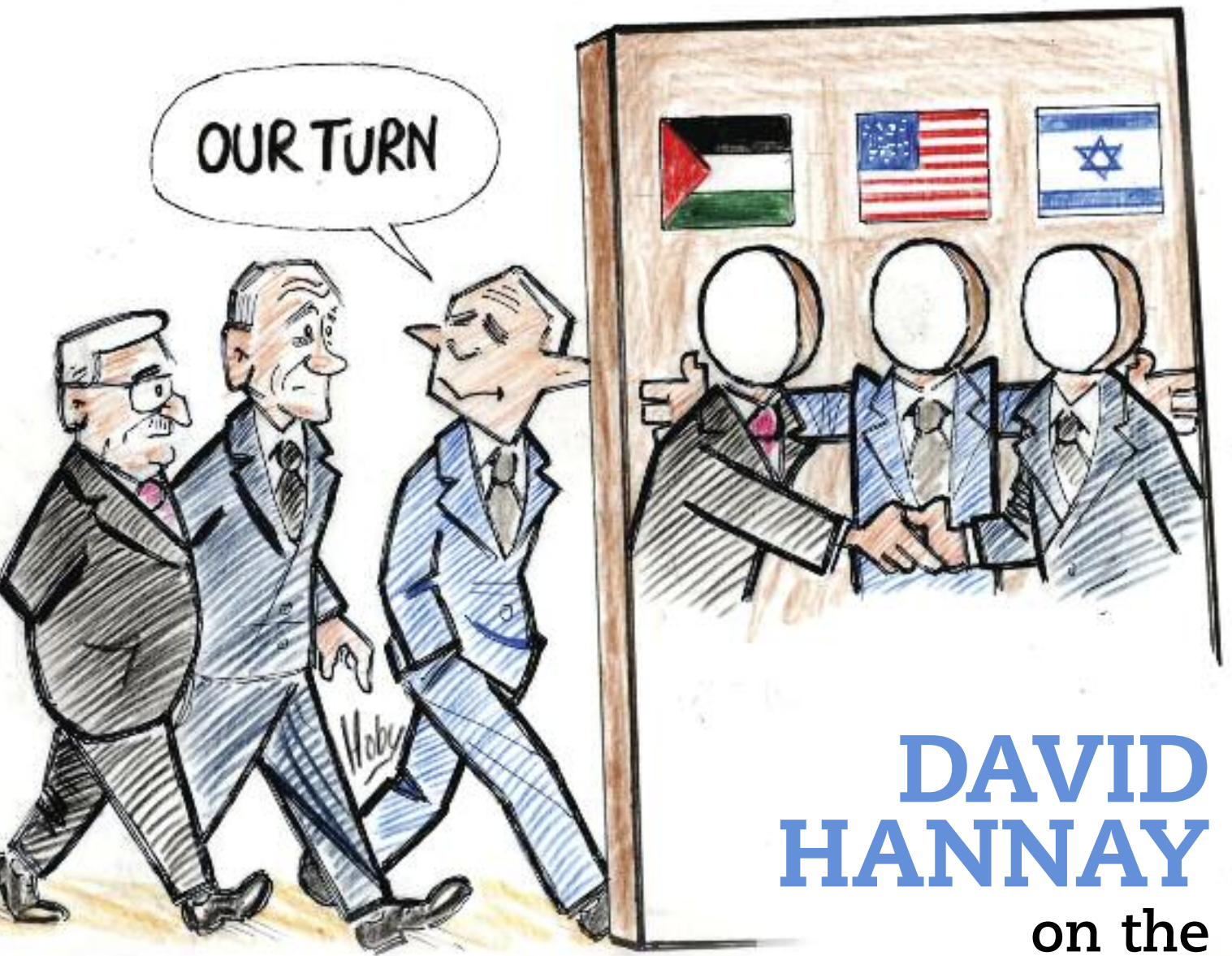


NEW WORLD



DAVID HANNAY

on the Middle East after Annapolis

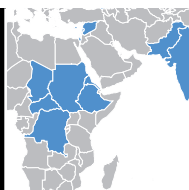
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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK

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A photograph of Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, speaking at a dark wood podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He has glasses and is looking slightly to his right. Behind him is a large blue United Nations flag. The background wall is light-colored with a subtle pattern.

**“We enter 2008 with
new determination – and
new opportunities –
to strengthen the UN’s
role in the world . . .**

**. . . Only the
United Nations
can take on the issues
that affect us all, that
shape the fate of the
earth and its peoples.”**

UN Secretary-General BAN KI-MOON, 7 January 2008

Letter from the Editor

As we leave 2007 behind us it is clear that the UN remains an indispensable institution, fundamental to a more secure and more just world. For this indispensability to continue the UN will need to keep adapting to changes in the international system, to look for ways of doing its job better.

The UN needs, for one, to do more to ensure the full participation of women within peace processes, a case made by Baroness Uddin in one of this issue's Dispatches. For peace to be sustainable, we need to move beyond the conception of women as hapless victims of conflict to an understanding of women as peacemakers.

Peace in the Middle East has proved stubbornly elusive, despite the international community's many bids to resolve the conflict. With each summit expectations have been raised, only to be toppled by the resurgence of violence. In our Essay Lord Hannay asks whether the latest Middle East initiative, launched at Annapolis in November 2007, is simply a reprise of past diplomatic initiatives, or whether it will take the region closer to a lasting and viable solution.

Veronica Lie, Editor

From the archive – 60 years ago



From the UNA-UK journal *United Nations News*, January/February 1948

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Fighting those who trade in human misery

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Seen it all before?
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Annual Conference 2008
Mark Malloch Brown is our keynote speaker at Exeter University in March

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Farewell to Katherine Ronderos . . .

In January 2008, after five years at UNA-UK, Katherine leaves us for an exciting position as Women's Rights Programme Coordinator with the Central America Women's Network, which promotes women's rights and gender equality in the region. Katherine will have particular responsibility for the organisation's work in Honduras.

Katherine has been a valued member of UNA-UK's staff since August 2003. Over the years she has made a vital contribution to the Association's effectiveness through her dedicated and fastidious administration of UNA-UK's membership and donations database, and through her strong personal commitment to gender issues.

We wish Katherine all the best in her new job. She will be missed!

Please be patient while we put new systems in place – answering your questions may take longer during this transition period. If possible, please send us your membership administration queries (eg. change of address) by post; otherwise, continue to use membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456.



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All submissions should be typed and sent by e-mail where possible to lie@una.org.uk. Photos should ideally be 300 dpi resolution

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UN staff among the dead in Algerian bomb attacks

Two car bombs exploded in Algiers on 11 December killing dozens of civilians, including 17 UN staff members. The first of the explosions caused the collapse of the country's UNDP office, which also housed staff from several other UN agencies, and severely damaged the UNHCR office opposite. An Algerian group affiliated to al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attacks, which were the deadliest against the UN since a bomb in Baghdad in August 2003 killed 22 staff members.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the attacks 'a despicable strike against individuals serving humanity's highest ideals under the UN banner', and vowed not to let the tragedy deter the world body from carrying out its mission to help those most in need.

Darfur force jeopardised by delays and lack of resources

On 31 December the UN took over from the AU mission in the war-ravaged Darfur region of Sudan. At full strength the force, known as UNAMID, will consist of 26,000 uniformed personnel, but so far only 9,000 are on the ground. UNAMID's deployment is being impeded by both a lack of crucial equipment, especially helicopters, and obstructionism on the part of the Sudanese government.

Khartoum continues to withhold approval of non-African units for the force and has also held back land and flight operations rights for UN aircraft. On 6

December, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned: 'Without mobility and transportation, it will be extremely difficult for us to deploy our forces. And even [if] they are deployed, without effective, efficient mobility capacity, we will not be able to protect civilians and even our own soldiers.'

Five new states assume seats on Security Council

Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Libya and Vietnam began their terms as non-permanent members of the 15-member body on the first day of 2008. They will each serve for two years. The five countries, which were elected on 16 October, replace Republic of Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar and Slovakia. Libya holds the Council presidency in January – its first month as a new member.

UN moves closer to death penalty ban

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for a global moratorium on capital punishment. The resolution, tabled by the European Union, asks states to progressively restrict the use of the death penalty and is envisioned as a step towards abolition. Opponents, including the US and China, claim that states should be free to determine their own domestic criminal justice systems.

Capital punishment is on the wane worldwide: today 92 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes, compared to just 16 in 1977. Although states are not legally obliged to implement the resolution, the agreement could help sustain the trend towards abolition and encourage those countries that have not formally outlawed capital punishment to do so. The move could also encourage policy changes in countries such as the US, where the official stance on capital punishment may be shifting. In December 2007, New Jersey became the first US state to abolish capital punishment since the US Supreme Court reinstated its use in 1976.

Somalian crisis takes its toll

The humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to deteriorate in the last quarter of 2007, leading the UN to pronounce it Africa's worst ongoing humanitarian crisis. Fighting between Islamist insurgents and the interim government and its Ethiopian military allies in Mogadishu

has caused several thousand deaths and displaced some 600,000 civilians.

In a briefing to the UN Security Council on 6 December, emergency relief coordinator John Holmes said that an estimated 1.5 million people were in need of urgent assistance. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, the UN's envoy to Somalia, has warned that a lasting solution to the crisis will take more than a humanitarian effort, and has called on the Security Council to draw up a plan to address the political and security situation.

Ban takes steps to make better use of UN's good offices

On 25 October, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced proposals to reorganise the Department of Political Affairs (DPA). The purpose of the reforms is to strengthen the UN's ability to prevent and resolve conflicts through more proactive diplomacy. The plans entail more than 100 additional staff to assist the Secretary-General in detecting potential crises and mounting timely diplomatic initiatives to deal with them. Also proposed is the creation of a network of regional offices in Central Asia, central Africa, Central America, South-East Asia and south-eastern Europe. The first of these, the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, was launched on 10 December by DPA chief B. Lynn Pascoe.

The DPA reforms require budget increases over and above the UN's \$4.17-billion two-year budget, adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December.

UN Peacebuilding Commission to assist Guinea-Bissau

On 19 December, Guinea-Bissau joined Sierra Leone and Burundi to become the third country on the agenda of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

In the late 1990s Guinea-Bissau was wracked by civil war, and today it is one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy is being held back by the country's flourishing drug trade, the value of which exceeds the national income. Cocaine trafficking and organised crime in Guinea-Bissau pose a serious threat to the stability of both the country itself and the wider region.

The Peacebuilding Commission was established in 2005 to help post-conflict states make the transition to a sustainable peace.

Dispatches



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 60th anniversary campaign



Louise Arbour

A year-long campaign has been launched to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which falls on 10 December 2008. This campaign will engage the whole UN system in promoting the Declaration's ideals and principles, which changed the landscape of international relations and gave substance to the aspirations to freedom and dignity of humankind. But the celebrations are meant not only as tributes to an extraordinary human achievement. They will also be reminders that the goal of making the Declaration a living reality for everyone has yet to be realised.

There is no doubt that we have come a long way on a road that the UDHR framers prefigured. Today, a complex web of international instruments has fleshed out the content of the baskets of rights that the Declaration spelled out, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. All states have ratified at least one of the core nine international human rights treaties, and 80 per cent have ratified four or more. The process of adopting the Declaration's norms, translating them into law and putting them into effect is still ongoing at the international and national levels with regional entities increasingly involved as well.

Yet despite recognition in law and in stated commitments, glaring gaps in implementation of human rights standards are found in every country in the

world. Abuse, discrimination and inequality are still pervasive. They may even be growing as a result of new forms of oppression, violence and economic and social inequalities.

Nothing exemplifies unmet expectations better than the failure to grant justice to the victims of discrimination and human rights violations. Many judicial systems lack professionalism or have a long history of intimidation and subservience which prevents accountability for perpetrators' actions and denies their victims proper recourse. Impunity, and the absence of a true connective tissue between state institutions and the citizenry, not only frustrates the demand for justice, but also encourages the perpetuation of patterns of exclusion and abuse.

Such profound, widespread and recurrent challenges have prompted some to question the vitality, relevance and applicability of the Declaration's nor-

'Realising the goals of justice and equality for all must be our pre-eminent task if we truly are to honour the spirit and the letter of the Declaration'

mative edifice. However it is not the soundness of the Declaration's vision, but the commitment of governments to implementing its norms and their management of competing aspirations and finite resources that should come under scrutiny. Clearly, legitimate, independent and effective institutions of governance are necessary to meet the human rights requirements of justice, effective participation and genuine accountability. Viable institutions also ensure that social justice, including equal access to food, education, health, proper housing, and other basic needs, is delivered in an effort to free people

from conditions of chronic poverty and discrimination.

Another form of criticism has targeted the very concept of universality on which the Declaration rests. This criticism has been expressed by many in the mistaken belief that universal principles are inimical to the promotion of either pluralistic diversity or cultural specificity. Some have espoused rejectionist positions and recast them into self-serving doctrines to simply preserve privileges and power uniquely for themselves and a selected few, while denying the rights of everyone else.

