

Holy Wisdom

Peace: Showing that Others Matter!

VOLUME XXVI

SUMMER 2016

Publication of the Syrian Orthodox Church in America on United Nations Affairs. In fulfilling the UN Mission of SOCA, both Orthodoxy and Ecumenism are involved. SOCA is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. This publication is disseminated to the entire membership of the Church throughout the world on a quarterly basis. Please bring this information to the attention of your parishioners and all those under your care. The Earth is holy and a manifestation of God. Pray for peace and the UN.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: It is necessary through the collaboration of NGOs to raise awareness among communities as we promote peace. If you will, the need for community consciousness is a way we can connect parties and others. It is important at this time that all parties begin to realize that they are a part of a larger picture, that they are in it together and they have common concerns. If there is a conflict all parties have contributed to the conflict and they have the power to come together to develop a non-violent intervention to result into a resolution. It is time for us as people to acknowledge that there is something more that exceed our own individual positions and needs. The United Nations, religious institutions and NGO can be an avenue to promote community consciousness to encourage global consciousness, clear and realistic decisions as they promote non-violent solutions to conflicts!

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Our Work at the United Nations

Rev. Dr. Faustino Quintanilla, associate representative of SOCA, our NGO at UN, uses ART in fostering understanding among diverse cultures in the ultimate hope of world peace.



Dr. Faustino Quintanilla is an associate representative of the Syrian Orthodox Church in America, United Nations NGO.

On Monday October 10, 2016 an International Mongolian Contemporary Art Exhibition at the United Nations was held to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Mongolia's accession to full membership at the U.N.

Dignitaries included His Excellency Sukhbold Sukhee, Ambassador Extraordinary and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations, as well as Bataar, and two other world-renowned Mongolian artists: Chaloon Bataar, Tsolmonkhoo Janlav, and Tonglag Dorjin.

Joining them was our own Executive Director of the QCC Art Gallery, Faustino Quintanilla, who delivered congratulatory comments to all.



International Mongolian Contemporary Art Exhibition at the United Nations in celebration of the 55th anniversary of Mongolia's accession to full membership at the U.N.

His Excellency Dr. Sukhbold Sukhee, Ambassador Extraordinary and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations, dignitaries, artists and all you present to this celebration and commemoration, Welcome.

In 2014, a collaboration with Mongolian artist, Chuluunbaatar Tonglag resulted in the exhibition Asian Art: Contemporary Views held at the Queensborough Community College of the City of New York, with a group of artists from several countries which revealed an extraordinary range of artistic expression. I am pleased to continue with Mr. Baatar on this project that focuses on an extraordinary group of artists from Mongolia, to present an impressive array of contemporary art from that country alone. Each of the three artists in this exhibition has an eye for traditional forms and materials as well as for international art. Their works show the resilience of tradition and how it can merge with contemporary thought and processes.

The art of writing in brush, calligraphy, both literary and visual, is being rediscovered in Mongolia as a viable and potent form of expression. One of its main exponents is Chuluunbaatar Borjin, who courageously delves into this ancient art that reverts back to the Mongolian script which preceded the contemporary Cyrillic written forms in use today. He performs a deeply self-reflective form of calligraphic practice in creating personal but historically evocative statements.

Tsolmonkhuu Janlav working in ceramic and bronze incorporates Mongolian motifs usually found in traditional handicraft used to adorn everyday items and costume. Ugalz (volutes or scrolls) in design work often form zoomorphic shapes of sometimes mythic animals. Here a winged wolf-like creature becomes present on its own terms.

For several years, Tonglag has created sculpture that evokes the Mongolian yurt, a round nomadic dwelling covered with skin or felt from sheep with walls of wood or bamboo, either self-supporting or supported with upright poles. More contemporary versions may incorporate metal and canvas. These structures have been known to house the roving pastoralists of Central Asia for thousands of years, made to be assembled and disassembled quickly. Tonglag's Toono most certainly resembles the yurt shape speaking of this migratory past as well perhaps to his own wanderings. However, Toono is made of bronze which is anything but easily transportable instead speaking of permanence.

Announcements for the week of 1 August 2016

Please find below the link to the DPI/NGO announcements for the week of 1 August 2016:

<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/files/2016/08/Announcements-01-August-2016.pdf>

Dr. Anthony Deluca Sends Requested Information On Aleppo, Syria To United States State Department And Acknowledgement

The U.S. State Department has expressed concerns about what Russia is calling a "large-scale humanitarian operation" in Syria, saying Moscow's announcement appears to be a demand for the surrender of militant groups and the forced evacuation of civilians from the besieged city of Aleppo.

At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power said in a tweet that she was given a copy of a "chilling letter" that was being distributed to civilians who are trapped in opposition-held parts of eastern Aleppo.

Powers said the letter "warns Syrians to leave eastern Aleppo and entrust their lives to a government that has bombed and starved them."

Meanwhile, the United Nation's humanitarian-aid chief, Stephen O'Brien, warned on July 28 that the so-called "humanitarian corridors" proposed by Russia to help Syrians leave Aleppo must be used voluntarily and that their protection must be guaranteed.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the plan must ensure that civilians who leave voluntarily can access shelter and humanitarian aid, "and that families are not split up."

It said civilians that decide to stay in the opposition-controlled parts of eastern Aleppo must also be protected, and that all sides in the conflict must allow humanitarian-aid agencies access to those civilians in order to assess their needs.

The Red Cross also said a "humanitarian pause" was needed in Aleppo as soon as possible to reach the most vulnerable civilians there -- including the sick, elderly, and wounded, as well as detainees.

Rights watchdog groups warned the Syrian government on July 28 that opening safe passages to civilians trapped in Aleppo did not give Syrian and Russian forces carte blanche to further blockade the opposition-controlled territory or target it with indiscriminate fire.

Nadim Houry, the deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch, said the safe-passage offer, "doesn't mean that the people who stay behind are legitimate military targets."

Human Rights Watch also noted that Russia and Syria were "bound by international humanitarian law, or the laws of war, which prohibits indiscriminate attacks."

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on July 28 that Russian and Syrian government forces were opening "humanitarian" corridors for civilians to leave Aleppo and offering passage for rebel fighters who lay down their weapons.

Shoigu mentioned three corridors as well as what he said were food and first-aid points outside the city.

The announcement came as Syrian government forces tightened their control around rebel-held areas of Aleppo, where some 250,000 civilians are thought to be trapped.

Many residents dismissed the offer, saying it was a choice between slow death if they stay behind or possible detention and death by torture if they try to leave.

In Damascus, President Bashar al-Assad on July 28 offered what he said was an amnesty to rebels who lay down their weapons and surrender to government forces during the next three months.

Source: <http://www.rferl.org/a/syria-us-un-concern-russian-humanitarian-operation-aleppo/27886977.html?lflags=mailer>

Summary for Conference Report

Media / Press

The Conference was announced to global media through press releases which were disseminated by the DPI NGO section and partners. Media was invited to cover the Conference virtually, or in person, via an online accreditation process that was accessible from the conference website (see media report below).

MORE INFO/EDITS NEEDED HERE: Press releases were sent to the IPRA (spell out) and disseminated by DPI/NGO Relations and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. The IPRA translated the press release into Indonesian, Burmese and Vietnamese, posted the press release on their website and disseminated it to their network of NGOs. The translated press release was picked up by media throughout the region and published online in China, Jakarta, Korea, Myanmar and Vietnam, and also posted on the UN DPI/NGO conference website.

Content / Multimedia

Short promotional videos, interviews with key partners, blogs for a Huffington post series and graphic assets were created. Mr. Scott Carlin (PhD) was interviewed by FOX-WWOR-TV's "New Jersey Now" programme, the NGO Reporter, the American Association of Geographers, as well Long Island University's *The Pioneer*.

Additional stories about the Conference were published in *Asia Today*, *The Diplomatic Courier*, the *Korean Herald*, *The Sag Harbor Express*, *The Southhampton Patch*, *The Southhampton Press* and *Long Island Herald Newspaper*. **Several NGO/Academia partners published stories** on their websites or newsletters including Felician University ? The Franciscan University of NJ (featuring Ms. Mary Norton (EdD), **the Syrian Orthodox Church in America**, The Pennsylvania Council for International Education, the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative.

The opening ceremony of the Conference was covered by Ariang TV News, an English language network based in Seoul.

From: Catharine Smith [<mailto:smith2@un.org>]

Sent: Friday, July 29, 2016 2:54 PM

To: fnnmnl <fnnmnl@aol.com>; Anne M. Riccitilli <aric@nyc.rr.com>

Subject: Summary for Conference Report

Dear Fannie and Anne,

I've incorporated the time line you sent me in the attached summary.

Your inputs have been incorporated under the "Communications Strategy" portion of the summary.

The media summary was provided by our colleague Katie Elles, who handled the media accreditation

and press at the Conference.

Please let me know if you have any edits.

Best,

Cathy

* * * * *

66th UN DPI/NGO Conference Communications Strategy

Background

The 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference was organized in partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information, civil society and the National Organizing Committee of Korea. It was an important opportunity to raise awareness and mobilize global civil society around the SDGs. Participants strove to define culturally appropriate international and regional messaging, pedagogical and advocacy strategies, and partnerships and governmental accountability frameworks including financing for development. The Conference aimed to build on the centrality of three pillars of education (formal, informal/training, advocacy and public information) and global citizenship as the bedrock of sustainable development and climate action. The Conference resulted in an action agenda for NGOs and academia that aims to catalyze the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

DPI NGO Conference Goals

- 1) Bring the voice of civil society to the United Nations, highlight the role of NGOs and academia in achieving the objectives of the United Nations, and promote partnership between the United Nations and civil society.
- 2) Foster NGO / academia support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 3) Facilitate an inclusive and transparent conference planning process, and global consultation platform for the conference outcome document (Gyeongju Action Plan).
- 4) Disseminate and support the action agenda through all appropriate channels of the United Nations, Member States and civil society.
- 5) Increase the number of NGOs associating with DPI.

Communication Goals

- 1) Promote Education and Global Citizenship as core concepts for the successful implementation of *all* SDGs, beginning with Goal 4.
- 2) Highlight the role and potential of academia and NGOs to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 3) Generate excitement and optimism among CSOs worldwide to spur actions that lead to implementation of the SDGs.
- 4) Position the Gyeongju Action Plan as an effective tool for NGOs and academia to successfully implement the SDGs.

Target Audience

NGOs, Academia, Civil Society, Youth, Member States, Private Sector, Media

*NGOs associated with DPI or in consultative status with ECOSOC, UNAI member universities, organisations in consultative/associative status with UNESCO were key targets.

Partnerships

NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Republic of Korea, National Organizing Committee of Korea, UNESCO, UN Academic Impact, Conference Planning Committee, United Nations Information Centres and Services (UNICs, UNIS), SDG Action Campaign (Worldwewant2030.org / @WorldWeWant2030).

Key Messages

- 1) The SDGs cannot be achieved without the contribution of NGOs, academia and youth.
- 2) SDG #4, “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” is central to achieving all of the SDGs
- 3) Global Citizenship will drive the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Website

A dedicated conference website served as the main platform for disseminating information and consultations on the outcome document. The “Worldwewant2030” website hosted global multi stakeholder consultations on the outcome document. Links:

Link: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference-2016/> and <https://www.worldwewant2030.org>

Media / Press

The Conference was announced to global media through press releases which were disseminated by the DPI NGO section and partners. Media was invited to cover the Conference virtually, or in person, via an online accreditation process that was accessible from the conference website (see media report below).

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Social Media

The United Nations Facebook, Google+, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat, Tumblr, Twitter and YouTube accounts were used to promote the Conference. In addition, several "Google Hangouts" were used to engage with youth. The Secretariat of the National Organizing Committee also managed a Naver, Facebook and Instagram account to promote the Conference regionally.

A Facebook Live featuring the Secretary-General and NGO reps was produced and reached 210,000 people and was viewed 12,000 times. Particularly popular on Facebook were the "People of the #UNNGO2016 conference" photo album, the video of the youth flash mob and the image of attendees holding hands at the closing ceremony. Link <https://www.facebook.com/unitednations>. In addition, the Conference Facebook page received 4,068 likes.

Link: www.facebook.com/66undpingoconference.

On UN Google+, which has over 3.6 million followers, posts about the conference were viewed over 30,000 times. Link: <https://plus.google.com/+unitednations/videos>

On UN Instagram, photos from the conference generated nearly 40,000 likes, while the video of the youth flash mob was viewed over 22,000 times. All conference-related posts on UN Instagram were well above average in popularity. <https://www.instagram.com/unitednations/>. The Conference Instagram account posted casual informative photos and videos of the Conference, including pictures of the SDGs, Conference venue, landscape, weather and events taking place in Gyeongju.
Link: https://www.instagram.com/66th_unngoconference/

Content about the conference on UN LinkedIn was seen over 216,000 times by LinkedIn users.
Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations>

Comprehensive information about the Conference, including information about previous Conferences, was posted on Naver. The blog received 2,027 views over the span of three months prior to the Conference. Link: <http://blog.naver.com/66undpingoconference>

Branding

A visual identity was created by the United Nations Graphic Design Unit, with a special version for use by civil society to promote and fundraise in support of the Conference. Guidelines for use of the branding were posted on the conference website. The hashtag “ #UNNGO2016 “ was used to generate buzz throughout the planning process and the conference itself, and to monitor outreach and messaging.

Measures of Success:

- i. Number and distribution (languages, geographical) of feedback received on outcome document through online and on-site consultations;
- ii. Number and geographical distribution of representatives of NGOs, academia and education communities that attend the Conference;
- iii. Feedback received via conference survey
- iv. Reach and engagement via social media
- v. Number of visits to conference website
 - a. concept note downloads / views
 - b. final outcome document downloads / views
- vi. Number / type of references to the outcome document
- vii. Media coverage

Visual Identity

The visual identity for the conference was created by the United Nations Department of Public Information Graphic Design Unit (GDU). An award-winning team of Graphic Designers, GDU provides creative solutions for a wide variety of public information campaigns and conferences throughout the United Nations Secretariat.

Media Report

The 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference attracted great interest and coverage from the media. Over 350 journalists and reporters applied for media accreditation and around 200 media personnel attended the Conference. The media highlighted that the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference was the first of its kind to take place in Asia and that it attracted a high number of pre-registrants from all over the world. The media also paid particular attention to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who spoke at the Opening Ceremony and visited several sites of the Conference. The Secretariat of the National Organizing Committee distributed press releases to domestic media outlets prior, throughout, and after the Conference and DPI handled distribution to international media.

The media had access to cover all Conference programs and were able to work in a designated Press Room throughout the Conference. Journalists and reporters had the opportunity to interview distinguished figures, speakers, and youth at two Press Conferences and in the Interview Room. Over 1,080 articles and news broadcastings mentioning the Conference have been published and aired and more than 780 of them were reported during the duration of the Conference.

The Secretariat of the National Organizing Committee of Korea played an active role in promoting the Conference through various social media platforms in the Republic of Korea, including Facebook, Instagram, and Naver blog. Additionally, the Secretariat produced promotional videos and printed advertisements including posters and leaflets. Such efforts were able to publicize the Conference and reach the general public.

Media / Press

Korean and international media received press releases and media advisories were invited to cover the Conference virtually or in person via an online accreditation process through the conference website.

1. Media Accreditation

Media Accreditation was open from May 5 to May 26, 2016 on the DPI Conference website: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/conference-2016/media/>

2. Media Outreach

- **Invitation of Media Outlets:** Invitations to cover the conference and guidelines for media accreditation were sent to international media, and to Korean journalists and reporters who cover news on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, and City of Gyeongju via e-mail. International media correspondents based in Seoul were also informed about the Conference through Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club.

- **Accredited Journalists (Total: 370)**

- o Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 67
- o Gyeongsangbuk-do: 132
- o Gyeongju City: 92
- o Correspondents: 12
- o Overseas Media: 13
- o Conference Media Team: 39
- o Others: 15

3. Media Relations

- Press Releases:

- o 3 press releases about the Conference were distributed to the media before the Conference.
- o 6 press releases were distributed during the Conference about the Conference programs, including the Opening/Closing Sessions, Roundtables, and the Gyeongju Action Plan.
- o 1 press release was distributed after the Conference on the outcome document.

- **Press Room and Interview Room:** The Press Room was used as a site for Press Conferences and workspace for journalists and reporters. The Interview Room was available for private interviews with speakers.

- **Press Conferences:** Two Press Conferences were held at the Conference. On May 30, 2016, the first Press Conference featured the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Under-Secretary-General Cristina Gallach, and Conference Co-Chair Scott Carlin who spoke about the aims of the Conference. On June 1, 2016, the Youth Press Conference featured the Youth Subcommittee Co-Chairs and Youth Representatives who spoke about the Youth Statement and the role of youth in Education for Global Citizenship.

- Media opportunities

A flag raising ceremony was also organized prior to the opening of the conference to generate media attention featuring speakers from DPI, the Conference Chair and the Mayor of Gyeongju

Major Media Coverage

1. Pre-Conference

Conference Highlights:

<http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2016/01/15/0200000000AKR20160115098700053.HTML?input=1195m>

<http://www.asiatoday.co.kr/view.php?key=20160303002339503>

http://edu.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/04/11/2016041102095.html

Honorary Conference Promoter:

<http://star.mbn.co.kr/view.php?no=255485&year=2016&refer=portal>

<http://www.hankookilbo.com/v/7f6bb689a23843c3bff7b4ac7299cdaf>

Youth:

<http://www.asiatoday.co.kr/view.php?key=20160409010004073>

Flag Raising Ceremony:

<http://www.nspna.com/news/?mode=view&newsid=173764>

2. During the Conference

Opening Session:

http://www.newsis.com/ar_detail/view.html?ar_id=NISX20160530_0014116860&cID=10201&pID=10200

http://imnews.imbc.com/replay/2016/nw1200/article/3983210_19821.html

<http://news1.kr/articles/?2676911>

http://news.jtbc.joins.com/article/article.aspx?news_id=NB11243441

Press Conference:

http://www.ytn.co.kr/In/0101_201605301219582207

Youth:

<http://www.ajunews.com/view/20160530162137016>

http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=201605301654001&code=940401

<http://news1.kr/photos/view/?1958539>

Roundtables:

http://www.newsis.com/ar_detail/view.html?ar_id=NISX20160531_0014119215&cID=10201&pID=10200

http://www.newsis.com/ar_detail/view.html?ar_id=NISX20160531_0014119357&cID=10201&pID=10200

http://www.newsis.com/ar_detail/view.html?ar_id=NISX20160601_0014121415&cID=10201&pID=10200

<http://news1.kr/articles/?2679642>

3. Post-Conference

http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/06/13/2016061301743.html

http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/06/13/2016061301638.html

http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/06/13/2016061301698.html

Multi-Media Approach

The Secretariat of the National Organizing Committee created multi-media contents in order to increase awareness and promote the Conference to the general public visually.

