Twitter, YouTube and Facebook have provided the people on the streets with the opportunity to become journalists themselves, to tell their stories and share the experiences from inside the system. Activists inside Iran can in turn follow the protests that their diasporic friends and relatives are organizing in various parts of the world. The power of the people, united in their nonviolent struggle, is the same power that has been at work in other

countries at different times. However, the astonishing use of the latest information and communication technology to protest peacefully in this “Green Twitter Revolution” is groundbreaking in history.

The IFOR Women Peacemakers Program supports the US Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR USA) in its appeal to the demonstrators to affirm that the protests and demonstrations are done in a nonviolent manner. Also, the WPP strongly condemns the use of violence and force by the Iranian government and police against unarmed, nonviolent demonstrators. The use of violence can only lead to more violence, not to a sustainable, peaceful situation.

On June 17, FOR USA issued a statement entitled “Active nonviolence is key in resolving the conflict over Iran’s election outcome.” This statement can be downloaded from their website: <http://www.forpeace.net/blog/active-nonviolence-key-resolving-conflict-over-irans-election-outcome>

For more information on Iran, we encourage you to visit the following website:

- 1 Million Signatures Campaign: <http://www.sign4change.info/english/> . This website includes a “Statement in Protest Against Recent Events,” signed by nearly 250 members of the women’s movement.
- BBC News: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8112812.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8112812.stm)
- Roozonline.com: <http://www.roozonline.com/english.html>. This contains a selection of various articles in English

For more information on nonviolence, we advise you to read: *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* - Maria Stephan and Erica Chenoweth’s in-depth study on why civil resistance works in *International Security*, volume 33, issue 1, pages 7-4: [http://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/PDF/IS3301\\_pp007-044\\_Stephan\\_Chenoweth.pdf](http://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/PDF/IS3301_pp007-044_Stephan_Chenoweth.pdf)



*José de Vries is WPP Information Officer.*

(Fast moving events in December 2009 have produced a volatile, unpredictable situation since this was written) ■



**SECRETARIAT  
UPDATE!**

*We are happy to provide a new column called the "Secretariat Update." In this section you'll learn from IFOR's Executive Director, John Schot, more about what's happening at the International Secretariat in Alkmaar, NL.*



Dear friends,

As seems to be the norm, the last few months were hectic for the Secretariat. Financially we are doing better than expected. The financial crisis did not hit us as hard as we expected. Thanks to all of you. The Secretariat was and continues to be very busy with the organisation of the UNESCO funded meeting in Norway on the Non-Violent Education Program. This meeting is hosted by FOR Norway, and involves all partners that the Secretariat has worked with over the last two years. The Conference will take place in December 2009. Also important to mention is the "Women in War Zones" conference organised for December 2009 by the Embassy of Sweden and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with IFOR/WPP and a number of other organisers.

We received many guests at Secretariat in Alkmaar. Important to mention is that the Secretariat welcomed Mark Johnson and Leila Zand from FOR USA to discuss better cooperation with the European branches. Both think it would be good to link the European branches to their IRAN and Israel/Palestine program. An IFOR NEWS-alert has already gone out to invite others to take part in the peace march from Egypt to Gaza in December 2009. Therewith, the Executive Director would like to use this opportunity to invite all IFOR branches, groups and affiliates to participate in this splendid event. We also

welcomed Dr. Leyla Yunus (Institute of Peace and Democracy) from Azerbaijan who reminded us how difficult it is for some of us to work towards peace, if the circumstances are not favourable. Her personal stories were very impressive to hear.

Furthermore, I-Com and Ex-Com formally gathered here at the Secretariat in Alkmaar and are working with the Secretariat on the upcoming Council. More information will follow on this from IFOR's President, Jan Schaake. All and all, the Secretariat is alive and kicking.

Yours in peace,

Johannes ■



Mark Johnson



Photo: Mark Johnson / pictured (l-r), Leila Zand, Isabelle Geuskens, Jan Schaake and John Schot.

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IFOR in ACTION**

IFOR in ACTION #54 will appear in March of 2010, a special edition on peace and nonviolence initiatives in *The Americas*. We are looking for contributions in the form of articles, interviews, upcoming events, recent activities organized, resources, photos, important dates, and absolutely anything else you wish to share with the rest of the IFOR movement. The International Secretariat warmly invites you to contribute to the next issue of IFOR in ACTION. We especially hope to hear from Branches, Groups and Affiliates located in The Americas.

