



BREMEN PEACE AWARD 2005

Courageously Crossing Thresholds



Bremen Peace Award of the *Threshold Foundation*
for exemplary Commitments for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

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Preface

The Threshold Foundation has again awarded the Bremen Peace Award. With this award, it declares its respect for all those who make a commitment to the preservation or regaining of peaceful existence in our world. The Foundation hopes that its efforts towards coexistence without violence will be contagious – and I agree with that – and they should motivate others to embark on the same venture.

The distinction bestowed on the award winners and the honouring of all those who likewise prepare the way for new directions in understanding and reconciliation ought to punctuate a period marked by contradictions between convictions of peace and forceful ideas on public order.

Bearing in mind the fact that cultural identities and historical traditions often cause conflicts of interest, which cannot simply be denied and which cannot in the long term be resolved by the use of force, a clear commitment to peace creates a real opportunity to live and work in peace. The award winners have made a considerable achievement in this area.

I have a strong appreciation and respect for them and the Threshold Foundation.

Hans Koschnick



In the main part of the brochure – apart from presenting the Award winners – 35 short-listed nomination proposals are presented.

On the left-hand-side of the presentations you find suitable information for contacting the organisations and a brief sketch of their work.

On the right hand side is a longer text on the work of the organisation. For that we partly used extracts, which we edited, from written proposals, self-proposals and external information on the organisations/people, submitted by them.



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For the second time: Courageously crossing thresholds and to break vicious circles

The idea of a Threshold Foundation Peace Award was born in 2002. The Award has been first awarded in the Upper Bremen City Hall, at the end of 2003, with the use of the slogan “Courageously crossing thresholds and to break vicious circles”. It was an impressive event with equally impressive award winners:

Sakowska (Ruanda), who works with war-traumatised children in the area bordering the Congo, the Palestinian/Israeli ‘Parents’ Circle’ organisation, which brings together family members of conflict victims from both sides, uniting in favour of reconciliation over revenge, and Count Hans von Sponeck, former US diplomat who has bravely continued to fight for an alternative policy for Iraq. In autumn 2004, the Bremen Peace Award has been awarded for the second time. Again, the quest was for three award winners who had shown particular commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation. We intend to repeat this event every two years.

Ideas and intentions

Whoever makes a public award wishes to shed the light of publicity on something which would otherwise attract too little attention. They wish to achieve recognition and to encourage the receivers of their award to carry on. You can also say: we wish to produce ‘good news’ – in other words: to make both good and important events newsworthy, so that the news is not dominated by what is evil and destructive.

Today, attracting attention is everything, they say. And yet it is not the spirit of the age which primarily defines us. It is rather the ancient point of view, which Jesus of Nazareth formulated so long ago:

“When a lamp is lit, it is not put under the meal-tub, but on the lamp-stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.” (Matthew 5-15)

Light in the darkness of the bad news and realities. And that is what the Threshold Foundation Peace Award is all about: encouragement for all who commit themselves and for all who hear about it.



The Award and its dimensions

After evaluating the first award, we retained the following three dimensions:

- The Threshold Foundation Peace Prize is different from other awards in that we honour first of all the ‘unknown peace worker’, in other words, the kind of people who display great commitment to their cause without receiving much attention or recognition.
- We did not, however, simply wish to leave it under the ‘unknown’ criterion. It should be supplemented by a ‘particularly commendable’ – whether known or unknown.
- And as a third dimension we also add public effectiveness. And so we wish to honour people in particularly prominent positions, people who remain faithful to their convictions against the mainstream of public opinion and are, therefore, role models.

We have thus awarded the Prize again within the total range of themes to which the foundation is devoted: justice, peace and integrity of creation. It was local, national and international - the latter, in particular, on the Internet - and we were excited to find out whether the award would meet with such a large, impressive reception as the first time.

An even better reception

What happened was big again – in fact, even bigger than the first time. Up to February, there were more than 70 nominations or personal applications. What happened was again highly encouraging. Only a few proposals were immediately discarded, because they failed to meet the minimum requirements in terms of content or formalities.

What remained was an impressive collection of mainly unknown persons or initiatives displaying a high level of personal commitment to ‘shalom’ in the broad sense. Proposals came from all five continents: This time, there were also nominations for various initiatives from South America, a subcontinent largely ignored on the first occasion.

Introduction

The second brochure: Courageously crossing thresholds or “Lights in the Darkness”

A second factor distinguishes the Bremen Peace Prize: awarding the prize to the three winners is not the main purpose; rather we have made it known from the beginning that this brochure, with all the people and projects we fundamentally consider worthy of an award, should have the same status. We have, therefore, tried to make the second brochure even more attractive.

To keep this brochure in a practical format, however, we have limited the number of groups to 30, which means the following: we have had to take out about 40 from the group of nominees. The large majority of them are engaged in very impressive work – but we simply had to draw a line somewhere.

The result is presented here in both German and English. We want to give all readers the same encouragement we have experienced. We wish, therefore, to give them the opportunity to make direct contact. We want to honour the people and projects that have been presented here and, last but not least, to canvas for funds for them.

That is why we ask everyone who receives this brochure to pass it on to friends and acquaintances or to order extra copies. It can be a **small Christmas present** with the slogan, “Shed some light in the darkness of bad news”.

The Award winners

The Foundation found choosing the winners more difficult than the first time. Again there were many possible candidates in each category. So when it came to the final selection, regional points of view also played their part – despite several exciting nominations, we did not consider the Israel/Palestine crisis region this time, for example.

Our three Award winners were honoured as representatives of all the other people and groups presented in this brochure. They have made a very special impression on us and we are aware of their work but they do not work better than the others and the others are not worse. They all stand out because of their exemplary commitment and have the courage to cross thresholds and break vicious circles. They are good news for all of us.

One particular candidate should be singled out here, because the decision was particularly difficult in his case: We are talking about Erick Bautista, an extremely courageous Colombian journalist (see page 80 of this brochure). Many of us saw him as a candidate for an award – but no agreement could be reached on the category. We therefore want to invite him to an event in Bremen in the foreseeable future, in order to make him and his commitment better known.

Reinhard Jung
Chairman of the
Threshold Foundation



The Threshold Advisory Board (missing: Member Britta Ratsch-Menke and staff member Raphaela Ertmer)

**Roswitha Jarman
(England)**

jarmans@gn.apc.org



Based on an incentive by local doctors and teachers, the NGO AGENCY OF REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ARD-DENAL) was founded in Chechnya in 1995, with the support of churches in the Netherlands. In 1996, at the request of the NGOs, Roswitha Jarman, along with a female doctor from Grosny, formed a group of therapists who look after war-affected children. Roswitha Jarman is a trainer in conflict matters and trauma work. In this capacity, she gives of her knowledge and experience of life to work with doctors, teachers and students on matters of conflict transformation and to support the work of non-governmental organisations such as DENAL. She travels back and forth between the battlefronts and talks to people in population groups in conflict with one another. To her, as a peace expert who is an outsider, it is a matter of attentive, active listening, which restores people's dignity, so that they learn to get a handle on what they have experienced, so that they can then themselves decide what has to be done. Roswitha Jarman is 70 this year. With her deep belief in our healing, divine side, in our working for Peace she shows us a way to gain an understanding of ourselves as part of a whole, which lends dignity to every human being and every creature. Her path through life gives us courage to believe in the power of small steps and to begin taking them again and again. The dignity and beauty of the women with whom she works shines through the reports of her work for Peace in the Northern Caucasus. These reports allow us to participate in Roswitha Jarman's encounters in Chechnya, Ossetia and Ingushetia; at the same time, they are an impressive encounter with Roswitha Jarman herself.



