

EVANGELISCHE AKADEMIE LOCCUM

In War as in Peace:
Youth Violence – A Challenge for International Co-operation
International Conference, 14 – 16 November 2007

In co-operation with
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Faculty of Social Sciences
at the University Duisburg-Essen and the sector project education and conflicttransformation
(gtz, Eschborn); sponsored by SDC-Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Nigeria:
Youth Violence and the Challenges in the Age of Globalization

Dr. Nick Idoko
Centre for Peace in Africa, Lagos, Nigeria

NIGERIA: YOUTH VIOLENCE AND THE CHALLENGES IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

Nick Idoko



THE CONTEXT

- 140,000,000 people (2006 census)
 - One of the highest growth & fertility rates in the world
- Accounts for most of the world's total population by 2050
- 1 out of 4 Africans is a Nigerian
- 9th most populated country in the world
- 20% of world's black population live in Nigeria
 - 42.3% of population between 0-14 years old
 - 54.6% of population between 15-65 years old
- Nigeria, a country of young people!

- 1914 - colonial creation through amalgamation of north and south protectorates by the British
 - 1914 – 1960 colonial rule
 - Brought together at least 250 ethnic groups
 - 1966 – 1999 military rule (1967-1970 civil war; 1979-1983)
- **A Nation Predisposed to Violence?**
 - Inbuilt structures of violence- colonialism/militarism
 - Ethnicity & Religion
 - Struggle over resources
 - Macro problem-political violence (electoral fraud, thuggery, rigging)
 - Poverty (unemployment, economic misery)

THE POVERTY TYPOLOGY

- Dysfunctional structural divide and discrimination at the level of state and society
- Promotion of violence as economic opportunity
- Institutional pressure on public agencies (police and others)
- Staggering level of youth unemployment (“youth bulge” and “youth cohorts”)
 - Domestic and cultural violence
 - Clash between traditional institutions and forces of modernism
 - High incidence of **state failure**

DEFINITION AND CONCEPT OF YOUTH

- UN – anyone aged 18 and below is a child
 - Anyone aged 15-24 is a youth
- UNFPA- those aged 10-24 young people
 - People aged 10-18 children
- In Africa youth is an age group, 15-39 yrs
 - ability to work
 - marriage
 - economic independence

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENCE

- 90-95% of violent conflicts in Nigeria!
- Role of area boys, almajiris, ethnic militias (opc, bakassi boys, apc, egbesu boys)
- **A demographic threat?**
 - UN World Dev. Reports 2003,2005, 2007
 - Youth bulge – Samuel Huntington, Gunnar Heinsohn, Juha Eskelinen
 - youth in politics
 - youth in armed conflict; cult, ethnic militias, armed robbery, war

- **Youth in rural areas**
 - 67% Africans live in rural areas
 - socio-cultural changes
 - job migration
- **Youth and Urbanization**
 - 2007 world urban population to exceed its rural population (first time in history)
 - rapid growth of urban areas (4-5 times faster in developing countries)-UN Habitat
 - 1.3 billion young people (most ever in history-WDR 2007)

- **Urbanization and Rise of Violence**
 - combination of rapid urbanization and youth bulge, youth cohorts
 - disintegration of family and schools
 - loss of control by the church
 - incidence of crime
 - youth perpetrator and victim of violence
 - 200,000 youth murders in 2000 (WHO)
 - bloody incidents in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Kano, Jos in Nigeria
 - Mathare one of biggest African slum in Nairobi, Kenya

YOUTH AND GLOBALIZATION

- Value change and social transformation
 - change in the socio-cultural situation of youth
 - new lifestyles, consumerism; pervasive subliminal advertisement, e.g. mobile phones, Coca Cola
 - media penetration of world networks and Hollywood movies; cultural invasion, cultural dilution, cultural imperialism
 - products of American mass media are 75% of broadcast & cable TV revenues worldwide