Far from suffocating pluralism and equally far from being a liberal Western concoction – suitable to some cultures, but irrelevant or even harmful to others – the Declaration was the product of the considered judgment of an inspired group of framers who came from diverse backgrounds and regions and who drew from a wide spectrum of legal, religious and political traditions. They sought a 'common standard of achievement' for all to share. The balance they attained 60 years ago is an equilibrium we should never cease to strive for, irrespective of how our approaches may vary.

Thus, rather than embarking on exercises of dubious revisionism, states and all stakeholders should concentrate instead on how to remove the obstacles that continue to hamper the implementation and fulfilment of all human rights standards.

Realising the goals of justice and equality for all must be our pre-eminent task if we truly are to honour the spirit and the letter of the Declaration. Beyond good intent, this endeavour must be understood and carried out as a genuine responsibility to empower rights holders. It must be pursued with the urgency and sense of priority that it deserves as our shared obligation to promote and protect human rights under the law.

Louise Arbour is the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Human trafficking, a crime that shames us all



Antonio
Maria Costa

According to the history books, the slave trade was abolished in the British Empire by an Act of Parliament in 1807 and in the United States by the 13th amendment to the Constitution. More recently, international laws have been adopted to end human trafficking and modern forms of slavery.

But tell that to the family of Adofo, a six-year-old boy from Ghana who drowned in Lake Volta when forced by fishermen to dive ever deeper – with weights on his legs – to untangle their nets. Or Olga, a teenager from Moldova, who jumped out of a second-story window in Italy to escape captors who had promised her a job as a waitress but repeatedly raped her and sold her for sex. Or Rodrigo, who was beaten daily by armed guards on a plantation in the Amazon where he was trapped by debt bondage.

Whatever the history and law books say, slavery has not been abolished. It is a booming international trade, making billions of dollars at the expense of millions of victims. People are still deprived of their liberty, duped or coerced into forced labour, locked up, abused and forced into servitude. Where are these victims? All around us: in sweatshops, in mines or on farms, doing dirty, dodgy or dangerous work, or in the sex trade.

How can we free them? There are tools available. The first is to make human trafficking a crime. Surprisingly, almost half of all UN member states have not ratified the world's only protocol against human trafficking, which has been in force since 2003. All countries should accede to this powerful instrument and implement it as soon as possible in order to close legal loopholes exploited by criminal networks.

Traffickers should be brought to justice and their punishment should fit the crime. There are still too many cases,

even within the European Union, where convicted traffickers are set free with a slap on the wrist.

A second tool is public awareness. There is a high level of ignorance in countries of origin, transit and destination about the extent and nature of human trafficking. Potential victims need to be warned of the dangers. If a job in a far-off country seems too good to be true, it probably is. Better education and employment opportunities would dry up the pool of poor, vulnerable young people whose dreams of a brighter future are too often dashed by criminals who use deception and violence to coerce them into captivity.

Moral outrage is not going to stop the traffickers. We therefore need to make their business more risky and increase the threat of retribution. That means curbing demand for the goods and services of exploited people like the cheap products made by children working in sweatshops, or conflict diamonds, or agricultural produce picked by forced labour, or women trapped in the sex industry. By using good sense and ethical purchasing power, consumers can make trafficking and slavery less profitable.

A third tool is information, which at present is chronically lacking. By exchanging information on trafficking routes, the profile of traffickers and victim identification, the police would have a better chance of putting more slave traders in jail.

The fourth and most powerful tool is political will. More than 200 years ago, anti-slavery campaigners like William

Photo © iStockPhoto



‘Whatever the history and law books say, slavery has not been abolished. It is a booming international trade, making billions of dollars at the expense of millions of victims’

Wilberforce and Olaudah Equiano were voices in the wilderness. But their relentless activism galvanised public opinion and turned the tide. Today, we must do the same. We have the moral duty and legal obligation to prevent and suppress its modern equivalents. Ignorance and complacency on this issue must be overcome.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has launched a global initiative to end human trafficking. The aim is to unite and strengthen worldwide anti-trafficking efforts in order to focus and intensify global efforts to stop this crime. The apologetic words which marked the bicentennial of the British Parliament's Slave Trade Act of 1807 will otherwise ring hollow.

Antonio Maria Costa is Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Read more about UNODC's Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) by visiting www.ungift.org

Putting UNSCR 1325 into practice – some progress, but more needs to be done



Pola Uddin

Women have always been involved in resolving conflict, in building peace, and in reconstructing war-torn societies. The vast majority of these contributions have been informal, local-level activities which have gone unrecognised. In addition, the impact of war upon women has been too rarely acknowledged, with women's needs too seldom addressed

'It is now more than seven years since the Security Council passed this resolution, and there are serious questions about the actual impact of UNSCR 1325 on women caught up in the theatre of war'

within the reconstruction and rehabilitation processes conducted after conflict ceases.

As a survivor of the 1971 war between Pakistan and what is now Bangladesh I have witnessed first-hand how women are uniquely affected by conflict; I remember, though only 11 at the time, how the torture and rape of women were wielded as brutal weapons of war. And we have more recent examples of the impact of war and its aftermath on women – in Bosnia and now in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

In 2000 – only after strong women-led pressure from civil society – the UN

Security Council unanimously passed resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325). UNSCR 1325 represents a watershed: it acknowledges not only the specific ways in which women are victims of conflict but also, for the first time, their role as important actors within efforts to maintain international peace and security. The resolution acknowledges that men and women have different roles, interests and needs during peace processes and that an appreciation of these multiple roles, interests and needs shapes a sustainable peace.

UNSCR 1325 also calls for the protection of women during conflict, and for the end of impunity for violence perpetrated against women in times of war. For too long have nation-building processes ignored the abuse of women during conflict, with perpetrators escaping legal redress or punishment. Without protection and justice for all there can be no true security.

It is now more than seven years since the Security Council passed this resolution, and there are serious questions about the actual impact of UNSCR 1325 on women caught up in the theatre of war. I would argue that very little has changed for these women. In the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, systematic sexual violence against women and girls is used as a weapon to terrorise populations. In September 2007 the UN's emergency relief coordinator, John Holmes, noted that between January and September 2007 over 4,500 cases of sexual violence had been reported in just one eastern province – given the stigma attached to rape, the actual figure is probably much higher.

This is just one of many horrific examples which demonstrate how the aims of UNSCR 1325 remain shamefully unrealised. What is holding back its implementation?

For one, public awareness of the resolution and its objectives is unsatisfactory and resources dedicated to its implementation are inadequate. Country compliance with the resolution is also weak. In 2004, then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan requested member states to develop national action plans setting out strategies for implementing UNSCR 1325. As we enter 2008, only seven countries have fulfilled this request – all of them western. Not one conflict-affected country has published a plan (though Liberia is in the first stages of developing one).

Women are still shut out from the decisions to make peace or wage war.

Women remain marginalised within peace processes, though the success of these processes hinges on their active involvement. The UN Security Council itself has not sufficiently integrated UNSCR 1325 across its work: mandates increasingly invoke the resolution but too often this does not translate into a 'gender mandate' on the ground.

This year the New York-based NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security – which spearheaded the calls in 2000 for the resolution – urged the Security Council to provide more effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. To this end, the Working Group recommended that the Council establish a 1325 focal point or its own expert-level working group on the issue.

The UK government has been at the forefront of work around UNSCR 1325 and has much to offer in terms of capacity-building and sharing lessons learnt. But there is more to be done: the UK must give a high priority to increasing resources for 1325-related activities, to encouraging other countries (particularly

'Women are still shut out from the decisions to make peace or wage war'

from the G77) to develop their own action plans, and to implementing its own national action plan. The UK government should work closely with organisations such as GAPS – a coalition of British NGOs and peacebuilding experts which supports and monitors the UK's implementation of UNSCR 1325 – to ensure that stated policy is fully reflected in actual practice.

Given the inadequacy of progress made on implementing UNSCR 1325, there is no excuse for complacency.

Baroness Uddin is Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security. She is grateful to GAPS for its valuable assistance with this article.

For more information about GAPS (Gender Action for Peace and Security) contact its coordinator Charlotte Onslow on gaps.uk@googlemail.com or 020 7627 6883.

United Nations A Steep Learning Curve

Ban Ki-moon wins plaudits after first year as Secretary-General



Photo © iStockPhoto

When Ban Ki-moon took over the top job at the United Nations from Kofi Annan on 1 January 2007, few knew what to expect from the mild-mannered former foreign minister of South Korea. Many were unconvinced that as a newcomer to the UN he would find his feet with sufficient speed.

Initially reservations about Mr Ban seemed possibly justified: soon after taking office, Mr Ban riled developing countries for what appeared to them to be an attempt to push through controversial

management reforms without adequate consultation. And some argued that he botched his response to Saddam Hussein's imminent execution by seeming to ignore the General Assembly's long record of principled opposition to the death penalty.

But at the end of his debut year, many observers have changed their minds about Mr Ban. He has won respect as a hard-worker whose tenacity has succeeded in nudging member states nearer to solutions on several thorny issues, particularly climate change and Darfur.

That climate change held the world's concentration throughout 2007 is in no small measure down to the Secretary-General's efforts. He is credited with building up diplomatic momentum in the run-up to the major climate change conference in Bali by convening a high-level 'pre-meeting' at the UN in New York. And at Bali his last-minute intervention was reported to have helped

shame delegations into agreement, when it looked as though negotiations were set to collapse.

In Darfur, the Secretary-General's persistence has helped to coax the obdurate Sudanese government into accepting a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force for the region. Sir John Sawers, the UK's ambassador to the UN, has said that Mr Ban's style of diplomacy is paying dividends: by facing up to the 'deeply recalcitrant regime in Khartoum ... [he has] been more tenacious than previous secretaries-general have been in similar situations'.

The plaudits Ban Ki-moon has received for his work in 2007 are well-earned. Now, he is rightly looking ahead to 2008 and beyond, setting three principal goals for himself and the world body: getting governments closer to agreeing a solution to climate change; bringing peace to Darfur; and achieving progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

Kosovo At an Impasse

Intensive diplomacy has failed to broker a settlement between Belgrade and Pristina



Photo © UNMIK/DPI

Deadlock has emerged over the final status of Kosovo, the Serbian province administered by the UN since 1999. Kosovo, backed by the US and EU, wants independence, but Serbia, supported by Russia, remains firmly opposed.

Talks at the Security Council in December were not able to overcome the impasse. The body met behind closed doors to discuss a report submitted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

on behalf of the so-called 'troika', comprised of the EU, Russia and the US. The troika had spent four months searching for an outcome which would be acceptable to both Belgrade and Pristina. This process ended in November, having failed to bridge fundamental differences over the question of sovereignty.

The troika was itself established after a stalemate emerged over a proposal earlier in the year by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, which recommended that Kosovo should become independent subject to a period of international supervision.

Following two years of intensive talks, the EU and the US insist that all diplomatic initiatives have now been exhausted. Russia, Serbia's veto-wielding ally in the Council, wants the UN to support further negotiations between Serb and Kosovar leaders. Russia's UN ambassador maintains that

any moves to assist Kosovo in breaking away from Serbia would 'clearly be outside of international law'. Kosovo is expected to announce its independence in early 2008.

With the Security Council unable to reach agreement, Kosovo's future status will likely be tackled outside of UN structures. The EU has said that it is prepared to take the lead in implementing a settlement along the lines of the Ahtisaari plan, and has agreed 'in principle' to send a 1,800-strong police and security mission to Kosovo to replace the UN mission.

The UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) was established by Security Council resolution 1244 on 10 June 1999 to provide an interim administration for the war-torn province. In his report to the Security Council of 28 September 2007, the Secretary-General said that UNMIK had largely achieved its mandate to oversee the transition to self-government.

Climate Change The International Community Gets Another Roadmap

A year of climate diplomacy culminates in Bali agreement

Measured against the yardstick of diplomatic bustle and media attention, 2007 was a big year for climate change. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its latest assessment report in stages throughout the year. Articulating unprecedented scientific agreement about global warming, the report seems to have silenced the climate change deniers and goaded leaders into action. In recognition of these feats the panel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with environmental advocate Al Gore, the former US vice-president.

In September Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presided over a major high-level meeting on climate change at the UN. His motivation for calling the meeting was to prime governments for the most important climate change event of the year – December's conference of the parties to the

UN climate change convention. Here governments would need to overcome deep rifts in order to launch negotiations on a new international pact equal to the task of fighting climate change.

At the December meeting, hosted by the Indonesian government in Bali, delegates from 187 countries agreed a 'roadmap' for taking the talks forward.

The deal names 2009 as the deadline for agreeing on the new global framework, to be in place by 2013 when the emission targets set out in the Kyoto Protocol will have expired. The roadmap does not specify new targets but acknowledges that 'deep cuts' are needed to avert dangerous global warming.