Barbara Gladysch (Germany)

barbara@gladysch.net



In a desert of rubble, ruins, concealed mines, but also a desert of isolation, sad loneliness and silent screams, in Grosny, Barbara and her English friend, Chris Hunter, founded the first rehabilitation centre for traumatised children.

Swodotschka – ‘Small Star’ is what the institution was called. Here there is to be security, light and shelter to give children back the ability to speak, sleep and laughter.

At the end of 1999, bombs fell on the ruined city for the second time. 400,000 people fled to the enormous refugee camps in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia.



In hazardous conditions, Barbara pays regular visits to the children in the refugee camps. With the help of donated funds, she is putting up tents for children in the camps, buying locally what is required and supporting the therapists and nurses in their difficult work. In 2003, the refugee camp was broken up and the people were sent back to Grosny. In Grosny,

too, there are ‘Small Star’ places again, in over 25 locations in the mine-infested city. These places are small, temporarily-restored rooms, furnished with love inside ruins. Children from any suburb may visit them. A new house is currently being built as a central refuge and a retreat for children who need special care in addition to that provided by their families.



**James Wuye und
Muhammad Ashafa
(Nigeria)**

Mcdf2002@yahoo.com



Civil Rights organisations do more to prevent terrorist activities in Nigeria than security forces. That is the conclusion of Imam Muhammad Ashafa and his colleague, Pastor James Wuye, the co-founders of the 'Interfaith Mediation Centre' in Kaduna, Nigeria. The centre, founded in 1995, successfully resolves conflicts which have been occurring frequently in

Nigeria since the eighties. Many ethnic and religious groups live in Kaduna. That is why this state is among those most threatened by conflict, in the country as a whole. Various groups are fighting over the limited socio-economic resources and a fair distribution of political power. Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye are constantly drawing attention to the causes of religious violence and continuing disasters, as well as to efforts made to prevent or limit further outbreaks of violent religious conflict in Nigeria. In their youth, both the Imam and Pastor James were leading activists with militant Muslim and Christian youth

organisations respectively. In the early nineties, as a result of violent confrontations between Muslim and Christian youth organisations in the city of Kaduna, Pastor Wuye had one of his arms chopped off with a machete.

At that time, both showed burning passion as they fought for their respective faiths. What Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye achieved, in the short period between January 2000 and January 2003, was to bring religious leaders together to sign the rapturously-received Kaduna Peace Treaty. The work of Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye has now spread from Kaduna to the States of Kano, Plateau, and Taraba. As a result of its persistence, the Interfaith Mediation Centre has accumulated the strength to break free of former restrictions and become effective beyond Nigeria's borders.

**Wassilij Borisowitsch Nesterenko
(Belarus)**

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When the Chernobyl disaster occurred in 1986, Professor Nesterenko was Director of the Institute for Nuclear Energy at the Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Belarus. During the days which followed the nuclear disaster,



he worked onsite on the burning reactor. In 1990, the 'Radiometer' Scientific Centre for radiation safety was founded. Prof. Nesterenko became its director and left the Institute for Nuclear Energy of his own accord, in order to devote himself to protecting the population from radioactive contamination. Right from the start, the BELRAD Institute built up a community network of the local measuring points for radioactive monitoring of food in the population, alongside the existing radiation monitoring system. Teachers are trained as publicists who measure the levels in people's food, on the spot. From the very beginning right up to the present time, Professor Nesterenko has criticised the state's handling of the consequences of Chernobyl. A consequence of this has been difficulties with the authorities to date, as they make the Institute's work more difficult. Because of his constant criticism of the policies on Chernobyl, the government has continued to increase the pressure on Professor Nesterenko. The Ministry of Health has attempted to ban BELRAD from measuring radioactive contamination among children and has instructed BELRAD to move to Gomel, without any response.

Examples of Peace Work



Germany
Western Europe
Region



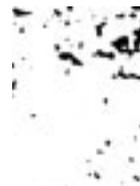
**Edda Tunn
(Germany)**

Helke-tunn@gmx.de

Self-nominated

Edda Tunn is committed to the commemoration work for the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.

The direct proximity of her home, in Fürstenberg on the Havel, to Ravensbrück, the largest German concentration camp for women, and the political treatment of this place of horror after the so-called 'Wende' [turnaround] in 1989 led Edda Tunn to join the newly-formed Fürstenberg Support Association 'Ravensbrück – Place of Remembrance and Commemoration'. She ensures that information on the work of the association is published regularly in the regional newspapers and since 1999 she has organised contacts in the Crimea with the former female prisoners of Ravensbrück. She collected donations for the above-mentioned minibus which was handed over in 2000 and organised trips from the Ukraine to Fürstenberg and trips from Fürstenberg to the Crimea, both of which have been a regular feature since the contacts were established. The project of the old people's home at the seaside is bringing in unexpected helpers. In the state capital of Potsdam and in Neubrandenburg, the city with the largest sub-camp of Ravensbrück, and also in Berlin and Hamburg, association members are working to promote the project. There have already been several trips with German and Ukrainian young people, too, so that good relations with young people are gradually developing. The evil subject of Ravensbrück, which has always been a burden on the inhabitants, is becoming more easily understood by the local people, as a result of a campaign for the needy victims. They are willing and able to do something practical. They are gaining the courage to talk about their memories. In the sixtieth year after the liberation of Ravensbrück, Edda Tunn is encouraging people to join the 'Roses for Ravensbrück' campaign. Women and girls from the city and association members will make roses from clay. Those roses, glazed and fired, do not wither and are a message to our homeland that the women of Fürstenberg will ensure that the horrors of Ravensbrück will never be repeated. They are a gift to many women, from all of the countries of Europe, who survived Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.



**Exilio
(Germany)**

www.exilio.de

Nominated by Doris Knoblauch

exilio e.V is the coming-together of various aid-providing professions which unite in a campaign to provide holistic assistance to survivors of torture and to asylum seekers.

The proposer, Doris Knoblauch, writes:

exilio cares for refugees who have survived war, torture or other forms of violence and are traumatised. 500 refugees per year contact *exilio*. Most of them come from Turkey, but some also come from Iraq and Iran. Other main areas for countries of origin are the African ones (especially Congo, Cameroon, Sudan and Somalia) as well as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Central Russia. There has been a sharp increase in the number of refugees contacting the organisation in the last few years. The rising demand is attributed, on the one hand, to the strong pressure on asylum seekers who have to navigate their way through the jungle of German bureaucracy. Another reason is manifested in the growing trust the clients invest in *exilio*. *exilio* provides aid for socially disadvantaged persons and for fringe groups, for refugees and survivors of torture. The organisation makes an active contribution to living and working in peace through its fundamental ideal of Peace, which serves as its motto for action. *exilio* provides information by means of its publicity work, i.e. relating to matters of torture, its consequences and to people in asylum. *exilio* is a particularly commendable initiative because it pursues a holistic approach and is able to translate it into action, in exemplary fashion. Social work among refugees is often the initial requirement for close therapeutic collaboration with traumatised refugees. Because of the work's direct link with the asylum seekers' home in Lindau, where around 40 families are currently accommodated, *exilio's* work functions on this basis.



Bremer Mahnwache (Germany)

Mathildenstr. 78, 28203 Bremen

Nominated by Louis von Zobeltitz

For over 20 years now, Bremen citizens have been demonstrating silently against war and violence in the Bremer Mahnwache.

The proposer, Louis von Zobeltitz, writes:

The 'Bremer Mahnwache' originated in 1981 in connection with the anti-nuclear protests in Brokdorf. Since 1982, Christian women have stood in the Bremen marketplace between 5 and 6 p.m., week in week out, in fair weather or foul, respected and given attention but also ignored and sometimes despised. They wish to inform, remind and provide food for thought.

