



Beyond (peace)

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01

Continuing our engagement with non-state armed groups

Prevention of sexual violence in Mindanao

Beyond (peace) Cynthia Petrich is returning to Mindanao after having served as a member of the International Contact Group for the peace talks between the government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) and a member of the International Monitoring Team (2009-2012).

The region is faced with unique opportunities and challenges in the context of the Comprehensive Agreement for the Bangsamoro (CAB) signed in March 2014 and the transition in progress, including the foreseen transformation of the MILF from non-state armed group to political party and social movement. Those agencies who have accompanied the Group for years in their quest for justice and peace, are present to support these developments.

The aim of this series of short missions for *Beyond (peace)* is to collaborate with Swiss NGO Geneva Call (www.genevacall.org) and bring support on the content and the methodology of workshops with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on the prohibition of sexual violence and the protection of women. A first mission, conducted on December 1-10, allowed for consultations with key stakeholders and through a workshop in Cotabato City which was attended by women from the different areas in the autonomous region. This project is to be continued in 2015.

Assessment in Yemen

Beyond (peace) is conducting an assessment in Yemen on the possibilities of working with non-state armed groups in view of enhancing the promotion of international norms. We are looking in particular at the issues of child soldiers, women's rights and respect for the laws of armed conflict.



Our work in West Africa: Dakar

Based on its expertise with non-state armed groups (NSAG), *Beyond (peace)* is continuing its work in West Africa in cooperation with the ICRC, with delivering two lectures on NSAG: who they are; how they are organised; what can induce them to compliance; how and why working with them. The audience was composed of African international law Professors for the first series of lectures (in Dakar) and senior humanitarian professionals from INGOs and the UN for the second (on île de Gorée).



02

Supporting women and peacemaking in Yemen and Syria

A women, peace and security network in Yemen

Women were the spearhead of the Arab spring revolt but in many countries, they were pretty soon sidelined by more powerful and ruthless forces. How are they coping with the political and security developments? Are they able to participate in designing the solutions for their communities and their countries? With what tools can we equip them to better conduct their daily and longer-term struggles?

Beyond (peace) is associating its efforts with Geneva Call for the training of women from different regions in Yemen on the **protection of civilians and women’s participation in peacemaking**. The first series of trainings will take place on December 15 to 17 in Sanaa.



Women, peace and security in Syria

Beyond (peace) delivered a training for Syrian women on the protection of civilians and international humanitarian norms. Women from different areas inside Syria (government controlled areas, other groups, Daesh) were gathered to **share experiences on non-violent resistance and to learn international humanitarian law (IHL) rules as applied to their specific situations**. The event was co-organised by the *Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)* and *Geneva Call*.

Quote from a participant:

“We were not aware of these rules. I had become cynical but this training provided us with tools and allies.”

03

From local to global: echoes from Beyond

Our training manual for combatants *Even Wars have Limits* was presented at the Sanremo Institute of International Law and is being requested by several armed forces and rebel groups in the world.



In other news, *Beyond (peace)* lead consultant Cynthia Petrihgh was selected by the UN Senior Women talent pipeline in view of advisory roles with the Sanctions Committee in her human rights expert capacity.

On the agenda

- We are invited to speak at *NATO/SHAPE* in Brussels, Belgium early next year.
- *Beyond (peace)* is invited to share insights on *operations and dilemmas in conflict and fragile states* based on its West Africa experience in a Conference to be co-hosted by the British military-NGO contact group and FCO at Lancaster House (London) in February 2015.
- Our engagement with non-state armed groups will continue with more trainings on respect for IHL prevention of sexual violence in 2015.