1. Videos

- o Intro Video (ENG): <https://youtu.be/hLbIA-VmXak>
- o Intro Video (KOR): <https://youtu.be/3vyJGkQqAKs>
- o Opening Session: <https://youtu.be/P2wzCePuUIE>
- o DAY 1: <https://youtu.be/X0-XsN7a3s8>
- o DAY 2: <https://youtu.be/Fbuqw4gR-eQ>
- o Closing Session: <https://youtu.be/dpCKHu5ZFKI>

- o Interview of Dr. Soon-Heung Chang, Co-chair of the National Organizing Committee
https://youtu.be/jD2v_Qnx9sg
- o Interview of Biya Han, the Honorary Conference Promoter
<https://youtu.be/v4oxV1ogbDE>

2. Photos

Photos taken during the Conference have been posted on the Korean website:
www.66undpingoconference.org

*** Conference Media Team:** During the Conference, the Conference media team was responsible for photographing and filming the Conference. Sessions and activities were captured in two Daily Videos and the Closing Ceremony Video.

- o **Photographers:** Daiyoon Lim, Donghoon Lee, Lee So Jin
- o **Film Crew:** Seongwoong Son, Namgyun Kim, Inae Kang, Taerim Koo, Jinwoo Nam, Myeongjin Seo, Donghan Shin, Youngkun Lee, Soeun Jo, Esther Cho, Jooyeon Choi, Junhyong Park, Juhyung Kim

3. Graphic Design

Posters



Banners





Leaflets



**THE 66TH UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE
MEDIA CLIPPINGS**

1. All Africa (AFNWS), DPI/NGO UN Conference on Quality Divide in Education, 1 June 2016
2. All Africa (AFNWS), Make Your Governments Implement UN 2030 Agenda, Ban Urges Youth, 2 June 2016
3. Anadolu Agency, UN leader baffled by SKorean presidential speculation, 30May ? 2016
4. Bahrain News Agency (BAHRNA), Education for Global Citizenship, 30 May 2016
5. Big News Network.com, UN Sec. Gen visits home country South Korea, adds to presidential speculation, 26 ?May 2016?
6. Diplomatic Courier, Breaking Down the UN's Gyeongju Action Plan, 8 June 2016
7. Foreign Affairs (PARALL), DPI Associates 19 New NGOs, Strengthening Coalition with Civil Society Globally, 29 April 2016

8. Foreign Affairs (PARALL), SG's Press Conference at Opening of 66th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, 30 May 2016
9. Foreign Affairs (PARALL), SG's Remarks at 66th DPI/NGO Conference Youth Caucus Event, 30 May 2016
10. Foreign Affairs (PARALL), DPI/NGO: UN Conference Reflects on Quality Divide and Equitability in Education, 1 June 2016
11. Huffington Post, Why We Need Education for Global Citizenship, 24 May 2016
12. IDN InDepthNews, Ban Praises NGOs, carps Opponents - Mid Term Review in Antalya, 30 May 2016
13. IDN InDepthNews, Conference Adopts Global Education Action Agenda to Implement SDGs, 2 Jun 2016
14. Inner City Press, As Ban Plays Politics in S. Korea, GA Resolution Violation Amid Ng Scandal? 25 May 2016
15. Inner City Press, As Ban Politics in S. Korea, ICP Asks Who's Paying For Mr. Kim's Spin? 26 May 2016
16. KBS WORLD Radio News, UN Chief Arrives in S. Korea Amid Speculation of Presidential Bid, 25 May 2016
17. KBS WORLD Radio News, UN Chief Cautions Against Political Speculations, 29 May 2016
18. ? KBS WORLD Radio News, 66th UN NGO Conference Opens in Gyeongju, 29 May 2016
19. Korea JoongAng Daily, Ban's Korea visit raises questions, 24 May 2016
20. Korea JoongAng Daily, Ban Ki-moon's return home parsed politically, 25 May 2016
21. The Korea Times US, UN chief's homecoming draws keen attention as presidential election nears, 24 May 2016
22. Korea Times, Ban Ki-moon's ambiguity fuels speculation about 2017 presidential bid, 24 May 2016
23. Korea Times, UN chief Ban indicates presidential bid, 25 May 2016
24. Korea Times, UN chief calls for dialogue with NK, 26 ?May 2016?

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28. M2 Presswire (MTPW), DPI/NGO: 'You Have Unlimited Power' Ban Tells Youth, Rallying Support for UN 2030 Agenda, 31 May 2016
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30. News Ghana, UN NGO conference kicks off with emphasis on global citizenship 2030 Agenda, 30 May 2016
31. News Press (NPRESSE), UN Conference Adopts Global Education Action Agenda to Mobilize Civil Society, 2 June 2016
32. NTA News, UN Adopts SDGs Global Education Action Plan Agenda, 3 Jun 2016
33. Pakistan Press International Information Services (PAPRIN), Let Us Work Together to Foster Education for Global Citizenship: Ban, 31 May 2016
34. Pakistan Press International Information Services (PAPRIN), UN Chief Says Youth Have Unlimited Power, 31 May 2016
35. Pulse, UN Secretary-General Ban hints of running for next presidency, 27 May 2016
36. StarAfrica.com, DPI/NGO: UN and civil society set to meet on global citizenship as keystone for sustainable development, 30 May 2016
37. Thailand National News Bureau, UN DPI/NGO Conference opens with spotlight on global citizenship for 2030 agenda, 30 May 2016
38. The Hankyoreh, As he leaves South Korea, Ban Ki-moon says "stop speculating", 31 May 2016?
39. The Hankyoreh, Ban Ki-moon's weekend tour hints even more strongly at presidential run, 30 May 2016
40. The Hankyoreh, UN Resolution mandates that Ban Ki-moon from running for president, 25 May 2016
41. The Korea Herald, Singer Lee Seung-chul to perform at U.N. conference in Gyeongju, 6 Apr 2016

42. The Korea Herald, Ban comes to Korea amid speculation of political entry, 24 May 2016
43. The Korea Herald, Ban's visit fans political speculation, 25 May 2016?
44. The Korea Herald, U.N. chief arrives in Korea as presidential speculation grows, 25May 2016?
45. The Korea Herald, U.N. chief Ban back in S. Korea after short trip to Japan, 27 May 2016
46. The Korea Herald, U.N. NGO conference to open in Korea, 27 May 2016
47. The Korea Herald, U.N. chief urges youth to rise up for global causes, 29 May 2016
48. The New American, UN Adopts "Education" Plan to Indoctrinate Children in Globalism, 3 Jun 2016
49. The Pioneer (PINEER), Generous Slot for KISS in UN DPI Conference, 5 May 2016
50. The Straits Times, UN chief fuels presidential speculation with South Korea trip, 24 ?May 2016?
51. The World On Arirang, Ban wraps Korea visit with UN NGO Conference in Gyeongju, 30 May 2016
52. The World On Arirang, UN chief Ban Ki-moon set for short trip to Korea, 25 May 2016
53. UN News Centre, In Republic of Korea, Ban urges Asian nations to settle border disputes, historical issues, 26 May 2016
54. UN News Centre, DPI/NGO: UN and civil society set to meet on global citizenship as keystone for sustainable development, 29 May 2016
55. UN News Centre, DPI/NGO: 'Let us work together to foster education for global citizenship,' Ban tells UN conference, ?30 May 2016?
56. UN News Centre, DPI/NGO: 'You have unlimited power' Ban tells youth, rallying support for UN 2030 Agenda, ? 30 May 2016
57. UN News Centre, DPI/NGO: UN conference adopts global education action agenda to mobilize civil society, 31 May 2016
58. US Fed News (INDFED), At Conference Dinner, SG Hails NGOs' Contributions to UN, Urges Leadership Roles for Youth, Women, 29 May 2016

59. US Fed News (INDFED), SG's Remarks at the Opening of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference, 30 May 2016
60. US Fed News (INDFED), Youth Must Assume Greater Responsibility in Creating Better World for All, Says SG in Remarks to DPI/NGO Conference, 30 May 2016
61. US Fed News (INDFED), Let Compassion Temper your Passion, SG Urges Young People Attending DPI/NGO Conference Youth Caucus Event, 30 May 2016
62. Yonhap News, Political parties split over U.N. chief's possibility of presidential bid, 25 May 2016
63. Yonhap News, (3rd LD) U.N. chief hints at presidential bid, 25 May 2016
64. Yonhap News, (EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on May 30), 29 May 2016
65. Yonhap News, (LEAD) U.N. chief guards against exaggerating his action in S. Korea, 29 May 2016
66. Yonhap News, S. Korean cities hope Ban's visit boosts tourism, 1 Jun 2016
67. "교육 불평등 줄이자" 경주 유엔 NGO 컨퍼런스 폐막(종합) 연합뉴스, 31 May 2016
68. International-중도일보, 경주 선언문 채택, 31 May 2016
69. 머니투데이, 제66차 유엔 NGO 컨퍼런스 피날레, 1 Jun 2016
70. All Africa, 'Let Us Work Together to Foster Education for Global Citizenship,' Ban Tells UN Conference, 31 May 2016
71. Africa News, Freedom of NGOs & CSOs under threat even at the UN - Ban Ki-moon, 30 May 2016
72. Big News Network, 'You have unlimited power' Ban tells youth, rallying support for UN 2030 Agenda, 31 May 2016
73. New Kerala, DPI/NGO: 'You have unlimited power' Ban tells youth, rallying support for UN 2030 Agenda, 31 May 2016
74. New Kerala, DPI/NGO: 'Let us work together to foster education for global citizenship,' Ban tells UN conference, 31 May 2016
75. New Kerala, DPI/NGO: UN and civil society set to meet on global citizenship as keystone for sustainable development, 30 May 2016

- 76. National News Bureau of Thailand, UN DPI/NGO Conference opens with spotlight on global citizenship for 2030 agenda, 30 May 2016
- 77. Business Ghana, ESCAP highlights critical role of Asia-Pacific NGOs in advancing Sustainable Development Goals, 31 May 2016
- 78. Business Ghana, UN NGO Conference opens with spotlight on global citizenship to achieve 2030 Agenda, 31 May 2016
- 79. Nigeria Television Authority, UN Adopts SDGs Global Education Action Plan Agenda, 3 June 2016

2016 UN DPI/NGO 66th Conference Report

Media/Press Subcommittee

Co-Chair Fannie Munlin, National Council of Negro Women

Co-Chair Anne Marie Riccitelli, Syrian Orthodox Church in America

Media/Press Sub-Committee Members:

Jim McQueeney, Barbara M. Burns, International Public Relations Association (IPRA)

IPRA Asian Task Force Media/Press Subcommittee Members: Mileage Communications Group

Yap Boh Tiong, Patsy Phay, Singapore

Ms. Wang Ling, Shanghai, China

Mr. Aubrey Siahainenia, Jakarta, Indonesia

John Kim, Korea

John Jun, Myanmar

Ms. Pham Nhat Nga, Vietnam

Long Island University Office of Communications and Marketing

Jennifer Carpenter Low

Elliot Olshansky

February 2016

23 January, Holy Wisdom, the (winter) quarterly newsletter of UN Affairs for the Syrian Orthodox Church in America, reports on the December 17, 2015 UN DPI Town Hall Meeting and announcement of upcoming UN DPI/NGO Korea conference (Google: Syrian Orthodox Church in America at United Nations Newsletters)

Created Media/Press Subcommittee 1) Statement of Purpose and 2) Media Strategy Overview

Contributed to 2016 DPI Conference Communications Strategy

Interviewed Conference Co-Chair Dr. Scott Carlin and created DPI approved pitch bio for use by editors interviewing Dr. Carlin and reporters writing about event; Dr. Carlin's bio was also distributed to 5000 members of the UN NGO community through online NGO Reporter

Subcommittee Co-Chairs Fannie Munlin and Anne Riccitelli as well as subcommittee members Barbara Burns and Jim McQueeney met at UN with DPI Chief of NGO Relations and Advocacy, Jeff Brez, who approved suggestions for working with IPRA lists of members and associate members (10,000 in total)

Media Subcommittee members Jim McQueeney and Barbara Burns personally contacted IPRA colleagues in key countries, especially Asia, to request their cooperation for contacts with local media and feedback. Media subcommittee member Barbara Burns sent out a short version of the February 5th general conference press release to IPRA membership and associates (10,000 people) and to members of the IPRA Asian Task Force, all of whom distributed a translated release to their contacts and social media. "News from the UN," sent to network between 1 March and 10 May.

March 2016

14 March: IPRA Asian Task Force members translated UN Conference press releases for the local press and media in their regions into Indonesian, Burmese and Vietnamese. Story was picked up throughout the region and published locally online in China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Jakarta and Korea. Translations and published stories were acknowledged, posted on UN DPI/NGO Conference website and credited: "unofficial translation courtesy of..."

15 March: American Geographic Society sends out post through Facebook and Twitter to their 50,000 members which includes screen shot of Dr. Carlin, quotes from Conference bio and link to conference website. (Google: American Geographical Society...Long time AGS member Dr. Scott Carlin

16 March: Video podcast taping from Winning Strategies offices in Newark, NJ. Jim McQueeney interviews via skype with Dr. Soon Heung Chang, Co-Chair, National Organizing Committee for the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference and Dr. Scott Carlin, Co-Chair of the Planning Committee, 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference; in person interviews with Bruce Knotts, Chair NGO/DPI Executive Committee and Fannie Munlin, Co-Chair Media/Press Subcommittee.

18 March: Co-chairs Munlin and Riccitelli teleconference with LIU Director of Operations Jennifer Carpenter Low and Elliott Olshansky, LIU Assistant Director of Communications to discuss plans to pitch Dr. Carlin and conference to Long Island media.

23 March: Podcasts posted to Dropbox include:

Bruce Knotts - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/tigr8b0516yhaiz/BruceKnotts-2016-03-16.mp4?dl=0>

Fannie Munlin – <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1tk3eekgp4fu0m6/FannieM-2016-03-16%20%281%29.mp4?dl=0>

Dr. Chang – <https://www.dropbox.com/s/78b90m5wjja1xfj/live-shchang.mp4?dl=0>

Dr. Carlin - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/k2jxl1mqtov8ysc/scott.carlin.ny.mp4?dl=0>

23 March: The Pioneer, LIU Student newspaper publishes front page news feature “Carlin Co-Chairs Sustainability Conference,” by Brain Foley

24 March: Huffington Post publishes online conference blog by Dr. Scott Carlin: “Why We Need Education for Global Citizenship” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-carlin/why-we-need-education-for_b_9543390.html?1458855530

31 March: Fox-WWOR-TV Channel 9 public affairs program “New Jersey Now” tapes UN DPI’s Jeff Brez and Felician University’s Dr. Mary Norton in conversation about Korea Conference with host Jim McQueeney; show to air 10 April

31 March: Photos of Dr. Mary Norton, Jeff Brez, Jim McQueeney, taken at FOX-WWOR-TV taping distributed to media-at-large.

April 2016

6 April, “Dr. Mary Norton Interviewed for Television Program,” story and photo posted on Felician University website, <http://felician.edu/>

7 April, feature story Korea Herald: “Singer Lee Seung-chul to perform at U.N. Conference in Gyeongju” <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160407000650>

7 April, Asia Today newspaper story on UN conference organizers and appointment of popular singer-songwriter and humanitarian Lee Seung-chul as Promotional Ambassador for the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea <http://www.asiatoday.co.kr/view.php?key=20160407010003145>

8 April UN DPI/NGO sends out alert advising NGO Colleagues to watch “Sunday, April 10, at 12 noon, on WOR-TV, Channel 9, the public affairs program, “New Jersey Now,” hosted by media subcommittee’s Jim McQueeney ... (with) featured guests Jeff Brez and Dr. Mary Norton.

11 April, American Association of Geographers newsletter publishes story, “Scott Carlin of LIU Post to Co-Chair UN Conference,” reaching 10,000 geographers in 60 countries

12 April, Holy Wisdom, the (spring) quarterly newsletter of the Syrian Orthodox Church in America, publishes press releases and several status reports on the work of the planning committee for the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea (Google: Syrian Orthodox Church in America at United Nations Newsletters)

19 April, UN DPI tweets AAG story and sends out on NGO list serv, <http://news.aag.org/2016/04/scott-carlin-of-liu-post-to-co-chair-un-conference/>

21 April, Southampton Patch, reaching an online audience of 12,000, publishes story by Donald Wimmer, “LIU Post Professor Named Co-Chair of Prestigious UN Conference on Sustainable Development,” <http://patch.com/new-york/southampton/liu-post-professor-named-co-chair-prestigious-un-conference-sustainable-development>

22 April, PACIE, The Pennsylvania Council for International Education newsletter publishes, “Student Determination – Pathways to Gyeongju,” by Dr. Bill Hunter, Lehigh University Representative to the UN

22 April, follow-up phone conversation from 18 March with LIU-Post communications team

28 April, two conference YOU TUBE posts by Media Subcommittee member Jim McQueeney: Host Jim McQueeney interviews Fannie Munlin, UN Representative for the National Council of Negro Women, and Co-Chair of the Media Subcommittee for the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference 2016 in Korea <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbCaxSixSq8&feature=youtu.be> and: Host Jim McQueeney interviews Bruce Knotts, UN Representative for the Unitarian Universalist Association, and Chair of the UN NGO/DPI Executive Committee, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnEGeH3UNeQ&feature=youtu.be>

28 April, Media Subcommittee member Barbara Burns sends out UN DPI Conference press release to IPRA Global membership of 10,000. Release also posted on IPRA social media and IPRA website

May 2016

1 May, Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) newsletter publishes news of conference and link to website

7 May, Southampton Press reporter Amanda Bernocco interviews and photographs Dr. Carlin for feature story in paper set to appear on May 26

13-17 May, Barbara Burns sends out press release: "World NGOs to Participate in Dialogue on Role of Education for Global Citizenship at UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea" sent to IPRA network and IPRA Asian Task Force. Prominent mention of Co-Chairs Dr. YuKang Choi and Dr. Scott Carlin. Translated into Chinese and appears on seven online Chinese media outlets

30 May, Arirang TV News, a Korean English language network based in Seoul, South Korea, covers the opening of the 66th Conference and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon opening address to delegates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2FwSM6dR4A>

June 2016

1 June, Southampton Press, "Hampton Bays Professor Speaks About Climate Change, Global Education in Korea," <http://www.27east.com/news/article.cfm/Hampton-Bays/481856/Hampton-Bays-Professor-Speaks-About-Climate-Change-Global-Education-in-Korea?&tc=eml>

8 June, The Diplomatic Courier, "Breaking Down the UN's Gyeongju Action Plan," <http://www.diplomaticcourier.com/breaking-uns-gyeongju-action-plan/>

9 June, Sag Harbor Express, "Southampton Sustainability Member Chairs U.N. Conference," <http://sagharboronline.com/southampton-sustainability-committee-member-chairs-u-n-conference/?tc=eml>

24 June, Long Island Herald Newspapers, interview with Dr. Scott Carlin, to be published on Thursday 7 July (will send link when published)

[Aleppo Under Siege: Syrian Latest Tragedy Unfolds. Security Council Arria - Formula Open Meeting.](#)

August 8, 2016

Security Council Meeting on Syria, August 9, 2016.