**Contact Stan Morris, Editor ([s.morris@ifor.org](mailto:s.morris@ifor.org))**

BOOK WATCH

## Vision Of An Empowered Woman, Mary Chandy

by Dr. Suseela Mathew

### Mary Chandy, a pioneer, a true leader and Vice President of FOR India

Many women, who have spent their whole life in peace-building, go unseen and unknown. This book acknowledges the leadership Mary Chandy gave to the cause of disadvantaged women and children and to FOR India. The basis of her nonviolent activism was her spiritual faith. It's

a tribute not only to Mary but to several women leaders all over the world, who have shown us that it is possible to dream about a future wherein women can lead a life of sharing and participating in all issues which confront society. Please read the inspiring book on Mary Chandy's remarkable life, written by Dr. Suseela Mathew.

—José de Vries

#### Introduction

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, India, commissioned this book as a tribute to Kooror Cheryan Mary who was known as Mary Chandy after her marriage to Kunnenkeril Koruth Chandy.

This book acknowledges the leadership Mary Chandy gave to the cause of disadvantaged women and children and, to the Fellowship in India. Mary's steadfast values, and her commitment to inclusiveness and empowerment, deserve special mention. In today's context of divisiveness and disempowerment, and in the face of an increasing network of hatred and violence all over the world, even President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, felt compelled to refer to the need for inclusiveness, after he was sworn in. There is a growing awareness all over that the two factors needed for peace are empowerment and inclusiveness.

Mary Chandy gave the message of inclusiveness and empowerment in the light of our Fellowship's message of love and nonviolence, unequivocally. Inclusiveness based on mutual respect, is at the root of revitalization which brings together residents, community-based groups, non-profit organizations, businesses and foundations, universities

and government agencies, to strengthen families, and to rebuild the neighbourhoods and the nations. The practices and propaganda used by politicians to garner popular support so that they may get access to state power through divisive means, often leads to Bad Politics. This in turn leads to Poor Governance, and Poor Governance leads to Poor Processes. Poor Processes lead to the shrinking of space which is needed in a democracy, to settle differences, disputes, diversities of opinion, ideology and belief, through debate and dialogue. This lack of space leads to anxiety, anger, intolerance, and even violence among people who feel that difference and diversity of any kind are not normal but are a source of discomfort, danger, fear, and suspicion.

The vitriolic and open politics of exclusion, is leading to a fractured body politic across the world, and to the making of fragile, failed States.

Empowered people have the freedom of choice and action, which enable them to influence the course of their own lives as well as that of others. Women are often marginalized, especially the women who live below the poverty line and on its fringes. These women know the harsh reality of having to face hunger, intra-household and social discrimination. Mobilization of women, along with supportive measures to increase their capabilities, is a sure way to their empowerment, and, in turn to their overall development. There can be no Peace without Development. Without empowered women, there could be neither Peace nor Development. In our culture, the woman is the anchor in the family. Mary Chandy, spoke on

this aspect at different forums, urging women to rise to the occasion, and to participate actively in the making of a new, vibrant, responsive society.

Mathew George

General Secretary, FORI

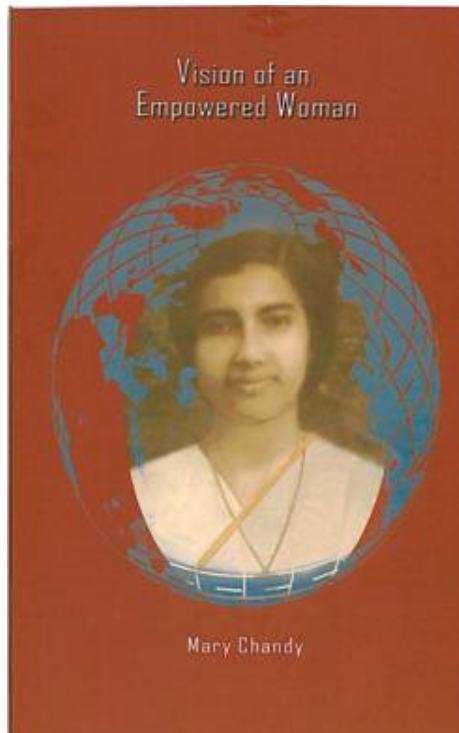
On behalf of the Fellowship of Reconciliation Literature Committee

This book is available for download from IFOR's WPP website at <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/index.html> .