The deal also affirms that rich countries should assume the bulk of the costs for fighting climate change given their disproportionate responsibility for causing the

problem, and maps out a basic agenda for negotiations. Items include action for adapting to the effects of climate change, deploying climate-friendly technologies, and financing adaptation and mitigation measures.

Disagreement over targets was a prominent source of friction at the conference, with the US, Canada and Japan lining up against the EU, which had demanded that industrialised countries agree to cut emissions by 25-40 per cent by 2020. When a compromise text was tabled, the US delegation first rejected it. It then reversed its position following pressure from other delegates and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Four major meetings to take the Bali roadmap forward are planned for this year, with a final summit scheduled to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Cluster munitions The Danger of Loopholes

UN-backed Oslo process moves closer to a treaty but bid for exemptions threatens to weaken the ban

The Norwegian government's diplomatic initiative to set up an international treaty banning cluster munitions is gathering speed.

At the most recent stage of the so-called Oslo process – a meeting in Vienna on 5-7 December – delegates from 138 states made headway towards the proposed treaty, to be concluded later this year. The Vienna conference saw the number of participating countries more than double since the previous meeting in May; crucially, only four of 14 past users of cluster munitions (Eritrea, Israel, Russia and the US) remain outside the process. The conference also succeeded in hammering out some of the features of the treaty, with states agreeing to include provisions for cooperation on victim assistance, land clearance and stockpile destruction.

But these achievements should be greeted with some caution. Around a dozen participating states – the UK among them – have been accused of waging a campaign to water down the text. This group is trying to secure an exemption within the ban for so-called 'smart' cluster munitions on the grounds that

these feature self-destruct mechanisms and so do not pose a major humanitarian risk. The vast majority of the Oslo process states support a comprehensive ban covering all forms of the weapon.

The debate between these two camps centres on the self-destruct capability of the Israeli-produced M85. The M85 is widely considered to have the most advanced self-destruct technology and is the only self-destruct cluster munition known to have been used in combat. British forces used it in Iraq in 2003, and the Israelis used it in Lebanon in 2006. Marketing for the weapon has claimed it has a failure rate of 1-2 per cent. But field evidence from Lebanon, presented in Vienna, suggests that this figure is closer to 10 per cent.

The UK, Germany and others have also argued for the treaty to include a transition period so that stockpiling states can acquire alternative weaponry. Again, most states disagree, and support an immediate ban.

The UK has come under particular criticism for its position at the conference. Its delegation reportedly raised hackles among some participants by defending the weapon's military utility and

arguing that some cases might justify its future use.

The UN has thrown its weight behind the Oslo process. This support may well prove crucial in attracting states that have so far been reluctant to participate in an initiative they perceive as being outside the relevant UN forum – the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). The CCW is widely seen as a dead-end for effective action against cluster munitions: the body operates consensually and so is hamstrung by opposition from countries like the US, China and Russia.

With more than two thirds of all states now on board, the Oslo process is picking up momentum, but there is still much to be done. At the next meetings – in Wellington in February and Dublin in May – the key task will be to stop loopholes from opening up around the weapon's definition. Otherwise, when the treaty opens for signature in Oslo later in 2008, an opportunity to strengthen international humanitarian law may have been missed.

Tim Kellow, UNA-UK John Bright Peace & Security Officer, contributed reporting to this article. He attended the Vienna conference as part of the delegation of the Cluster Munitions Coalition.

Key dates in 2008



1 Jan 08	Five new Security Council members begin their two-year terms: Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Libya and Vietnam
27 Jan	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
8 Mar	UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
3-28 Mar	Seventh session of the Human Rights Council
21 Mar	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 Mar	World Water Day
24 Mar	World Tuberculosis Day
4 Apr	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
7 Apr	World Health Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
20 June	World Refugee Day
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
7-9 July	G8 Summit in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan (with a focus on climate change, the MDGs, development in Africa, and nuclear non-proliferation)
11 July	World Population Day
9 Aug	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
12 Aug	International Youth Day
8 Sept	International Literacy Day
21 Sept	International Day of Peace
1 Oct	International Day of Older Persons
6 Oct	World Habitat Day
16 Oct	World Food Day
17 Oct	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 Oct	United Nations Day, to mark the date on which the UN Charter came into force in 1945
6 Nov	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
16 Nov	International Day of Tolerance
20 Nov	Universal Children's Day
25 Nov	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
29 Nov	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1 Dec	World AIDS Day
2 Dec	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 Dec	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
5 Dec	International Volunteer Day
9 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 Dec	Human Rights Day (60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
18 Dec	International Migrants Day
19 Dec	UN Day for South-South Cooperation

Essay



The Middle East after Annapolis: déjà vu all over again or a genuine step forward?



David Hannay

The international meeting at Annapolis on 27 November, convened by President Bush, could certainly not be said to have been over-burdened with excessive advance expectations of success. And that was no bad thing. Previous meetings of this sort – the Madrid conference convened by President Bush's father in 1991, the famous handshakes on the White House lawn between Arafat and Rabin in 1993, the Camp David negotiations in 2000 – all were accompanied by tidal waves of hype, and all led to serious disillusionment and, eventually, to increased violence when they failed to deliver the desired results. A more realistic understanding – of the yawning gaps between Israelis and Palestinians that remain to be bridged on all the main substantive issues, of

the weak domestic political situation not only of the two main protagonists but also of the US administration, and of the still rising strength in the region of extremist tendencies opposed to any negotiated solutions – could well provide a sounder basis for the negotiations that lie ahead than the often facile optimism of past efforts.

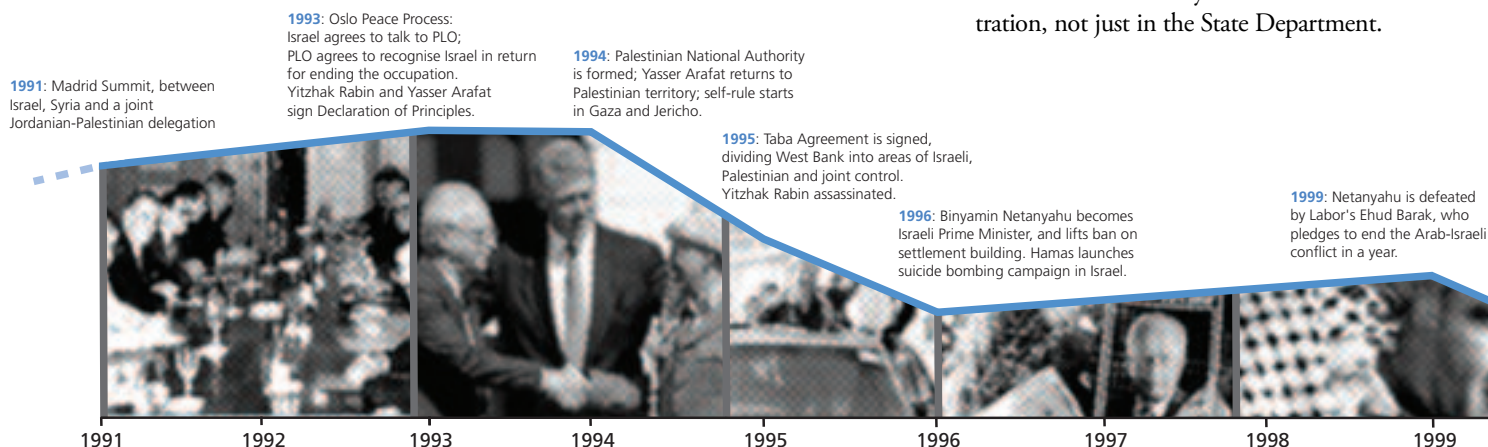
The outcome of Annapolis has not done much to lift this prevailing mood of pessimism, and rightly so. Admittedly, comprehensive negotiations, covering not only the intermediate issues dealt with by the now distinctly shopworn 'roadmap' but also the core final status issues, are now underway. The turn-out at Annapolis was fuller on the Arab side than might at one time have been expected. An American president who had

wasted seven years trying unsuccessfully to marginalise the Arab-Israeli dispute over Palestine has finally recognised that resolving that dispute is central to attempts to stabilise the Middle East, and vowed to devote his last 12 months in office to working towards a negotiated outcome.

These are all plus points. But there are plenty of negatives and question marks too: no progress at all on any of the issues of substance; no hint of a US, or any other, mediating role in the negotiations to come; no recognition of the need to make any peace process inclusive by reaching out to those who so far reject it; and doubts about how effective the provisions for monitoring the interim steps laid down in the roadmap will prove to be. If Annapolis really was the beginning of a new and more hopeful phase in the search for a lasting peace settlement, then it is only so in the sense of the Chinese proverb that 'the longest journey begins with the first step'.

The agreement by the Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate from now onwards in an intensive and sustained fashion, and to cover all issues, both interim and final status ones, is a necessary but by no means sufficient step. All experience shows that two weak governments, saddled with many decades of accumulated unnegotiable objectives, are not likely to shape unassisted the sort of awkward compromises needed if gaps are to be bridged. They will need a mediator or facilitator to help them to move forward, to test the temperature before compromises are floated, to ensure some balance between the different parts of any settlement. And any such mediator or facilitator will need to have the confidence not only of the two parties to the negotiations but also of the United States – at every level of the administration, not just in the State Department.

Recent ups and downs of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict



Such a person could, perhaps most easily, be an American; or the mandate of the existing representative of the Quartet, Tony Blair, could be expanded; or the UN could be asked to put forward names for the approval of the parties. But to try to proceed very far without an agreed intermediary would seem likely to lead to deadlock.

And then there are lessons to be learned from previous failures. The first relates to the US electoral cycle, just getting into full swing and destined to elect a new occupant to the White House in less than a year's time. Without wishing to undermine the Annapolis target of negotiating a settlement within this president's term of office, it must be fairly apparent from the outset that that target may not prove achievable and that, in any case, the extremely sensitive and tricky process of implementing any deal will inevitably fall to the new US administration. So it is critically important to try to ensure that any process is sustainable through and beyond the US presidential election and does not suffer the fate of President Clinton's last-gasp efforts in 2000.

Just as important, a lesson could be learned from Britain's experience in Northern Ireland, and that is not to allow any negotiating process to be derailed by acts of violence perpetrated by those outside the negotiating process. It is an obvious prediction that some of those fanatically opposed to a negotiated solution will do their worst in the months ahead; and the more promising the state of the negotiations the more desperate and the more violent those efforts will become. It is essential, surely, not to allow such terrorist tactics to interrupt the negotiating process as they have so often been allowed to do in the past. I realise how difficult it is to practise such an approach. But the hard fact is that if the terrorists believe they can derail the negotiations there will be more such attacks than if they know from the outset that the negotiating parties will not allow themselves to be manipulated in that way.

No problem is going to be harder to crack than ensuring the inclusiveness of any deal. The present policy of simply ignoring Hamas and behaving as if Gaza did not



US President Bill Clinton with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1993
Photo © Associated Press/Ron Edmonds

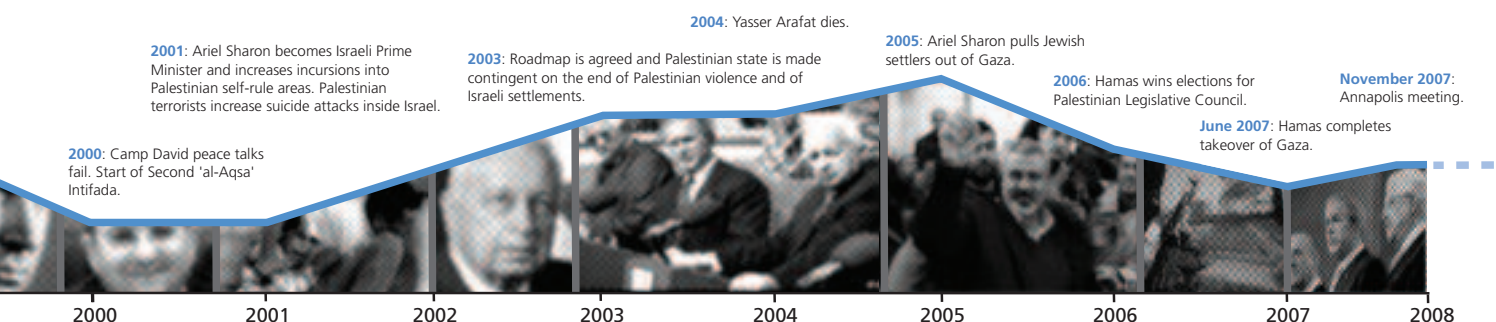


US President George W. Bush with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007
Photo © Getty Images/Chip Somodevilla

exist will not work in the longer term. But nor can Hamas hope to be welcomed to the negotiating table so long as it allows the territory over which it has effective control to be used for indiscriminate terrorist attacks on civilian targets in Israel, and so long as it rejects outright the peace plans put forward by the Arab nations. That said, it surely makes no sense to cut off all communication with Hamas. Far better to keep talking to them and to try to bring them, or at least the most moderate elements among them, to a realisation of the need to meet these basic conditions.