Shortly after the campaign began, people who were not at home in a church environment joined it. It is an open group. The Mahnwache's participants come from widely differing sections of society and backgrounds. There are also one or two men. Altogether, there are around 10 to 15 persons at each Mahnwache. There have also been times when the Mahnwache was held every day except Sunday, for example, during the 1999 war against Yugoslavia, when it was held for more than 40 days.

Initially, the women stood there in silence with posters, bearing their slogans, round their necks. But then, because people were always coming up to talk to them, they decided to let themselves be drawn into conversation with the passers-by. They have continued to do that up to the present time. In addition, they collect signatures for nation-wide petitions. Before the Iraq War, for example, the people sometimes queued up, in order to express their disapproval.

There is a wide range of slogans on the signs. That is because the topic of peace is seen as being linked to social justice and the integrity of creation.



**Irembo
(Germany/Burundi)**

www.irembo.org

Self-nominated

Irembo is an initiative on understanding between the peoples of Germany and Burundi and also on development aid in Burundi.

Irembo's chairman writes:

A woman's group has formed in Burundi, with the aim of rebuilding inter-ethnic understanding and peaceful coexistence.

This group is composed of 25 women. Because of the Civil War, which has continued since 1993, they have lost their homes and are either refugees inside the country or have fled into a neighbouring one. On their return, along with their neighbours who have remained there throughout the long years, they are attempting to begin to live in a new kind of peaceful harmony. Since 2002, Irembo has been committed to combined development work with the local partner (CEDI) in the area of environmental education, peace work and the advancement of women in Burundi. Unfortunately, peace and reconciliation initiatives by rural women do not receive support in Burundi. But the latter are making an important contribution to restoring peaceful colleague systems between Hutu and Tutsi (changing the perpetrator-victim relationship). The aim of the women's group's work is to restore traditional neighbourhood help (looking after children, sharing agricultural work and combining to sell agricultural products in the markets, cooking for one another and helping within a neighbourhood framework to provide food for the children etc.). Since many of the women involved are also illiterate, they are offered literacy courses. In order to provide the women with the necessary tools for resolving conflicts without violence, seminars in conflict prevention and reconciliation are held in the national language, Kirundi.

**Karin Leukefeld
(Germany)**

k-leukefeld@gmx.net

Proposed by Laura von Wimmersperg



Karin Leukefeld is a freelance journalist committed to dealing with the problems in Iraq.

*The administrator of Berliner Friedenskoordination
[Berlin Movement for Coordination of Peace],
Laura von Wimmersperg writes:*

Karin Leukefeld is a freelance journalist, working for daily and weekly newspapers and for radio. The main focus of her work so far has been on Turkey, Syria, Iran and, since 2001, particularly Iraq. At the beginning of the nineties, she began reporting on the Kurds in Turkey. In 1993, she travelled for the first time to the Kurdish areas in Northern Iraq and in the spring of 2001, she travelled to Baghdad, where she studied life among the Kurds, who numbered approximately one million. Another topic was the effects of UN sanctions on the population; in 2001, two high-ranking German UN officials, Hans von Sponeck und Jutta Burghardt, resigned from their posts in Iraq. The reason for this was the devastating effect of the sanctions (which had come into effect after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990) on the population of Iraq. Hans von Sponeck had coordinated the UN 'Oil for Food' programme and Jutta Burghardt was in charge of the World Food Programme in Iraq.

Karin Leukefeld had since made several trips there each year, reported and produced features for German radio. For a long time before the war, she was the only German journalist continuously reporting directly from that country. With the inexorable deployment of American troops at the beginning of 2003, reporters and war journalists came from all corners of the globe to Baghdad. Karin Leukefeld left Baghdad only a few days before war broke out but was already back in the country again by the end of April and up to the present date she has spent several months there each year.

In her own unassuming but persistent way, Karin Leukefeld has used her reports and talks to portray the fates of countless people, has informed her audience about History and Culture, Religions and Politics about the daily lives of the people and the war-ravaged natural landscape of Iraq. She has always given the German public the opportunity to witness life behind the dramatic media headlines, where conflicts begin and where they can be prevented.



**Ingrid Sperling
(Germany)**

Ladiusstr. 3, 14165 Berlin

Nominated by Christoph Kunz

Ingrid Sperling is in charge of the „Verein Kinderhilfe Hyvong Vietnam e.V.“, committed to helping disadvantaged children and young people in Vietnam.

Christoph Kunz, deputy chairman of the association, writes:

The *Kinderhilfe Hyvong Vietnam e.V.* is a charitable aid organisation based in Berlin. Its members and executive do all the necessary work on a voluntary basis, i.e. without remuneration and in their spare time. In Vietnam for the last 28 years, it has been helping the disadvantaged children and young people, who are undernourished or handicapped, have lost their parents or are compelled to live in a home because they have no remaining relatives. *Kinderhilfe* also supports medical centres, village schools and a home for street children and sponsors 200 girls from poorer families, allowing them to attend school. *Kinderhilfe* is currently working with a total of five orphanages and homes for handicapped children financing essential building work and providing adequate food, clothes and medicine. *Kinderhilfe* is also sponsoring the education of the Vietnamese employees, since it is particularly important that the children are cared for with skill and loving devotion. This charitable association has existed since 1976. It was founded by people who became involved with needy children and young people during the Vietnam War. The female founders of *Kinderhilfe e.V.* continued their aid to children in Vietnam after the war had ended, by sending wheelchairs. This was followed by medicine, minibuses, building materials and much more. Nowadays, almost everything required can be obtained in Vietnam itself, which means that the main activity is generally collecting funds and transferring them.



**Sabaidi Laos
(Germany / Laos)**

www.sabaidi-laos.com

Self-nominated

Sabaidi Laos is a basic partnership project for and in Laos.

The founder of Sabaidi Laos, Steffen Urban, writes:

The society was founded in the following way. In 2001, I was spending some time in Laos and got to know my present wife at the bus station. We married six months later. Several events motivated me to do something for people in this country. I remember a boy who attended our wedding, and whose face bore the signs of a serious disease, or a friend of my father-in-law who died one year later, probably from the effects of hepatitis. The many conversations I had with my wife also led me to the idea of founding the association. As is the case in many poorer countries, the most serious problems in Laos are probably lack of knowledge and poor hygiene. The main problem is that there is no clean drinking water. That is why we had the idea of building wells, small water towers and drinking-water installations in Laos. According to what we are told by Laotian authorities, the costs of a plant to supply around 1,500 people will run to between \$7,000 and \$10,000. That is too much to begin immediately. Since I come into contact with many people in my work as a meter reader, my fellow workers and I use advertising materials to try to collect money for this project. This is not so easy, as the companies for which I sub-contract tolerate it, but only just and, on the other hand, the people here are anything but rich, at least by German standards.

Despite this, we have so far collected a total amount of 3,845.40 euros in donations. Also, in 2002-3, when we were still operating privately, we provided school exercise books, pencils and ballpoint pens as well as some painkillers, antibiotics and old spectacles which were kindly donated by Fielmann, Weißwasser.



**Michael Küppers
(Germany)**

Michael.kueppers@cybernomads.de

Self-nominated

Michael Küppers is committed to working for the black community in Germany.

Michael Küppers writes:

For years I have been involved in community building work for the international Black Diaspora Association. My life is centred around Germany. Unfortunately, there is still not enough respect for the presence of the black community in Germany. That is why I have built up the cyberNomads online community and via this platform I have published the projects of recent years on a self-exploitative basis. CyberNomads is a community which intends to develop the professional use of modern technologies for NGOs, to bring about social change. In the short time of just 2 years, many projects such as Blite (Black & White) a newspaper for juveniles, Black TV Berlin and the online presence of ISD [Black Germans and Blacks in Germany] have followed our example in using up-to-date technology

Black Media Congress Berlin has grown to become an event of international repute, attracting visitors from the worldwide black diaspora. We can provide films such as our documentary of the tour of schools by 'Brothers Keepers' Germany's best-known black hip-hop group. We also provide seminars on the use of the CMS system. We have a presence in major institutions like 'Haus der Kulturen der Welt' www.hkw.de [House of the World's Cultures]. Thanks to the large number of publicists with whom we collaborate, our mix of offline and online activities has brought about major changes.