- opening of economies; small arms production and transfer across borders

- **Gender**

- proportion of female to male perpetrators
- victimhood

- **Special situation of African Youth**

- political and economic crisis; frustrated, hopeless and disillusioned youth

- exclusion from decision making process

- marginalization in traditional system of local governance

POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGES

- Policies to tackle youth crime
 - role of institutions of socialization (family, school, church) in curbing delinquency
 - social rather than judicial approaches – UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice 1995, Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency 1990
 - strategic prevention more effective & cost-beneficial not suppression and deterrent
 - impact of punitive strategies – tension, fears of stigmatization
 - role of state; imprisonment, torture, execution

WAY FORWARD

- Transform our perception of youth
- Give voice to the voiceless; youth representation and participation in community and government
- Youth strategies and mainstreaming youth policies as key to long-term sustainable development
- Inclusion of youth issues in development planning of NGOs and Church organizations
- Promotion of youth rights and youth empowerment
- Partnership and networking
- Special focus on multi-track youth capacity-building interlinking human capacity investment, employment, skills acquisition, peace and conflict education and training

THANK YOU



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Drug crime in Rio, racist offences against immigrants, shootings at schools, harassment in Belfast's neighbourhoods, killing brothers and sisters in Ramallah, kids traumatized by war in Bosnia or in the Congo – the involvement of children and adolescents in political and criminal acts of violence in mega-cities, as well as in (post-)conflict zones of recent wars, is an increasingly disturbing phenomenon.

What do we know about the reasons and root causes of youth violence stemming from such a variety of political and cultural backgrounds and contexts? What do (post) war constellations have in common with the urbanized reality of western democracies? Do social exclusion, poverty, the absence of education, and the availability of small arms create contexts which enhance violence and may be considered as „grey zones“ between war and peace? How would we differentiate between politically motivated, socially, ethnically or religiously based, and other ritualized forms of violence? Which patterns of violence are specifically youth related?

The conference will look at recent results and findings of international research on youth violence. In order to better understand the driving forces behind, and to identify political strategies to deal with this critical development, we will try to compare and contrast (post) war and non-war constellations, and the causes or patterns of youth violence they present. What are promising approaches on communal and state levels, amongst civil society actors and those in the field of international co-operation, to tackle the challenge of youth violence?

You are cordially invited to participate in the discussions of this conference.

Dr. Corinna Hauswedell, Academy Loccum

Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

Andrea Grimm, Academy Loccum

Dr. Fritz Erich Anhelm, Academy Director

Conference Fees/Registration:

Room and meals: € 180,--.

For students (age 30 or under), members of the armed services and alternative service as well as unemployed with proper identification: € 90,--. Conference fees are to be paid in cash at the time of registration.

We request that you register by name, address, institution/ organization at:

Evangelische Akademie Loccum
Karin Hahn
D-31545 Rehburg-Loccum,
Fax: +49-5766-81-128
E-mail: Karin.Hahn@evlka.de

Registrations will be confirmed as long as places are available. Should you have to cancel your registration, please inform us as soon as possible.

Accommodation and meals:

Participants will be accommodated in single rooms or double rooms, if preferred. All meals are served at the Academy. By prior arrangement, rooms and meals may be available before and after the conference.

Directions:

Loccum is located 50 kilometers west of Hanover in Lower Saxony. The nearest airport is in Langenhagen airport near Hanover. The nearest train stations are Wunstorf, Minden and Nienburg. Detailed instructions will be sent to all registered participants.

Conference Organizers:

Dr. Corinna Hauswedell, Director of Studies (Loccum)

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HOUSE SCHEDULE:

8.30 MORNING PRAYER, 8.45 BREAKFAST

12.30 LUNCH, 15.30 COFFEE/TEA,

18.30 DINER.

Opportunity to visit Loccum Monastery, Thursday 13:30 Uhr

The Academy on the Internet: <http://www.loccum.de>

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www.ndrinfo.de



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■ Wednesday, November 14, 2007

