

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

Strategies to Confront Youth Violence – Experiences from Nicaragua and Central America
Why are there no Maras in Nicaragua?
Why are youth gangs less violent?

José Luis Rocha
Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), Managua

Strategies to Confront Youth Violence – Experiences from Nicaragua and Central America

Why are there no Maras in
Nicaragua?

Why are youth gangs less violent?

Street gangs in 1988

- Deborah Levenson
- Territorially based
- One neighborhood, one gang
- Although involved in deviant activities: a group of friends, a family
- A reaction against the atomized neoliberal world through the production of some form of social cohesion

Changes in the 80's (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras)

- Mara 13 and Mara 18, two streets of Los Angeles (become transnational gangs)
- They increased their violent activities
- Some links with drug dealers

Why are there no Maras in Nicaragua?

The countries of destination

- 53% of Nicaraguan migrants go to Costa Rica
- 34% go to USA

Why are there no Maras in Nicaragua?

The locations of Central American immigrants

Lugar de residencia	País de origen			
	Nicaragua	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
Estados Unidos	248,725	1,201,002	698,745	407,994
Florida	93,646	38,423	45,597	71,481
Miami	79,896	16,642	15,234	44,065
California	93,600	516,859	290,827	78,955
Los Ángeles	29,910	368,416	199,543	56,555
Texas	7,591	161,148	39,655	40,136
Nueva York	5,760	99,724	46,872	59,896

Migrants deported from	1998	2005	Difference
El Salvador	11,340	25,908	14,568
Guatemala	8,455	55,775	47,320
Honduras	10,661	42,884	32,223
Nicaragua	945	4,273	3,328
Costa Rica	239	1,321	1,082
Panamá	212	131	-81
Totals	31,852	130,292	98,440

¿Has sido deportado de E.U. o México?

	Frecuencia	Porcentaje
No	24	45.3
Estados Unidos	13	24.5
México	16	30.2
Total	53	100.0
	263	
Total	263	

Presencia de Homies de Estados Unidos o México

	Frecuencia	Porcentaje
No	151	47.8
Estados Unidos	93	29.4
México	3	.9
Ambos	67	21.2
No sabe, no responde	2	.6
Total	316	100.0
Total	316	100.0

Democratization process after 80's

- Demilitarization: decrease in military personnel and arms
- Change in National Police Corps: only in Nicaragua

Availability of Arms

Source: Survey of Small Weapons

	2000
El Salvador	170,000
Guatemala	147,581
Nicaragua	52,390











Homicide Rates: (per 100,000 inhabitants)

Source: Police Departments

	2000	2005
El Salvador	43.4	55.5
Guatemala	30.2	44.27
Honduras	36.11	n.d.
Nicaragua	12.26	13

National Police Strategies El Salvador and Guatemala

- Anti-Mara Act
- “Hard Hand” program
- “Super Hard Hand” program
- “Zero tolerance” plan
- “Broom” Plan 2003-2004: Massive detentions of youth
- Guatemala: there is no Law of the Penitentiary System

Outcomes of the repressive strategies in El Salvador

Responsables de las muertes de pandilleros

	Porcentaje
La pandilla rival	21.2
La propia pandilla	3.8
Personas particulares	2.2
Grupos de exterminio	9.2
La policía	32.0
El gobierno	11.1
Otros	3.5
Las bandas	3.5
No sabe	13.6
Total	100.0
Total	100.0

Other outcomes

- Increase in number of youth gang member killed by the Police or in unknown circumstances
- Increase in violence of youth gang members
- Links between youth gangs and organized crime
- The former became more organized and sophisticated
- Increase in illegal detentions: 10,527 detained in Guatemala (June 2003-June 2004), but only 1.1% were legally detained
- Criminalization of youth
- Massacres in jails

National Police Strategies: Nicaragua

- “Bethlehem” Plan in Christmas and “Beach” Plan in Easter with youth gang members as guards
- Links with NGOs that apply community programs
- CEPREV: “leaders of peace”
- Gang members rule their own process and become prominent in their communities

Outcomes

- Decrease in violence
- Decrease in number of gangs and gang members
- Young people discover they can play an important role in their communities

Key factors

- Migration and deportation flows
- Democratization processes
- Number of arms
- National Police strategies
 - » no repressive policies
 - » links with civil society: NGOs and mass media
 - » Gender approach
 - » Youth with prominent role

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)

Tel. +49-5766-81-109

Karin Hahn, Secretary

Tel. +49-5766-81-113

Fax. +49-5766-81-128

Media Contact:

Reinhard Behnisch (Loccum) Tel. +49-5766-81 105

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>

Medienpartner

NDRInfo
www.ndrinfo.de



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 conflict transformation



sponsored by SDC-Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation

■ 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**
-
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