**Musicians without Borders
(Netherlands)**

www.musicianswithoutborders.nl

Self-nominated

Musicians without Borders works for Peace, through the medium of music.

Frances Baker Dickman, an MwB worker writes:

Founded five years ago, MwB is an international organisation of musicians that uses the power of music to contribute to building open, peaceful societies.

It cooperates with musicians and music organisations in many countries and offers innovative approaches to creating Peace, to human rights and Peace organisations. MwB initiates projects that bridge the gaps between culture, ethnicity, and ideology to help create a culture of Peace. MwB is of the opinion that young people will mould the society of the future, by the knowledge they acquire and by their skills. That is why a major part of MwB's work is aimed at children and young people. This occurs both in former areas of conflict and in seemingly tolerant societies like the Netherlands. Its goals are to use music and dance to help communities restore civil society – and in this way heal the emotional scars of wars and of racial and ethnic strife. This work is accomplished through annual international conferences called 'Singing the Bridge', concert series on particular themes (like Songs for Srebrenica), refugee and immigrant projects in the Netherlands (like Alomtonen), one-off special events (like Songs for Srebrenica) and the creation of formal contact opportunities among musicians from all over the world. In addition, MwB collects second-hand instruments in the Netherlands, and, after repair and refurbishing, makes them available to musicians in other countries. MwB's original work was in the new nations of the former Yugoslav Republic. In the past year, new activities in Cyprus, Uganda, and Israel/Palestine have been added to the projects initiated and now continuing in Kosovo, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The following three main figures from the German Civilian Conflict Resolution Movement have been nominated for the award:

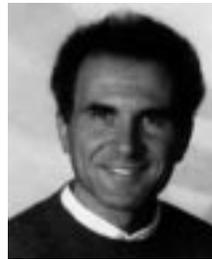
Clemens Ronnefeldt

C.Ronnefeldt@t-online.de

Nominated by Ullrich Hahn, chairman of the International Reconciliation Coalition, German Branch.

Ullrich Hahn writes:

Clemens Ronnefeldt's CV shows that he has been doggedly committed to Peace groups and organisations since his refusal to do active service in 1978:



1978: Refusal to do active service - alternative community service in Osthofen (Rheinhausen)

1981-1986: Studied at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz where he was active in the "Catholic Theology anti-Nuclear Weapons Department" and at the Phil.-Theol. Hochschule St. Georgen in Frankfurt am Main, where he was ASTA lecturer for Peace Affairs.

1982-83: Simultaneous training in work for Peace at the Heimvolkshochschule Internationales Freundschaftsheim in Bückeberg.

Between 1986 and 2003, Clemens Ronnefeldt supported the Peace campaign against the Cruise Missile base at Bell/Hasselbach in the Hunsrück.

From 1986 to 1992 he was voluntary speaker for the Pax Christi Catholic Peace Movement in the Diocese of Mainz. One of his activities in 1990 was to found the Initiative Frieden am Golf (IFAG) [Peace Initiative in the Gulf] with Beate Ronnefeldt.

In 1990, they both travelled to Baghdad with the movement and then ran numerous events there.

Since 1992, Clemens Ronnefeldt has been a lecturer in Peace Affairs with the German branch of the International Reconciliation Coalition and has since travelled to the Balkan area on 17 occasions to support Peace groups and initiatives for refugees.

In 1997, with the support of United Nations volunteers, he set up an information centre for returning refugees, for the Reconciliation Coalition's Peace Department, Cima Zdenac, in Sanski Most, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After his trips to visit Peace groups in Israel/Palestine in 2002 and the period he spent in Syria and Lebanon in 2004, he publicised those who were flying the flag of hope in the Middle East conflict, in his lecture tours right across Germany.

Clemens Ronnefeldt is the author of the book "The New NATO, Iraq and Yugoslavia" and of numerous articles on the subject of Iraq and the new nations which succeeded the former Yugoslavia.

Karl-Heinz Bittl

www.eiccc.org

Nominated by Hildegard Krasovic.

Hildegard Krasovic writes:



Karl-Heinz Bittl from Nuremberg has an extraordinarily multifaceted approach in his commitment to achieve World Peace in suitably realistic stages. Again and again, he gets new projects up and running and trains publicists.

He is able to establish a link between practical, everyday activities, which are marked by teachings on Peace, and a wider, more political, general understanding of peoples in intercultural contexts. Some of the projects which he has set in motion are day nursery work, conflict resolution groups in schools, counselling of institutions and intercultural conflict training for people from the most diverse nations. For example, I participated in a one-week workshop on intercultural conflict work, attended by Arabs, Romanians, Italians, Austrians, Germans and French.

One of his publications is the book 'Gewaltfrei handeln'[acting without violence].

Traude Rebmann

Traude.rebmann@gmx.de

Nominated by Helga Rosemann.

Helga Rosemann writes:



Traude Rebmann has successfully publicised the concept of mediation in Germany. With unshakeable pioneering spirit, she has brought the method of conflict resolution without violence not only to Germany but to other countries in Europe and also to Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Curriculum Vitae:

Basic training: Teacher of Religious Instruction, 1960-63 and 1968-69.

1980-86: Work with Eirene. Building the campaign in the North of the country, trips to establish contacts in Ireland, UK, USA and Spain. Development of a curriculum concept for supervising volunteers

1987: Training as a mediator at the University of Oregon in the USA. Practical instruction by Dr. B. Daté

1989: planning for a Women's Conference Centre called "Grailville", in Ohio, USA. Other courses on Mediation.

1990: Transfer of the method of Mediation to Germany. 16 months devising courses and their practical application in the context of "Church and Peace".

From September 1991: work with the 'Bund für Soziale Verteidigung' [Coalition for Social Defence]. An assignment intended to last one or two years, to publicise the concept of Mediation in the Peace movement and to train people with an interest in it. Draft and implementation of a training policy. Frequent trips to Croatia between 1991 and 1996 to provide support for work for Peace. Active mediation with Peace organisations in Croatia and Bosnia.

1994 - two months in Bangladesh: 'Presenting and practising the Mediation method'.

1996 Course in 'Communication and Non-Violence' (three months in Bangladesh and one month in the Philippines).



**Eastern Europe
Region**



**Ladislav Bognar
(Croatia)**

Ladislav.bognar@os.htnet.hr

Nominated by Branka Kaselj, director
of the Peace Centre in Osijek

Ladislav Bognar is a Peace activist and
instructor in Croatia.

Branka Kaselj writes:

Ladislav Bognar is Professor of Education in the Arts Faculty at Osijek. During the war, he made a positive commitment to peace negotiations and to a peaceful solution to the conflicts. After he left the army, he participated in many projects with the Osijek Centre for Peace, which had the objective of spreading non-violence, productive discussion in the case of conflicts, managing war trauma, aid for refugees and expulsees, rebuilding trust and peaceful reintegration of the occupied territories.

The first fairly important project was teacher-training in the area of non-violence, which was carried out in the region of Slavonia and also in other parts of Croatia. In 1994, he co-published the significant book 'Lasst uns Freunde sein' [Let's be Friends] which has continued to be widely used in counselling, both in Croatia and in neighbouring countries, up to the present day. This program is the first of its kind in Croatia and it has had a crucial influence on the work in education for Peace there.

The second fairly significant project in which he played an active role was 'Peace Bridge' in Mohacs. Managed by the Peace activists from the Netherlands and Switzerland, the project had the objective of reconciling the people from two sides now in conflict, who had formerly worked together.