Also find this book online at:

[http://www.ifor.org/WPP/MaryChandi\\_Book.PDF](http://www.ifor.org/WPP/MaryChandi_Book.PDF)

FORI (FOR India) is a branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) ■



EVENTS

**Fellowship of Reconciliation USA Position on Gaza Freedom March December 31, 2009**

The key to peace in the Middle East is restoration of international law and the recognition of the right of both Palestinians and Israeli Jews to live in peace and security side by side.

As we approach the one year anniversary of the most recent massive incursions into Gaza and tightening of the siege of Gaza, a global coalition of organizations and individuals from all faith traditions and dozens of nations, have agreed to join in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza and Israel in sympathy with the cause, for a Freedom March on December 31, 2009.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation USA has endorsed the March and is working in particular on an interfaith peace walk which will be one element of participation in the March. FOR invites those wishing to join in this part of the Gaza Freedom March to reply to this communication at [for@forusa.org](mailto:for@forusa.org) and to register at the Gaza Freedom March web site: [www.gazafreedommarch.org](http://www.gazafreedommarch.org).

FOR members, chapters and affiliates are also encouraged to organize local events, gatherings, vigils, walks to be held on the same day as the Gaza Freedom March.

We understand that this march takes place in a larger context of many competing and conflicting claims about the history and the present conditions in the search for peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. Members are encouraged to explore these claims and make their own judgment on the issues. We rise to this moment to stand in solidarity with and speak specifically to peoples suffering under the current siege of Gaza.

Also see FOR Endorses Gaza Freedom March Interfaith Peace Walk at: <http://forpeace.net/blog/mark-johnson/endorse-gaza-freedom-march-interfaith-peace-walk>.

Email: [for@forusa.org](mailto:for@forusa.org)  
Website: <http://forpeace.net/> ■

**Gaza Freedom March**

Historic Gaza Freedom March to Israeli Border Set For December 31.

Global grassroots initiative inspired by Gandhi/Mandela aims to break blockade...

The Gaza Freedom March that will take place in Gaza on December 31 is an historic initiative to break the siege that has imprisoned the 1.5 million people who live there. Conceived in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and nonviolent resistance to injustice worldwide, the march will gather people from all over the world to march—hand in hand—with the people of Gaza to demand that the Israelis open the borders.

Marking the one-year anniversary of the December 2008 Israeli invasion that left over 1,400 dead, this is a grassroots global response to the inaction on the part of world leaders and institutions. Over 800 international delegates from 35 countries have already signed up and more

are signing on every day. Participants include Pulitzer Prize winning author Alice Walker, leading Syrian comedian Duraid Lahham, French Senator Alima Boumediene-Thiery, author and Filipino Parliament member Walden Bello, former European Parliamentarians Luisa Morgantini from Italy and Eva Quistorp from Germany, President of the U.S. Center for Constitutional Rights Attorney Michael Ratner, Japanese former Ambassador to Lebanon Naoto Amaki, French hip-hop artists Ministère des Affaires Populaires, and 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Hedy Epstein.

Inside Gaza, excitement is growing. Representatives of all aspects of civil society, including students, professors, refugee groups, unions, women's organizations, NGOs, have been busy organizing and estimate that at least 50,000 Palestinians will participate. People from the different sectors will march in their uniforms—fishermen, doctors, students, farmers, etc. Local Palestinian rappers, hip-hop bands and Dabbkeh dancers will perform on mobile stages.

More information: [www.gazafreedommarch.org](http://www.gazafreedommarch.org) ■



NEWS

**Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation**



Our Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation had an annual meeting in Hiroshima this month and had many wonderful sharing experiences.

One of them was the Prayer time to celebrate the 140th birthday of Ghandi. We had 24 consecutive hour relayed prayers.

At this occasion, we shared our concerns to stop the Nuclear attacks by those countries which keep nuclear bombs. After the speech by President Obama, there are more increased concerns to stop the use of nuclear weapons which would bring the total destruction of human and other living beings.

Our Japan WPP group is trying to share the meaning of our Peace Constitution, Article 9, which might be abandoned by the national votes next May. We have made a lovely picture card for children and adults which has the message of Article 9 in Japanese and English. We are giving out this card to those who participated in offering some coins to assist those nations which are trying to establish Peace Constitution.

We had sent 10 T shirts with Article 9 message printed in Japanese and English to Uganda as requested by Beatrice Amony of Uganda FOR. She asked us to assist her friends in Uganda Paliament in establishing Peace Constitution by wearing Japanese T shirts which printed the Article 9 in Japanese and English. She received one of them as our gift when she participated in IFOR 2006 held in Japan.