These two meetings may be viewed : webtv.un.org

First Meeting was attended on site by Ambassador DeLuca, Dr. Anne Riccitelli, and Dominic Amarlicki.

[Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a UN Security Council Open Arria-Formula Meeting on Aleppo, August 8, 2016](#)

Thank you, everybody, for being here – members of the Security Council, permanent representatives, non-governmental organizations, and others, for coming to discuss the situation facing civilians under siege in Aleppo. In particular, I would like to thank the United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, and Ukraine for co-hosting this important event.

Today, we will hear from people who have witnessed firsthand the devastating human impact of the fight for Aleppo, and who have been working – in extremely trying circumstances – to mitigate the suffering that it causes.

Joining us from Aleppo by phone is Abdullah Nawhlu – the head of the Aleppo city sector of Syria’s White Helmets, and a first responder who is on the ground, day in and day out, trying to rescue injured civilians. Many of us have seen videos on YouTube of the White Helmets digging through the rubble after airstrikes to save civilians, some of them merely infants; work they pursue with the knowledge that the Assad regime’s helicopters and fighter jets routinely return to strike their targets a second or a third time. Mr. Nawhlu, on behalf of everyone gathered here, let me express how humbled we are by the selfless work that you and your colleagues do every single day. You are real-life heroes.

Dr. Zaher Sahloul and Dr. Sam Attar are two American doctors from the Syrian American Medical Society, SAMS, which coordinates a network of volunteer doctors inside Syria. Both have repeatedly traveled to different parts of Syria – including to eastern Aleppo last month – as the Assad regime was tightening its grip on the city. They and doctors like them leave behind families, esteemed jobs, and safety to sneak into places where hospitals and clinics are routinely being bombed by the regime’s jets and helicopters. To give just one example, from July 23 to July 31, Physicians for Human Rights reported that airstrikes by Assad’s forces struck six hospitals in Aleppo – five of which it had hit before. Think, just for a minute, of the courage and self-sacrifice it takes to venture into places like this. I had the privilege of seeing Dr. Sahloul and his wife shortly before he departed on his most recent trip from the United States. Understandably, his wife feared for her husband’s life, and he barely made it out of Eastern Aleppo before it was completely cut off. We are so grateful to have Dr. Sahloul and Dr. Attar with us here today – as we are so grateful for the work all the volunteers from SAMS and organizations like it do; they continue to risk their lives to help innocent Syrians.

Finally, we welcome CNN Senior International Correspondent Clarissa Ward, who also recently returned from Aleppo, and whose reporting throughout the Syrian conflict has helped the world see the brutality of this war up close.

As many of you know, this Security Council meeting was originally organized to focus attention on the growing crisis caused by the months-long siege of Eastern Aleppo by the Assad regime and the Russian Federation. Both the Assad regime and Russia are, of course, parties to the Cessation of Hostilities,

which aims to de-escalate the violence and create space for a political process that as we – and most of us here – have said all along, is the only way to bring an end to this conflict. Instead, after signing onto the cessation, the Assad regime – too often with Russian help – have repeatedly attacked opposition groups that are fellow adherents to the agreement. And two weeks ago, the regime – with the support of its allies – cut off the last remaining access route for humanitarian aid and commercial traffic – Castello Road, which I know we'll hear a lot more about in today's session.

It is hard to conceive of a strategy more likely to sabotage the Cessation of Hostilities, or more likely to play into the hands of violent extremist groups, than attacking other parties to the agreement, and cutting off food and medicine to hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. That is why we and others repeatedly called on the Assad regime and its foreign allies to cease their efforts to encircle Eastern Aleppo. They did not listen. Now, we are seeing the predictable result of their campaign.

On Friday, opposition groups – joined by members of the terrorist group Jabhat al-Nusra – launched a counter-offensive, breaking the Assad regime's siege of Eastern Aleppo. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, 130 civilians have been killed since the operation began, mostly in Western Aleppo. As we meet, humanitarian access to Eastern Aleppo remains cut off by fighting; and it is possible that it will become difficult to get humanitarian aid to tens or even hundreds of thousands more people in Western Aleppo. If the fighting continues, it is conceivable that civilians on both sides of Aleppo could be cut off from the basic assistance they need. We cannot allow this to happen.

The fighting of the past few days confirms what we have known for a very long time – despite the overwhelming force of the Assad regime, Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah on one side – neither side will be able to win a swift or decisive victory in the battle for Aleppo. Yet the longer the fighting drags on, the more civilians will be caught in the middle, the more that they will pay the highest price. And that is true not only for Aleppo, but for civilians living under siege – with little to no humanitarian access – across Syria.

According to the UN, some 600,000 people live in besieged areas. Six hundred thousand. That includes more than 282,000 civilians besieged on the outskirts of Damascus – in Eastern Harasta, Irbin, Zamalka, Ayn Tarma, Hammurah, Jisrayn, Kafr Batna, and Saqba; 43,000 civilians in Madaya; 45,000 people in Muaddamiyah Al-Sham; and 75,000 individuals in the Al-Wa'er neighborhood of Homs. The vast majority of these innocent civilians are besieged by the regime, using near-identical tactics: they surround a city, cut off humanitarian aid, and give civilians inside three choices: starve, be bombed, or surrender. No UN Member State should do this – and yet the Syrian regime has made this its grotesque trademark.

Of course, it is not just the regime that besieges civilians. Some 110,000 civilians are besieged by ISIL in Deir az Zour, and more than 20,000 people are besieged by opposition groups in Fuaa and Kafraya. It is important to note that, according to the UN, only three of the 18 besieged areas in Syria are being cut off by terrorist groups and the opposition; the remaining 15 – accounting for approximately 78 percent of those besieged – are encircled by the regime.

To civilians living in besieged areas, it matters little who is besieging them, we know. What matters is the hellish suffering it imposes on them and their loved ones, which the eyewitness accounts of today's

guest briefers will paint in searing, indelible detail. To be a parent whose children are so hungry that they cannot sleep at night. To be a doctor who is forced to watch patients die of treatable illnesses and injuries because you don't have medicine or equipment. To be a first responder who spends day after day picking the bodies of civilians from the rubble of hospitals and apartment buildings.

That is why the Security Council must send a clear, unified message that these sieges must end, and that there's no justification for cutting innocent people off from basic aid. And it is why we must underscore that the suffering of civilians should never be used as a political bargaining chip or a tactic of war. And it is why we must work with even greater urgency to get the Cessation of Hostilities back on track, and to ensure civilians in Aleppo and across Syria can be reached by humanitarian assistance.

To this end, we once again urge Russia to stop facilitating these sieges, and to use its influence to press the regime to end its sieges across Syria once and for all. And we urge all sides to cease violations of the Cessation of Hostilities, and work with the UN and humanitarian agencies to help aid reach those who need it most.

As the moderator for today's event, let me offer a quick note on the format. After our panelists and Council members have spoken, and have had the chance to respond to any questions, we will – time-permitting – open the floor for others to deliver short statements, until the event concludes at 1:00 p.m.

Before handing it over to Mr. Nawhlu of the White Helmets, let me close with something that a member of his team in Aleppo – a 29-year-old volunteer named Ismail al-Abdullah – said last week to a reporter. The previous day, Ismail and his colleagues had spent 10 hours searching for survivors in the rubble of a recent airstrike. They found one woman who had miraculously survived the strike. After they dug her out, she was rushed to a nearby hospital – and survived. But they had also found 10 bodies – three of them of small children. Only weeks earlier, two of Ismail's colleagues had been killed after fighter jets returned to the site of an earlier bombing, where White Helmets were sifting through wreckage – one of whom he described as "more than a father" to him. Asked how he could keep going, Ismail said, "When you see human beings suffering, you need to do something to help them. I consider everyone who is staying in Aleppo – all of them – heroes," he said.

This is going to be one of the most difficult sessions any of us have ever sat through. We can expect the briefers to share gut-wrenching eyewitness accounts. We will not have plausible deniability. But in listening, I would remind all of you that amidst the immeasurable hardship and suffering in places like Aleppo, there are so many people like Ismail. People who are risking their lives for each other. And not just among White Helmets and doctors like the ones who will speak today, but also among mothers and fathers, neighbors and ordinary citizens. All of them are heroes. In the face of their suffering, we must all ask – like Ismail – what will we do to help?

I would now like to invite Mr. Nawhlu of the White Helmets, joining us by phone from Aleppo.

[Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the Conclusion of a UN Security Council Open Arria-Formula Meeting on Aleppo, August 8, 2016](#)

Thank you so much. Some of you may remember that we had an Arria session maybe two years ago in which Dr. Sahloul presented video testimony of the chlorine attacks that had been occurring throughout Syria. And I really credit your testimony, your footage, your eyewitness reports with changing something

palpable, I think, inside the Council. Because the Council has been so blocked on Syria and so divided, I think something was required to puncture all of us out of a sense of helplessness because of our divisions. And I really hope today has a similar effect. On chemical weapons use, we haven't changed the world, but there has been a marked drop in chlorine attacks since the Council came together to create a Joint Investigative Mechanism. Very disappointed to see it looks like such attacks may have resumed recently – just in the last fortnight. And we're, of course, awaiting the report from the Joint Investigative Mechanism on the prior attacks. But that's an example of taking something that – no matter what our differences are – something we can agree upon. And I think preventing attacks against hospitals, protecting children, evacuating the medically needy, ending sieges – I mean, these are basic principles that hopefully the Council can come together and agree upon at this time of such dire need in Aleppo and elsewhere in Syria.

I do want to note, again, I think the power of this session is in the fact that there's no deniability – we have no plausible deniability; you have come from there, you have each brought with you your personal testimonies. No one can say that your footage, your pictures of children are propaganda images. We wish they were. But you have, I think, really moved everybody who's had the chance to hear from you. And you've earned, a million times over, our eternal respect and admiration. So, I thank you, and I'd ask everybody to give the doctors and Clarissa and those who bear witness a round applause. Thank you.

[The NGO Reporter September 2016](#)

REPORTS FROM THE 66th UNITED NATIONS DPI/NGO CONFERENCE GYEONGJU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, Republic of Korea and the National Organizing Committee of Korea, hosted a major, successful conference in the ancient capital city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 30 May to 1 June 2016.

The title of the conference was "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together."

It brought together nearly 4000 representatives from around the globe (the largest conference of its kind in its 66-year history). The conference focused on three pillars of education, namely i) formal education, ii) informal education and training, and iii) advocacy and public information. This edition of the NGO Reporter is a compilation of reports on and related to this historic event.

FROM THE CHAIR - BRUCE KNOTTS

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of the NGO Reporter. Let me begin with a round of thanks for the crucial support provided by the UN Department of Public Information, including Cristina Gallach, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division of UN DPI, and the entire NGO Relations staff at UN Headquarters in New York City.

I also would like to thank the members of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and the Conference Planning Committees, both in New York and South Korea, who, in partnership with the Department of Public Information, worked so hard to make the conference such a success, and on such short notice. We collaborated with dedicated people from as far afield as Zihuatanejo (Mexico), Nigeria, Holland, France and more. My profound thanks to one and all for a truly exceptional conference.

Bruce Knotts

Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee

READ MORE [HERE](#)

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE 66TH UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE GYEONGJU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 30 MAY 2016

As Secretary-General of the United Nations, it is a great pleasure for me to attend this UN DPI/NGO Conference - the first time it is held in Asia, here in Gyeongju, Korea. The first time in Asia. This city of Gyeongju was the capital of the Silla dynasty, which lasted for a thousand years. Still today, monuments here show that era's remarkable cultural, historical achievements. I wish to pay tribute to the citizens and government of Gyeongju for their warm hospitality and support for this DPI/NGO Conference.

I am especially grateful to Honourable Governor Kim Kwan-yong and Honourable Mayor Choi Yang-sik and Co-chairman Dr. Chang Soon Heung of the Handong Global University. Without their generous support and excellent arrangements, this Conference would not have been possible. I thank you for all your support. Thank you.

READ MORE [HERE: THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REMARKS](#)

SCOTT CARLIN, PH.D. MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR OF THE 66TH ANNUAL UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE

It has been an honor to co-chair the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference. I am grateful to have met and learned so much from many of you involved in this conference and am indebted to my conference subcommittee chairs and members, as well as the DPI staff, who worked so hard to make this conference such a success. I extend a special thank you to my conference Co-Chair, Dr. Yukang Choi and his excellent staff.

Scott Carlin, Ph.D.

Co-Chair, 66th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

UN DPI Representative, Long Island University / Post

UN ECOSOC Representative, International Society of Doctors for the Environment

READ MORE [HERE](#)

A DELEGATE'S VIEW 66TH UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS: ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) TOGETHER

I attended this year's DPI/NGO Conference held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 29 May-2 June. The topic, determined through a series of NGO "Town Halls" held at UN Headquarters in New York City plus input through social media platforms, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and conference website, was Education for Global Citizens: Achieving the SDGs Together. The main focus of the conference was on SDG #4, Quality Education.

Janet Stovin

World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)

Board Member, NGO/DPI Executive Committee

READ MORE [HERE](#)

A UNIQUE NGO DELEGATE PERSPECTIVE

My First DPI/NGO Conference as an NGO and not as a UN Staff Member

The Sariaya Learning Centre for Development (SLCD), a small NGO I started after retiring in 2010 from the UN DPI NGO Section, focuses on education. When I learned that this year's conference was on Education for Global Citizenship, I decided to attend, no longer as a UN staff member but as part of the NGO community. Another incentive was that the Conference was being held in South Korea, only a four-hour flight from the Philippines.

Sol Oca

Sariaya Learning Centre

READ MORE [HERE](#)

ASIAN MEDIA OUTREACH SUCCESS STORY FOR GYEONGJU CONFERENCE

The International Public Relations Association (IPRA) Asian Task Force made a substantial contribution to informing NGOs and others about the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea, a fact that was reflected in the excellent participation from the region: 3,750 attendees, most of them from Asia. The strategy of reaching out to media audiences by local/regional public relations professionals is certain to be considered for other important NGO events.

Barbara M. Burns

International Public Relations Association

READ MORE [HERE](#)

CONFERENCE STATISTICS

3750 Conference Participants

80 Countries Represented

620 Organizations Represented

Regional Participation:

- Africa 3.89 %
- Asia 84.89 %
- Europe 1.97 %
- Latin America and Caribbean 1.12 %
- North America 7.13 %
 - Oceania 0.96 %

GYEONGJU ACTION PLAN

Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together

The Gyeongju Action Plan

A Product of town hall meetings, wide input from the NGO Community, in advance and present throughout the successful conference, and the hard work of planning committee members dedicated to its preparation.

Speaking from the podium at the 66th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference, Ms. Cristina Gallach, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, said "This Conference has demonstrated another example of the value for the United Nations in investing in partnership with academia and NGOs." The Gyeongju Action Plan provides concrete guidance for NGOs around the world to enhance their ability to lobby governments to commitment to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and mobilize NGOs in communities on the ground.

"The United Nations is committed to continue to support and partner with NGOs and academia in our joint efforts to advocate for and successfully implement the 2030 Agenda," Ms. Gallach continued. The Gyeongju Action Plan was drafted through a global multi-stakeholder consultation process, leading up to, and during the conference. It was adopted by acclamation at the final plenary session and features a series of concrete measures for NGOs around the world to jump-start implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the grass roots level. The Action Plan will be shared widely with civil society and with the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations System, Member States and learning communities.

READ MORE [HERE: THE GYEONGJU ACTION PLAN](#)

LET COMPASSION TEMPER YOUR PASSION, SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING YOUTH CAUCUS EVENT

"This is a great way to start my day in Gyeongju. Thank you for organizing this very important meeting for me, youth representatives and leaders of today or tomorrow; that really energizes me all the time. I am inspired by hearing from the young leaders this morning I have met here. Thank you for sharing your ideas. Everywhere I go, any place I meet young leaders around the world, I am asking young leaders to speak out. Raise your voice. Raise your voice."

READ MORE [HERE: THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REMARKS](#)

YOUTH VOICES AT THE GYEONGJU CONFERENCE

The youth delegates of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference undertook a process of knowledge sharing, consultation and drafting to develop a Youth Declaration, elements of which were incorporated in to the final outcome document. Approximately 1,300 youth attended the conference and participated in the events. As consultations amongst the youth unfolded, an issue that repeatedly came up was youth participation--both in decision making processes about quality education that had a deep and lasting impact on young people and youth participation more broadly. Integrating young people into formal structures of power is of course advantageous for a variety of reasons, particularly because youth bring a fresh perspective, innovative solutions, creativity, enthusiasm, open mindedness and a spirit of service to these spaces.

Youth Sub-committee of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference Planning Committee

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT THE 66th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When the Youth Caucuses were not in session, the Youth Hub was available daily for networking and special events. The Youth Hub was successful in welcoming guests and engaging conference participants (both young people and older delegates) in live music, interviews, poster presentations and more. During the day, conference participants would drop in and actively engage in networking sessions. In the afternoon, the hub was a venue for both live musical performances and discussions regarding education, gender equality and women empowerment. The youth hub was developed and successfully run by the Conference Youth Sub-committee members representing youth organizations and NGOs from Bangladesh, India, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

Youth Caucus I:

30 May, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. - Youth-led Innovation in Education

Youth Caucus II:

31 May, 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. - Education in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations

Youth Caucus III:

1 June, 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. - Education and Youth Employment, Unemployment, Underemployment

Youth Hub @ the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference

A dedicated space for youth to meet, network and showcase innovation.