As he had also worked at the Institute for Schools, Ladislav Bognar was the initiator of a series of Peace education activities, especially workshops for teachers and psychologists from primary and middle schools. He was also initiator of the work with primary children which the activists from the Osijek Peace Centre carried out.



**Nachbarn für den Frieden
[Neighbours for Peace] –
Bujanovac Village Network
(Serbia)**

futurity@eunet.yu

Nominated by Heide Schütz

A multi-ethnic network of youth centres in the area where Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo meet.

The project coordinator, Branka Jovanovic, writes:

The villages in the Bujanovac area stand out by reason of their intense poverty. Buses make only occasional trips to the towns there. In all the villages, almost all the streets are untarred. When it rains, the people are wading about in the mud. The rubbish collection system is not operating either, which means that there are small rubbish heaps all over the village and plastic bags are blown about by the wind. On the one hand, migration has caused and exacerbated this situation and, on the other hand, the young people complain about isolation and depression. Many of them say that their situation is a catastrophe. They largely see themselves as very pessimistic. The main aim of our project is to establish and network four youth centres in four villages in the Bujanovac region. A network is a special force in the political and social environment and brings a new standard in cooperation to a conflict-ridden area. The youth centres are able to unite the young people round various small projects which enhance the quality of their life in the village (theatre, music, dancing, sport, chess, readings and making local radio programmes). So that they learn more from one another and forget their prejudices, these centres are networked and devise common programmes. This networking should help the young people to overcome their isolation and to find a way out of counter-productive rivalry. Such a project not only promotes Peace but also paves the way for democracy. The group of interested young people is divided into workshops, where they reflect on their motivation, visions and goals, resources and potential, where they talk through organisational structures and teamwork, make decisions and take on responsibilities.



CNA (South-East Europe)

www.nenasilje.org

Nominated by Claudia Frank
(Kurve Wustrow)

CNA is a group of peace activists from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia und Croatia which is committed in Peace efforts in the former Yugoslavia since 1997.

Claudia Frank of Kurve Wustrow writes:

Chiefly concerned with creating peace and with regional networking, CNA has developed a commendable peace initiative since 2002, involving former fighters – soldiers in the various armies – from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia. After preparation through various meetings and training sessions in conflict analysis, non-violence and group formation processes, so far 15 former soldiers have stepped into the limelight at the forums organised by CNA (13 events so far) under the heading of ‘Four Views. From the past – how I found myself in war; to the future – how to gain sustainable peace’. Four ex-combatants spoke at each public forum, from all three sides which were formerly enemies.

The events provided an opportunity for lively exchanges between the speakers and the audiences, which consisted of a large number of former soldiers and participants in the war, as well as refugees. Many of those encounters struck a strong emotional chord, as, for the first time since the war, people were standing opposite those who had been their enemies just a few years ago. The speakers are appearing not as representatives of their national or ethnic group, but as individuals who are aware of and take responsibility for the past and the future. This attitude causes people to listen to them and respect them, despite the many forms of opposition and fear connected with events of this kind.



**Sina Demjanenko
(Ukraine)**

Nominated by Helga Rosemann.

Sina Demjanenko is the founder of an old people's home in the Crimea for former concentration camp prisoners and victims of forced labour and she has a multi-faceted commitment to international understanding.

Pastor Helga Rosemann writes:

In the sixtieth year after the liberation of the concentration camps in Germany, a start is being made in the Crimea on the building of an old people's home in the village of Solnetshnogorskoje on the edge of the Black Sea. It will have 32 places for old, disabled and bedridden people, for people who as adults survived incarceration in a concentration camp, who as children survived the Krasny Concentration Camp in the Crimea and for former victims of forced labour who were also forced to suffer imprisonment for some time in the USSR, because they were considered to be collaborators with Hitler. There are 17,000 men and women living in the Crimea who were formerly imprisoned or subjected to forced labour in concentration camps. The building of the old people's home by the seaside is not a gesture of reconciliation by Germans in this memorial year. With the support of Mrs Demjanenko's husband, daughter and many association helpers and others, a small youth hostel has already been built, with 12 rooms for 24 persons. The last prefabs are being removed this year. The helpers, the volunteers with 'Aktion Sühnezeichen-Friedensdienste' [Signs of Atonement and Peace Services Campaign], during the camps, and the two long-term volunteers are living there. Now seniors are already able to have three weeks rest there. Accommodation which we would consider extremely basic they find exquisite. Mrs Demjanenko has had a place built here where Ukrainian and German volunteers will be among those who meet in the future – providing an opportunity for processes of understanding and reconciliation to develop. Mrs Demjanenko collaborates closely with the 'Förderverein-Gedenkstätte Ravensbrück' in Fürstenberg, in her work with the Simferopol Association for the Disabled. The latter association is aware of 56 women from the Association for the Disabled who survived Ravensbrück. A good deal of visiting takes place on both sides.



**Medica Zenica
(Bosnia)**

www.medica.org.ba

Nominated by Ute Leitz

Medica Zenica is an aid organisation for war-traumatised women.

Ute Leitz of the 'Louis Leitz Stiftung' writes:

Since its foundation in April 1993, Medica Zenica has targeted violence in its work. Aid for war-traumatised women, who had survived sexual violence and torture was initially the main focus. Since the war (which lasted until November 95) a project with a long-term concept has developed from the emergency aid for traumatised women: In the therapy centres in Zenica and in the rural area of Visoco, traumatised women are receiving gynaecological, psychotherapeutic and psychosocial aid along with their children, as part of a peripatetic or stationary service. In the foundation's kindergartens, children are cared for and are given psychosocial help.

Medical aid in remote areas is provided all over Bosnia and Herzegovina by the medical team, in some cases using the ambulance. In this way, it is possible to reach the most severely traumatised target groups – women who have still not received any help, who were incarcerated in camps during the war and are still suffering from the consequences of the mental and physical torture. By means of the SOS emergency phone (introduced in May 1998), almost 1,500 women and children have broken their silence on the violent situation in which they live and have sought help.

Medica also runs an Accommodation and Training Centre. As a result of courses in various trades, which lead to employment, or support with schooling, which leads to further opportunities, there is a regaining of confidence among women and girls who, during childhood and youth, suffered trauma as a result of being uprooted, losing family members, sexual violence or abject poverty.



**Mjaft
(Albania)**

www.mjaft.org

Nominated by Cas van den Horst

Through a wide variety of activities, Mjaft is involved in the development of the civil society in Albania.

Nominated by Cas van den Horst, Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands, Cas van den Horst, writes:

Since it was founded two years ago, Mjaft has done pioneering work in strengthening the civil society in Albania. The aim is to free the Albanians from their 'crisis mentality' which developed during the long period of transition. Mjaft (meaning 'enough') has developed into a movement working under the umbrella of the 'Balkan Youthlink' NGO. Mjaft is currently involved in activities which, as an instrument of further development, promote active citizenship and are intended to strengthen democracy and its institutions. Mjaft is fighting against apathy, by encouraging the citizens to say 'enough' to corruption, violence and poverty, to lack of education, immoral politics and irresponsible politicians.

Mjaft has so far achieved the following:

- the fact that it has been able to convince the government to increase spending on education by 10% in 2004 and by 23 million euros in 2005
- successfully forcing the resignation of the Albanian Minister for Public Order, who had physically attacked a journalist;
- delaying the building of a rubbish incinerator plant
- the positive mocking of politicians in several protest campaigns against political corruption and abdication of responsibility;
- the involvement of more than 7,500 members and volunteers
- a series of training camps for young people, to promote ethnic reconciliation and collaboration through networking in the Balkan region.



Africa Region

**Olaitan Ibiyemi
(Nigeria)**

afcode@yahoo.com

Self-nominated

Olaitan Ibiyemi is committed in many ways to working for Peace in Nigeria.