I have so far ducked answering my own question. Is this a real opportunity or is it more of the same? My answer is that it could be either. The late Abba Eban used to say that the Palestinians never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity. In truth his own compatriots have often done the same, as has the international community. The challenge facing all of us is not to do that yet again.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick is Chair of UNA-UK and former British Ambassador to the UN in New York.



Briefing

UN peacekeeping missions as of January 2008

UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION (UNTSO)

Established: May 1948, to supervise the truce in Palestine after the Arab-Israeli war of 1948

Personnel: 150 military observers; 227 civilians

UNITED NATIONS STABILIZATION MISSION IN HAITI (MINUSTAH)

Established: June 2004, to ensure a stable environment for the constitutional and political process to take place

Personnel: 7,062 troops; 1,841 police; 1,584 civilians; 200 UN Volunteers

UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (MINURSO)

Established: April 1991, to monitor the ceasefire between the government of Morocco and the POLISARIO Front and conduct a referendum to decide the territory's future status

Personnel: 48 troops; 188 military observers; 6 police; 239 civilians; 23 UN Volunteers

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN LIBERIA (UNMIL)

Established: September 2003, to support the ceasefire agreement and the peace process between government forces and rebel groups

Personnel: 13,335 troops; 199 military observers; 1,183 police; 1,458 civilians; 245 UN Volunteers

UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (UNOCI)

Established: April 2004, to support the ceasefire agreement between the Ivorian armed forces and rebel groups

Personnel: 7,834 troops; 195 military observers; 1,130 police; 973 civilians; 290 UN Volunteers

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM ADMINISTRATION MISSION IN KOSOVO (UNMIK)

Established: June 1999, to administer the province following the expulsion of Serbian forces in 1999 and oversee the transition to self-government

Personnel: 39 military observers; 2006 police; 2,438 civilians; 135 UN Volunteers

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

Established: March 1978, to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Extended in August 2006 to monitor cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah and help ensure humanitarian access

Personnel: 13,264 troops; 869 civilians

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)

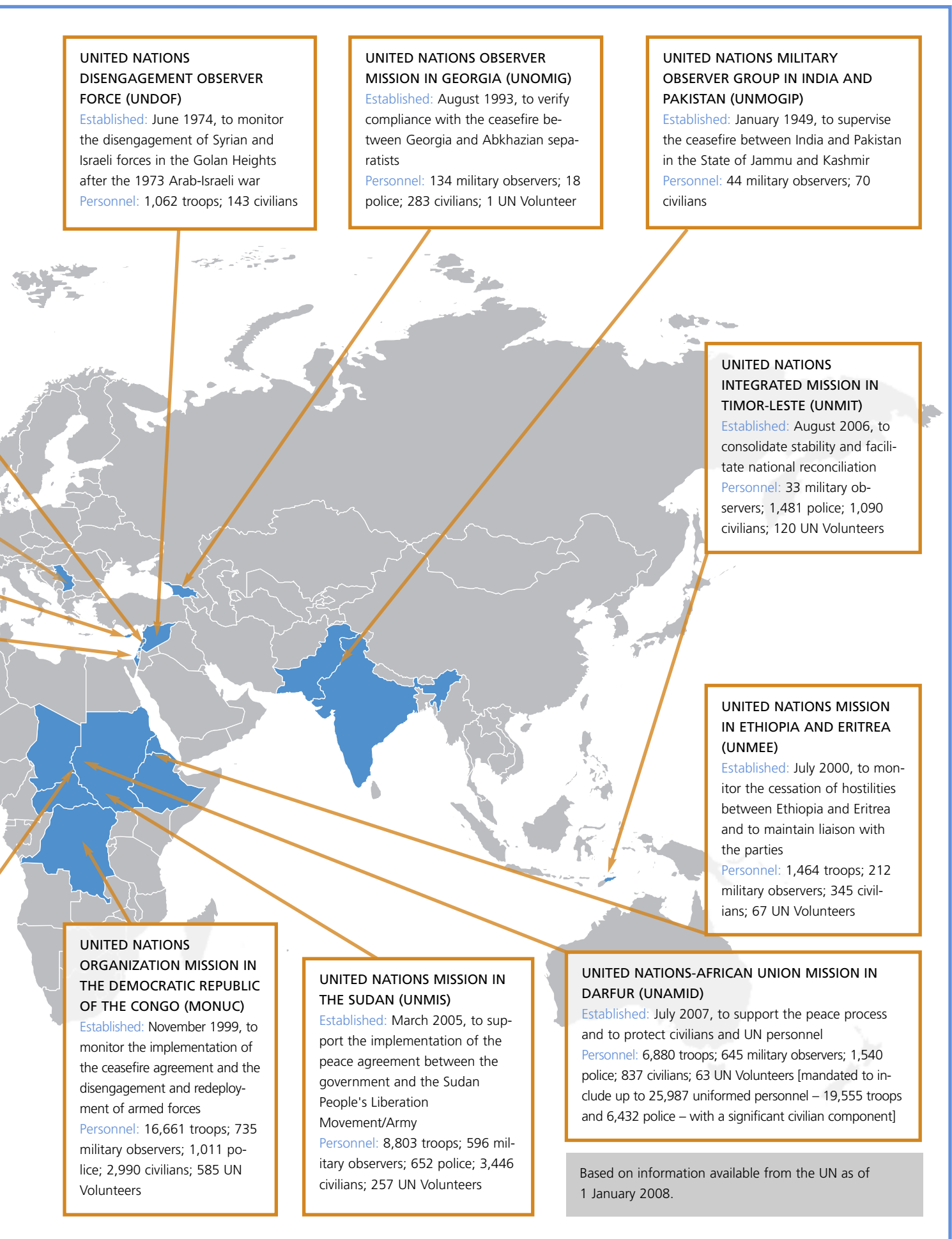
Established: March 1964, to keep the peace between Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus

Personnel: 861 troops; 62 police; 145 civilians

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND CHAD (MINURCAT)

Established: September 2007, to work with an EU force to ensure the safe return of refugees

Personnel: 3 military observers; 32 police [mandated to include up to 300 police and 50 military liaison officers, supported by civilian personnel]





Do something.

Ask your MP to sign Early Day Motion 602

Visit www.una.org.uk/banclustermunitions



A six-year-old Lebanese boy injured by a cluster munition is comforted by his father
Photo © Associated Press

Parliament



UNA-UK welcomes war powers for Parliament but urges careful consideration of impact on UN peacekeeping

Sending troops to fight in a conflict abroad is one of the most important decisions a government can make on behalf of the people it represents. But here in the UK, the House of Commons has no legal role in taking this decision: using the 'royal prerogative' – a set of powers legally held by the Queen but in fact exercised by the government – the executive can deploy British troops overseas without parliamentary approval.

This may change soon. In July 2007 Prime Minister Gordon Brown proposed that Parliament's role be expanded and codified in a series of areas where the executive wields exclusive power, including the decision to participate in armed conflict abroad. The government is conducting a consultation on what new mechanisms and procedures can be put in place to augment Parliament's war powers, so that, in the Prime Minister's words, 'on the grave issue of peace and war it is ultimately the House of Commons that will make the decision'.

UNA-UK has submitted its response to the consultation, welcoming the government's plans to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the decision to go to war, while raising concerns about the impact new arrangements could have on the UK's support for UN peace operations. It is vital that British parliamentary procedures for approving troop deployments recognise that UN missions range from the small-scale to the major, and may or may not entail armed conflict. It is imperative that any new mechanisms do not exacerbate the already excessive delays holding back UN troop deployments.

In inviting views on possible models for increasing Parliament's war powers, the consultation paper rightly notes the need to consider the 'impact on the UK's ability to play a full part in [UN, EU and NATO] operations'. UNA-UK has suggested that the new measures either exclude altogether deployments with essentially peaceful mandates, or impose less stringent constraints on deployments to UN missions. In Germany, for example, where parliamentary approval is a prerequisite for all military deployments, those considered to be of low intensity and importance qualify for a simplified procedure.

This category, which applies only to deployments of a small number of soldiers who will not be fighting in a war, covers troops sent abroad to participate in a UN, NATO or EU mission, or another organisation carrying out a UN mandate. Under the German model, the government notifies MPs of the deployment through the parliamentary chair; if, after seven days, neither a political grouping nor 5 per cent of MPs has requested formal consultation, authorisation is presumed.

Stronger parliamentary scrutiny of the executive's war powers is necessary in the interest of democracy. But in recalibrating the balance between Parliament and the executive, it is equally important that the UK ensures continued support for UN peace operations and avoids adding to the many hurdles the UN has to clear when trying to get a mission on the ground.

To read UNA-UK's submission visit www.una.org.uk/parliament

To read the government's consultation paper 'War Powers and Treaties: limiting executive powers', visit www.justice.gov.uk

UNA-UK urges Ministry of Defence to step up on Darfur

The deployment of UNAMID – the hybrid UN-AU mission to Darfur – is being impeded by a lack of helicopters. In December 2007, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay wrote to the Defence Secretary asking that 'the Ministry of Defence do everything in its power to provide some helicopters' for the force, and arguing that 'it would be indefensible if Britain, a permanent member of the Security Council, were to decline to provide helicopters at a time when there are some available at our disposal'.

For the full text of the letter, see www.una.org.uk/parliament

New Early Day Motion on cluster munitions opens for signature

With input from UNA-UK's Peace & Security Programme Officer Tim Kellow, Martin Caton MP has put forward a new Early Day Motion calling for a comprehensive

ban on cluster munitions.

Read the full text of EDM 602 at www.una.org.uk/banclustermunitions

New House of Lords committee launches first inquiry

The House of Lords Ad Hoc Committee on Intergovernmental Organisations was set up in November 2007 to assess the effectiveness of the UN and other intergovernmental organisations of which the UK is a member. The committee has now launched its first inquiry, into the effectiveness of the World Health Organization and other bodies in controlling the spread of communicable diseases. The inquiry will focus on efforts to contain HIV/AIDS, avian influenza, malaria and tuberculosis.

The committee's membership includes UNA-UK's Chair, Lord Hannay.

Visit www.una.org.uk/parliament for more information.

UN Day parliamentary lobby event attracts record numbers – again

On 24 October 2007 UNA-UK hosted the launch of its annual Lobby for the UN at the Foreign Press Association. An eleventh-hour showing by a troupe of LSE students necessitated a last-minute booking of an extra room, with speakers gamely shuttling between rooms to give presentations twice.

The speakers were Astrid Haas, Vice-President of international student network U8; Thomas Nash, Coordinator of the Cluster Munitions Coalition; and Dr Tony Klug, author and analyst on the Middle East. Lord Hannay chaired the meeting.

The launch event kicked off a year of lobbying on UN-related issues, with all participants receiving lobby packs with briefing notes and questions to ask MPs.

Have you lobbied your MP yet? For a Lobby 2007-08 Pack visit www.una.org.uk/parliament or contact Mark Rusling on 020 7766 3459 or rusling@una.org.uk

Resources



Books



On Global Order: Power, Values, and the Constitution of International Society
Andrew Hurrell
Oxford University Press
November 2007

Drawing on international law, international relations and global governance, this book provides a wide-ranging introduction to the analysis of global political order – how patterns of governance and institutionalisation in world politics have already changed; what the most important challenges are; and what the way forward might look like.

www.oup.co.uk



Human Rights at the UN: The Political History of Universal Justice
Roger Normand and Sarah Zaidi
Indiana University Press
December 2007

This book gives a broad history of the emergence and development of the human rights movement in the 20th century. It forms part of the UN Intellectual History Project, which traces the evolution of key ideas and concepts about economic and social development born or nurtured under UN auspices.

www.iupress.indiana.edu



United Nations Sanctions and the Rule of Law (Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law)
Jeremy Matam Farrall
Cambridge University Press
December 2007

The UN Security Council makes increasing use of sanctions in order to prevent and resolve conflict. This book, part of the Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law series, traces the evolution of the Security

Council's sanctions powers and gives an overview of the UN sanctions system.

www.cambridge.org



Circle of Empowerment: Twenty-Five Years of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling and Cees Flinterman (eds.)
The Feminist Press
December 2007

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is one of the most important human rights tools ever created and is often described as an international bill of rights for women. This book is a collection of essays and personal reflections from individuals who have served on the UN committee that monitors CEDAW.

www.feministpress.org



Crimes of War: what the public should know (2nd edition)
Roy Gutman, David Rieff and Anthony Dworkin (eds.)
W.W. Norton & Company
October 2007

Originally published in 1999, this book has been revised and updated with 16 new entries. It features contributions from more than 140 experts from the media, the military, the legal discipline and human rights groups, and is intended to educate the public about international humanitarian law.

www.wwnorton.co.uk



The United States and the Security Council: Collective Security since the Cold War
Brian Frederking
Routledge
September 2007

This book examines the different understandings of collective security in the post-Cold War world. The author uses con-

structivist theory to analyse a series of case studies – including Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan – to show that 9/11 did not fundamentally change world politics, but rather aggravated pre-existing tensions among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

www.routledge.com

Coming soon!