Youth Press Conference

The first youth media encounter at the Conference brought together representatives of the media, youth organizations and the United Nations.

CONFERENCE INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING EVENT

In an effort to reach out to youth at the Gyeongju Conference, the Conference Intergenerational Subcommittee sponsored a mentoring lunch event. Organized by Judy Lerner, NGO/DPI Representative of Peace Action NY, and Chairperson of the Inter-generational Subcommittee, and youth representatives Karen Chicas and Natalia Saavedra, the event aimed to facilitate dialogue between mentors and mentees about strategies to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

GYEONGJU YOUTH DECLARATION

We, the youth participants of the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, affirm that an ethos of global citizenship provides the bedrock for youth action on the promotion and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

We affirm that the ultimate objective of Education for Global Citizenship is the promotion of universal participation in the construction of a prosperous world civilization. As such, we call on a re-examination of the efficacy of youth participation at all levels of decision-making...

READ MORE [HERE: THE GYEONGJU YOUTH DECLARATION](#)

GYEONGJU CONFERENCE VIDEO WRAP-UP

Please enjoy this wrap-up video of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference. It captures the spirit and import of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference that took place in Gyeongju (Republic of Korea) from 30 May to 1 June 2016. A global education action agenda affirming the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 4 - ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong opportunities for all - was adopted on 1 June.

The newly adopted Gyeongju Action Plan includes a series of concrete measures for NGOs around the world to jump-start implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the grass roots level.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW

THE NGO DPI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The NGO/DPI Executive Committee was founded in 1962 to create a link between the United Nations and the Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). It is composed of eighteen Directors and encourages and assists NGOs, as members of civil society, to communicate their interests throughout the United Nations system and to support United Nations' goals and objectives. In partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee sponsors annual conferences for the 1500+ accredited DPI/NGOs around the world. The NGO Reporter is an official publication of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.

For additional information, [please click here](#).

USEFUL WEBSITE REFERENCES

[UN DPI 66th Conference Overview](#)

[NGO Directory](#)

[NGO Reporter collection](#)

[Dr. Anne Riccitelli, UN Rep For Syrian Orthodox Church In America, Is Co-Chair For Media Committee](#)

The International Public Relations Association (IPRA) Asian Task Force made a substantial contribution to informing NGOs and others about the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea, a fact that was reflected in the excellent participation from the region: 3,750 attendees, most of them from Asia. The strategy of reaching out to media audiences by local/regional public relations professionals is certain to be considered for other important NGO events.

With a tight deadline of four months to generate interest in and attendance at the Conference in Korea, the co-chairs of the Media Subcommittee, asked the representatives of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) to create a network of public relations professionals to promote Conference media coverage in the Asian region. Barbara M. Burns, an IPRA rep and member of the Subcommittee, contacted Yap Boh Tiong, Chairman of the Mileage Communications Group, headquartered in Singapore. The result was the formation of an IPRA Asian Task Force.

Mileage Communications Group members in China, Indonesia, Korea, Myanmar and Vietnam volunteered to translate documents and contact media on behalf of the Conference. One can find their translations into Burmese, Chinese, Indonesian, and Vietnamese on the UN website. The Media Subcommittee sent out press releases and news items to the IPRA Asian Task Force and to IPRA members and associates (10,000) around the world.

IPRA Asian Task Force members reported a strong interest among local and first-tier media. Most of the media coverage was on-line. To illustrate this outreach, information in Chinese appeared in news outlets and press releases focused on education, business, lifestyle and the economy. Shortly before the Conference opening, a Chinese press release that received wide attention was entitled, "World NGOs to Participate in Dialogue on 'Role of Education for Global Citizenship' at UN DPI/NGO Conference in Korea."

Jim McQueeny, IPRA's other rep and member of the Media Subcommittee, provided podcasts of interviews with the Conference Co-Chairs and NGOs for distribution via the UN networks. Fannie Munlin (National Council of Negro Women) and Anne Marie Riccitelli (Syrian Orthodox Church in America) were co-chairs of the Media Subcommittee.

Source: <http://ngodpiexecom.org/asian-media-outreach-success-story-for-gyeongju-conference/>

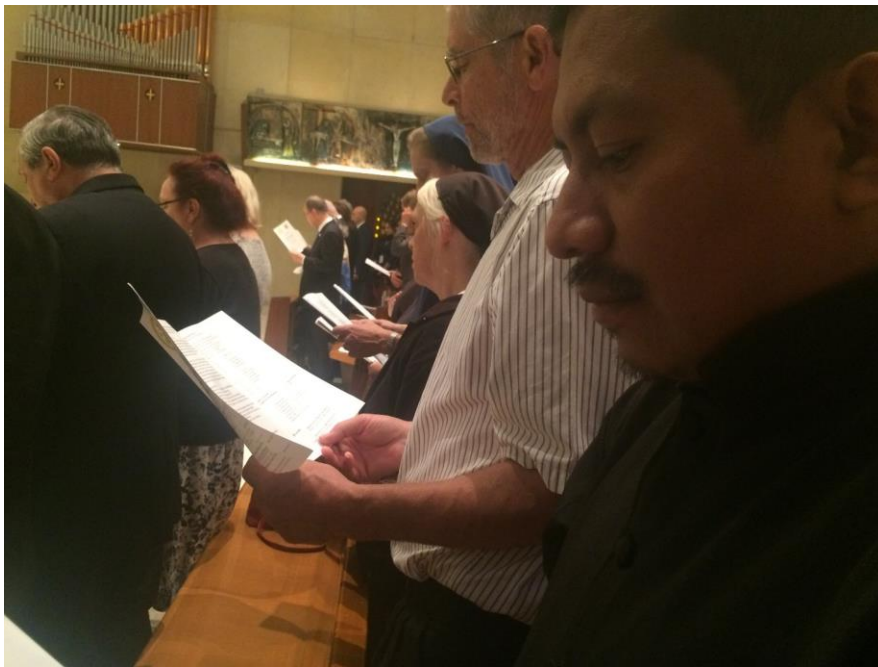
[Prayer Service for the opening of the 71s Session of United Nations and those working at the UN, at Holy Family Church, sponsored by Holy See Mission to UN, September 12, 2016](#)



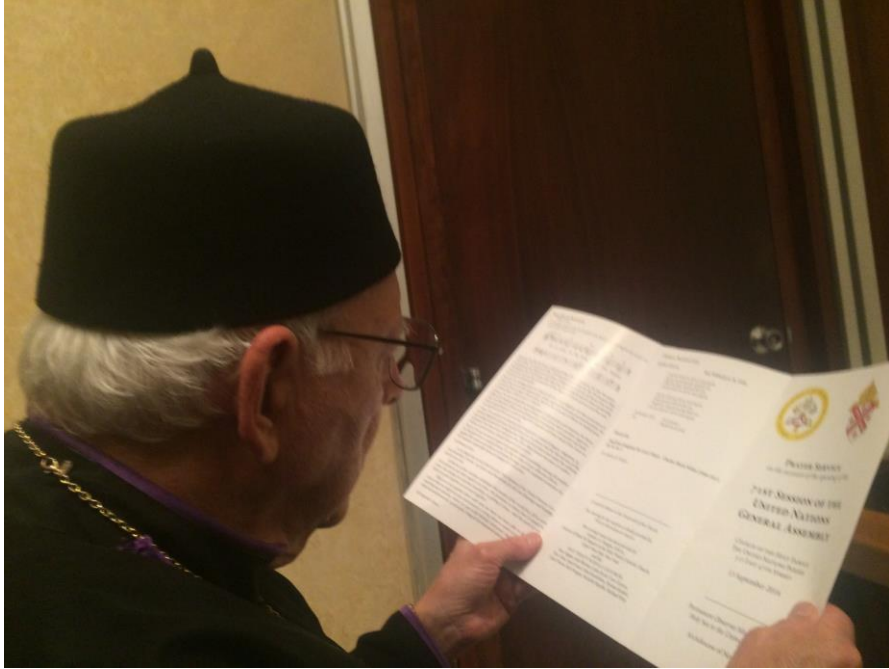




Secretary General of UN, Ban-ki-moon.



Syrian Orthodox priest visiting from Guatemala (SOCA)



Chorbishop Anthony, Syrian Orthodox Church in America, UN NGO.



Secretary General at his last UN Prayer Service.

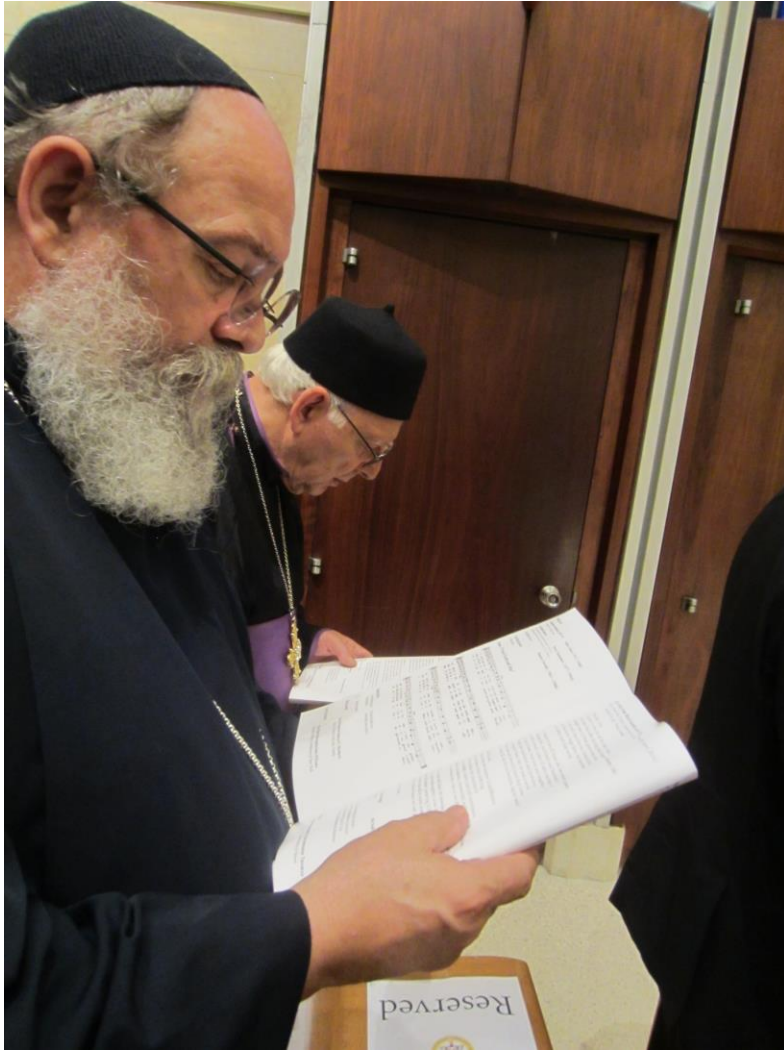


Archbishop Auza

Papal Nuncio to UN,



Guatamalan priest, Chorbishop Anthony, Father Simeon (Armenian), Father Faustino (others Syrian)



Father Faustino, Chorbishop Anthony (SOCA)

A New Year at the UN: Getting Serious About Global Disorder?

By Barbara Crossette on Sep 12, 2016 05:32 pm

The UN is holding its first-ever conference on refugees and migrants on Sept. 19, during the opening of the 71st General Assembly session. A boatload of migrants rescued by the Italian Coast Guard in the Mediterranean Sea, above. FRANCESCO MALAVOLTA/IOM

Government leaders from around the world are gathering in New York for the [opening](#) on Tuesday of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, an event haunted by momentous crises demanding undivided attention and action from all member countries. Responses in both the General Assembly (whose powers are limited) and the Security Council (stalemated by big power divisions) have been generally considered inadequate to the scale of the challenges.

There will be sustained pressure to act on finalizing a climate change agreement, taking concrete steps to create national mechanisms to advance an ambitious new global development agenda and addressing with greater urgency the murderous fallout of conflicts in Syria, Iraq and pockets of Africa, which are driving millions of desperate refugees into risky flights across land and sea.

Much of the activity in the assembly and some related events on the margins will be webcast and archived by UN Web TV, giving people across the world the opportunity to watch global leaders speak without interruption, superfluous commentary or commercial intrusions. [[Go to www.untvweb.com](http://www.untvweb.com) for daily information on live streaming.]

The 71st session is already marked by milestones.

It will be the last such annual global assembly session for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whose tenure in office finishes at the end of December. Who his successor may be is still cloaked in the mystery and silence of the Security Council. (PassBlue's latest article on the process is [here](#).)

It will be the last appearance before the assembly of President Barack Obama, whose administration has been more engaged with the UN than most of his predecessors. Future United States-UN relations under a new American president are already questioned.

It will also be the final official appearance of an outstanding assembly president, [Mogens Lykketoft](#) of Denmark, who has worked with unrelenting determination during his one-year term on forging innovations among the disparate collection of 193-member nations. His major legacy is likely to be opening to public view, through televised hearings, a campaign by candidates seeking to succeed Secretary-General Ban.

Lykketoft, who will call to order the opening session on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 3 p.m., New York time, will clear, among his first tasks, a long agenda of assembly business, the high point being the election of his successor, [Peter Thomson](#) of Fiji. Thomson has been Fiji's ambassador to the UN since 2010 and is currently president of the Council of the International Seabed Authority.

The interesting, often controversial and occasionally outrageous speeches by heads of state or government start on Tuesday, Sept. 20, led traditionally by Brazil, whose recently installed new president, Michel Temer, replaces Dilma Rousseff, ousted from office on a conviction of budget violations. The US president always speaks second.

Among leaders who are expected to address the assembly will be most Europeans — including Theresa May, the new British prime minister — as well as Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani. Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, is not attending. Russia remains at odds with the European Union and under sanctions for his invasion of Crimea, part of Ukraine, and assistance to Ukrainian rebels who seized territory on the Ukraine-Russia border. Russia also stands accused internationally of carrying out lethal airstrikes on civilian targets in Syria in support of the Syrian dictator, Bashar al-Assad.

The annual opening of a new General Assembly session is far more than just a UN event. New York becomes a hive of diplomatic activity as government leaders — some of them adversaries — meet one another, often in as much secrecy as they can assure themselves. Civil society organizations lobby for their own causes; demonstrations in streets near the UN pop up, and press conferences abound as

nations not always heard internationally get to meet an army of media. Television and social media beam back news to leaders' home countries.

And, of course, New Yorkers caught up in the scrum of motorcades and harried city police complain bitterly about the interruption of their hectic lives. (For street closings, check [here](#).)

Among the major events surrounding the opening of the UN General Assembly this year will be a [summit-level conference](#) on the global refugee-migration crisis, planned for Sept. 19, a day before the major speeches by world leaders begin. This first very high-level meeting has been called to confront the many issues surrounding the exploding human migrations of all kinds, from refugees fleeing the horrors of conflict to people trafficked by the rapidly growing ranks of international criminals whose lucrative abuse of vulnerable people is being called a form of modern-day slavery. (PassBlue's article on the conference is [here](#).)

Angela Merkel of Germany is planning to attend the opening session of the 71st UN General Assembly. She is one of the few European leaders showing generosity toward refugees, paying a large political price. SEBASTIAN DERUNGS/WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

In the draft of a final document to be adopted during the migration conference, buried among its many worthy paragraphs, are pointed statements that speak directly not only to the movement of people but also to the uglier reactions to the flow of refugees and migrants, as well as to the political crises that ensue, threatening to tear apart democracies. The draft, set out for adoption by all UN member nations — however much its lofty ambitions may be ignored in many places — will resonate in rich and poor countries. This is what it says about attitudes toward displaced people:

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. We recall that our obligations under international law prohibit discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status “We strongly condemn acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against refugees and migrants, and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief. . . . Gathered today at the United Nations, the birthplace and custodian of these universal values, we deplore all manifestations of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance. We will take a range of steps to counter such attitudes and behavior, in particular hate crimes, hate speech and racial violence.”

A day after the migration conference, President Obama and his co-hosts, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Jordan, Mexico and Sweden, will convene a government heads' meeting on treatment of refugees, which is intended to raise significant new global commitments to accept more people seeking resettlement. The US has taken in 10,000 Syrians but has been criticized for not accepting a far larger number — a political trip-wire in this year's US presidential campaign.

Other national governments have also begun to experience political pressure and the growth of anti-immigrant groups, including Germany, where about a million refugees arrived in 2015. Despite losing popularity and political ground in her own constituency to an anti-immigration movement, Angela Merkel, the chancellor, is standing firm on a generous refugee policy. She warned members of the

Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament, last week to avoid populist tactics and stay true to the country's values of "liberty, security, justice [and] solidarity."

"What sort of a country do we want to be in the 21st century?" she asked, according to an official government text in English. "Change is not a bad thing. Change is an essential part of our lives."

She closed her speech by saying that "Germany will still be Germany, with all that is precious to us."

Source: <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5d5693a8f1af2d4b6cb3160e8&id=241de11ef4&e=5137167260>

Annual CRNGO UN Business Meeting

By Jin Chacko

Associate of SOCA and connected with the UN

On September 29th, I attended the annual business meeting of CRNGO at the United Nations Church Center. Rev. Liberato Bautista, President of the CRNGO gave his welcome remarks and led the meeting. The meeting was discussed with certain topics and agendas.

In an open discussion one of the points that were brought up by Rev. Bautista he stated wanted to replace an open vacancy with an Indigenous person for the Committee Bureau. Rev. Bautista also mentioned about having a 2nd pass to go to the UN. People are asked vigorous questions in order to get a secondary pass usually someone can get 6 days only which is not enough time to get an appointment with an embassy. Also he pointed out about taking perspective on which members of the CRNGO is not at the meetings on a regular basis and access to the UN is an unpaid task to do this job the members have a voice that needed to be present. Unless we are vigilant about UN character basis for DPI and EcoSoft it truly weighs in the manor for empowerment for CRNGO if it weighs in there is little awareness. There is responsibility of the NGO's and member states.