Olaitan Ibiyemi writes about his work:

I was deeply concerned about the violent situations which broke out in 1999 between the Hausa and Yoruba peoples in the Ojo and Lagos regions of Lagos State and which led to mass killings and mutilations of several hundreds of people; the number of reported victims indicated that all 90% of the perpetrators and victims were young people. In December 1999 I founded AFCODE (Agenda for Community Development). This

community-based initiative was established to promote understanding of conflicts and their resolution among young adults and adolescents.



An example of our work:

The Theatre Factory is a cross-community theatre group in which young people are able to interact, meet and understand one another. As a group with 34 members, we illustrate important topics using songs and plays in a friendly atmosphere and hold meetings on the connections between drugs and violence in young people. The setting up of the Skills Development Centre is a very important component of the Agenda for Community Development that focuses on imparting skills to teenagers and young adults and empowering them to learn something and build upon it, as well as to become active in the business world, especially as a result of computer training.



**Jenni Williams
(Women of Zimbabwe
Arise – WOZA)**

www.kubatana.net

Nominated by
Kubatana Trust of Zimbabwe

Under extremely difficult circumstances in Zimbabwe, Jenni Williams mobilises women to take part in protests and to deal with critical social matters.

A colleague from the Kubatana-net Human Rights Organisation in Zimbabwe writes about Jenni Williams:

A few years ago, Jenni Williams started an organisation called Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA). Jenni has subsequently worked tirelessly to promote democracy and the rights of women in Zimbabwe. Her work is even more courageous and impressive when you look at the context of her homeland, as it is extremely difficult to work in the field of Human Rights in Zimbabwe. There is very little democratic space in which to organise public meetings, protest marches or even prayer vigils. When defenders of Human Rights challenge the repressive legislation put in place by the Mugabe regime, then they are likely to come up against the unbridled rage of the authorities.

Jenni, however, has consistently and courageously taken a defiant stance, and has tried to organise a grass roots foundation for national women's associations, in order to demand a return to the rule of law, economic reform and security of food supplies. Jenni has been arrested on several occasions under POSA. That did not, however, succeed in intimidating her; her fighting spirit remains untamed. Her courage and outspokenness are all the more important in the current position of Zimbabwean NGOs, which largely keep a low profile and do not publicly challenge government or demand accountability from the ruling party.

There is a growing tendency on the part of civic organisations to remain silent while human rights are trampled upon by the Mugabe regime. Jenni has set an example that as many people as possible would do well to emulate. Her approach of standing up to the authoritarian rule is an interesting mix of skills, communication and inspiration, combined with PR work and marketing. There is no doubt that the general public has to be encouraged in many different ways to participate as citizens and on a political level, too.



RWPL, Rural Women's Peace Link (Kenya)

ruralwomenkenya@yahoo.com

Nominated by DeEtte Wald Beghtol of the Dag Hammarskjöld Center for Peace in Zambia

RWPL carries out ethnic reconciliation work in Kenya.



DeEtte Wald Beghtol writes about RWPL:

The Rural Women's Peace Link is a project of the National Council of Churches of Kenya in Eldoret, Kenya. Rural Women's Peace Link has done outstanding work in the areas of reconciliation between ethnic groups and community groups, women's rights, social justice, and cross-cultural and cross-religious peacebuilding. It has established 14 area networks



of women working for peace in their local communities.

These networks train rural women of many different ethnicities in peacebuilding, advocacy and income-generating skills. The program develops traditional roles and skills of women – such as an intuitive sense of the proximity of danger – into systems which reduce inter-ethnic violence. Once women discover their own abilities, they approach the young male cattle raiders who inflame the inter-ethnic violence and talk to them more easily than men can, because

of the traditional respect given to women. At the same time RWPL encourages women to extend their traditional roles. It advocates the election of women candidates, speaking out in the presence of officials and in community meetings, assisting police by providing early warning and forming co-operatives for generating income. RWPL has transformed many illiterate, housebound women into community leaders who are showing men new ways to promote peace. They have been a significant force in empowering rural women to benefit themselves and their communities in many ways. Their 'Area Peace Committees' work with men and women in equal degrees. They prevent violence and lay the foundations for joint peaceful development.



Abel Granier (Tunisia)

c.czermak@free.net

Self-nominated

Abel Granier is committed to ecological agriculture in Tunisia.

The managing director of Abel Granier writes:

The French & German ABEL GRANIER Foundation, established in 2001, has set itself the goal of introducing agriculture which is close to Nature and environmentally friendly, in Tunisia and in other similar countries. In Tunisia's semiarid climatic region, cultivation practices in use for centuries, unsuited to the ecological conditions, have led to exhaustion of the soil, to increased erosion and thus to heavy losses in yields. The use of modern heavy agricultural machinery, artificial fertilisers and herbicides and excessive irrigation have accelerated this development in the recent past and driven many farms to the verge of ruin. The resulting social problems are accelerating the exodus of the rural population to the large conurbations. That is why it is extremely important to end the kind of agriculture which leads to destruction of the ecological balance, to impoverishment of the soil, to contamination of the groundwater and to migration from the land to the cities.

Based on its experience between 1953 and 1969 on the experimental farm (situated near Medjez-el-Bab, 60 km west of Tunis) the ABEL GRANIER FOUNDATION, commits itself to

- the essential transformation of the present cultivation practices which are environmentally harmful and uneconomic in the long term and
- giving farmers practical training in environmentally-friendly agriculture in collaboration with local authorities and training institutions.

The correct use of feeding stuff ensures continuity of supply for animal stocks (cattle, sheep and goats) during the dry period. The proposed agricultural practices require only small-scale investment and no complicated technology and are accessible to both large and small farms after suitable instruction has been given. After a short introductory period to allow the soil to regenerate, farms will again achieve satisfactory results in the cultivation of grain and feeding stuff, this time in environmentally friendly conditions.



Near East Region



**Anette Klasing
(Israel)**

a.klasing@aol.com

Nominated by John Gerardu, Bremen

Anette Klasing is involved in many types of international training, especially in the Near East.

John Gerardu writes:

Back in the eighties, Ms Klasing, as youth training consultant for the Bremen Rural Youth Association, played a central part in introducing and implementing exchanges with Haifa. Right from the beginning, her efforts included involving Arabs, living in Israel, in the exchange. In this sense, the youth exchange was established with Tamra, in particular, an Arab community adjoining Haifa. Within the context of the exchange, there were not only mutual visits with set timeframes but some young Arabs were even given the opportunity to complete professional training for several years in Bremen. Ms Klasing helped those young trainees in a foreign land with the many problems with firms providing-on-the job training, authorities, formalities, etc. but also in their personal lives, such as finding accommodation or even facilities for washing clothes.

After a change in her workplace from the Youth Association to the Lidice Haus Youth Training Centre, also assuming the duties of trainee consultant, she again took up the Jewish-Palestinian connection, in collaboration with the 'Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten' [Working Group for German Training Institutions] and the Jewish-Arab Givat Haviva Peace centre in Israel. She invited women from both countries to the Lidice Haus, so that they could learn to trust one another and devote themselves to finding approaches to resolving their conflicts. Ms Klasing found it particularly important to recognise and work on the connection between female and cultural identity and the understanding of the complex connections, as well as the situation of conflict in Israel. With the publishing of the results of those encounters, in Germany she contributed to a more sophisticated appreciation of the problems of both sides.

As a result of all the activities mentioned above, in August 2004 Ms Klasing was appointed to the Peace section of the 'International Center' in Bethlehem, Palestine and to the 'Center for Encounters and Communication Jerusalem'.



Machsom Watch (Israel)

www.machsomwatch.org

Nominated by
Physicians for Human Rights,
Tel Aviv

Machsom Watch is a women's organisation,
reporting on human rights violations in the
Middle East.