- 15:30 Coffee/ Tea with cake
16:00 Welcome and introduction
Dr. Corinna Hauswedell, Loccum
- 16:15 **Youth violence in the globalized world**
- Introductions to the conference theme
- 18:30 **Context matters: violence in (post)war and non-war societies**
Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach, INEF, Duisburg
- Demographic data and findings concerning the social situation of youth in countries undergoing (post-)conflict and crisis-like situations of radical change**
Dr. Rüdiger Blumör, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Eschborn
Steffen Kröhnert, Berlin Institut für Bevölkerung und Entwicklung
Facilitator: *Dr. Corinna Hauswedell*
- 19:30 **Current state and perspectives of international research on youth violence**
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21:00 *Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Heitmeyer, Institute for Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence Research, Bielefeld University*

■ Thursday, November 15, 2007

- 09:30 **Causes and contexts of youth violence – stocktaking** (work in two parallel sections)

SECTION I: Non-war constellations: urbanization, social change and exclusion

A world of gangs

Prof. Dr. John Hagedorn, University of Illinois, Chicago

Youth at risk programming – A crucial element to build citizenship

Clarissa Huguet, Children in Organized Armed Violence (COAV), Rio de Janeiro

Nigeria: Youth violence and the challenges in the age of globalisation

Dr. Nick Idoko, Centre for Peace in Africa, Lagos, Nigeria

Urban riots in France: History, patterns and the significance of institutional violence

Dr. Carsten Keller, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin

Facilitator: *Dr. Rose Ngomba-Roth, Göttingen*
Rapporteur: *Dr. Peter Lock, Hamburg*

SECTION II: Post-war and continuous conflict constellations: ethnicity and identity, terrorism, religion

Israel-Palestine

Stephan Clauss, Akademie für Konflikttransformation, Bonn

Northern Ireland

Dr. Neil Jarman, Institute for Conflict Research, Belfast

West Africa

Prof. Dr. Paul Richards, Wageningen University, Netherlands

Afghanistan

Martin Hayes, Child Protection Specialist of the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Richmond/Virginia

Facilitator: *Dr. Corinna Hauswedell*
Rapporteur: *Prof. em. Dr. Peter Waldmann, Augsburg University*

- 16:00 **Strategies for dealing with youth violence and its causes**

18:30 (work continued in two parallel sections)

SECTION I: Non-war constellations: urbanization, social change and exclusion

Juveniles as target group and partner in development co-operation

Günter Sohr, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin

Comprehensive public health strategies

Dr. Alberto Concha-Eastman, Regional Advisor, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Washington D.C.

Intercultural youth exchange: opportunities for young people to prevent and de-learn violence and experience alternatives (beams of hope)

Christa-Berta Kimmich, European play work association (e.p.a.), Hamburg

Neglect and trauma amongst young people in London – how to prevent and work with it at street level

Daniel Baltzer, Kids Company, London

Facilitator: *Erich Marks, Geschäftsführer, Deutscher Präventionstag, Hannover*
Rapporteur: *Andrea Grimm*

SECTION II: Post-war and continuous conflict constellations: ethnicity and identity, terrorism, religion

Linking development and peacebuilding: experiences from Bosnia

Dr. Martina Fischer, Berghof Centre for Conflict Research, Berlin

Strategies for working with youth in the immediate post-accord period

Siobhan McEvoy-Levy, Butler University, Indianapolis

Demobilization and reintegration of children and adolescents – experience from the Congo

Achim Koch, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Eschborn

Strategies to confront youth violence – experiences from Nicaragua and Central America

José Luis Rocha, Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), Managua

Facilitator: *Prof. em. Dr. Franz Nuscheler, INEF, Duisburg*
Rapporteur: *Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach*

- 19:30 **Youth violence in cultural contexts: film and Hip Hop music**

21:00 *Katrin Lock, London*

■ Friday November 16, 2007

- 09:30 **Youth violence as a challenge facing international co-operation**

Final winding-up session, introduced by reports of the section rapporteurs

Ambassador *Friedrich Däuble*, Appointee for Conflict Prevention, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
Dr. Winrich Kühne, Center for International Peace Missions (ZIF), Berlin

Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja, European Youth Centre, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Facilitator: *Dr. Corinna Hauswedell*

- 12:30 Conference ends with lunch
12:50 Departure of shuttle bus to Wunstorf train station (arrival around 13:30 hours)

Conference languages: German and English; simultaneous translation available