It was discussed that a possibility of approval in International Day for Global Citizenship will be held at the UN. Rev. Bautista mentioned that he was watching an interview with President Obama and the President was asked why he refuses to call terrorism Islamic terrorism he said he didn't want to religiousize it. It was also talked about that religion and difficult topics can bring in a representative of a planning committee at the UN. A ten year study was made determining that the US is liable for suits for slavery the question is asked where do acts of repentance and acts of justice weigh in. The final topic discussed was the Coalition for Global Citizenship did a study that the biggest killer according to cardiologist is hypertension and how we as a people can control that issue and the Government at the UN is faith based and always has a faith voice representative.



CRNGO Minutes

29 September 2016 – General Meeting Notes

Welcome and Moment of Silence

Roll Call:

- Dr. Abraham Joseph, Senior International Advisor at Public Service Institute, University of Oklahoma – currently focusing on SDGs in Education, Health and Disaster Risk Prevention
- Rev. Fardia Ali, Principal Representative of the All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) to the United Nations - currently focusing on preventing war between India and Pakistan
- Rev. Scott Stearman, Senior Pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church and serves as a presence for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist World Alliance at the United Nations
- Clifford Polly, The United Methodist Church, UN & International Affairs – provides admin support to Levi Bautista
- Swami Parameshananda, United Nations NGO Representative, Bharat Sevashram Sangha – currently focusing on the SDGs

- Hikiro Sakurai, Representative, Soka Gakkai International – previous CRNGO President
- Marta Benavides, International Institute for Cooperation Amongst Peoples
- Martha Gallahue, Ethical Culture Leader representing United Religions Initiative
- Rebecca Rios-Kohn, Director of Arigatou International New York Office – currently working on the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children
- Nur Gorayeb, Intern for the Congregation of the Mission
- Masue Suzuki, Program Officer, Arigatou International New York Office – currently working on the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children
- Michael Gottsegen, Temple of Understanding and political scientist
- Maj. Victoria Edmonds, Representative to the United Nations at The Salvation Army - member of the CRNGO Bureau
- Beth Begley, Pax Christi International Delegate at the UN – member of the CRNGO Bureau
- Ces Martin, UNANIMA International
- Stacey Hanrahan, Representative for NGO relationships with United Nations, Congregation of Notre Dame – currently reaching out to the people who are most excluded in our society
- Noeli Maria Massoni
- Ms. Garcia
- Christal Christian, Tzu Chi Foundation
- Doyeon Park, Minister at Won Buddhism of Manhattan
- Jin Chacko
- Rev. Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations
- Daniel Perell, Representative, United Nations Office, Bahá'í International Community – previous CRNGO Secretary
- Rev. Dr. Liberato Bautista, Asst. General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society, The United Methodist Church, UN and International Affairs – Chair of the CRNGO Bureau
- Christina Wright, Aide to the Principal Representative, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States – Aide to the CRNGO Bureau

Announcements:

- Need to fill the vacancy on the Bureau left by Rev. Emeka Obiezu. If anyone has recommendations for a replacement, please contact Rev. Dr. Levi Bautista, Chair, at LBautista@umc-gbcs.org.

Agenda:

- Agenda was reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report:

- Dues are \$25 dollars a year
- The fiscal year starts in June
- The Committee meets every month concluding with a luncheon in June
- There is currently \$1,025 in the CRNGO account

Proposal of Monthly Briefing Themes:

- We must take opportunities to attend briefings seriously because they open spaces for regular voices to be heard. We need to be vigilant in making those spaces available as provided in the UN Charter. Please participate in the next 10 months of programming. The core mandate of CRNGO looks into moral, ethical and spiritual dimensions. We can weigh-in in a manner that builds empowerment and strives for hope to become visible.
 - There is very little awareness; we need heightened awareness.
 - How do we engender through global citizenship so that international becomes of higher importance than national? Interactions between member states and the wider society should be a bridge in terms of noting where the gaps are.
 - There has been less and less accompaniment from religious bodies. Accompaniment of people's movements is what is needed.
 - Planetary concerns of sustainability should not just be about our own planet, but others as well – interplanetary!
- In all panels for each briefing, there should be no more than three speakers:
 - a member of your organization
 - a representative from a member state
 - a UN functionary
- Time:
 - 1 hour and 15 mins for briefing; 30 mins for Q&A
- Review of suggested briefings:

- **October** – *In the Name of Religion* – Focus: The connection between religion and violence
 - The Bureau will plan this briefing
- **November** – *Religion and Difficult Topics* – Focus: Discuss some of the challenging aspects of the discrimination of religious belief. This will be our contribution to the annual celebration of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance & Discrimination Based On Religion or Belief. Want to invite as many like-minded NGOs and NGO committees to co-sponsor this event.
 - Sign-Ups:
 - Rev. Farida Ali will be the lead Bureau member; will work with the NGO Committee on the Freedom of Religion or Belief
 - Rev. Scott Stearman
 - Topic should also include sexual minorities
- **December** – *Religion and Human Rights* – Focus: In celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - Sign-Ups:
 - Swami Parameshananda will be the lead Bureau member
 - Rebecca Rios-Kohn
 - This would also be a good time to give focus to one of the three objectives of the UN based on the Charter – Human Rights and Dignity; Peace and Security; Preserving the Integrity of Sovereignty
 - Concern raised that Dec 20 is too close to the holidays
 - Bureau decided to move briefing to Fri Dec 16
- **January** – *Religion and Education for Global Citizenship* - Focus: spiritual and ethical values. What is in the sacred text of the religions we represent? What do they say about engendering a global citizenry? On the one hand we continue to challenge the notion of sovereignty. But on the other hand, we give sovereignty to engender people worldwide; to give us a sense of common humanity.
 - Sign-Ups:
 - Carl Murrell will be the lead Bureau member with Christina Wright assisting
 - Martha Gallahue and Hiro Sakurai (CGC2030 Steering Committee)
 - Rev. Farida Ali
 - Michael Gottsegen

- Rev. Dr. Levi Bautista
- **February** – *Religion, Reconciliation and Forgiveness* – Focus: Two days ago a UN expert group made a determination that the U.S. government is liable for slavery lawsuits. After 10 years there is reason for descendants of slaves to sue the government for making slavery possible. Where do acts of repentance begin to become acts of justice? Levi is organizing this same topic at an international conference in Norway.
 - Sign-Ups:
 - Levi Bautista will be the lead Bureau member
 - Doyeon Wong
 - Jin Chacko
- **March** – *Religion and Gender Equality* – Focus: SDG5. This briefing coincides with CSW and will be offered as a panel session.
 - Sign-Ups:
 - Maj. Victoria Edmonds will be the lead Bureau member
 - Dionne Boissiere
 - Hiro Sakurai
 - Doyeon Wong
- **April** – *Religion and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions* – Focus: SDG16. No eradication of poverty can be durable, lasting and sustainable without peace. The role of religious leaders and institutions on the ground in signing on to achieve the 169 targets and 270 indicators is crucial.
 - Sign-Ups:
 - Rev. Doug Hostetter will be the lead Bureau member
 - Martha Gallahue
 - Hiro Sakurai
 - Dr. Abraham Joseph
 - Rev. Dr. Levi Bautista
 - NGO Committee on Peace and Disarmament should be there
- **May** – *Religion, Ecology and Environmental Justice* – Focus: Sustainability isn't just about my town or the air in my town, it's about the entire planet.
 - Sign-ups:
 - Dr. Kusumita Pedersen will be the lead Bureau member

- Martha Gallahue
 - Rev. Scott Stearman
 - Hiro Sakurai
 - Swami Parameshananda
- SDG15 is very important and primarily also focused on the Group of Seven (G7). Can we inform G7 in advance about the briefing and request their presence?
- **June – Annual Luncheon**
- Question for consideration: Would the committees be interested in a presentation from U.S. Cardiologists? A group is working with Rev. Abraham Joseph at University of Oklahoma on a project in Haiti related to SDG3.
 - The group can come to the April 18th briefing to give examples of how a variety of institutions can support the work of the SDGs.
 - Suggestion to have a child come to a briefing to speak about engagement in the arts
 - All CRNGO members are encouraged to contact the Bureau if any of the proposed dates fall on or close to religious holidays.
 - A grid will be sent to all CRNGO members to invite them to sign up to help plan a briefing.

**PROPOSED MONTHLY THEMATIC BRIEFINGS AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETINGS
PROGRAMME CALENDAR 2016 TO 2017**

MONTH	DATE	TIME	SUBSTANTIVE BRIEFING THEME	LEAD BUREAU MEMBER	COLLABORATORS
SEPT '16	Thurs, 29th	1:15pm- 3:30pm	Business Meeting		
OCT '16	Tue, 18th	1:15pm- 2:45pm	In the Name of Religion: How is Religion and Sacred Texts Co-opted and Instrumentalized in Acts of Violence, Including Terrorism?	CRNGO@UN Bureau	
NOV '16	Mon, 21st	1:15pm- 2:45pm	Religion and Difficult Topics: Briefing on Challenges to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance & Discrimination Based On Religion or Belief	Rev. Farida Ali	Rev. Scott Stearman
DEC '16	Fri,	1:15pm-	Religion & Human Rights: In	Swami	Rebecca Rios-Kohn

	16th	2:45pm	Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Parameshananda	
JAN '17	Tue, 17th	1:15pm-2:45pm	Religion & Education for Global Citizenship—Spiritual and Ethical Moorings	Carl Murrell w/ Christina Wright assisting	Rev. Farida Ali, Rev. Dr. Levi Bautista Martha Gallahue, Michael Gottsegen, Hiro Sakurai
FEB '17	Tue, 21st	1:15pm-2:45pm	Religion, Reconciliation and Forgiveness	Levi Bautista	Jin Chacko, Doyeon Wong
MAR '17	Wed, 15th	10:00am-12:00pm	Religion & Gender Equality: SDG 5	Maj. Victoria Edmonds	Dionne Boissiere, Hiro Sakurai (w/ Ivy Gabbert), Doyeon Wong
APR '17	Tue, 18th	1:15pm-2:45pm	Religion & SDG 16: Justice, Peace, and Strong Institutions	Rev. Doug Hostetter	Rev. Dr. Levi Bautista, Martha Gallahue, Dr. Abraham Joseph, Hiro Sakurai
MAY '17	Tue, 16th	1:15pm-2:45pm	Religion, Ecology and Environmental Justice	Dr. Kusumita Pedersen	Martha Gallahue, Swami Parameshananda, Hiro Sakurai, Rev. Scott Stearman
JUN '17	Tue, 20th	1:00pm-4:00pm	Annual Luncheon	CRNGO@UN Bureau	

UN Report August 2016

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY AUGUST 19, 2016, 6:30-9:30 pm

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) held a special event, which included musical performances and speeches, to mark World Humanitarian Day (WHD) in New York at the United Nations General Assembly on the evening of August 19.

In a pre-recorded message, Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, himself a child refugee during the Korean war, reminded all that “We are one humanity with a shared responsibility. WHD is an annual reminder of the need to act to alleviate the suffering. It is also an occasion to honor the humanitarian workers and volunteers on the frontlines of crises. I pay tribute to these dedicated women and men who brave danger to help others at far greater risk.”

WHD is marked every year with events held around the world. Under the banner of “One Humanity,” Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie spoke of her childhood experience as a refugee from the eastern Nigerian-Biafran civil war. Her family had nowhere to run when a neighbor, Emmanuel, whose

house was already full, said to them: “We will make room for you.” We must create room for people. It is the moral imperative of our time.

Other speakers included British actress Natalie Dormer, of the series “Game of Thrones,” advocating for the rights of girls and women; Tony award winning former star of “Hamilton,” Leslie Odom, Jr. performed; “The Voice” winner Alisan Porter, mother of two young children spoke of the choices of her daily life versus the impossible choices of mothers in war and in the refugee camps; Palestinian pop singing star and UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Ambassador for Palestine Mohammed Assaf performed; Lebanese born American actress Yasmine Al Massri served as translator for Mohammed and for Hala Kamil, widow and mother of four children and the subject of the PBS Frontline documentary “Children of Syria,” who delivered a message of hope for humanity. A touching medley sung by the Harlem Gospel Choir concluded the evening. Attended and reported by Dr. A. M. Riccitelli, SOCA Representative to UN/DPI.

-Dr. Anne Riccitelli

UN Report for September 2016

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE STUDENT OBSERVANCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

September 16 , 2016, General Assembly Hall – Ahead of the International Day of Peace and the 71st regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, at 9:00 a.m., UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon rang the Peace Bell in the UN Peace Garden and observed a minute of silence. Women Nobel Peace Laureates Tawakkol Karman of Yemen, Shirin Ebadi of Iran and Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and United Nations Messengers of Peace, Michael Douglas, Dr. Jane Goodall, Midori Goto, Stevie Wonder, and Leonardo DiCaprio participated in the ceremony. Mr. Ban said that every year on the International Day of Peace, September 21, the United Nations calls on warring parties around the world to observe a 24-hour ceasefire.

“But peace is not just about putting weapons aside. It is about building societies where people share the benefits of prosperity on a healthy planet,” Mr. Ban said in his message for the Day. “You know best of all that peace is not an accident. Peace is not a gift. Peace is something we must all work for, every day, in every country,” he added. Mr. Ban said that the theme of this year’s observance highlights the 17 Sustainable Development Goals – or SDGs – as building blocks for peace.

Ms. Christina Gallach, Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information welcomed all those present, including students from all over the world. The events began with an energetic hip-hop performance of the sustainable development goals by Ike Ramos and Nitty Scott of Flocabulary, creators of educational hip-hop videos: <https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/week-in-rap-extra-sustainable-development-goals/video/>

H. E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly followed Flocabulary with a welcome and challenge saying: “We must all work now toward the achievement of universal peace.” Each of the UN Messengers of Peace briefly spoke: Master of Ceremonies Michael Douglas about disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation; Dr. Jane Goodall about conservation; Stevie Wonder about equality for persons with disabilities; Leonardo DiCaprio about climate change. They were followed by the Women Nobel Peace Laureate with their messages of Peace. Messenger of Peace Midori Goto spoke about the role of youth and the SDGs, then performed a violin solo. The Global Teacher

Award winner, Ms. Hanan Al Hroub spoke about her calling as a teacher and the importance of education and the SDGs. A performance by the Rainbow Choir of the Republic of Korea was met with a standing ovation.

The second half of the program was conducted by youth moderator, Ms. Dena Mekawi who introduced, via skype, students from Cyrus, Liberia and Rome and invited presentations of their peace projects. The event concluded with a second ringing of the Peace Bell by Mrs. Ban and Mr. Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division. There was a call and response of the Sustainable Development Goals and the event concluded.

Attended and reported by Dr. A. M. Riccitelli, SOCA Representative to UN/DPI

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE APPOINTMENT CEREMONY OF GOODWILL AMBASSADOR MS. NADIA MURAD BASEE TAHA

September 16, 2016, United Nations Headquarters, Trusteeship Council Chamber – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODOC), in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the United States to the UN held an induction ceremony for Ms. Nadia Murad Basee Taha as Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking. Ms. Murad, a 23 year old Yazidi woman, briefed the Security Council on its first-ever session on human trafficking last December. She described being rounded up with fellow Yazidis in Iraq in 2014 and witnessing ISIL fighters shooting men and boys in cold blood. She was subject to grave abuses at the hands of ISIL fighters and was bought and sold various times. At the induction ceremony in New York, featuring speakers H.E. US Ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power and International Human Rights Barrister and Attorney for Ms. Murad, Ms. Amal Clooney, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, said; “Nadia survived horrific crimes. I cried when I heard her story. But I didn’t only cry out of sadness. I was also moved to tears because Nadia has so much strength, courage and dignity. She rightly calls for a world where all children live in peace.”

A relentless advocate for victims, her appointment as Goodwill Ambassador will mark the first time a survivor of atrocities s given this distinction. During her Ambassadorship, Nadia will focus on advocacy initiatives and raising awareness around the plight of millions of victims of trafficking in persons, especially refugees, women and girls.

Attended and reported by Dr. A.M. Riccitelli, SOCA Representative to UN/DPI.

[In Case You Missed it: Webcast link to the DPI/NGO Briefing #UNGA ? What?s Happening at the United Nations on Thursday, 13 October 2016](#)

Dear NGO Colleagues,

Please find below the webcast link to the DPI/NGO Briefing #UNGA – What’s Happening at the United Nations on Thursday, 13 October 2016, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in CR 11:

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/unga-whats-happening-at-the-united-nations/5169049626001>

Our SOCA NGO Has An Affiliate In Guatemala Where Information On United Nations Activities Will Be Distributed.

Parroquia en San Nicolás, Chiantla, Huehuetenango, Guatemala, C.A.

Desde mi ordenación presbiteral el 29 de octubre de 2010, he dado acompañamiento, como a otras parroquias, a esta Iglesia que se ubica en San Nicolás, Municipio de Chiantla, Departamento de Huehuetenango, Guatemala, en Centro América.

Esta iglesia es una de las comunidades más antiguas en el Departamento de Huehuetenango, porque sus orígenes van hasta 1980. En los tiempos en que la espiritualidad carismática llegó al Departamento, y algunos de sus miembros más ancianos, se involucraron en este movimiento, dentro de la iglesia romana.

Años después las personas que daban testimonio de su vida renovada, porque habían abandonado vicios de alcoholismo, que es un gran problema en Guatemala, y sentían que habían pasado a una experiencia del Espíritu Santo, en la que su relación con Dios, y el Señor Jesucristo, era más personal. Y esto les llevo progresivamente, a fueran siendo excluidas de su parroquia, no dándoles participación y al mismo tiempo negándoles el derecho a la vida sacramental.

Ellos pasaron más de 10 años sin la asistencia de un sacerdote o padre. A pesar de ellos su fe enraizada en la sana doctrina de la iglesia, como católicos, no la cambiaron.

Este abandono cambio hasta 2003 con el surgimiento misionero de Monseñor Eduardo Aguirre, quien actualmente es, El Arzobispo Mor Santiago Eduardo Aguirre, de la Iglesia Católica Apostólica Siro-Ortodoxa de Antioquia. Arquidiócesis de Centro América.

Ordenado como sacerdote el 29 de octubre de 2010.

De origen salvadoreño, y residente en Guatemala.

Iglesia Católica Apostólica Siro-Ortodoxa de Antioquia. Arquidiócesis de Centro América.

Trabajo como misionero a tendiendo varias capellanías, y la parroquia asignada.

Dedico tiempo para escribir diversas instrucciones sobre temáticas relacionadas a la vida cristiana,

Y temas de interés para nuestra gente.

Dentro de otros asuntos también estoy acompañando en asesoría y apoyo técnico a la fundación de un Museo en San Antonio La Loma, La Paz, El Salvador, a través, de las iniciativas llamada proyecto Génesis, que incluye lo religioso y lo cultural.



Joseph Cannizzo, SOCA, Youth Representative Brings UN Message Of Peace And Understanding Trough Judo To Scotland.

Date: October 15th, 2016

The Olympic sport of Judo is the 2nd most practiced sport in the world and the #1 most practiced individual sport in the world. As a precursor to the summer Olympics, there are international Judo tournaments which feature each countries best athletes. These athletes compete against each other in an effort to increase their world ranking established by the International Judo Federation. Every country is not eligible to compete in the Olympics in Judo. Only the top 22 athletes from around the world are eligible to participate. Athletes like Joseph train and compete for 4 years hoping to secure a spot at the next Olympic games. They undergo strenuous training regiments, not to mention the nutritional and recovery plans that they follow. They endure tremendous adversity on the judo mat as well as off the mat all in an effort to better themselves. It was an honor and a privilege for our NGO rep Joseph Cannizzo to represent this great nation at the Euro Cup in Scotland this month.





Inside Look at Major UN Actions & Events

UNAI Newsletter July-August 2016



Dear UNAI Members,

Please see the attached [July-August 2016 United Nations Academic Impact Newsletter](#).

Kindly note that you may also access this and all previous issues of the newsletter at <https://academicimpact.un.org/content/newsletters>.

Sincerely,
The United Nations Academic Impact Team

Launch of the Together campaign 19 September 2016

Dear NGO Colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the Secretary-General launched the Together campaign at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants held on 19 September.

Together: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.

Highlighting the positive contributions made by refugees and migrants.

The campaign will highlight the economic, cultural and social contributions that migrants and refugees make to countries of origin, transit and destination. It will also counter some of the misinformation and misperceptions on refugees and migrants and encourage contact between refugees, migrants and those in the destination countries.

For more information, please visit <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/together>

[His Excellency, Erlan Abdyldayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kyrgyz Republic, addresses General Assembly, September 24, 2016. Ambassador Anthony DeLuca was present and seated with the Kyrgyz Delegation.](#)



Embracing “Sustaining Peace” – A More Holistic Understanding of Peacebuilding



Peacebuilding is at the core of United Nations activities in conflict-affected countries throughout the world, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [recalled](#) yesterday, 28 July, at a Security Council discussion on overcoming the fighting raging in a number of African countries. The debate was important in itself, given the subject matter. But it was also noteworthy because it reflected a significant conceptual change, coming weeks after the Council and the General Assembly adopted parallel resolutions on “Sustaining Peace”, ambitiously reordering the way the United Nations undertakes “peacebuilding”.

“Sustaining Peace” largely does away with the distinction between prevention of conflict on the one hand and “post-conflict” peacebuilding on the other, as well as with the traditional division of labour among UN entities working on different stages of the conflict cycle.

The change is already evident in the language used to discuss peacebuilding. In a [Presidential Statement](#) adopted on the occasion of yesterday’s debate, the Council “stressed the importance of institution-building as a critical component of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa ...”. [Previously](#), the focus in the Council and elsewhere had been on “*post-conflict* [emphasis added] peacebuilding”.

As Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, head of PBSO, [said](#) this week, the Council and Assembly resolutions ([S/Res/2282](#) (2016) and [A/Res/70/262](#) (2016), respectively) broaden the definition of peacebuilding from a post-conflict process to “activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.”

“Sustaining Peace” covers all efforts aimed at “addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development”, and promises to have a major impact on the work of a broad range of UN entities, chief among them the [Peacebuilding Commission \(PBC\)](#), the [Peacebuilding Fund](#), the [Peacebuilding Support Office \(PBSO\)](#) and DPA.

The resolutions recast the role of the PBC, expanding it to include early, preventive response, and “empowering it to be much more creative, much more flexible and much more engaging,” Mr. Fernandez-Taranco added.

They also stress that PBSO’s role should be “revitalized” to improve its strategic advice to the Secretary-General, and underline that the task of sustaining peace is one for the whole of the UN, calling for renewed efforts towards system-wide planning and analysis, including with the UN development system.

The resolutions are of great relevance to DPA. By acknowledging that “Sustaining Peace” is “an inherently political process”, the resolutions echo the message about the primacy of political solutions found in the report of the [High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations \(HIPPO\)](#).

“The term ‘sustaining peace’ embraces the full arc of DPA’s work in conflict prevention,” Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman told Politically Speaking. “I believe the resolutions present a real opportunity for renewed momentum for prevention. This is one reason many Member States have emphasized they see DPA as having a central role to play in implementation of the texts.”

“In breaking down conceptual and institutional silos,” he continued, “these landmark resolutions make it possible for all of us – the UN, regional bodies, the international financial institutions and others – to be more strategic, dynamic and effective in helping countries prevent and overcome conflict and build a more prosperous future.”

The resolutions call for a detailed report from the Secretary-General during the 72nd Session of the General Assembly on, among other things, efforts to improve operational and policy coherence and leadership, to strengthen key partnerships (particularly with the international financial institutions), and to provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding dedicated to United Nations peacebuilding activities, including through assessed and voluntary contributions.

Source: <http://un-dpa.tumblr.com/post/148166155014/embracing-sustaining-peace-a-more-holistic>



What is it?

In 2008 the UN General Assembly designated 19 August World Humanitarian Day to commemorate the anniversary of the deadly 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq which killed 22 people and wounded many others.

Why is it so important?

World Humanitarian Day honors those who have lost their lives in humanitarian service and those who continue to face danger and adversity to bring assistance and relief to millions. It also seeks to draw attention to humanitarian needs worldwide and to explain what humanitarian aid work entails. World Humanitarian Day is also an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. The theme for this year is "One Humanity."

What can you do?

The UN and its humanitarian partners invite you to join any of the world's humanitarian organizations and become an active Messenger of Humanity. Share information about the importance of humanitarian aid work on your social networks via #sharehumanity to help amplify the message.

Follow the World Humanitarian Day:



www.worldhumanitarianaday.org



[World Humanitarian Day- 19 August](#)



[@dayhumanitarian](#)



Syria: Briefing on Humanitarian Situation

On Monday (22 August), OCHA head Stephen O'Brien will brief the Security Council on the most recent report on the humanitarian situation in Syria (S/2016/714). Most Council members anticipate that the briefing and the following consultations will focus on Aleppo as well as the push for a 48-hour pause to the fighting.

Council members will want O'Brien's assessment of the humanitarian situation in Aleppo, though few expect him to convey any significant progress since his last briefing on 9 August. At that time, rebel-held eastern Aleppo had been encircled for more than a month after government forces and allied militias—backed by Russian air strikes—took control of Castello Road, severing the opposition's final supply route into eastern Aleppo. OCHA has reported that this development left an estimated 250,000 to 275,000 civilians "closer to the line of fire and at risk of besiegement" and has repeatedly called for a weekly 48-hour pause in fighting to allow humanitarian aid to reach Aleppo. O'Brien is expected to inform Council members that the UN has pre-positioned supplies and stands ready to deliver aid into Aleppo if all parties, particularly the Syrian government, are able to provide security guarantees.

Regarding security guarantees for humanitarian aid delivery, Council members will want an update from O'Brien on the status of the discussions between Russia and the UN on Russia's unilateral 28 July proposal to open "humanitarian corridors" for civilians and rebels to leave Aleppo. The High Negotiations Committee (HNC), the Riyadh-based opposition umbrella group, condemned Russia's proposal for humanitarian corridors, characterising it as a euphemism for forced displacement. The same day that Russia announced its initiative for humanitarian corridors, O'Brien released a statement noting he was aware of the proposal and the critical need for the security of any such corridors to be guaranteed by all parties. The statement said that people should be able to use such corridors voluntarily, and that no one should be forced to flee by any specific route or to any particular location. It reiterated that international humanitarian law required humanitarian access for people to leave and for aid to come in.

On 3 August, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura transmitted to Russia the UN position paper that outlined the conditions that needed to be met for UN humanitarian agencies to possibly be involved with "humanitarian corridors" in Aleppo. It seems the letter included many of the points that OCHA had already publicly announced regarding the need to ensure the humanitarian nature of such corridors, as well as detailing operational and protection considerations that need to be present for the UN to be willing to engage, particularly regarding detention. Issues around detention are of importance to many Council members who have not forgotten the incident from early 2014 when, during a UN-monitored evacuation from Homs, men and boys were separated from their families and detained by the government. Subsequently, international monitors had a great deal of difficulty in ascertaining the whereabouts of these men and boys. It seems Russia responded on 15 August that the UN position paper could be used as a basis for further discussion but that some elements required further work—such as security screening of evacuees.

These differences have left many Council members feeling that the prospects of establishing a humanitarian corridor for Aleppo, under UN auspices, are not imminent and are very much dependent on first getting a 48-hour pause in the fighting, which in turn hinges on the outcome of bilateral negotiations between Russia and the US. It seems the ambitious talks between Russia and the US about

counter-terrorism cooperation in Syria in exchange for a renewed nationwide cessation of hostilities and a formula for a political transition have been whittled down to talks focused on an Aleppo ceasefire.

Some Council members were hoping that Russia and the US, as co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), would be able to make progress on humanitarian access at the meeting of the ISSG humanitarian task-force in Geneva on 18 August. However, less than eight minutes after it started de Mistura suspended the meeting in light of escalating fighting in Aleppo and the lack of humanitarian access. In comments to the press, he again reiterated the UN's call for a 48-hour pause. On Monday, O'Brien is expected to stress the need for a pause in the fighting and an agreement from the ISSG co-chairs on the modalities of such a pause. While Russia announced its support for 48-hour ceasefires on Thursday (18 August), at press time Russia and the US had not reached an agreement.

O'Brien first asked the Council to support the UN's call for a 48-hour pause during a 25 July briefing. In press comments following that meeting, Japan, as president of the Council, said that there was overwhelming support among Council members for a weekly 48-hour humanitarian pause in the fighting in Aleppo. However, Council members were unable to issue a statement to this effect as Russia, which has played a direct role in supporting the government offensive, was unable to agree. There was another attempt to respond to the crisis in Aleppo following O'Brien's 9 August briefing. The UK circulated a draft press statement expressing support for "recurring substantial pauses in fighting to ensure sustained humanitarian deliveries ... to Aleppo can commence safely and effectively" and stressing that "any humanitarian initiative must operate according to humanitarian principles and be led by impartial humanitarian actors". It seems over three days of negotiations Russia insisted on language that the humanitarian situation had deteriorated due to terrorist activity, and that impartial humanitarian actors should act in close cooperation with the Syrian government. In the end consensus could not be reached and the statement was not issued.

Against this grim backdrop, several Council members believe that the chances of gaining humanitarian access to Aleppo, let alone resuming the intra-Syrian political talks, are dim in the absence of a major breakthrough between Russia and the US.

Looking ahead, Council members will hold consultations on the Syrian chemical weapons track on 30 August to discuss the monthly 2118 implementation report (S/2016/678). This document covers the OPCW Director-General's report that describes discrepancies in Syria's declared chemical weapons arsenal that have not been resolved despite repeated attempts over two years by the OPCW's Declaration Assessment Team to seek clarification from the Syrian government. These discrepancies and lack of sufficient cooperation from Syria have led the OPCW to conclude this past July that Syria's declaration cannot be considered accurate and complete. The Director-General's report also includes information that samples taken at several Syrian facilities indicated undeclared chemical weapons activities at multiple locations. Council members will also consider the final report of the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) that is due late next week. This report is expected to determine responsibility for the use of chemical weapons in the nine cases the JIM is investigating: eight related to allegations of the government's use of chemical weapons and one related to an alleged use of chemical weapons by ISIL.

It is expected that these reports will initiate discussion among Council members about whether Syria is in breach of resolutions 2118, 2209 and 2235, and, if so, what course of action the Council should pursue given that all three resolutions threatened "further measures", commonly believed to be an

implicit threat of sanctions. Meanwhile, the JIM's mandate expires in September and it is unclear whether it will be renewed.

Source: <http://www.whatsinblue.org/2016/08/syria-briefing-on-humanitarian-situation.php#>

Remarks by Ambassador Michele Sison, U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Humanitarian Situation in Syria, August 22, 2016

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, Under-Secretary-General O'Brien, for your briefing.

As we heard from Under-Secretary-General O'Brien and other colleagues, last week, the world's attention was indeed transfixed by the shocked, blank stare of five-year-old Omran Daqneesh, who looked out from the back of an ambulance after being pulled from the rubble of his family's destroyed apartment building in eastern Aleppo.

Perhaps most striking, however, was Omran's silence. Even as the dust, debris, and dried blood covered this young boy's face, he did not cry out – he did not scream for help. He did not even call for his parents.

All Omran could do was to look straight ahead and wipe the dirt from his hands on the ambulance seat.

Just pause and consider for a moment how much trauma little Omran must have experienced to react to the collapse of his home without even making a single sound. But also consider what will happen next for Omran and a generation of Syrian children like him who have known nothing but war.

Omran may now be discharged from one of the few remaining hospitals in eastern Aleppo, but he still faces the horror of Russian and Syrian airstrikes that pummel his neighborhood day after day after day.

And as we learned over the weekend, Omran's older brother, Ali, died from the injuries he received in the airstrike – the result of the Assad regime's willful attacks to cut off eastern Aleppo.

Across Syria, the Assad regime is drawing upon Russian assistance to escalate this conflict. Fronts that have been relatively quiet in recent months are once again being bombed by the regime. In the Dera'a governorate, for example, airstrikes destroyed the town of Jasim's only hospital, and strikes against Busra Al-Sham displaced thousands of people.

In Idlib and Aleppo, Human Rights Watch has reported at least 18 attacks with incendiary weapons between June 5 and August 10, which one resident of Idlib described as "blocks of flame falling from the sky."

In the besieged community of Darayya, where it has been 74 days since the town's 4,000 residents have received a delivery of food or medicine from the UN, there are reports of civilians with burns that are consistent with napalm exposure.

And we recall that yesterday marked the three-year anniversary of the gruesome chemical weapons attack in Ghouta, for which the United States remains determined to pursue accountability.

The Assad regime has shown no hesitation whatsoever to employ the most gruesome tactics in the pursuit of military gains – from launching "starve and surrender" sieges, to shoving crudely-made barrel bombs from helicopters. This is the regime Russia is supporting with its own airstrikes and military advisers. The fighting is getting worse, and so are the humanitarian consequences.

The Assad regime has failed month after month to provide for unfettered humanitarian access. This month, no UN convoys have departed, largely because of the Assad regime's absurd bureaucratic obstructions. The regime has allowed no assistance – none – for the people of eastern Aleppo this month. That affects up to 275,000 Syrians under siege. It has been nearly four months since Madaya, Zabadani, Foua, and Kefraya received aid. More than two months have passed since aid has reached the besieged community of Al-Waer.

While the United States condemns all parties to this conflict who use siege tactics, we must be clear that the Assad regime and its international backers are responsible for 78 percent of Syrians living under siege – the overwhelming majority.

Aleppo is facing the threat of a double siege, with the regime bombarding the east and opposition forces attacking the west. 1.8 million people living in both sides of Aleppo could be trapped and cut off from assistance, unless all parties take immediate steps to allow for unfettered humanitarian access – unfettered humanitarian deliveries.

Last week, Russia announced its support for the UN proposal to organize 48-hour weekly pauses in Aleppo – the bare minimum amount of time the UN needs to deliver aid. The United States supports these pauses, which could give Aleppo's residents a reprieve from daily bombardments and allow aid to get in.

It is imperative that all armed groups in Aleppo respect these pauses and work with the UN to provide access to both sides of the city – and we need to see Russia follow its unilateral declaration with genuine steps to support regular and sustained access to Aleppo. These pauses are not the solution to the problem of humanitarian deliveries – that requires a more comprehensive arrangement that revives the Cessation of Hostilities and ensures unimpeded humanitarian access nationwide. But in the meantime, the people of Aleppo need the UN's help right now.

Another key factor that compounds Syria's humanitarian suffering is the Assad regime's repeated destruction of hospitals and medical facilities. We have heard of six healthcare centers, hospitals, and labs hit by airstrikes in the past five days. And in Dera'a, one of the first buildings struck after the regime's escalation of airstrikes in late July, was the Radwan Field Hospital which served more than 400,000 people – many of whom had fled violence in other parts of Syria. Airstrikes had already destroyed the hospital twice, and the resilient people of Dera'a invested what little they had to rebuild the hospital each time. Local leaders must again make a gut-wrenching choice: try to rebuild the hospital a third time, only to see those resources potentially squandered by a future airstrike, or give up and leave the people of Dera'a without critical medical care.

The shortage of medical care in eastern Aleppo is prompting calls for medical evacuation that the Assad regime persistently ignores. In July, five of eastern Aleppo's nine hospitals were struck, and only 35 doctors are left working. These heroic doctors simply do not have the tools, the equipment, or the medicine to provide the care that so many Syrians injured from the fighting desperately need.

On August 8, Dr. Zaher Sahloul of the Syrian American Medical Society told members of this Council about 10-year-old Shahad, a little girl critically injured when the Assad regime dropped a barrel bomb on her house. While her wounds were serious, doctors believed at the time that she could be saved with

proper treatment, including a CT scan for diagnostics – a CT scan which was not available to anyone in eastern Aleppo.

Just one day after Dr. Sahloul talked with us about the urgent need for Shahad to be evacuated, Shahad died. She was just one among countless men, women, and children who might have been saved but for the Assad regime's siege tactics.

The steps that the parties need to take to fix this are well-known. The Assad regime must recognize that there is no military solution to this conflict. Those who enable and support Assad's attacks, including Russia, must use their influence to bring these bombardments to an end.

While we continue to negotiate for a resumption of the Cessation of Hostilities, Assad's sieges, barrel bombs, strikes on medical facilities, obstruction of aid, and use of incendiary weapons will make this goal ever harder to attain.

Negotiations require a show of good faith, but the Assad regime has instead chosen to expand the fighting on the ground and deepen the suffering of the Syrian people.