The director of "Doctors for Human Rights Israel" writes:

Machsom Watch is a grass-roots human rights organisation which was founded in response to repeated Human Rights violations against Palestinians. Its female volunteers work in shifts to do regular patrols of the military checkpoints which are located inside the West Bank and around Jerusalem. The clear objective of Machsom Watch is for women to 'bear testimony' – they observe and document their observations and report on them to a wide national and international public. MachsomWatch is unique in that the organisation learns first hand exactly what is happening at the checkpoints and thus has the best possible information. It is the only civilian rights group which is constantly present and which has completely up-to-date information



on the situation at the checkpoints. These women are unique and preserve inherent human dignity in a special way. Six days per week, twice daily, around 20 military checkpoints are monitored, inside the West Bank (around Jerusalem, near Hebron in the southern region and near Dschenin and Barta'a in the northern zone): Teams of between four and six women travel in their own cars or are brought to their destination by an Arab-Israeli taxi driver. They observe the soldiers and are seen by them. Age-wise, most of the women could be the soldiers' mothers (if not their grandmothers) and are aware of this possible psychological advantage.



**'Courage to Refuse'
(Israel)**

www.seruv.org

Self-nominated

Courage to Refuse is a movement committed to refusing to do military service in Israel.

Keren Zehavi of 'Courage to Refuse' writes:

Courage to Refuse is an organisation which resists the Israeli occupation. Through ground breaking public statements, such as the Combatants' Letter in 2002, Courage to Refuse has managed to challenge the widely accepted notion that the Israeli presence in the occupied territories is an unalterable state of affairs. The organisation's members challenged the Israeli occupation by calling on the Israeli public to end it for the sake of its own democracy and human rights. Courage to Refuse began with the Combatant Letter in January 2002. IDF combat members drafted a letter pledging their lasting commitment to the security of Israel, while declaring their refusal to serve in the occupied territories, not wishing to take part in illegal and immoral missions, which would prolong the occupation. The organisation was then founded by fifty IDF combat officers and soldiers who joined the protest. These Israeli reserve soldiers declared that although they were prepared to protect their families, society and state, serving in the occupied territories actually jeopardised Israel's security and democracy.

Courage to Refuse is a courageous example of civil responsibility and commitment to democratic and human values in Israeli society. The IDF soldiers and officers who published the contentious Combatants' Letter challenged the Israeli occupation of the territory of millions of Palestinians, by breaking the silence surrounding it.



**'All for Peace' radio station
(Palestina / Israel)**

www.allforpeace.org

Nominated by Sarah Ozacky-Lazar,
Center for Strategic and Public Policy

All for Peace is a joint Palestinian-Israeli
radio programme, with understanding
and tolerance as its aim

*Dr Sarah Ozacky-Lazer, former director of the
Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, writes:*

In 2003, the Palestinian organization 'Biladi', the Jerusalem Times and the Israeli organisation The Jewish-Arab Center for Peace, Givat Haviva, founded a joint radio station broadcasting in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The station provides messages of peace and hope, and is aimed at a wide audience in both populations. Its programs concentrate on cooperation, mutual understanding, coexistence and creating an alternative future. The station studios are physically located in the East Jerusalem, and the transmitters broadcast from Ramallah. All the programs and music are also broadcast on the Internet 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.



The main objective of this radio station is to reach an audience that is willing to listen to the other side, to talk to them, learn about them, and learn how to live with them, in spite of the differences, and with the help of the similarities between them. Two young co-directors run the radio: Maysa Baransi-Siniora, a Palestinian and Shimon Malka, an Israeli. These two extraordinary hard working young people started from scratch. They turned an idea which looked wonderful on paper into a living reality. They themselves hired the staff – half Palestinian and half Israeli – and trained them; they themselves bought all the equipment, got the schedule up and running and overcame the enormous political and practical obstacles along the long road which led to their goal.



**Central and
South America
Region**



**Erick Bautista
(Colombia)**

arellana@yahoo.com

Nominated by Suhela Behboud

Constantly risking his life, Erick Bautista, an investigative journalist, is committed to the cause of Human Rights in Colombia.

Suhela Behboud of Peace Brigade International writes:

The quest for truth lies at the heart of what is commonly called investigative journalism. It is an exhausting, difficult undertaking – and in Colombia it can also often turn out to be fatal. “Anyone who publishes the truth in Colombia must expect to pay with his life” is how Erick Arellana Bautista (30) sums it up. Erick is a Colombian journalist, filmmaker and artist and knows what he is talking about. In June 1997, when Erick learned that an order had been issued to “eliminate” himself and his mother, he left Colombia within a few days and spent the following six years in exile. But Erick kept working and even returned to Colombia in 2002. Among other things, his research and filmmaking in indigenous communities resulted in his again being heavily threatened by the Secret Service after March 2004. One of the main focuses of Erick’s work is the publicity he gives to the Human Rights situation in Colombia. His subjects: the fight against elimination, against “forgetting” about people and against immunity from prosecution. Another concern of Erick’s is to publicise the “unofficial” truths about Colombia, both past and present, using various artistic and journalistic means such as exhibitions, photographs, events, projects and films. Despite his difficult personal position, Erick is undaunted in his commitment to the interests of his fellow Colombians. He has thus been working for some considerable time with various artists from the fields of dance, photography, painting, music and graphic arts, so that he can pass on those artistic skills to children and young people in the poor areas and to people in the rural Peace communities, such as San José de Apartadó.

**Käthe Meentzen
(Peru)**

kathem@amauta.rcp.net.pe

Nominated by Heinz Schulze

Käthe Meentzen is involved in Peace and Human Rights work in Peru.

The proposer, Heinz Schulze, writes:

For many years, Käthe Meentzen has been working in Peru with indigenous peoples' organisations who are fighting for the right to their land and for fair treatment in life. When she was based in Bremen, she supported the protesting inhabitants of northern Peru against their expulsion from the area of the Gallito Ciego Dam. She first visited Peru in 1979 and 1980. Her desire to remain longer in Peru grew stronger, as various projects among the native inhabitants put pressure on her to do so. She settled there in 1983. She made contact with Peruvian Human Rights organisations, with grassroots organisations for the native inhabitants and privately funded the NGO known as ADECAP, from 1985. From 1988, Käthe Meentzen coordinated three projects: the Women's Commission, the Health Commission and the Commission for Food Production. It is to be noted that the area of women's interests grew enormously and became a model to be emulated. In addition to her work with the small NGO, ADECAP, which was particularly active in the Highlands of the Andes, the



major human tragedy of the Asháninka Indians caused her to resume her work in the rainforest area. In 1995, Käthe Meentzen sold her flat in Bremen, which was a clear sign that she intended to remain in Peru for good. She became a major adviser to the "Emergency Committee", established after the Asháninka had been placated for the first time; she did not have power or money but was warmly accepted. The present Asháninka leaders state quite categorically that they would never have made such progress in their organisation without the supportive, friendly criticism of Käthe Meentzen. She also gave them ideas for a good life in harmony with nature, for taking responsibility for Human Rights but also for good, clear organisation and transparency in their bookkeeping.



**Marta Benavides
(El Salvador)**

Tlilibertad1@hotmail.com

Self-nominated

Marta Benavides is involved in the 'Siglo XXIII' NGO, in various areas of human rights, ecology and social mobilisation.

Rosa Lizarde of the 'International Facilitating Group on Financing for Development' and Marta Benavides write:

Rev. Marta Benavides is an activist working in community in her homeland of El Salvador. El Salvador has had a history of colonialism, which is at the heart of the deep inequalities and suffering of its peoples. Thus we at SIGLO XXIII, 23rd Century, chose to make a contribution to sustainability, to durable peace.

