

# bulletin

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## A Proposal to End Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity

by Dr. Robert Zuber

All of us have been deeply affected by a new set of global horrors represented by Darfur, Congo and Somalia, making the need for reform in UN and regional peacekeeping operations more urgent than ever. In response to that need, a committed group of academics, policymakers and civil society leaders is spearheading the development of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS).

UNEPS is organized by a secretariat housed at the New York office of Global Action to Prevent War and supported by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and the World Federalist Movement. Each of the secretariat partners is committed to supporting and leveraging the research, advocacy and network building needed to move UNEPS from the proposal stage to a reliable, effective, rapid response to threats of genocidal violence. Our proposal has found support within key UN agencies as well as government and civil society leaders throughout the US, Europe and in key emerging global regions. Our capable research team and diverse policy advisors are helping to ensure that our proposal fully integrates the needs, concerns and expertise of all global regions.

The most comprehensive statement of our proposal can be found in our recently published, *A United Nations Emergency Peace Service: To Prevent Genocide and Crimes against Humanity*, edited by Robert C. Johansen of the University of Notre Dame. The book includes a preface by Sir Brian Urquhart, former UN Undersecretary General for Special Political Affairs, and commentary from leading experts such as Lois Barber, executive director of EarthAction, and Hussein Solomon, director of South Africa's Centre for International

Political Studies. Juan Mendez, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide, has recommended the book, calling UNEPS "a bold and politically realistic proposal."

As outlined in the book and expanded at [www.globalactionpw.org/unepps/index.htm](http://www.globalactionpw.org/unepps/index.htm) the following represent core elements of our proposal:

1. UNEPS will be a permanent standing capacity based at UN-designated sites.
2. It will be capable of response to an emergency within 48 hours of authorization.
3. It will be coherently organized under a unified UN command.
4. It will involve as many as 15,000 personnel, individually recruited from many different countries and demonstrating skills in conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, law enforcement and other peacekeeping capacities.
5. It will provide comprehensive, expert training in peacekeeping for all personnel with an emphasis on human rights and gender issues.
6. It will supplement existing UN and regional peacekeeping operations, providing another tool to support international efforts to end genocide and crimes against humanity.
7. It will be financed through the regular UN budget.

As a complimentary, 'first in, first out,' integrated service, UNEPS will work in tandem with other UN and regional peacekeeping operations, reinforce the UN's preventive and early-warning mechanisms, and ensure that diverse services are available on the ground to help build the peace after stability has been restored.

Our UNEPS book also sets out some of the political obstacles and research needs that must be addressed if UNEPS is to reach full implementation. The larger powers, claiming a right to sovereignty, are reluctant to endorse any peacekeeping proposal that 'ties their hands' or sets a precedent for standing capacity under international control. The smaller powers, on the other hand, know from experience that unless strict protocols of

engagement are enacted, UNEPS would more likely be deployed in a place like Burundi than in Russia. We continue to develop confidence-building measures that can persuade diverse nations and institutions to support adoption of this peacekeeping tool.

It is particularly important that UNEPS adequately represent the skills, security needs and political aspirations of the 'global south.' To that end, we have established strong linkages with NGOs in South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, India and other emerging global regions. With funding and logistical support, these partners can take the lead in articulating the need for new peacekeeping tools with policymakers and the public both within their own regions and globally.

We must also continue to address deployment-related issues: Will UNEPS be available for crises other than genocide or crimes against humanity, such as an environmental catastrophe? Can UNEPS be effective in situations (Chapter VII) where a host government, such as in Sudan, refuses to accept peacekeeping deployment?

As we address these concerns we are seeing more interest in standing capacity, a greater willingness to compromise on sovereignty for the sake of a rapid response to genocidal violence or other crises in fulfillment of our 'responsibility to protect' the world's most vulnerable citizens. Ending the long nightmares of genocide and crimes against humanity requires moral force and commitments to international cooperation. But our peacekeeping 'toolbox' also needs new tools such as UNEPS to bring hope to threatened populations.

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BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and development through the efficient and effective transformation of military-related structures, assets, functions and processes.