Let me conclude with just one more thought. Last Friday, August 19, was World Humanitarian Day, a day in which we honor those who might have been killed trying to help others and those who risk their lives every day to relieve suffering. In Syria, hundreds of UN staff, Red Crescent staff and volunteers, NGO workers, doctors, nurses, and "White Helmet" first responders – like the late Khaled Harah, whose death Stephen O'Brien just noted – they all have paid the ultimate price for their selflessness and bravery in the line of duty.

At an event in the General Assembly Hall last Friday evening to mark World Humanitarian Day, Hala Kamil, a brave Syrian mother whose family of four children fled Aleppo and who is featured in the "Children of Syria" documentary, spoke to a jam-packed General Assembly chamber.

Hala said, "I do not agree with those out there who say that there are two worlds – one for the political decision-makers and one for those who bear the consequences of their decisions. We who suffer those consequences must have some bearing on the actions or lack of action of the powerful."

We should be guided by Hala's voice and the voices of the many Syrians who stand up every day to demand peace and to help those who are suffering. To honor their sacrifices, we cannot continue to relay the same lists of horrors, the same lists but with different names, month after month, while Syria is descending into an irreparable state. Instead, there must be an end to the sieges, an end to the barrel bombs, and an end to the strikes on civilians.

Only then will Syrians like Hala Kamil and her children – Sara, Farah, Helen, and Mohammed – be able to contemplate a different and more humane future.

Thank you, Madam President.

[High-level Civil Society Event of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants](#)

19 September 2016

10:00am-12:30pm

Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters

This High-level Event provides a unique space during the Summit to enable refugees and migrants to dialogue with UN Member States about the commitments made in the Summit outcome document. The opening session of this event will have a special focus on the perspectives of young refugees from Syria on issues for resettlement, inclusion, and the Summit commitment to ensure that all children are in education within a few months of initial displacement, in safe learning environments.

10:00am - Opening Remarks by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

18 year-old Ms. Yusra Mardini, Syrian refugee now living in Germany, who swam for 3 hours in the Aegean Sea to push a boat to shore with 20 other refugees on board, and then became a swimmer as part of the Olympic Refugee Team.

17 year-old Ms. Muzoon Almellehan, a Syrian refugee who lived in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps in Jordan, and is now a campaigner with the Malala Fund to call on governments to support the education of refugee children.

Via video: 12 year-old Lana (pseudonym), a Syrian refugee living in Jordan who shared her dream to attend school via video sent by Save the Children to UN-NGLS in July.

Ms. Megan Smith, United States Chief Technology Officer

Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

10:30-11:30am - Dialogue between refugees, migrants and UN Member States moderated by H.E. Ambassador David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN

11:30am-12:20pm - Dialogue between refugees, migrants and UN Member States moderated by Ms. Michele Klein Solomon, Senior Policy Advisor to the Director General of the International Organization for Migration

12:20pm - Closing remarks by President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft

List of refugee and migrant speakers registered for the 10:30am-12:30pm dialogues:
<http://bit.ly/19Sept-CSO-Event-Refugee-Migrant-Speakers>

Member State speakers during the 10:30am-12:30pm dialogues to include:

H.E. Mr. Joe McHugh, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Development Aid, Ireland

H.E. Ambassador Martin Shearman, Ambassador of Development and Human Rights, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

Ms. Catherine Wiesner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United States Department of State

The event will be web cast live at <http://webtv.un.org>

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Thank you, Under-Secretary-General O'Brien, for your briefing and for your special attention to the 250,000 to 275,000 Syrians trapped in Eastern Aleppo.

Let's put Eastern Aleppo in some context. For years, this Council has called on the Assad regime to end the brutal sieges that have inflicted suffering on hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have been deprived of the food and medicine needed to survive. The community of Darayya outside Damascus, besieged by the regime, received no UN aid for more than three years; communities in eastern Ghouta received no UN deliveries for more than two years. After long and painful negotiations – negotiations that should have never been necessary in the first place – the UN and its partners barely managed to reach Syria's 18 besieged areas this year. Often, the UN was only able to send a single convoy. And often – more often than not – the Assad regime removed supplies from these convoys before they could reach civilians. It was actually hard to imagine how Syria's humanitarian situation could get worse.

And yet, Assad's military advances around Aleppo – undertaken with Russia's support – now threaten to bring the suffering of the Syrian people to a new low. We have spoken repeatedly, and in great detail, over the last six months about the horrific starvation of Syrians in the besieged areas of Madaya and Darayya. Eastern Aleppo, by comparison, has up to seven times as many people as those trapped in Madaya, and up to 75 times as many people as in Darayya.

Eastern Aleppo is quickly falling victim to the Assad regime's typical pattern of starve and surrender tactics. Over the last month, the Assad regime flagrantly violated the cessation of hostilities by attacking Aleppo. The regime and its supporters have cut off Castello Road, the only remaining supply route for more than 250,000 Syrians living in the eastern part of the city, severing their access to food, fuel, medicine, clean water, and other essential supplies. Brave and courageous humanitarian workers – such as those you described, Stephen – continue trying to deliver medical supplies and aid on smaller roads at great, great risk. But, alternative options for delivering humanitarian aid are diminishing rapidly; airstrikes by the Assad regime and by Russia are making the use of other roads totally precarious.

Russia, as a co-sponsor of the cessation of hostilities, must halt these attacks and persuade the regime to do the same. And they must ensure the reopening of the Castello Road. Russia, the Assad regime, and other groups fighting around Aleppo should heed the UN's call for a weekly 48 hour pause to allow for deliveries of essential supplies.

Look at what people are going through. A doctor, Samer Attar, who recently returned to the United States from volunteering in Aleppo, described the scene in clinics after attacks by the Assad regime: "Patient after patient nonstop was wheeled into the small emergency room. I saw mutilated limbs, dismembered bodies, dead children, screaming patients. People literally bleed to death in front of you, and there is nothing you can do about it." Imagine being a doctor in that circumstance. Aleppo's residents are not even safe when they get to a hospital. According to the UN, the Omar Ibd Abdel Aziz hospital in eastern Aleppo has been hit three times since June. Airstrikes reportedly struck yet another hospital in the Jebel Saman district of eastern Aleppo on July 19, killing at least six civilians and injuring 17. And as we've heard – just in the last 48 hours – we've seen reports that the regime has bombed four more hospitals, including one that cared for children.

Feras Bedawi, a journalist in eastern Aleppo, told Human Rights Watch, "We haven't seen vegetables in weeks, and airstrikes are not giving us a break." Ibrahim Al-Laith, a volunteer first responder with the Syrian Civil Defense, described the long lines forming at shops because "we are really expecting a famine in a few days."

In another deeply alarming development, a video circulated last week that showed rebel fighters beheading a young boy in Aleppo. The brutal killing of this boy, reported to be 12 year-old Abdullah Issa, is appalling. The United States condemns in the strongest terms this unconscionable act, as well as the unlawful targeting of children and the use of child soldiers by all parties in this conflict. We note that the opposition has condemned this crime and promised to bring those responsible for Abdullah Issa's death to justice in a transparent manner – something we have never heard the Assad regime do when faced with similar allegations of atrocities. Instead, despite countless videos, reams and reams of elaborate photographic evidence, hundreds of thousands of eyewitness reports gathered by credible independent actors, we get from the Syrian regime time and again only blithe, uncurious, but always dogmatic denials. A cold, cruel indifference to the fate of the Syrian people. I would also note that the Russian Federation has also never once acknowledged even a possible involvement of the Russian air force in horrific strikes that have resulted in significant civilian casualties. Nor has Russia acknowledged the huge number of Russian strikes against opposition groups that signed up for the cessation of hostilities, the very groups, in fact, mentioned by the representative of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation is in an extremely weak position to point fingers at the United States in this Council. We look forward to Russia opening just a single investigation into strikes that have killed civilians.

The situation in Syria's other besieged areas remains dire. Even excluding Aleppo, 196,500 more Syrians are living in besieged areas than there were in January of this year. These Syrians depend on sporadic aid deliveries disrupted all too often by the regime's bureaucratic pretexts or by fighting on the ground. In no single month this year has the UN been allowed to reach even half of Syrians living in besieged areas. UN Special Adviser Jan Egeland recently warned that Madaya is on the brink of starvation. And the regime continues to dispute the numbers in the UN's beneficiary lists – a cynical attempt to further reduce how much aid gets delivered in the rare instances aid gets delivered at all. The UN should be determining what is needed, how much, and where – not the regime that has long practiced collective punishment and indiscriminately branded civilians as "terrorists."

The regime's actions also continue to take a severe toll on the health sector. This month alone, forces loyal to Assad twice removed medical supplies from convoys bound for the besieged community of Al-Wa'er in Homs. What exactly did the regime take? Midwifery kits to help deliver healthy babies and treatments for diarrhea. It is obscene.

In May, this Council unanimously adopted resolution 2286 calling for the protection of medical personnel and facilities. Yet, hospitals, clinics, and medical personnel are still being struck regularly by the regime and by Russian forces.

In recent days, it has been reported that airstrikes conducted by the Counter-ISIL Coalition may have caused a large number of civilian casualties in Manbij. The United States will carefully and thoroughly review any and all credible information we can gather about the incident, including information from organizations within Syria that document harm to civilians and that are also trying now to investigate these events. This is a process that is complicated by the extremely limited access of Syrian civil society groups and others to ISIL-controlled areas. We are determined to do whatever we can to understand what took place. The United States goes to extraordinary lengths to reduce the risk of noncombatant casualties and complies with the law of armed conflict in our operations, and we will continue to do so. And if we determine that civilians were harmed in Manbij by our strikes, we will acknowledge it and look

at what steps can be taken, consistent with the policies that President Obama announced in his July 1 executive order on pre- and post-strike measures to address civilian casualties in U.S. operations. This is an extremely important issue.

Let me conclude. Last week, Secretary Kerry traveled to Moscow in an attempt to address the two main forces undermining the cessation of hostilities: first and foremost, the rampant violations by the Assad regime, including the targeting of both civilians and groups that are supposed to be protected, as well as offensives led by the al-Qa'ida affiliate in Syria, al-Nusra Front, which increasingly poses a threat to our interests.

In Moscow, the United States and Russia agreed on a series of concrete steps that, if fully implemented, could restore the cessation of hostilities and create space for Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura's efforts to launch a genuine political transition process. Our technical experts have been working on the details for implementing such steps. Ultimate success is, of course, far from assured but we know that we have a responsibility to try and to exhaust all diplomatic options.

Moving forward requires a period of reduced violence. And if Aleppo remains under siege, it is hard to see how this is going to work.

As we speak, Aleppo's residents are struggling to find food and medicine for their families. Maher Abu Al-Walid, a 25-year-old, said in an interview, "We're not starving yet, but we're all panicking now." He has to support his wife and seven-month-old daughter, Sham, as food supplies are running out and prices are rising. Imagine, for just one moment, what it must feel like to realize that within a few days, every shelf at your local market will be bare, that you may have no place to go or no way to afford the food your infant, your seven-month-old infant, desperately needs.

All of us here must do our utmost to ensure that Maher's fear does not become a reality – a reality that far too many in Syria are already enduring.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Why Middle East Christians feel betrayed by the West



By [Kevin J. Jones](#)

Toronto, Canada, Aug 3, 2016 / 03:02 pm ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- Religious freedom is for non-Muslims in the Middle East, too, a Syrian Catholic leader said in a strong warning about the future of the region's Christians and about the "Machiavellian" nature of Western foreign policy.

"My friends, the very existence of Eastern Churches, those churches that are from the apostolic time, is at stake. They are in danger," Patriarch Ignatius Youssef III Younan of the Syriac Catholic Church of Antioch said Aug. 2.

Christian leaders try to encourage their flock to stay in their home country.

"But believe me, this is not easy," the patriarch said. "Because the Christians in Syria, they feel abandoned, even betrayed, by the so-called powerful nations, most particularly in the West."

Patriarch Younan delivered remarks to the Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus in Toronto, Canada Aug. 2. He had strong words for Western foreign policy.

"We have to stand up to apply the principle of religious freedom. You can't be the best ally with regimes that discriminate and do not grant religious freedom to non-Muslims," he said.

"We have to say it with a clear voice: it is not honest and sincere to be the ally of such regimes and just say 'we have an annual report about religious freedom'," he added, in an apparent reference to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

He called for the enforcement of the U.N. Universal Declaration on Human Rights and action from Western countries, the Russian Federation, China, Brazil and the United Nations.

“What we need most is to stand up and defend our religious freedom and our civil rights,” he said.

The patriarch is based in Lebanon but oversees many of the Catholic faithful in Syria. He recounted Middle East Christians’ past warnings to the West to be careful in Syrian intervention and to reject talk of the “Arab Spring.”

“The situation in Syria is very complex,” he said.

The patriarch cited the complex web of religious, racial and linguistic minorities. He warned of the risk of exporting western-style democracy into regions where it has never been exercised and where the separation of religion from state has not taken place.

If Islam is the religion of the country, he said, that means “you’re going to discriminate against non-Muslims, for whatever confession they are.”

Given that religious freedom in the Middle East is linked to relations with the Islamic religion, he said, contemporary Middle East Christians “do not understand how we can close our eyes to political parties based on Islam.”

He cited the motto of the Muslim Brotherhood: “Allah is our objective, the Prophet is our leader. The Koran is our law. Jihad is our way and dying for God is our ultimate desire.”

Patriarch Younan warned that some methods of teaching Islam to children lack exegesis and are a danger, leading to situations like the murder of the French priest Fr. Jacques Hamel.

“In the Koran we have verses that inspire tolerance, this is true, but also we have verses that inspire violence,” the patriarch said. “And if you tell those kids that all those verses are coming from God, literally the words of God...you will be able to change that young man into a beast.”

The general situation of Iraqi and Syrian Christians was also a focus of the patriarch’s remarks.

He spoke of the kidnappings and killings of civilians and the atrocities committed by the Islamic State group or the warring parties in Syria. He recounted the destruction of churches and monasteries in Iraq and Syria and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian Christians.

Unless Christians are protected, he warned, Christianity will soon die in Syria, Iraq and even Lebanon. He said it would be comparable to Turkey where there are so few Christians despite its history of ecumenical councils and Fathers of the Church.

The Knights of Columbus have raised over \$11 million for Christian refugees since 2014. The Catholic fraternal organization has helped provide food supplies, medical clinics, infrastructure, and housing. It has also supported Syriac Catholic priests exiled from Mosul.

Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, writing to the convention on behalf of Pope Francis, thanked the Knights of Columbus for their “strenuous efforts” to defend the human rights and legitimate aspirations of persecuted Christians and to provide for their needs.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson of the Knights of Columbus responded to Patriarch Younan. He cited atrocities like the murder of four Missionaries of Charity in Yemen and the kidnapping of their priest Fr. Thomas Uzhunnalil.

He asked the convention for a moment of silence to pray for “these martyrs of our faith and victims of religious hatred.”

Source: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/why-middle-east-christians-feel-betrayed-by-the-west-25434/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

[Ambassador De Luca Attends Funeral Of Daniel Fitzpatrick At Sacred Heart Church, Staten Island, NY, Wednesday August 17, 2016.](#)



New York City, N.Y., Aug 19, 2016 / 09:02 am ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- The suicide of a seventh grade Catholic school student prompted outpourings of grief and prayers, amid disputed claims from his family that the school did not do enough to stop bullying.

“We mourn the passing of Daniel Fitzpatrick. His family is in our prayers,” Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio said, according to the Brooklyn diocese’s newspaper The Tablet.

“While there are many unanswered questions, it is indisputable that this is an unspeakable tragedy,” he said, adding “We must always remain vigilant and attentive to the emotional needs of the children in our care.”

Carolyn Erstad, a spokeswoman for the Diocese of Brooklyn, also spoke in grief.

“The principal, teachers, and staff of Holy Angels Catholic Academy are heartbroken over the loss of Danny Fitzpatrick,” she said, according to the New York Daily News. “We take the issue of bullying very seriously and address every incident that is brought to our attention.”

Erstad said the diocese is reexamining all bullying prevention policies and training. Teachers at the school have undergone comprehensive anti-bullying training and intervened in any conflict between the boy and other students, a diocesan spokesperson told the Tablet. The school disciplined anyone involved in bullying and the school invited police to discuss bullying before classes, including Daniel’s.

The 13-year-old killed himself in the attic of his family’s home on Aug. 11. Several weeks before, he wrote a letter saying “I gave up.” His letter charged that the teachers “didn’t do anything.” He said he was bullied “constantly” by five boys at school and his fight with one of them caused a fractured pinkie finger. Family members of the boy said he was the target of perpetual bullying at school.

“My son shouldn’t have to die to be heard,” his mother Maureen Fitzpatrick told the New York Daily News. “There’s something wrong with the adults in authority positions when kids can’t go to them for help...No parent is supposed to bury their child.”

Family members, including a sister who attended the same school alleged that a teacher at the school known for humiliating students called Daniel “lazy” and would display students’ scores to embarrass those who behaved poorly.

The Washington Post says it obtained a report filed in fall 2015 with New York City’s Administration of Children’s Services from an investigator who said Daniel was failing his classes and engaged in angry outbursts.

According to the report, Daniel said his mother's drunkenness “affects him in everything and makes him angry.” He denied physical abuse but indicated that his father and his sister would hide him from his mother.

“Danny denies suicidal thoughts, but feels angry, sad, has thoughts of wanting to run away,” the report said. “Mother is blaming his teachers for his failures and has written several accusatory letters to school. Student is afraid of both parents anger.”

Scott Rynecki, a lawyer representing the Fitzpatrick family, told the Washington Post that the documents are part of an effort to discredit families that are problems for the Catholic school.

He showed a letter from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to Daniel’s mother saying that the report was considered “unfounded” as the local child protective service had found “no credible evidence” to believe that children were mistreated.

“The belief is that the Catholic school themselves put in some sort of claim and spoke to the child and somehow twisted his claims,” charged Rynecki, whose law firm is considering a wrongful death suit against the school for alleged failure to have a proper bullying prevention program.

Erstad told the Post that under state guidelines a school guidance counselor was allowed to meet with the boy up to three times before his parents needed to consent to more meetings. The parents declined to consent.