New World Disorder: the UN after the Cold War
by David Hannay
(I.B. Tauris, May 2008)

As the UK's ambassador to the UN from 1990 to 1995, David Hannay sat in the Security Council from the time of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait until the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia. Drawing on this experience, Lord Hannay illustrates how the early cooperative spirit of the post-Cold War era collapsed when new challenges such as state failure proved beyond the UN to solve and eroded the initial unity of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Full details of *New World Disorder* will appear in the spring issue of *New World*. To read a recent speech by Lord Hannay based on the book visit www.una.org.uk/chair



Photos © UNA-UK/Agbronnations

The UN Online

- Help the World Food Programme feed the hungry at FreeRice.com. For each word you get right in a vocabulary game, 20 grains of rice are donated to the UN to help end world hunger.
www.freerice.com
- The MDG Monitor shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the

Millennium Development Goals. You can track progress through interactive maps and country-specific profiles, learn about countries' challenges and achievements, and get all the latest MDG news.
www.mdgmonitor.org

- The new UN Messengers of Peace website features distinguished individuals from the fields of art, literature, music and sports, who have agreed to use their status to help

focus worldwide attention on the work of the United Nations.
www.un.org/sg/mop

- Part of the UN's year-long campaign to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, knowyourrights2008.org is a source of information on human rights issues and initiatives taking place around Europe to mark UDHR60.
www.knowyourrights2008.org

Films

Can Pay, Should Pay (Stamp Out Poverty)

This short film, produced by UK NGO Stamp Out Poverty, opens with Channel 4's Jon Snow dramatically announcing the end of poverty. We are given a glimpse of what it would be like to hear that human beings are no longer dying from a lack of clean water, hunger and curable disease – all entirely preventable provided that leaders follow through on promises and find the additional funds necessary for reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

Can Pay, Should Pay champions one particular option for raising these funds: a tiny tax of 0.005 per cent on sterling transactions, the film says, could yield up to £2 billion a year of the predictable, long-term financing poor countries need to reach the MDGs.

To watch this short film, visit www.stampoutpoverty.org

Trade (Roadside Attractions)

Trade is a feature film about the horrors of the multi-million-dollar business of human trafficking. Based on 'The Girls

Next Door', a 2004 *New York Times Magazine* exposé of the US sex trade, the film features Academy Award-winning actor Kevin Kline as a Texas police officer who helps a Mexican boy search for his younger sister, abducted by sex traffickers.

Trade premiered in the US in September 2007, and 0.5 per cent of box-office sales from the first week were donated to organisations spearheading the fight against human trafficking, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

For more info visit www.roadsideattractions.com

Holly (Priority Films)

Shot on location in Cambodia, *Holly* tells the story of a 12-year-old Vietnamese girl sold by her impoverished family and smuggled across the border to work as a prostitute.

The world premiere of *Holly* was held at the UN in New York in November 2007. Visit www.priorityfilms.com for more details.



Photos © Roadside Attractions

Funding opportunities for students of the United Nations

The International Studies Committee of the Gilbert Murray Trust, which promotes the study of the purposes and work of the United Nations, is offering up to six grants of up to £500 each for 2008-09. These grants are given to support specific UN-related projects (such as a research visit to the headquarters of an international organisation or a particular country, or to undertake a short course at an

institution abroad) which will assist the applicant in his or her study of international relations.

Applicants should normally be under the age of 26. They must be studying, or have studied, international relations at an institution of higher education in the United Kingdom. International relations is understood broadly and includes, for example, in-

ternational law, security studies, peace studies, development studies and global governance. All applications, however, must be relevant to the purposes and work of the United Nations.

The deadline for applications is 1 April 2008. For further details of criteria and instructions for applying, visit www.una.org.uk/expertise

Letters

send your letters to:

Veronica Lie, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL
e-mail: lie@una.org.uk



Modernising UNA-UK's membership

My branch believes that UNA-UK's membership, including its relationship with head office, has to modernise to reflect emerging forms of democracy. Head office has become much more focused. The task now is for the membership to do the same.

We hope that the upcoming Annual Conference, to be held in Exeter, will launch a consultation process on the future of UNA-UK. The traditional membership model is clearly not working and we need to think through other approaches, including:

- the think-tank model, with UNA-UK head office offering advice and consultancy to the government and public and private organisations
- the campaigning model, where we become more like Greenpeace or Amnesty, campaigning for the objectives and policies of the UN in a proactive way
- the civil society model, whereby UNA-UK works strategically, both nationally and locally, with other civil society groups to give an international perspective to their activities
- the social networking model, bringing together thousands of people who share similar ideas to our own to participate in specific activities and campaigns, using the growing web-based social networks

None of these models is mutually exclusive and there are mix-and-match options. But we need to experiment. My own branch, for example, has followed both the civil society and the social networking models. We recently used the networking site www.meetup.com to link up with another group called 21st Century Network. In a partnership which also included Westminster UNA we held a meeting in the House of Commons on human trafficking with Shadow Justice Minister David Burrowes MP. The approach proved highly successful, with the guest list filling up four weeks before the event.

Such experiments are important, so that we involve not only members but also supporters of our aims and like-minded networks. Forms of democracy are changing worldwide and we have to change with them.

Francis Sealey

Chair, Enfield & the Barnets Branch UNA

Paying due tribute

There are more than 100,000 peacekeepers from 119 countries serving in 17 operations on four continents. In the past year, over 80 peacekeeping personnel have been killed on duty. In 2002, to pay tribute to peacekeepers and to honour those who have lost their lives in service, the General Assembly passed a resolution designating 29 May the International Day of UN Peacekeepers. The resolution invited governments, organisations and individuals to mark the day. Some UNA branches have responded to this invitation; I suggest that all branches of UNA-UK do so. Such activities would show strong local support for the United Nations at a time of unprecedented demand for UN peacekeeping.

Sue Thompson

Chair, Cheltenham UNA

A first rejoinder . . .

I read with dismay Harold Stern's letter ('New World or *The Tatler*?') in the autumn 2007 issue of New World.

The photographs to which Mr Stern objected so strongly document a prestigious event in a beautiful place attended by many distinguished guests. It was certainly worthwhile to record those interested, smiling faces and to share the occasion with members.

I recall a happy Harold and colleagues in the bar of a university during Annual Conference one year. They were dressed in kimonos, having just returned from a UNA study tour in Japan. A picture of them in New World would have been a delight, but in those days they put shot people on the cover in an attempt to attract members.

Cheer up, Harold: you are in danger of becoming 'a grumpy old man'!

Chris Dickenson

Coberley, Gloucestershire

. . . and another rejoinder

Good old Harold: blazing away with all guns as usual. He is quite right – the amount of space devoted to *The Oxford Handbook on the UN* was absurd overkill. A two-page spread would have been sufficient. Even twelve and a half per cent is a lot of space in a publication that only appears four times a

year. Harold is right on a more important point. The overriding purpose of New World must be to provide information (and comment) about the UN and its agencies, and the activity – or lack of it – within the UN by our own government.

For example, New World might ask Lord Malloch-Brown why Britain contributes a pathetic 367 personnel to UN peacekeeping missions which now have over 83,000 troops, police and observers on the ground.

It would be useful to know also the precise contribution of our government to the various agencies of the UN – even pensioners like me pay taxes and it would be good to know how much of 'em is usefully spent.

Frank Hooley

Presteigne, Powys

Impunity cannot be tolerated

My letters in New World (October-December 2006 and July-September 2007) reflect a recurring theme and concern, namely the enforcement of international law.

These letters addressed the issue within the contexts of the 2006 conflict in Lebanon and the ongoing crises in Darfur and Zimbabwe. Other situations have since made their way onto the international agenda. In August 2007 the Burmese junta used violence to repress peaceful demonstrations. And Pakistan remains unstable, its leader unwilling to relinquish power and – in my opinion – complicit in human rights abuses including the detention and imprisonment of democratic opposition activists.

I urge UNA-UK to mobilise international public opinion to put pressure on democratic governments to ensure that such regimes are brought to account. Impunity cannot be tolerated; justice must be done, and it must be seen to be done. Everybody knows that actions speak louder than words.

Incidentally, the UN's warnings to Israel and Lebanon about the 2006 conflict seem to have amounted to nothing more than empty words. All has gone quiet!

Why is this? Is it political expediency, a sop to the Bush administration given its ties to Israel? If the rule of law – and not injustice – is to prevail, we must be serious and determined, and move beyond politics.

David J. Thomas

Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan

2008: a year of campaigns and education for UNA-UK



Sam Daws

2008 will be a busy year for UNA-UK and its members. We will continue our campaigns to secure an effective international treaty on cluster munitions, push for progress on fighting climate change and promote action on the responsibility to protect. Our work with young people will expand, with a focus on marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in schools around the UK. With financial support from the FCO, we will also launch a web-based 'portal' for advice and resources for running or participating in Model UN events. The Young Professionals Network is similarly building up its presence on the web, and will

be adding exciting new material on careers, peace and security, and international law over the coming months.

I am delighted to announce that Mark Malloch Brown, former United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and now FCO Minister with responsibility for the UN, will serve as the keynote speaker for UNA-UK's annual conference. This year's conference will be held at Exeter University in March; it looks set to be as stimulating as ever!

UNA-UK

The United Nations Association of the UK



The Membership at Work . . .

UNA North-West Region

Fiona Gow describes the region's outreach to UNA-Sri Lanka.

On a visit to Sri Lanka two years ago I met officials from UNA-Sri Lanka (UNA-SL) who were keen to strengthen links with UNA-UK. In November 2007 UNA North-West Region welcomed four Sri Lankan delegates to the Liverpool Schools Model UN General Assembly (MUNGA).

The visit's success was due in large part to careful preparation by UNA-SL. Kumaran Fernando, its secretary-general, supervised team selection and travel arrangements, while Mohammed Zawahir, the deputy chair, ran training seminars for the delegates. They were accompanied by UNA-SL member Ramani Kangaraarachchi, a journalist with Sri Lanka Daily News, which carried her piece about the visit.

At the MUNGA's plenary session, on contemporary slavery, UNA-SL delegate Lahiru Fernando made a memorable speech about the risk of Sri Lankan children getting ensnared by sexual slavery, forfeiting education through poverty, or ending up as child soldiers. The rest of the team contributed in the working groups, chatted to fellow delegates and even met a king!

Our visitors came a long way for a short visit, but they were thrilled to take part in the MUNGA and learn more about the UN. And we certainly



Lahiru Fernando, Sumali de Silva, Isuru Galappatty and Chathushika Wijesinghe get their photo taken with Dr Godwin Ekebuisi, King of Abia State in Nigeria (centre).

profited from the experience, learning about Sri Lanka from some splendid ambassadors.

UNA Cornwall

Joy McMullen on growing Cornish support for the UN.

On 24 October, at Cornwall County Council headquarters in Truro, the UN's hallmark blue flag flew briskly all day alongside the Cornish flag and the Union Jack.

This has become an annual feature of the local landscape thanks to the efforts of UNA Cornwall and the commitment of Doris Ansari OBE, Chair of Cornwall County Council. Several councillors actively support UNA-UK and two will participate as speakers in the branch's programme this year.

The UN also gets support from Truro City Council and the Truro Cathedral authorities. The UN flag was flown over the town council chambers during the week of UN Day

and, on Sunday, 28 October, the cathedral held a 'solemn evensong' service to mark the UN's establishment.



Doris Ansari (second from left) helps UNA Cornwall get ready to hoist the UN flag.

Awareness and support for UNA-UK is growing in Cornwall and it remains only to convert this support into more members – especially younger ones!

UNA Newbury

Marcus Langford-Thomas reports on local human rights initiatives.

On 16 November we held our annual dinner. The speaker was Deirdre McConnell, of the Tamil Centre for Human Rights. She told us about the UN Human Rights Council and described how its Universal Periodic Review could enable 'we the peoples' to keep track of countries' human rights records. She encouraged local groups, including UNA-UK branches, to generate awareness of the failure of many governments to fulfil their human rights commitments.

The dinner was also used to galvanise members into action on human rights. With the news that the General Assembly had endorsed a global moratorium on the death penalty, members were urged to lobby their MPs to encourage more countries to support the ban.

UNA Harpenden

Sonia Ayres is proud of her branch – and rightly so!

On UN Day, Harpenden's mayor, Bert Pawle (pictured eighth from left), and his deputy, Pat Kent (ninth from left), joined us for a UN flag-raising ceremony outside the town hall. This was followed by a UN service on Sunday, 28 October at St Nicholas Church at which Stephen Rand of the Jubilee Debt Campaign spoke about the urgent

need for greater debt relief.

UNA Harpenden is one of the most successful branches in the country and the people of the area are to be thanked for making it so through their continuing interest and participation.



UNA Harpenden members

More from UNA Harpenden

Trevor Evans voices support for a proposal to make sure aid money ends up where it ought to.