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## Staff Spotlight



Marie-Christine Heinze

Marie-Christine Heinze (Germany) joined BICC in February 2006 as an intern from the 'Peace and Security Studies' postgraduate program of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at the University of Hamburg (IFSH) with a scholarship from the German Foundation for Peace Research. Upon completion of her masters thesis entitled "Guns and Collective Identity: A Theoretical Contribution to the Concept 'Gun Culture'", she was hired as a Research Assistant for the BICC/INEF Human Security project. Aside from questions of human security, her research interests include social and cultural questions in relation to security, gender issues, and the role of religion and religious actors in conflict. Her regional focus is the broader Middle East.

Before taking up her studies in Peace and Security Research at the University of Hamburg, Marie completed a Masters program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science and European and International Law at the University of Bonn (2004). She has traveled extensively in the Middle East and Central Asia and has lived in Yemen for half a year for culture and language studies. Complementing her fascination of the Islamic world with an active interest in questions of international cooperation, Marie is a founding member of a German NGO that aims at educating the public on the goals and work of the United Nations (BIMUN/SINUB e.V.).

In her spare time, Marie enjoys hiking and biking in the beautiful surroundings of Bonn, reading, being cooked for, meeting friends in her favorite Spanish supermarket, and watching the two best TV series in the world: *The Simpsons* and *Tatort*.

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## Implementation of DD&R in Aceh, Indonesia

After almost 30 years, the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) put an end to the civil war between the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the Free Aceh Movement/Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM) in the north-west province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) on 15 August 2005. A year later, a BICC project funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs examined the first results of the peace process.

25 people—representatives of international organizations, such as the IOM (International Organization of Migration), the World Bank, UNICEF and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), as well as German institutions working in the field of development cooperation, such as GTZ (Society for Technical Cooperation) and DED (German Development Service)—were interviewed. Representatives of the Aceh Reintegration Agency (BRA) and representatives of GAM also took part in the project on the Indonesian side. The large majority of interviewees expressed the view that the security situation in Aceh has improved considerably since the peace agreement was signed.

The biggest challenge now is the reintegration of former GAM combatants. The Aceh Transition Committee (KPA) was set up by GAM in December 2005 to prepare the transition from a rebel movement to a political party. At the same time, the KPA also monitored the demobilization and reintegration of combatants and passed on first payments from the Aceh Reintegration Agency (BRA) to approximately 1,000 GAM members. Criticism of this process was voiced in the interviews conducted in Aceh in November 2005, however, and many GAM members living outside the towns claimed that they had not received any payment to date. These ex-combatants had fulfilled their commitments under the MoU without receiving anything in return and were greatly disappointed.

Despite this criticism, the majority of interviewees considered that both the central government and GAM had proved that they were taking their commitments under the MoU seriously. The parallel process of the disarmament of GAM and the withdrawal of “non-organic” Indonesian military and police forces had strengthened confidence on both sides. The peace process is still fragile and the people of Aceh still seem to be waiting warily to see whether it will last. This attitude is hardly surprising after 30 years of armed conflict.

“Re-paving the road to peace” is the name of the forthcoming BICC *brief 35*, which will analyse the implementation of DD&R (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration) in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

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→ Christine Beeck at [beeck@bicc.de](mailto:beeck@bicc.de)

## Assessment of HALO-Trust WAD Program in Afghanistan

BICC was commissioned during 2006 by the German Foreign Ministry (AA) and the Dutch Foreign Ministry to assess a Weapons and Ammunition Destruction (WAD) project in Afghanistan. The HALO-Trust, which has been long established in Afghanistan (since 1988) as a mine clearance NGO, was requested by the Afghan New Beginnings Program (ANBP) to be responsible for the technical side of the WAD element.

These WAD operations now were observed by BICC in Kabul and in the four north-eastern provinces of Afghanistan (Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, and Badakshan). BICC was asked to assess the WAD process, most notably where it served as an effect multiplier in the areas of the German and Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). The fundamental question to be addressed was to what degree did the WAD operation interact with, and support, the activities of the relevant PRTs.

Research was conducted in the office at BICC and in the field in Afghanistan in September 2006. During the fieldwork Michael Ashkenazi observed all facets of the HALO-WAD operations in Kabul, Kunduz, and Feyzabad. Some fifty individuals were interviewed, including HALO and PRT personnel, members of the Afghan government structure (MOD, Provincial governors, security services), unofficial power brokers and some individuals in the street.