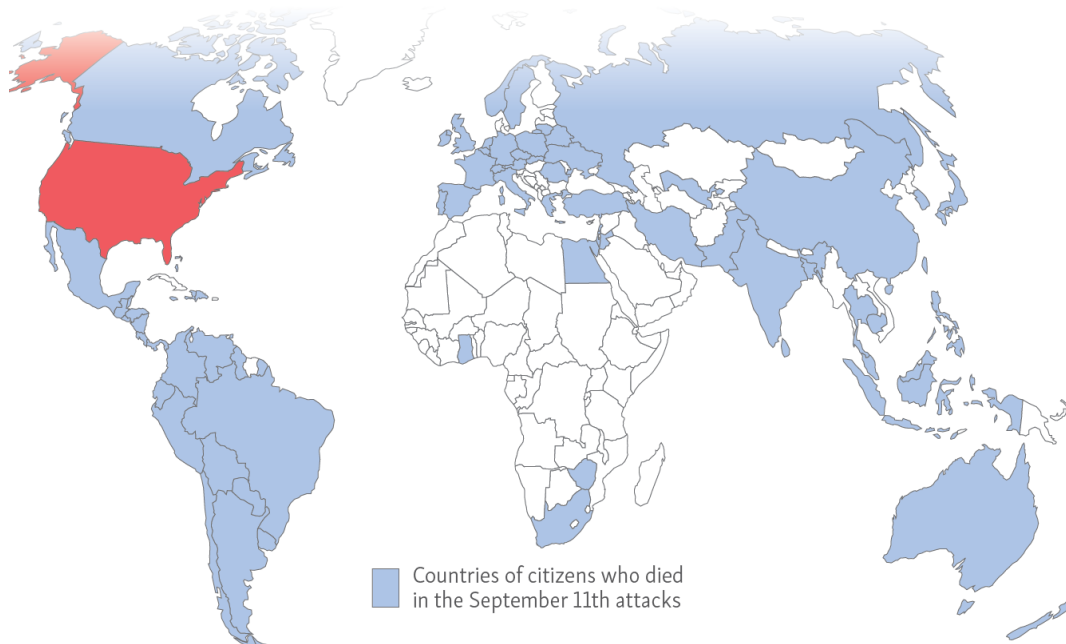
The school's anti-bullying training is based on the Olweus program. CNA contacted the Brooklyn diocese for comment but did not receive a response by deadline.

Source: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/suicide-of-bullied-student-raises-questions-for-catholic-school-26885/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

The Victims Of 9/11: A Global Tragedy

THE VICTIMS OF 9/11: A GLOBAL TRAGEDY

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were the deadliest attacks on U.S. territory since Pearl Harbor. These are the countries that lost citizens in the 9/11 attacks.



Antigua & Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Belarus
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Cambodia
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Dominica

Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hong Kong (China)
India
Indonesia
Iran
Ireland
Israel
Italy
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Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia

Slovakia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
St. Kitts & Nevis
St. Lucia
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Trinidad & Tobago
Turkey
Ukraine
U.K.
Uruguay
U.S.A.
Uzbekistan
Zimbabwe

Source: U.S. Department of State, INTERPOL



Source: <http://www.rferl.org/a/the-victims-of-9-11/27976948.html?ltflags=mailer>

In Hungary, anti-Christian persecution prompts government action



By [Andrea Gagliarducci](#)

Budapest, Hungary, Sep 13, 2016 / 12:08 am ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- The Hungarian government has established a new office on the persecution of Christians to address both persecutions of Christians in the Middle East and the subtle forms of discrimination some Christians face in Europe.

Zoltan Balog, the Hungarian Minister for Human Capacities, explained the new office. His ministry oversees the newly established sub-secretariat on the persecution of Christians.

“Today, Christianity has become the most persecuted religion, where out of five people killed out of religious reasons, four of them are Christians,” Balog told CNA. “In 81 countries around the world Christians are persecuted and 200 million Christians live in areas where they are discriminated against. Millions of Christian lives are threatened by followers of radical religious ideologies.”

This is the reason why the Hungarian government considers the establishment of the specialized government office to be of the “utmost importance” to help persecuted Christians, to raise international awareness of their “untenable situation”, and to coordinate humanitarian actions.

The new office’s exact mission has not yet been established. It has primarily a humanitarian focus, but it will also examine the state of Christianity in Europe.

“Our interest not only lies in the Middle East but in forms of discrimination and persecution of Christians all over the world,” Balog said. “It is therefore to be expected that we will keep a vigilant eye on the more subtle forms of persecutions within European borders.”

A November 2014 report by the international pastoral charity Aid to the Church in Need found “worrying” and “worsening” religious freedom conditions in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. These threats mainly come from radical feminists and LGBT activists that aim to compel Christian participation in abortion or to silence Christians on matters of sexual morality. Some policies have affected Christians’ ability to raise their children in the faith, while there have also been rising attacks on Christian places of worship in some European countries.

The Hungarian government is the first country to establish a special government department on persecution of Christians. The new department has a 3 million euro budget. Overseeing the department is Tamás Török, who until recently was Hungary's deputy ambassador to Italy.

The decision came after Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán along with Balog took part in the annual meeting for Catholic legislators in Frascati, Italy. The group was founded by Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna in 2015.

Orbán and Balog, who are respectively a Protestant layman and a Calvinist pastor, were the only non-Catholic members of the group, whom Pope Francis received in a private audience.

Balog said that he and Orbán met with Christian leaders from the Middle East in Rome at the end of August.

Among the participants of the meeting were Syriac Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Younan of Antioch, Maronite Patriarch Bechara Boutros Rai of Antioch, Melkite Archbishop Jean-Clément Jeanbart of Aleppo, Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II of the Syriac Orthodox Church, and Bishop Anba Gabriel of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

“The primary topic of the meeting was the persecution of Christians, since Christians living the Middle Eastern region are the most vulnerable in the world,” Balog said. “Viktor Orbán declared at the meeting that Hungary will take action against the persecution of Christians and stands ready to support these communities whose very existence is threatened.”

“This is where we decided that there needs to be an efficiently operating deputy state secretariat with the government’s authorization to combat every form of Christian persecution.”

Balog said Hungary “hasn’t been idle” in speaking in international forums against contemporary persecutions of Christians. The country “to the best of its abilities” has helped Middle Eastern Christian communities morally and financially “so that they may persevere in their homelands.”

Balog listed some Hungarian government initiatives for persecuted Christians. There is the allocation of over 300,000 euros through the Hungarian Catholic Bishops’ Conference to support students in the Middle East and to construct schools in Erbil. The funding provided by the government helps fund the annual education of approximately 400 refugee children in the Middle East. The coverage, together with the Catholic Church, of the annual education costs for the children of almost 740 families belonging to

Christian or other persecuted religious or ethnic minority living in the refugee camps in Jordan, northern Iraq, and Lebanon.

He added that the government “will do everything in our power to improve the circumstances of Christians living in the Middle Eastern region.”

“The establishment of this new government office, whose very nature is to deal with this matter, is another manifestation of our dedication to this issue.”

Balog also said that this new focus will help control the major immigration flows out of the Middle East into Europe.

“We feel that improving the situation in the troubled countries might make it possible for persecuted minorities to stay at home or close to home.”

Source: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-hungary-anti-christian-persecution-prompts-government-action-97646/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email

Aeham Ahmad was famous for carrying his piano through the streets of Damascus to cheer up the inhabitants of the war-torn city

By Delphine Nerbollier

Global Pulse Magazine. September 14, 2016

All it takes for Aeham Ahmad to make a vivid impression is a few words of broken English and a smile. The 28-year-old musician, whose father is Palestinian and his mother Syrian, has a gift for human contact and for striking metaphors. “My piano is my homeland,” he explains at an interview in a Berlin cafe. “When I play, I close my eyes and forget about the problems of bringing my family here.”

Aeham Ahmad is the most celebrated refugee in Germany, where he arrived just one year ago. He was born a refugee in a Palestinian camp in Yarmuk, in the suburbs of Damascus, and has become one again in Europe today. He learned to play the piano thanks to his father, the owner of a music store. “Every day after school, he made me practice for an hour and gave me a coin in exchange,” he recalls.

Aeham Ahmad went on to study music at university with a view to becoming a teacher. Then the war broke out in 2011. He decided to transport his piano on a wagon through bombed-out city streets. His father, who is blind, sometimes accompanied him on the violin. The media began to take an interest in him, and videos circulated on the Internet until one day a member of Daesh burned his instrument.

“He said that music was not in accordance with Islam,” explains the young man, who would prefer to forget the incident. “One day, a little girl was killed by a sniper bullet during one of my concerts in the middle of the street,” he remembers. “Burning a piano is nothing in comparison.”

Nevertheless, he was haunted by the event and it finally spurred him, the father of two children, to go into exile. With €3,000 in his pocket, he crossed Turkey, then Greece and ultimately arrived in Germany. He was given a three-year resident permit and is now living in a refugee center in Wiesbaden. His story has attracted considerable media attention. He has been offered as many as 30 pianos by generous

donors. He is giving more and more concerts – more than 180 in a single year – and was awarded the Beethoven human rights prize.

The young man, who is talkative and direct, is amazed at his good fortune. He has met German President Joachim Gauck and mixes with recognized pianists like Martha Argerich and Kai Schumacher. Last spring, he played alongside violinist Michael Barenboim, the son of conductor Daniel Barenboim, at the Memory Church in Berlin, a pre-eminent symbol of World War II.

“I’m not famous, I’m a refugee,” he declares modestly, despite the growing list of invitations to play from France, Italy and Egypt. He would like to pursue his career, if his wife agrees. Last August, she received permission to join her husband. After a year of separation, she arrived in Wiesbaden with their two children. “We will see whether or not I continue doing concerts. I don’t want to be on the road all the time and then end up divorced!” he says laughingly.

In addition to this energy, the young man also expresses gratitude towards Germany, the land of Beethoven. “I love Beethoven,” the musician says. “I have his music in my fingers but I play it poorly!” In concert, Aeham Ahmad plays his own compositions, a mixture of classical Western and oriental music, inspired by the war and his journey to Europe. When he accompanies the music, singing in his slightly broken voice, all the suffering of his country pours out.

Letter from Rome : Cardinals study selection of bishops

- Pope Francis' cardinal advisers are looking at ways to improve the process of choosing new bishops
- By Robert Mickens
- Global Pulse Magazine, September 14, 2016

“Killing in the name of God is satanic!”

So said Pope Francis on Wednesday morning at a Mass during which he pretty much de facto beatified Fr Jacques Hamel, the French priest killed by two radicalized Muslim youths last July while celebrating the Eucharist. “We must pray to him, he’s a martyr! And the martyrs are blessed, so we must pray to him,” the pope said. “From heaven,” Francis added, “may he grant us meekness, fraternity, peace and also courage to say the truth – to kill in the name of God is satanic!”

Archbishop Dominique Lebrun of Rouen, the diocese in which the late priest ministered, said the pope signed a photo of Fr Hamel after the Mass and left little doubt that the slain priest could now be honored as someone who has already been beatified. “You can put this photo in the church because he is now blessed; and if anyone says he have no right to do so, tell them the pope gave you permission,” recounted the archbishop, adding that the archdiocese planned to formally open Fr Hamel’s cause for canonization.

But will that be necessary? Pope Francis’ words could not be clearer. He said Fr Hamel was a martyr. And in the Vatican’s norms for saint-making that means one is already eligible to be formally declared

“blessed”; that is, to be officially beatified. No miracles are needed for this penultimate step to sainthood if one is recognized as having suffered martyrdom.

Now we must wait to see if Francis takes the further step of instructing the Congregation for Saints to proceed with a decree to juridically recognize Fr Hamel as a martyr. Then the pope or a delegate (such as the prefect of the Congregation for Saints) would likely preside at a Mass to publicly celebrate and declare the Church’s recognition that this elderly priest died a martyr and is now in heaven.

That’s a move neither of his two most recent predecessors would take regarding another priest who was murdered while celebrating Mass. Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador was gunned down in 1980, but it took Francis to finally cut through the polemics and (just last year) declare the obvious – Romero was a martyr. After the pope’s remarks on Wednesday it is unlikely that devotees of Jacques Hamel will be forced to wait thirty-five years until the late French priest is also officially called “blessed”.

***** Archbishop Lebrun was in Rome with a group of French pilgrims from Fr Hamel’s parish, as well as with survivors of a terrorist attack that occurred in the coastal city of Nice several days before the priest’s murder. The soon-to-be 59-year-old prelate will also join some 500 other religious leaders, representatives of at least nine different faiths, who will be in Assisi next week to participate at a three-day interreligious peace conference.

Pope Francis will join the gathering on Tuesday, the event’s final day. And he will lead the concluding ceremony -- the signing of a message and an appeal for peace around the world.

It’s very likely that the bold and thundering words he used at Fr Hamel’s memorial Mass in Rome will find their way into that final document.

“How I wish that all religious confessions would say that killing in the name of God is satanic,” Francis said at the liturgy. You can bet that he and his Vatican aides will be pushing for this denunciation to be in the final message.

The event is called, “Assisi 30 (1986-2016): Thirst for Peace – Religion and Cultures in Dialogue.” More than 12,000 people are expected to come pray and support the participants on the small hilltop town in Umbria that was home to the beloved St Francis.

Among the headliners are the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Justin Welby, who will be representing two of the several Christian denominations. Some 26 Muslim delegations will also take part in the dialogue sessions. And it is hoped that Ahmad al-Tayyeb, leading Muslim cleric of the Al-Azher University and one of the most authoritative spokesmen for Islam, will also be on hand.

In addition to the religious leaders there will be six Noble Peace Prize winners – Northern Ireland’s Mairead Corrigan Macquire (1977), Poland’s Lech Walesa (1983), Jody Williams of the United States (1997), Tawakkol Karman of Yemen (2011) and two member of Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet (2015), Houcine Abbassi and Amer Meherzi.

Conspicuous by his absence, however, will be the 1989 Nobel Peace Laureate, the Dalai Lama. The guru of Tibetan Buddhism was present at the first interreligious prayer for peace gathering in Assisi that John Paul II called in 1986. He met the late Polish pope on at least two other occasions, as well. And he had a brief, unpublicized meeting with Benedict XVI in 2006.

But, so far, Francis has declined such a meeting. The reason is obvious -- the Chinese get angry when leaders pay any special honor to a man they consider an enemy of their national sovereignty and unity. And the Holy See doesn't want to do anything that will jeopardize

its newly intensified efforts to normalize diplomatic relations with China's Communist Government.

This has earned Pope Francis opprobrium from some Chinese Catholic hardliners (and others) who believe he's showing weakness by not standing up to the Communists. But the pope, who will be 80 in December, has not been afraid to be seen as weak before those who traditionally have been at loggerheads with the Roman Church (including the Russian Orthodox Church, secularists, anti-Christian individuals and organizations). It is part of a strategy one might say is radically rooted in the Gospel and behavior of Jesus Christ who did not raise a hand to defend himself and rebuked those who tried to defend him.

In any case, one cannot blame Francis or the Vatican for not inviting the Dalai Lama or anyone else -- at least not technically. The Vatican is not organizing the Assisi 30 gathering. That's the work of the Sant'Egidio Community, the Franciscan Friars of Assisi and the local diocese.

Pope Francis and his group of nine cardinal-advisors, the C9, have concluded their latest round of meetings on reforming the Roman Curia and attending to other business concerning the Universal Church. A Vatican communiqué said one of the items on the agenda was the selection of bishops, including the role the apostolic nuncio (Vatican ambassador to a country) currently plays in the process. No details were provided concerning that conversation, but certainly the pope would like to find a method to ensure the selection of a better sort of bishop than we find in some places.

Again, the model seems to be a radically modeling of Christ and his earthly ministry. "He made himself all things to all people, close to all, to the poorest," Francis said at his Wednesday general audience in St Peter's Square. "He was a pastor among the people, among the poor: he worked all day with them," the pope said.

Then he issued another one of his zingers, which makes some bishops and wanna-be-bishops still cringe. "Jesus was not a prince. It's horrible for the Church when pastors become princes, far removed from the people, removed from the poor: that is not the spirit of Jesus," he said. "Jesus reprimanded these pastors, and about them Jesus told the people, 'do what they tell you, but not what they do,'" the pope added.

There are signs, at least in some places around the world, that Francis has begun to find candidates for the episcopate who conform more to the spirit of Jesus, as he reads it.

He and his aides are going to have to accelerate and perfect that search if they want his vision for the Church to fully take root in dioceses around the world.

<http://www.globalpulsemagazine.com/news/cardinals-study-selection-of-bishops/3853>)

His Holiness Karekin II to Visit the U.S.



His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will visit the United States in the autumn of 2016 to preside over several important events.

The primates of the Armenian Church dioceses of North America—Archbishop Khajag Barsamian (Eastern U.S.), Archbishop Hovnan Derderian (Western U.S.), and Bishop Abgar Hovakimian (Canada)—and the president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Berge Setrakian, have invited His Holiness Karekin II to convene the next meeting of the Supreme Spiritual Council in New York. This will mark the first time the Supreme Spiritual Council has convened outside of Armenia.

In a separate meeting, His Holiness will lead a joint meeting of the Supreme Spiritual Council, the three executive councils of the North American dioceses, and the executive board of the AGBU.

On Sunday, October 30, a Divine Liturgy honoring the 17th anniversary of His Holiness' enthronement as Catholicos of All Armenians will be held at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York. A banquet will follow services in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium. Click on the buttons below to download flyers on the October 30 events.

On Saturday, November 12, His Holiness Karekin II will preside over the official opening of the new campus of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in Armonk, NY: the consecration of the seminary's St. Hagop Chapel, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Karekin I Theological Center. For information on the St. Nersess event, visit www.stnersess.edu.

Also during his visit, the Catholicos will preside over the 89th General Assembly of the AGBU and the celebration of AGBU's 110th anniversary.

Oriental Orthodox Clergy Meet at St. Nersess

Chorbishop Anthony DeLuca participated in this meeting:

The Standing Conference of Oriental Orthodox Churches (SCOOC) held a meeting at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in Armonk, NY, on Thursday, October 6. Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian welcomed the participants and moderated the meeting. The Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Seminary, gave a tour of the new St. Nersess campus.

Agenda items included a review of upcoming SCOOC programs, including its Youth Conference scheduled for November, and the annual concelebrated Divine Liturgy scheduled for Saturday, October 22, at Archangel Michael and St. Mena Coptic Orthodox Church in Staten Island, NY. Click here to view a flyer on the concelebrated Divine Liturgy.

Sister churches shared updates from their local jurisdictions. In addition to Archbishop Barsamian, representing the Armenian Church at the meeting was the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, and Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian.

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