On 1 December, Costa Rica's ambassador to London, H.E. Pilar Saborio, spoke to us about the 'Costa Rica Consensus'. This is a Costa Rican initiative at the UN calling for the creation of formal mechanisms to reward developing countries (with debt forgiveness and financial support) that invest more in education, health and housing, and less in soldiers and weapons. The president of Costa Rica, Dr Oscar Arias (who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 during his first term), proposed this initiative in a speech at the General Assembly in September 2006.

Economic and social progress in many developing countries is being held back by excessive military spending by both rich countries and poor ones. In 2006 a global record of \$1.2 trillion was spent on arms; in that same year, according to estimates by the UN's Millennium Project, it would have cost \$121 billion to fund delivery of all the Millennium Development Goals in all countries. The US's military budget is at least 25 times bigger than its aid expenditure. There is also evidence that aid is sometimes diverted by recipient governments from development to military purposes.

The Costa Rica Consensus proposes that an 'International Peace Dividend Fund' be set up and administered by

the UN Development Programme. Its purpose would be to channel aid increases generated by donor countries' fulfilment of their pledge to spend 0.7 per cent of their national incomes on aid. These funds would be used to reward those developing countries which applied aid to tackling poverty and inequality while reducing spending on arms. The initiative also calls for the enumeration of common reporting standards to account for social and military expenditure.

Many donors already attach conditions to development aid. But some are reluctant to impose restrictions on military spending – perhaps because their arms industries stand to benefit. UNA Harpenden hopes that this does not influence UK aid policies.

In his speech at the UN in 2006 Dr



Dr Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica

Arias said, 'It is essential that the most powerful nations on earth understand that...the United Nations is fundamental for their own security, that the mere existence of this forum is one of the great achievements of our species, that the UN is a victory of hope over fear, of tolerance over fanaticism, of reason over force'. I hope that UNA-UK members will support an initiative coming from someone with such evident support for the principles that we hold dear.

Submissions should focus on a specific branch, regional or national event or initiative, and should, wherever possible, be accompanied by a relevant photo of high resolution. Only finished copy will be considered; the editor regrets that general reports, newsletters and/or press cuttings will not be converted into copy on behalf of the submitter.

Listings



UNA events, campaigns & initiatives

19 January

UNA HARPENDEN

Tim Kellow, UNA-UK Peace & Security Programme Officer, will give a talk on implementing the responsibility to protect people from gross human rights violations. The event will start at 11am.

Contact Trevor Evans on

01582 713 895 or
trevore@which.net

22 January

UNA PUTNEY & ROEHAMPTON

Natalie Samarasinghe, Executive Assistant at UNA-UK, will give a talk entitled 'The UN Human Rights Council: reform or re-branding?' from 8pm at the Gallery Room, Putney Methodist Church, Putney SW15.

Contact: Jo Stocks
on 020 8870 5536 or
jo.stocks@talk21.com

26 January

UNA EXETER

An interfaith service will take place in the Peace Chapel, Exeter Cathedral from 12 noon. The theme will be on the effect of the small arms trade on developing countries.

Contact: Noel Harrower on
01395 271 731 or
n.harrower@btinternet.com

4, 11, 18 and 25 February

UNA MERTON

Alison Williams will be conducting a series of workshops about the human rights work of the United Nations. The workshops will run twice a day on the above dates – from 12.30pm to 2.30pm and from 8pm to 10pm. All will be held at 11 Wilberforce House, 119 Worpole Road, London SW20 8ET.

Contact: Alison Williams
on 020 8944 0574 or
alisonwilliams36@tiscali.co.uk

UNA-UK branches, regions and nations wishing to publicise events in New World should ensure that the information submitted is accurate, clear and complete. Events listings must include the following points of information:

- Title/purpose of the event
- Start and end times
- Venue details
- Contact point (full name, telephone number, e-mail address and, where applicable, web address)

Events listings should be sent to website@una.org.uk or UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

UNA-UK takes no responsibility for the events and/or campaigns organised by UNA-UK branches, regions or nations.

What else is going on?

22 January

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

As part of Amnesty's 'Behind the Screen' series, there will be a showing of *Ghosts of Cité Soleil*, a film about Port-au-Prince's notorious slum. The film follows the journey of a group of young gangsters and their role in the downfall of

President Aristide. This free event will start at 6.30pm at the Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.

Visit www.amnesty.org.uk/events

25 January

OXFAM

Cirque du Soleil and Oxfam have been working together since 1997 to put on an annual benefit performance to raise money for youth at risk. Each year, 75 per cent of the ticket money is donated to support Oxfam's work, and the remainder to a special jointly supported project. This year's event is taking place at the Royal Albert Hall.

Visit www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/fundraise/cirquedusoleil

31 January

HULL UNIVERSITY

Hull University is running an essay competition on a variety of topics, including 'Why should great powers obey international law?'. The first prize is £800 and the deadline is 31 January 2008.

Visit www.hull.ac.uk/pas/About_us/Events/Hull_Politics_Prize.html

5 February

GLOBAL STRATEGY FORUM

This debate will bring together activists, politicians and journalists to examine options for addressing the situation in Zimbabwe. The event will take place from 1pm to 2pm at the National Liberal Club, London SW1A 2HE.

Visit www.globalstrategyforum.org/events

9 February

NETWORK FOR PEACE

NfP's AGM will take place at 2pm on 9 February, at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1. The keynote speaker is Stefanie Grant, a lawyer specialising in migration and refugee issues, and a member of UNA-UK's expert Advisory Panel. Dr Grant served formerly with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as Amnesty International. Her talk will be entitled 'Human Rights, 1948 to 2008: Promotion and Protection'.

Contact: Claire Poyner on
020 7278 3267 or
mail@networkforpeace.org.uk

LSE Public Lectures

For more information on any of these events, please contact the LSE events office on events@lse.ac.uk or 020 7955 6043. Unless otherwise stated all events are free and open to all, with no tickets required.

12 February 6.30-8pm

'ACCESS TO PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: EVIDENCE FOR HOPE'

Professor Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Old Theatre, Old Building

13 February 6.30-8pm

'CAN INTERNATIONAL LAW CHANGE THE WORLD?'

Professor Christopher Greenwood of the LSE
Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House

15 February 6-7.30pm

'CREATING A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY: HOW SOCIAL BUSINESS CAN TRANSFORM OUR LIVES'

Professor Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of Grameen Bank and winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize
Old Theatre, Old Building

This event is free and open to all, but a ticket is required. One ticket per person can be requested from 10am on

Thursday, 7 February at www.lse.ac.uk/events or by calling 020 7955 6100.

25 February 6.30-8pm

'THE \$3 TRILLION WAR: THE TRUE COST OF THE WAR IN IRAQ'

Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, University Professor of the Columbia Business School and winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2001
Old Theatre, Old Building

This event is free and open to all, but a ticket is required. One ticket per person can be requested from 10am on Monday, 18 February at www.lse.ac.uk/events or by calling 020 7955 6100.

27 February 6.30-8pm

'CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND THE WAY AHEAD'

Lord Stern, IG Patel Chair in

Government and Economics at LSE and Director of the Asia Research Centre at LSE

Old Theatre, Old Building

This event is free and open to all, but a ticket is required. One ticket per person can be requested from 10am on Tuesday, 19 February at www.lse.ac.uk/events or by calling 020 7955 6100.

11 March 6.30pm

'UN PEACEKEEPING/PEACE MAKING: THE LESSONS OF RWANDA'

Linda Melvern, journalist, author and honorary professor in the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, and Andrew Mitchell MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development.

Graham Wallace Room, Old Building

strong, credible and effective?

The United Nations Association of the UK campaigns for a strong, credible and effective UN.

We are the UK's leading independent policy authority on the UN and a grassroots membership organisation with branches throughout the UK.

To join UNA-UK, please fill out the form below, or visit our website at www.una.org.uk

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL • Tel: 020 7766 3456 • Fax: 020 7930 5893

Membership costs £25 (£12 unwaged) per year or £35 (£14 unwaged) for two people at one address. For students and young people (under 26), the cost is £6 per year.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

- I enclose a cheque made payable to UNA-UK for _____
- Please charge my credit / debit card the amount of _____ Card Number _____ Exp Date _____
Issue Number (Switch only) _____ Valid From Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____
- I would like to set up a Direct Debit. Please send me a form.

Company notices

Financial summary for the year ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	87,602	84,598
Donations	11,325	7,352
Regional & branch contributions	19,318	22,216
Legacies	3,678	26,183
Grants		
UNA Trust	130,599	197,067
Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	175,000	
Other	112,001	228,855
Other project and departmental income	28,167	33,789
Other Income	60,645	85,668
	<u>628,335</u>	<u>685,728</u>

Expenditure

Staff costs	367,677	378,151
Other project and departmental costs	98,602	110,256
Office costs	84,427	85,926
Other costs	70,930	99,821
	<u>621,636</u>	<u>674,154</u>

Surplus for the year	6,699	11,574
Taxation	(369)	(68)

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2007

Fixed assets

Tangible assets	9,519	8,587
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Current assets

Debtors	81,844	64,875
Cash at bank and in hand	24,430	65,203
	<u>106,274</u>	<u>130,078</u>

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(85058)	(114260)
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Net current assets/(liabilities)	21,216	15,818
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Total assets less current liabilities	30,735	24,405
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General reserves	<u>30,735</u>	<u>24,405</u>
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To: All paid-up members of UNA-UK
Kingston Smith LLP, Registered Auditors

Notice of Company Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 14th Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ('UNA-UK' or 'the Company'), a company limited by guarantee (registered number 2885557), will be held at 2.30pm on Friday, 28 March 2008 the Xfi Centre for Finance & Investment, University of Exeter, Streatham Court, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4ST. All paid-up members of the Association have the right to attend and vote. Every paid-up member of the Association who is unable to attend has the right to appoint another person as his or her proxy. A proxy form is available from the Company c/o Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL (telephone: 020 7766 3457). It can also be downloaded from www.una.org.uk/annualconference.html

AGENDA

- MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2007 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2007
- BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1
 - That the audited accounts for the year ending 30 June 2007, together with the Directors' and Auditors' reports, be received and approved.
- ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2
 - That Kingston Smith LLP, having indicated their willingness to serve, be appointed Auditors to the Company for the ensuing year and that they be paid for their services a sum agreed by the Board of Directors of the Company.
- ORDINARY RESOLUTION 3
 - That the election of Richard Broadbent, Kate Grady, Patricia Rogers and Andrew Smith be approved. These individuals have accepted their nominations for the four elected places on the UNA-UK Board of Directors.

There are no other candidates.

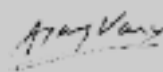
In accordance with Articles 26 and 35 of UNA-UK's Articles of Association, including changes passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 27 November 2007, these persons shall be members of the Board of Directors of UNA-UK for a period of two years terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Company in 2010.

6. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

- Ordinary Resolution 4 to nominate a Trustee to the UNA Trust: That the election of Tim Jarman be approved. Tim Jarman has accepted his nomination for election to the UNA Trust.

There are no other candidates.

- Presentation of the UNA-UK budget for 2007/08



Ajay Vasa
Company Secretary

Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting of UNA-UK, held on 13 April 2007 at the Humanities Building, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry CVA 7AL

Present: Lord (David) Hannay of Chiswick (Chair) and 65 Members of the Company.

WELCOME

David Hannay opened the 2007 AGM and welcomed all those present.

1) MINUTES OF UNA-UK AGM HELD ON 21 APRIL 2006

The minutes of the UNA-UK AGM held on 21 April 2006 were **agreed** as a correct record and signed.

2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters of business arising from the 2006 minutes. In response to a question, David Hannay explained that Members of the Company could request minutes of the Annual General Meeting from UNA-UK's office at 3 Whitehall Court.

3) ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1

'That the audited accounts for the year ending 30 June 2006, together with the Directors' and Auditors' reports, be received and approved.'

The financial statements of UNA-UK for the year ended 30 June 2006, containing the Directors' and Auditors' reports and the accounts, were presented by Rod Fielding, the Treasurer of UNA-UK. He was also pleased to report that, for the third successive year, UNA-UK was on track to end the year with a modest surplus.

The meeting **agreed** the resolution.

4) ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2

'That Kingston Smith, having indicated their willingness to serve, be appointed Auditors to the Company for the ensuing year and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company.'

The meeting **agreed** the resolution.

5) ORDINARY RESOLUTION 3

'That those persons elected in the postal ballot, held in accordance with Rule 41 under Article 59 of the Articles of Association of the Company, shall be members of the Board of Directors of UNA-UK for a period of one year terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Company in 2008.'

David Hannay announced the results of the ballot. The eight Directors of the Board elected by the Members of the Company were:

- Ashish Bhatt
- Michael Blackshaw
- Kate Grady
- Tim Jarman
- Patricia Rogers
- Andrew Smith
- Thelma de Leeuw
- David Wardrop

The meeting **agreed** the resolution.