Besides this, BICC organized a workshop for all the partners in the WAD activity and offered a professional, timely, and valuable service that may help improve post-conflict peacekeeping activities in Afghanistan. The workshop was held in late January at the German embassy in Kabul. Representatives of ANBP, MOD, HALO, AA, UNAMA, and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) were present. Steps for future work by HALO were proposed. BICC has offered to voluntarily provide its good efforts to implement some of the suggested improvements, which are currently being undertaken.

For further information please contact  
→ Michael Ashkenazi at [ashkenazi@bicc.de](mailto:ashkenazi@bicc.de)

## New BICC Publications

### Focus 3:

Christine Beeck. 2007. *Nach den Gouverneurswahlen in Aceh. Ehemalige indonesische Bürgerkriegsprovinz auf dem Weg zu Friedenskonsolidierung und Stabilität*. January

Michael Brzoska und Wolf-Christian Paes. 2007. *Die Rolle externer wirtschaftlicher Akteure in Bürgerkriegsökonomien und ihre Bedeutung für Kriegsbeendigungsstrategien in Afrika südlich der Sahara*. DSF-Forschung No. 7.

forthcoming

### Brief 35:

Christine Beeck. 2007. *Re-paving the Road to Peace*. May

BICC. 2007. *Annual Report*. May

Larry Swatuk and Lars Wirkus (eds.). 2007. *Transboundary Water Governance. Lessons learned in Southern Africa*. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft. Spring

### NEW:

A CD with a selection of recent BICC publications is now available. If you are interested please contact [pr@bicc.de](mailto:pr@bicc.de)

## BICC Notes

The photo exhibition „Millennium Development Goals—Acting globally in the fight against poverty and for development and peace“ was shown in the Paul-Robenson-Mittelschule, a UNESCO school, in Leipzig from 2 February to 3 March 2007 in the framework of its project week “Africa—the forgotten continent?”.

This exhibition will also be shown at the Academy for the Environment of the Land Schleswig-Holstein in Neumünster from 26 March to 27 April 2007.

→ For further information please contact [pr@bicc.de](mailto:pr@bicc.de)

From 28 February to 3 March 2007, Volker Franke, Marc von Boemcken and Elvan Isikozlu participated in the 48th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA, [www.isanet.org](http://www.isanet.org)). Volker Franke presented the papers "Picking up the Pieces: Are Officers Ready for Nation-Building?" and "The Peacebuilding Dilemma: Civil-Military Cooperation in Stability Operations", Marc von Boemcken "Military Privatization and Global Security Governance". BICC also organized a booth in the exhibition center to market its work.

→ For further information please contact Volker Franke at [franke@bicc.de](mailto:franke@bicc.de)

Peter Croll was elected unanimously by the members of the annual assembly of the Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler (VDW – Association of Germany Scientists) into their executive board on 17 February 2007. In its yearly meetings, in interdisciplinary study- and project groups, research publications and public statements, the VDW comments on questions concerned with science orientation and technology development on the one hand and peace- and security policy on the other. In his personal introduction, Croll stressed that he will fully support the VDW's endeavors to impact on civil society, in particular in the area of peace and security policy. He pointed out that aspects of human security deserve special emphasis.

→ For further information please contact Peter J. Croll at [croll@bicc.de](mailto:croll@bicc.de)

On 9 February 2007 Prof. Dr. Herbert Wulf, founding director of BICC (1994–2001) was awarded the “Peter-Becker-Award for Peace and Conflict Research 2006” at the University of Marburg. This award is given to work or projects that foster academic knowledge on the causes, development, and management of conflicts and enable a practical implementation of such knowledge.

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From 17–19 January 2007, Wolf-Christian Paes and Willem Jaspers participated in a conference jointly organized by the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on "Foreign Direct Investment in Zones of Conflict" at the Pocantico Conference Center in Tarrytown, USA.

→ For further information please contact Wolf-Christian Paes at [paes@bicc.de](mailto:paes@bicc.de)

On 15 January 2007, Michael Ashkenazi traveled to London to attend a meeting of the EU COST 25 Action on Small Arms. The management committee decided on two major steps to cap the Action which is due to end in 2008. The organization of the final conference was agreed on. It will take place in April 2008 and all COST 25 Action members (from 10 different EU states) will be invited.

The committee also drafted a Call for Papers for a capstone volume on SALW activities, and decided on three major themes to be tackled by interested writers (not confined to COST members). BICC staff members Michael Ashkenazi and Christine Beeck have been involved in COST 25 since its inception in 2005.

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