



Beyond (peace)

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We had the great honour to speak at the Future Force Conference on 10 February in The Hague, at the invitation of the Minister of Defense and The Hague Institute for Global Justice (THI). Joining this extraordinary panel of experts (with Former Nuremberg Prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz (by video), ICC Deputy Prosecutor James Stewart, Professor and former Minister of Defense Joris Voorhoeve, Alia Aoun from Lebanon MOFA and Nikola Dimitrov, THI), Beyond peace reminded the Rule of Law session's room full of expertise about the necessity to uphold the rule of law during war and explore legal, judicial and political ways of doing that.



As a concrete recommendation, we presented at the Future Force Conference Beyond peace's initiative to reward compliant military. Beyond peace considers that for too long, compliant behaviour of armed forces has not been sufficiently rewarded. At a time where the world is appalled by the levels of savagery displayed by Daesh and the gross violations of IHL committed, including by state armed forces in Kunduz, in Yemen or in Syria, it is about time we reward and encourage compliant behaviour, not only during acts of violence but also during efforts to prevent massacres and to uphold IHL and the rule of law.

Our concept, initially turned down by Switzerland and by the IIHL in San Remo, found a level of support during The Hague Conference and we are hoping to be able to create in the near future the conditions for its implementation. We are calling all qualified experts from diverse backgrounds (geographically, culturally, from different law schools and from different disciplines: human rights, military, law, IHL) and interested sponsors to contact us.



At the invitation of People's College in Patani, Thailand, we conducted a 4-day visit in the Deep South in December in order to meet with civil society, academics and security sector involved in the peace efforts for the region. The highlight of the visit was the Conference held at Prince of Songkla University on the theme of Monitoring, which focused on the comparative case study of Mindanao, Philippines. We would like to express our gratitude to People's College and all the personalities met for their excellent hospitality and for the quality of the conversations we had.

Cynthia Petrich from Beyond peace participated on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and in collaboration with the Toledo international Centre for Peace (CiTPAX) and the Spanish MOFA, in the training: “Mediation and conflict resolution from a gender perspective” for women from Albania, Bosnia, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Spain and Tunisia and involved in mediation efforts in their countries.



In November 2016, Beyond peace was contracted to contribute to the pre-deployment training and Mission Rehearsal Exercise of British Military Engineers deploying to support the UNMISS in South Sudan, a very challenging non-offensive mission, where the peacekeepers have failed so far to implement their mandate and protect civilians. This is a first for the UK, which is leading internationally on the prevention of sexual violence agenda. It was humbling to work alongside these highly competent troops, who will between others build a Role 1 Hospital in Bentiu, and to meet with MGen Tyrone Urch, General Officer Commanding Force Troops Command, who was satisfied with the troops’ skills and preparedness. While the first batch successfully deployed in January, the second batch is undertaking its training. We will be visiting them for a briefing in March, before joining them during their MRX in a couple months.

Beyond peace was contracted to contribute to the design and the delivery of a series of training workshops on Conflict-related sexual violence for the Intermediate Command and Staff Course -Land (ICSC-L), a nine month course attended by all British Army and Royal Marine officers on promotion to Major taking place at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom in Shrivenham.

Beyond peace participated in the first Annual meeting of Frontline negotiators in Geneva on October and attended the launch event for the Geneva-based centre of Competence on humanitarian negotiation. We wish all success to the centre!

Beyond peace welcomes the EU efforts to create a Military Planning Conduct and Capability facility; these efforts will be fully effective and sustainable if such a training headquarters includes content, especially on norms such as IHL and the prevention of sexual violence. Contrary to other, security-only or commercial-only alliances, the EU is firstly a valuebased alliance and this specificity should characterise its peace and security agenda and operations. In particular, Beyond peace is continuing to make the case for inclusion of IHL training and gender at the European training mission (EUTM) in the Central African Republic CAR, in line with EU CSDP standards and based on the serious situation in CAR, including the cases of sexual violence perpetrated by foreign troops.

Beyond peace was selected by the UK Stabilisation Unit (SU) to be part of a small group of civil-military experts to design and deliver a course on “Understanding and working with the military” for UK civil servants and deployable civilian experts. This SU course will be piloted on March 22-23 at the UK Permanent Joint Headquarters.

With the objective to contributing to our own society and to building the future generations of humanitarian negotiators, we are involved in a series of initiatives in France: Training humanitarian professionals with Bioforce Institute in Lyon (Oct 2016 and April 2017); Advising the project Kodiko working on the professional integration of refugees in France;

Beyond peace is a founding member of **Thinkpeace-Femmes pour la paix**, a new French collective created after the successful Paris Conference in April 2016 « La place des Femmes dans les conflits armés » and aiming at disseminating and highlighting a feminist approach to questions of security and defence.

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