6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Ordinary Resolution to nominate a Trustee to the UNA Trust *'That the person elected in the postal ballot, held in accordance with Rule 41 under Article 59 of the Articles of Association of the company, shall be nominated to the Trustees of the UNA Trust for a period of one year terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Company in 2008.'*

David Hannay explained that a postal ballot had been unnecessary as only one nomination had been received for the one vacancy. The meeting therefore **agreed** that Benedict Newman was the Trustee nominated by the Members of the Company to the UNA Trust.

● Presentation of UNA-UK Budget for 2007-08

Rod Fielding, as Treasurer of UNA-UK, presented the budget for the Company's financial year running from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. He drew attention to: the overall decrease in expenditure in order to build up reserves; the lack of legacy income; lower predicted levels of funding from the FCO (which now provided more 'in-kind' payments); and another prudent forecast for membership income, which now accounted for less than 20 per cent of the budgeted income.

In response to various questions, Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA-UK, explained that expenditure on premises would be less this year than last year, since planned refurbishment had been completed except for the toilets and, as a result, income from UNA-UK's licensees had increased substantially. Sam Daws explained further that: youth development costs had decreased as last year's budget had included start-up money for the launch of the Young Professionals Network; that increased expenditure on programme activities would result from resources being moved from administration to campaigns and education; that the 'in-kind' payments from the FCO included, for example, the use of venues and funding for a youth delegate to visit the Commission for Social Development; that core funding was being phased out by government departments and being replaced by accountable grants that organisations could spend on events and projects; and that the UNA-UK Board had spent two years chasing Stakeholder Forum hoping to recoup some money without success to date.

Following various suggestions, it was agreed that, next year, the budget would be made available prior to the AGM; and that the summary budget would include figures for the past year as well as the current and future year.

In summing up, David Hannay commented that UNA-UK now had three successful years under its belt and that the staff were to be congratulated, but he reminded Members of the Company that UNA-UK's position remained precarious, particularly as there had been a lack of legacy income, and because membership income constituted such a small proportion of overall income.

The meeting received and **approved** the budget.

● Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships

The meeting agreed to present honorary life memberships of UNA-UK to the following individuals for their long and distinguished service at either Board- or branch-level in UNA-UK:

- Derek Morris (proposed by Eastern Region)
- Shahla & Bahador Haqjoo (proposed by Stockport branch)
- Bob & Margaret Peden (proposed by London & South-East Region)

United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a company limited by guarantee: registered number 02885557 ("UNA-UK" or "the Company")

Summary minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of UNA-UK, held at 6.30pm on 27 November 2007 at the Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL

Present: Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Chair) and 16 Members of the Company. As 118 proxy votes had been received, the meeting was declared quorate by the Chair.

1) SPECIAL RESOLUTION 1 – amending UNA-UK's Articles of Association to add provisions concerning proxies

The votes for Special Resolution 1 were as follows: 132 in favour, zero against, and one abstention.

The Chair declared Special Resolution 1 duly carried.

1) SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2 – amending UNA-UK's Articles of Association in relation to the Board of Directors

The votes for Special Resolution 2 were as follows: 126 in favour, seven against, and one abstention.*

The Chair declared Special Resolution 2 duly carried.

The full text of the Special Resolutions was sent to all members of UNA-UK with the autumn 2007 (October-December) issue of New World, and the amended Articles of Association can be found on UNA-UK's website at www.una.org.uk. The full minutes of the meeting including the full text of the Special Resolutions have been deposited at Companies House and a copy is maintained at UNA-UK head office.

Elections to the UNA-UK Board and the UNA Trust

This year the number of nominations for the UNA-UK Board of Directors and the UNA Trust matches the number of available places. Elections will therefore not be held, but the nominations will be presented at the Company's AGM on 28 March 2008. As part of the changes introduced by the Company's EGM on 27 November 2007, elected directors now serve for a two-year term.

Here are the nominations received.

Nominations for the four elected places on the UNA-UK Board of Directors

RICHARD BROADBENT is a solicitor and the chair of his local law society's young solicitors group. He is a member of the UNA-UK Young Professionals Network Steering Committee, where he leads its strand of work on 'UN & the Law'.

Richard has worked on a number of pro bono death-row cases in Trinidad and Malaysia, and has also taught Model UN to students in Malaysia and Holland, where he grew up.

He graduated from Durham University in 2003 with a first in History and Politics.

KATE GRADY is undertaking a PhD in International Law at Bristol University. Currently Vice-Chair of the UNA-UK Procedure Committee and Annual Conference, she has been on the Board of Directors since 2005, serving recently on its Effectiveness Review Panel. In 2003, she sat on the panel set up by the Board to appoint a new executive director.

Kate was one of the founders of the Young Professionals Network. A former vice-president of UNYSA, she played an instrumental role in lobbying the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to send British youth delegates to the UN. She sat on the WFUNA-Youth executive committee and attended the WFUNA plenary assembly in Barcelona in 2003.

PATRICIA ROGERS is the director of the Jubilee Debt Campaign, working for the cancellation of unjust and unpayable poor country debt. She was previously Chief Executive of the Council for Education in World Citizenship (formerly the Education Committee of UNA-UK) and of the Pestalozzi International Village. She has taught – and written educational material – in the UK, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Korea.

Formerly on the committee of Tunbridge Wells UNA (where she established the annual Model UN General Assembly), Patricia now sits on the committees of UNA Westminster branch and London & South-East Region. She has been on UNA-UK's Board since April 2007.

ANDREW SMITH is a management consultant working with the UN Development Programme, the Fairtrade Foundation and a number of multinational companies. During his ten years of professional experience, Andrew has focused on enhancing the positive impact of businesses in developing countries. Andrew has previously worked at the UN in New York and has acted as a management adviser in the Ethiopian civil service.

Andrew is currently a member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors and chairs the Steering Committee of the Young Professionals Network. In 2005, he helped initiate the network's 'Business & the MDGs' programme.

Nomination for the one elected place on the UNA Trust

TIM JARMAN recently became the coordinator of Ernst & Young's national diversity and inclusion work. His professional career in the financial services and tax advisory sectors has given him a rich and varied skills-base to draw upon.

In his nine years as a UNA-UK member, Tim has held a number of national positions. He has been a member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors for the past five years and sits on both the Audit Committee and the Procedure Committee. A former president of the UNYSA Youth Council, Tim is also a member of the Young Professionals Network Steering Committee.

UNA-UK gets greener

UNA-UK head office has changed its electricity supply to the firm Good Energy. All of the office's electricity now comes from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power and running water. A single Good Energy customer saves on average two tonnes of carbon dioxide emis-

sions a year – the equivalent amount of emissions produced on a 5,000-mile journey in a petrol-fuelled car. So you could reduce your household's CO₂ emissions by up to one third. To switch to Good Energy, visit www.good-energy.co.uk or call 0845 456 1640.

For a wide range of 'green' energy tariffs, see www.uswitch.com

UNA-UK Annual Conference 2008
28-30 March, Exeter University

Keynote speaker: Lord Malloch-Brown

Timetable

25 January 2008

- Annual Conference 2008 preliminary agenda to be sent out (to include the draft policy and domestic motions documents and request for comments/amendments)

2 February

- Meeting of the UNA-UK Board of Directors

18 February

- Deadline for submission of comments/amendments (to be no more than 150 words)

22 February

- Meeting of the Procedure Committee

14 March

- Annual Conference 2008 final agenda to be sent out (to contain draft policy and draft domestic motions documents to be debated at the conference)

28 March

- Meeting of the UNA-UK Board of Directors and Company AGM

28-30 March

- Annual Conference 2008 at Exeter University

Book by 31 January to avoid the late booking fee and the possible disappointment of not getting the accommodation package you want!

If you are a UNA member a booking form is included with this copy of *New World*. Need another copy? Call Nick Branson on 020 7766 3448 on Wednesdays and Fridays only, or e-mail him on branson@una.org.uk.

You can also download the form from our website: visit www.una.org.uk

Photos © UNA-UK/ABpromotions



Mark Malloch Brown is FCO Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN. He was appointed in June 2007.

Lord Malloch-Brown brings to the government extensive international experience, including in the top echelons of the UN, where he served as Deputy Secretary-General, as head of the UN Development Programme, and as Kofi Annan's chef de cabinet. After stepping down as UN Deputy Secretary-General in 2006, he briefly took up the role of Vice-Chair of Soros Fund Management.

Lord Malloch-Brown worked from 1996 to 1999 at the World Bank, first as Director of External Affairs and subsequently as Vice-President for External Affairs and Vice-President for UN Affairs. From 1986 to

1994, he was the lead international partner in a strategic communications management firm, the Sawyer-Miller Group.

In the 1980s Lord Malloch-Brown was political correspondent for *The Economist*. He founded *The Economist Development Report* and served as its editor from 1983 to 1986. Prior to this he worked for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which included a three-year posting in Thailand, where he was in charge of field operations for Cambodian refugees.

Mark Malloch Brown was educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge University and the University of Michigan.

Lord Malloch-Brown will deliver the keynote speech late afternoon on Friday, 28 March.

Looking forward to 2008



Susannah Anastasi

Vice-Chair of the YPN Steering Committee

Happy new year to all members of the Young Professionals Network!

We hope that those who came along to our annual Christmas party in December enjoyed themselves – it would certainly appear so from the photos! We are delighted that the event was so well-attended by YPN members and new recruits alike.

The YPN website continues to develop: new careers resources and a new-look events calendar are now online. And we now have three fully fledged programmes – Business & the MDGs,

Working for Peace, and UN & the Law. So there is much to come in 2008!

Read on for more details.



YPN
Young Professionals Network



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK
of CUNA-UK

‘Working for Peace’ picks up pace

YPN kicked off its Working for Peace initiative in October with a screening and discussion of the award-winning film about Darfur: *The Devil Came on Horseback*. A packed audience at the Frontline Club in London put questions to two young experts on Darfur, each working for peace in their own way – Phil Cox, one of the film's makers and the first cameraman to enter Darfur, and Gemma Mortensen, UK Director of Crisis Action, an NGO that helps coordinate campaigning activities on humanitarian crises.

In addition to hosting future film screenings, Working for Peace will use other media to focus the limelight on conflicts around the world. Interviews

with young professionals working for peace will be posted regularly on the website; our first interview, with Hatem Shurrab in the Gaza Strip, is on page 32. The website will also highlight top blog sites with a view to sharing on-the-ground insights into what it's actually like to live and work in a conflict situation. Visitors will be encouraged to post comments on the issues raised and pose questions to our interviewees.

If you know of a young professional working for peace you think we should interview, a blog we should feature, or a documentary we should screen, then please contact us at ypn@una.org.uk

Stand Up, Speak Out

On 17 October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, YPN teamed up with the London-based legal NGO Advocates for International Development to host a special event as part of the UN 'Stand Up and Speak Out' campaign – a global call on world leaders to fulfil their promises on the Millennium Development Goals. YPN members were among over 100 lawyers who gathered in Lincoln's Inn Field to support the initiative.

Left to right: Bar Council Chairman Geoffrey Vos QC, Law Society Vice-President Paul Marsh, and ILEX Vice-President Mark Bishop state their support for Stand Up and Speak Out.



Introducing 'UN & the Law'

The newest addition to YPN's activities, the UN & the Law programme aims to raise awareness of the UN's pivotal role in developing and applying international law across the pillars of its work: development, human rights, and peace and security. International law features prominently within most aspects of the UN's work; and UN & the Law will work to bring a legal perspective to YPN's other strands of

activity. We plan to organise seminars and other events and to provide opportunities for young professionals to engage more fully through guest articles and discussion forums.

Joint event with Chatham House Under-35s Forum

In April, YPN will hold its first major

UN & the Law event in partnership with the Under-35s Forum of Chatham House. The event will focus on the challenges faced by the UN and the international community in bringing the perpetrators of genocide to justice when doing so might risk jeopardising peace in the affected region. Full details will be posted shortly on the YPN website.

New features on the website

Career opportunities board

The career development section of the website has been expanded to include an opportunities board, a one-stop shop to a varied selection of postings of jobs, internships and training courses across the fields of peace, justice and sustainable development.



Events calendar

If you want to learn more about international affairs, or want more opportunities to network with people from government, business and the NGO community, then bookmark this new page. This will keep you up-to-date on public events being held in the London area which you should attend if you're pursuing a career in peace, justice and/or sustainable development, or simply interested in learning more.



Join in

Visit www.una.org.uk/ypn to see the improved website for for yourself.

Do you know of an event or job opportunity which would be of interest to YPN members? Please send these to us at ypn@una.org.uk

CALLING ON WRITERS

We'd like to post articles by YPN members on the website. If you are interested in writing an article for possible publication on the YPN website, write to us at ypn@una.org.uk with your ideas. Only well-written pieces on a relevant subject (i.e. the UN's role in peace, justice and sustainable development) will be considered.

THE YPN INTERVIEW:

Hatem Shurrab Gaza Strip

HATEM SHURRAB is a public relations officer in the Palestine office of Islamic Relief. A key part of his job is to use the media to raise awareness of what life is like in the Gaza Strip.