We decided that we need to send these T shirts to other nations having conflicts and needing Peace Constitution. We hope to involve more members of our FOR and other peace-loving organizations.

With love and peace,

Kyoko Iitaka  
JFOR Secretary General

Email: [iitakakyoko@jcom.home.ne.jp](mailto:iitakakyoko@jcom.home.ne.jp)

Website: <http://www.jfor.jp/> ■

**INNATE**

NONVIOLENT NEWS  
Nonviolence and  
campaigning news from  
INNATE



**Derry to Gaza**

The Derry Anti-War Coalition is taking a consignment of medical supplies in a convoy to Gaza, setting off on 4th December, and are asking the public to help. The convoy is organised by Viva Palestina, which sent 100 vehicles of aid to Gaza last February. The February convoy included a lorry from Dungannon. The convoy will leave London on 4th December. The vehicles will then be left in Gaza for local people to use. Vehicles, supplies and money are needed. Viva Palestina has been told only medical equipment will be allowed in. We are hoping this will change, so we can bring toys, computers, construction equipment, etc. but medical and sanitary equipment are our top priority. The most useful vehicles would be ambulances - if possible, four-wheel drive, or minibuses for use as light-casualty ambulances or school buses. The convoy is supported by a wide range of individuals and organisations Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Corrigan, George Galloway MP, the Stop the War Coalition, the Irish Anti War Movement, the Muslim Council of Britain, Irish activist Caoimhe Butterly, trades unions, and religious, community and campaigning groups. You can donate to DAWC, Ulster Bank, Culmore Road, Derry, a/c No. 10103528, sort code 980980 or via DAWC's PayPal.

Further info: ph 079 – 73528772 or [resistderry@aol.com](mailto:resistderry@aol.com)

**For peat's sake**

The Irish Climate Camp, which took place this August in the shadow of the West Offaly power station in Shan-nonbridge, has argued that money should not be spent on upgrading the dirtiest power stations we have, and Midlands peat power stations should be shut permanently. The climate camp took direct action against the plant. "ESB should not be investing in upgrading these dirty power stations, instead they should be investing in upskilling their workers. There is only going to be enough peat left to run these power stations for another 10 or 15 years." said spokesperson for the group Molly Walsh.

See <http://www.climatecamp.ie>

Email: [innate@ntlworld.com](mailto:innate@ntlworld.com)

Website: <http://www.innatenonviolence.org> ■

OPPORTUNITIES

**Invitation to the International Year of Reconciliation 2009**

Reconciliation is high-minded diplomatic leadership and statesmanship in action.

The United Nations (UN) have recognized this potential and have declared 2009 as International Year of Reconciliation.

The S.E.R. Foundation, a NGO with advisory status at the UN ECOSOC, also associated with the UN DPI, cordially invites you to play an active part in the International Year of Reconciliation 2009, to come closer to the joint vision of peace, order and justice.

For 2009 the S.E.R. Foundation has worked out a Reconciliation Action Plan, which has found the support and approval of the UN Secretariat, ECOSOC, and DPI. Within the framework of this Action Plan you are invited to realize concrete projects and activities in your country.

Under the motto: "Unity in Diversity", your project should portray reconciliation as a bridge on every level of human endeavours.

You can take part in any of the following fields:

- \* scientific projects for a university diploma,
- \* writing competitions, music, film and sport,
- \* as well as every kind of development with reconciliation as its aim.

Or, carry out your own project within the monthly context.

The S.E.R. Foundation is a charitable organisation. Hence, it cannot give financial support.

Even then: Take action! Take part!

We would be pleased to accept your enrolment of a project within the scope of monthly activities. For your convenience, we offer an online-registration form:  
[http://www.global-balance.org/registration/register.php?reco\\_lang=EN&reco\\_event=ReconYear2009](http://www.global-balance.org/registration/register.php?reco_lang=EN&reco_event=ReconYear2009)

S.E.R. Foundation  
Please find more info at: [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) ■

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**The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)** was founded in 1919 and now has member organizations in over 48 countries around the world. IFOR supports the activities of these member organizations through worldwide programs, active nonviolence training, supporting and linking women peacemakers who live in conflict situations, empowering young people in making a contribution to non-violence, and campaigning for disarmament.

IFOR members are committed to active nonviolence and come from every major religious tradition. IFOR has consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO.

For more information about IFOR, visit our website at [www.ifor.org](http://www.ifor.org).

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