Three examples of our work:

'The eco-house': Family and friends purchased a house that we rent and renovate; meanwhile, it has become the "eco house". Here we showcase low-income possibilities for improvements and sustainable practices. The house offers a recycling display on the wall outside the house, the example of the recycled materials used to improve the property, a water purification system using sunlight and recycled bottles, a medicinal herb garden, and low-maintenance, beautiful gardens which offer sanctuary to butterflies and humans alike.

'Sewing cooperative': The sewing machines were purchased inexpensively, because we convinced the dealers that the program would increase demand for them. There is now a small advanced group of seamstresses receiving training in making pants and blouses. This group will then train larger groups of beginners in the skills required for independent money-management and generating an income.

'Indigenous grandmothers': Every Sunday, the eco-house invites all the indigenous grandmothers in the area for lunch. The women come from miles around, attend church, and then gather at the house. In addition to the food, they can expect to find respect and companionship. This work is part of our wider-ranging efforts to place the needs of the growing elderly population on the political agenda.



**Almuth Reeh
(Bolivia)**

Brommystr. 3, 26121 Oldenburg

Nominated by Edda Reeh

Almuth Reeh is committed to the needs of disabled people in Bolivia.

The head of the 'Association for the Advancement of Disabled Children and Youth in South America' writes:

Almut Reeh, ergonomics therapist, is founder of the work-therapy workshop 'Taller Protegido Sucre' for intellectually and severely handicapped young people in Sucre, Bolivia. She has voluntarily developed and expanded this institution in commendable fashion and with unbelievable commitment. In addition to her therapeutic work with the handicapped young people and the training of Bolivian employees working as therapists, Almut Reeh has seen the following as highlights of her work:

- strong parental involvement
- Public Relations
- Forming contacts with all organisations in the country involved with the intellectually handicapped
- organising regular sales exhibitions
- recruitment of volunteers from Germany (up to 2001) for the bakery and the café,
- organising the first Bobath course in Bolivia, a course for the special treatment of brain-damaged children based on the work of Bobath, for participants from all nine 'departamentos' in the country (run by a team from Germany in 1998),
- Helping workshop employees who were leaving to develop their own projects,
- Running various training courses in appropriate trades, also for persons not associated with the workshop,
- Organising exhibitions in the café area and parties in the workshop courtyard. Almut Reeh's current efforts have the aim of establishing the training of the Bolivian employees on a professional level and of developing the workshop into a nationally-accredited training institution for work therapy. This training has not existed to date in Bolivia but there is a great need for it.



**Asociación Reflexión de
Inocentes Liberados (ARIL),
Lima (Peru)**

**Ave. Nocolas de Pierola 757,
Ofc. 204, Lima / Peru**

Nominated by Lisa Laplante

ARIL intervenes on behalf of innocent
persons incarcerated in Peru.

Lisa Laplante, of the Institute for Social Justice, writes:

In Peru there is a group of victims referred to as the 'Inocentes Liberados' (Liberated Innocents). It comprises the hundreds of people who were unjustly imprisoned for terrorism during Peru's twenty-year internal conflict between its armed forces and terrorist groups like the 'Shining Path' Communist Party (Partido Comunista del Perú – Sendero Luminoso (PCP-SL)). Upon their release, most Liberated Innocents encountered many social, economic, political, legal and psychological problems. That is why some of them formed a self-help group in 2001. Initially, this group concentrated on possible therapies. In the last three years, however, it has begun to constitute an important political presence in human rights mobilisation in Peru. In December 2004, it finally obtained legal recognition to become the Asociación Reflexión de Inocentes Liberados (ARIL) and it can be considered to be one of the few groups of victims in Peru with members who have become front-line protagonists in the struggle for justice and reconciliation in Peru's post-conflict political transition. Some of their practical activities are: protecting their members from repeated incarceration due to an antiquated system that has not eliminated outdated arrest warrants, ongoing threats and harassment resulting from the stigma of their original detention for terrorism, responding to emergencies among their members, most of whom face unemployment and serious health problems as a result of their imprisonment, lobbying the government for compensation for the violation of their rights and participating in the general work of Peace, democracy and human rights in Peru.



**Asia / Pacific
Region**



**K.B. Rokaya
(Nepal)**

Cepjar2005@yahoo.com

Nominated by the 'Nemaste'
Nepal Group, Bergkirchen

K.B.Rokaya is committed to ending
the civil war in Nepal.

The 'Nemaste' Nepal Group writes:

News of the civil war in Nepal has touched the consciousness of the world only very slightly. On the other hand, this civil war is costing the lives of many people. Reliable estimates suggest around 10,000 fatalities since the outbreak of fighting in 1996.

The increasing violence of the conflict has brought Nepal to a state of intense crisis. The human rights position must be considered as extremely alarming. Both the rebels and the government are guilty of serious human rights violations. There are illegal executions, torture and the "elimination" of people. Again and again, talks between the parties to the conflict are initiated and then collapse.

In this regard, we should mention the commitment of Dr. Rokaya. He is the leader of a Christian community in Kathmandu and extremely active in the areas of reconciliation, human rights, overcoming violence, social justice and understanding between religions. His untiring commitment, based on civil courage, is to the resumption of constructive peace talks. He is aware of the personal risk but he himself takes responsibility for that risk.

In 1995, Dr. Rokaya was the founding president of the People's Rights Concern Movement, which played a significant role in the question of human rights.

In Nepal, the Christians are in a minority – Hinduism is the official religion. That is why it is all the more important for him to strengthen the role of the Christian churches as a factor for Peace. In July 2003, Dr. Rokaya launched a meeting of the various Christian organisations, which were represented by their leaders. The result was the formation of a committee called 'Christian Efforts for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation (CEP-JAR)' with the National coordinator also being Dr. Rokaya.



**Coconut Free Press
(New Zealand)**

coconutfree@xtra.co.nz

Self-nominated

Coconut Free Press undertakes various activities in the realm of environmental commitment and mobilisation.

Alice Leney, board member of "Coconut Free Press Trust" writes:

The Coconut Free Press Charitable Trust was established in 1994 by a group of people from New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands. The CFP started with a pressing environmental issue for all of us, but particularly those who live in the small islands of the Pacific. As the Trust matured, it grew able to tackle more directly globalised issues, linking Environment and Peace. Here are two of our projects:

‘Poster Competition’.

The group negotiated for free billboard space in two streets in downtown Auckland, New Zealand; each billboard was available for one month. Then the CFP held a competition for two works of art; one was on missile tests in the Pacific and one was on transporting nuclear waste in Pacific waters. This first competition took place in 2001. A 2nd one has been launched in 2003 about the topic of racism and war.

‘Waste Management for small islands’.

With minimal resources the group printed and published a small manual about household management to focus on the growing garbage problem on small islands. This manual has been reprinted several times and has been distributed for free in schools, communities and NGO thus improving the dramatic garbage situation in the region.



We are a small charity foundation with many personal contacts. We trust in small steps, people on location, and in God accompanying us. We try to provide help in peace work and thus to contribute to the process of peace, justice and the integrity of creation. The Threshold was founded by Ruth-Christa and Dr. Dirk Heinrichs in 1979. It has a Board and an advisory committee. Board: Reinhard Jung (chairman), Dr. Urban Bulling, Regine Heuer, Wiebke Jung and Kristina Bulling. Executive staff person: Dr. Burkhard Luber. The Threshold is a member of the Diakonisches Werk Bremen and of 'Church and Peace' Laufdorf. You can support the work we do by donating, and a certificate will be provided for the amount donated.

Account No. 94293, BLZ 290 304 00,
Bankhaus Carl F. Plump & Co.,
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Extract from the articles of the foundation:

The purpose of the foundation is to recognize the causes and practical assistance to solve destructive conflicts and healing of damages in the One World, especially those caused by science, technology and globalization. Thus the foundation has the purpose to contribute to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation as a universal Schalom Service. (Peace Service)

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