What do you do?

I work for Islamic Relief (IR), an international NGO established and based in the UK which aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people. It has 13 field offices around the world, including the one in which I work – in the Gaza Strip in the Palestinian Territories. As a public relations officer, my role is to raise awareness of IR's activities in Palestine, highlighting the humanitarian problems we are trying to help solve. The situation here is extremely tense.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Islamic Relief Palestine runs projects to help the physically disabled and children who have suffered trauma. I love to witness the positive impact of these projects on those who have benefited; I love to see them smile!

What is the greatest challenge that you face in your role?

Unfortunately, most news coverage doesn't describe what is actually going on in Gaza. The plight of poor families here is worse than what is reported by the media, and the ambitions of young people are not given enough attention. Young people in my region are very enthusiastic about achieving progress in life, but because the future is unclear they are unable to plan for their own futures. There are many young people eager to work for relief and peace in Palestine, but their energies are not being exploited. They need to be supported in order to bring out their enthusiasm and use it for building bridges and establishing peace.

One big issue for me personally is travelling abroad. I had planned this year to go to Switzerland to take a course in conflict resolution but I wasn't able to travel as the Gaza border crossings were closed. This also stopped me from participating in a UN programme for Palestinian media practitioners. It makes you feel like you live in a big cage called the Gaza Strip.

What inspires you to do what you do?

I was raised in Gaza. I have seen up close the way that the poor suffer. Living among them, and striving to help make a difference in their lives, is what keeps me going. I want one day to see justice and prosperity in Palestine and all religions and ethnicities united in peace.

How did you get to where you are today?

I previously worked in journalism and for Caritas Jerusalem as a communications assistant. I studied English literature at the Islamic University of Gaza and recently represented Palestine at the United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit at the UN in New York. I have also taken various courses at the British Council in Gaza, and have made good contacts with ministers, local leaders and many remarkable people.

What do you feel has been your greatest achievement or most rewarding experience in your career to date?

I consider it a great achievement to talk to the media to help give an accurate picture of the situation here. And, as I said earlier, making a deprived child happy is unbelievably rewarding!

What advice do you have for other young professionals wanting a similar role/career to yours?

First, set your goals; second, believe in them. Then, just go forward. Good intentions with good deeds can reach very far.

Are there any actions YPN members should take to support your work?

I hope some of your members are able to come to Gaza for themselves. They could also write to their MPs to make sure they know that people in Gaza are suffering every day and that urgent action is needed to resolve the crisis.

UNYSA's growth spurt



Mark Rusling
UNA-UK Campaigns
& Education Officer

We begin the new year with good news: UNYSA has had a growth spurt over the past few months. There are now 29 branches, and we are represented in every nation of the UK. The map below illustrates UNYSA's presence across the UK as we enter 2008. We won't stop until we have a UNYSA at every British university and school!

Two of UNYSA's newest branches – at King's College London and Durham University – have contributed articles introducing themselves and their work. If you too would like to set up a branch, or would like to affiliate your existing society to UNA-UK, get in touch.

The Youth Council has been busy over the last few months. In October its president, Luke Harman, led a project-management workshop organised by WFUNA-Youth. Participants from Serbia, Azerbaijan, Germany and Latvia travelled to Oxford to attend the three-day conference, which was funded by UNA-UK and hosted by Oxford University UNA and OxIMUN (Oxford International Model UN). Before return-

ing to their home countries, participants were invited to take part in OxIMUN 2007, which attracted hundreds of delegates from around the world.

Then in December the Youth Council hosted a conference for UNYSA branches from the south of England. The purpose of the meeting was to promote better links among groups in the region. The day was a success, giving members from different branches the chance to exchange ideas and plans.

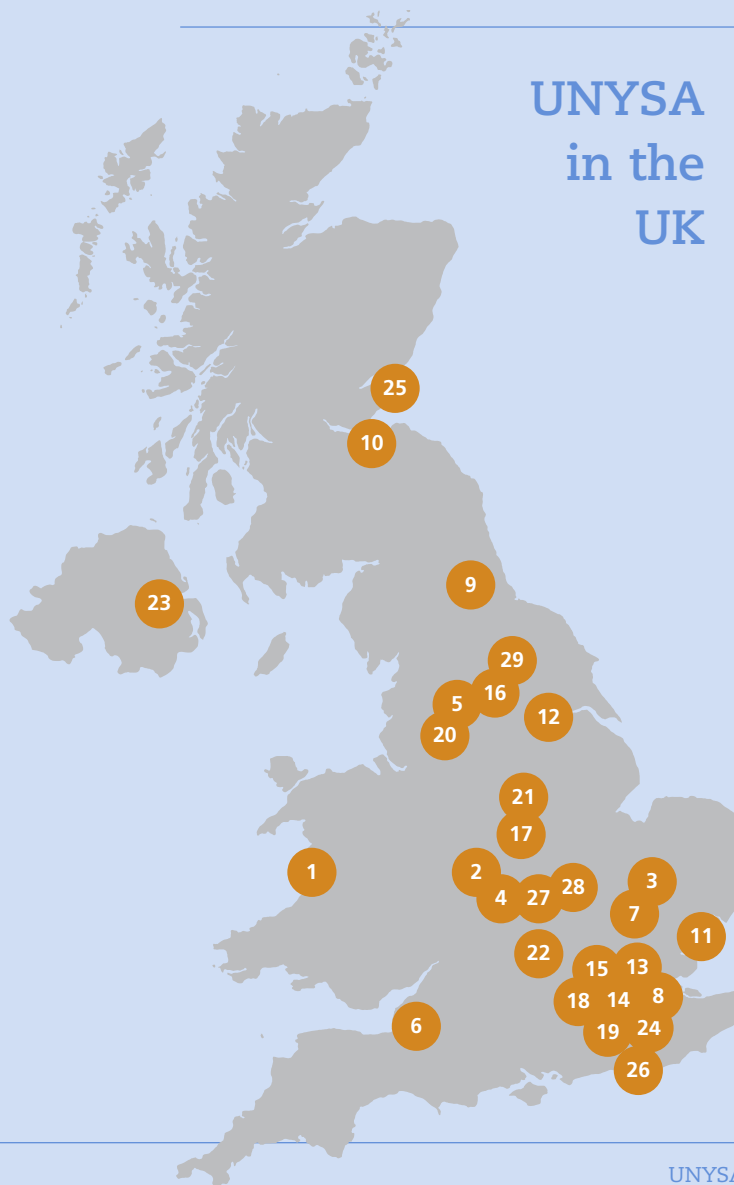
Natalie Wease, British youth delegate to the UN in 2007, has wound up her speaking tour of UNA branches. Visiting the UNAs in Sheffield, Birmingham, Reading and Welwyn & Hatfield, as well as UNA London & South-East Region, Natalie spoke about her experiences as a youth delegate to the UN Commission for Social Development in New York. Her audiences expressed strong support for greater youth participation in the UN's work, and encouraged UNA-UK to continue raising young people's awareness of international issues.

Keep up the good work – and keep us informed of your activities.

UNYSA
United Nations Youth and Student Association



UNYSA in the UK



1. Aberystwyth University
2. Aston University
3. Bellerbys College, Cambridge
4. University of Birmingham
5. University of Bradford
6. University of Bristol
7. University of Cambridge
8. City of London School
9. Durham University
10. University of Edinburgh
11. University of Essex
12. University of Hull
13. Imperial College London
14. King's College London
15. Kingston University London
16. University of Leeds
17. University of Leicester
18. London International Model United Nations
19. London School of Economics and Political Science
20. University of Manchester
21. University of Nottingham
22. University of Oxford
23. Queen's University Belfast
24. London South Bank University
25. University of St Andrews
26. University of Sussex
27. University of Warwick
28. Warwick School
29. University of York



Debating in Durham....

Barry Grimes is President of the Durham University United Nations Society

Since the inception of Durham University United Nations Society during freshers week, we have already got over 300 people on our mailing list. We are enthusiastic Model UN participants and sent a delegation of 14 to the Oxford International

Model UN in November; we will also participate in the London International Model UN in February 2008 as well as an upcoming

conference at Essex University.

One of the key challenges facing a new society is maintaining support. To sustain our members' interest we hold weekly meetings to discuss substantive issues, ranging from UN reform to the Millennium Development Goals, and from climate change to humanitarian intervention.

We also have forged rewarding links with the UNA branch in Sunderland, which has helped us with some of our teething problems. We attended UNA Sunderland's UN Day service and gave a presentation at its human rights vigil, alongside Oxfam and Amnesty International.

Everything we do is an experiment, but it's all very rewarding and the work we put in now will make life easier for future committee members.

....and conferences at King's

Sarah Whitworth is President of King's College London Model UN Society

The Model UN Society at King's has been around for about 10 years, and this year we decided to affiliate to UNA-UK in order to tap in to its contacts and expertise. We organise a series of Model UN activities throughout the year, including mini-simulations of the International Court of Justice and the Security Council. In 2007 we sent delegations to the MUN conferences at Oxford, Cambridge and Sussex universities, and will be participating in the upcoming London International MUN. Very excitingly, our society is also sending people to the Harvard World MUN

in Mexico in 2008 (we are, incidentally, on the look-out for sponsorship for this trip!).

We are a very close-knit and friendly group, and always try to combine our Model UN simulations with social events. We are lucky in London to have so many Model UN groups nearby, and we have formed links with societies at the LSE and at SOAS. Although our society has been going for some time, affiliating to UNA-UK has provided us with many benefits, from the excellent freshers fair pack to contacts for other Model UN conferences around the world.



Some news from the UN

The UN has released its annual report on the challenges and opportunities facing the world's youth, which today total approximately 1.2 billion, or 18 per cent of the global population. *World Youth Report 2007*, titled 'Young People's Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges', hails many important successes: today's 15-24 year-olds, it concludes, are the most educated generation of youth in history, with the number of young people completing basic education – including girls – on the rise, and access to higher education expanding in parts of the world.

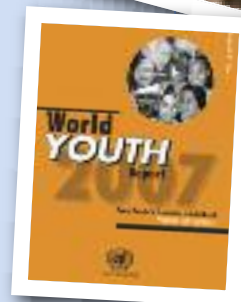
However the report shows that school attainment in most countries is heavily dependent upon wealth, and that poverty sig-

nificantly restricts access to quality education and healthcare. Another major challenge identified is the dearth, in both developed and developing countries, of stable, decent youth employment commensurate to their skill levels. Young people are also often the last to be hired and first to be fired during labour market contractions. And improvements in girls' access to education have not produced improvements in women's employment opportunities.

Because of their higher education levels and because they comprise 25 per cent of the working-age population, today's youth are more integral than ever to development processes as a whole. *World Youth Report 2007* calls on policy-makers to con-

tinue to direct investments towards removing barriers to youth in education, employment and healthcare, so that 'youth can make important contributions to the advancement of a world for which they will be responsible for many decades to come'.

To read the full report, visit www.una.org.uk/youth



WHO IS YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS HERO?



To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, send us 100 words arguing the case for YOUR human rights champion.

You could choose someone from the tribute to human rights champions in the autumn 2007 issue of *New World*, or another woman, man or group you think is conspicuously missing.

One entry will be chosen, and the submitter will win a free copy of *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, edited by UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws and Professor Tom Weiss of City University, New York. The winning entry will also be published in *New World*.

'Human Rights Hero' submissions should be sent to Natalie Samarasinghe at samarasinghe@una.org.uk or UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. Deadline for submissions is 1 November 2008, with the winner being announced on Human Rights Day on 10 December 2008.

Find out more at www.una.org.uk/humanrightshero



know your rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights came into being in 1948, 60 years ago.
It lists the rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

Do you know your rights?

- 1 All human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights
- 2 You are entitled to these rights and freedoms regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, origin, property, or other status
- 3 You have the right to life, liberty and security of person
- 4 No one shall be subjected to slavery or servitude
- 5 No one shall be subjected to torture
- 6 You have the right to be recognised everywhere as a person before the law
- 7 Everybody is equal before the law
- 8 You have the right to ask for legal help if your rights have been violated
- 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest
- 10 You have the right to a fair and public trial
- 11 Everyone has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty
- 12 You have the right to privacy
- 13 You have the right to freedom of movement
- 14 You have the right to seek and enjoy political asylum in other countries
- 15 You have the right to a nationality
- 16 You have the right to marry and have a family
- 17 You have the right to own property
- 18 You have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- 19 You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- 20 You have the right to freedom of peaceful association and assembly
- 21 You have the right to help choose your government
- 22 You have economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to social security
- 23 You have the right to work in employment of your choice, to equal pay, and to form and join trade unions
- 24 You have the right to rest and leisure
- 25 You have the right to adequate living standards
- 26 You have the right to education
- 27 You have intellectual property rights
- 28 You have the right to a social and international order which permits these freedoms to be realised
- 29 Everyone in your community must respect your rights and you must respect theirs
- 30 No one can take away any of the rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights