



MAKING PEACE

A Newsletter of the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution

Director's Report



Ernest E. Uwazie

Happy Holidays! In this report, I provide you with highlights of the Center's activities and programs from the summer to date, and preview of future programs. Although the Center has been engaged in various domestic and international projects, funding constraints continue to overwhelm demands for the Center's services

and programs.

CAPCR-Oak Park Youth Mentoring/Tutoring Program

This program is a continuation of previous year's (Spring 2001) funding from the California State Office of Criminal Justice Planning and Sacramento County Department of Health & Human Services, as part of CAPCR's Africa-Sacramento Youth Peace and Cultural Education program. The main goal of the project is to reduce the risk factors of juvenile delinquency through effective mentoring, tutoring and peace education services. The current program runs from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. For Fall 2001, five CSUS students have been selected and trained to provide the mentoring and tutoring services to over 20 middle and high school students in the Oak Park area of Sacramento, namely Sacramento High school and the St. Hope Academy (an after school program) from Monday-Thursday. Fifteen of the high school students visited CSUS-CAPCR on November 9, where they attended classes with the CSUS student mentors and toured the CSUS campus. Results of the program to date are quite impressive. An additional five CSUS students will be recruited and trained to provide similar mentoring/tutoring services for the Spring 2002 semester.

The Fulbright-Hays Seminar in Ghana, Summer 2001

The 5-week seminar, July 3-August 7, 2001, on cultural heritage and modernization in Ghana sought to promote

faculty teaching and curriculum development in African studies at K-12 and university levels in California. It also was aimed at enhancing the international/intercultural components of general education courses in northern California schools and universities/colleges. In addition to the 15 lectures/seminars, and numerous cultural presentations, participants visited significant historical and major cultural sites in Accra, Tamale, Kumasi, and Cape Coast. The participants also attended the renowned bi-annual PANAFEST, a global black cultural celebration and reconciliation in Cape Coast. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, in collaboration with CSUS-CAPCR, International Studies Project at Sacramento (ISPAS), The Legon Center for International Affairs at the University of Ghana in Legon and Student Youth & Travel Organization in Accra, Ghana. The project evaluation rated the seminar as very successful.

Summer Institutes on Conflict Resolution

Two concurrent institutes on negotiation and mediation were held from June 18-22, 2001, for 14 high school students and 32 adult professionals. The student participants were from Sacramento, John F Kennedy and Valley High Schools in the Sacramento area. The adult workshop was attended by participants from various professions: law, social services, church ministry, education, transportation, and healthcare, among others. Most of the participants came from the Sacramento valley area, and others came from Southern California, Uganda, and Philippines. The participants in both workshops rated them very high, with an overall evaluation average score of 4.4 out of 5. The 2002 workshops/institutes are scheduled for June 17-21, at CSUS.

Visiting Dignitaries from Rwanda and Nigeria

On October 11, 2001, the Center hosted a luncheon for four visiting delegates from Rwanda Constitutional Council in Kigali. The delegation included Ms. Goretti K Dusabe, director of the Constitutional Law Projects; Messrs. Omar



Hamidou and Jacques Kabale Nyangezi, Commissioners of the Constitutional Council; and Mr. Alfred Mukenzamfura, Vice President of the Constitutional Council. The US visit offered the delegation the opportunity to learn about the role of the US Constitution in promoting democracy and consult with Rwandese community in the country, as well as to gain some perspectives for consideration in the ongoing draft constitution in Rwanda. The visit provided an opportunity for discussion of CAPCR projects and the ongoing reconciliation efforts in Rwanda. The US Department of State International Visitors Program sponsored the visit.

The Nigerian delegation from the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution was hosted by CAPCR from November 1-3. The Director-General, Dr. Sunday Ochoche, and Director of Democracy and Development Studies, Professor Osita Eze, were on a mission to learn about the activities/programs of CAPCR and explore opportunities for collaboration. After spending the full day of meetings on November 1, at CSUS, we arranged additional visits to the California Center for Public Dispute Resolution and the Sacramento Mediation Center, as well as a CAPCR dinner reception for the delegation on November 2. The delegation found the visit worthwhile and expressed its gratitude to CAPCR. With some of the CAPCR trainers and board members in attendance, we discussed the possibility of collaboration in the areas of conflict resolution training, conflict early warning system design, and exchange of staff/faculty between the two organizations. A draft memorandum of understanding for program collaboration and personnel exchanges is currently under review by the delegation.

Future Programs

CAPCR received a grant from the United Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, for Advanced and Basic Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training and seminar in Nigeria and Ghana. The project activities will include an ADR seminar and advanced workshop in Lagos for 25 Nigerian and Ghanaian participants, followed by basic ADR workshops for the staff of the Nigerian Human Rights Commission in Abuja and various Non-Governmental Organizations in Ghana. CAPCR four-member expert team will lead the activities from January 2-25, 2002.

During the ADR project -planning trip to West Africa last summer, I used the occasion to visit the Liberian

Refugee Camp in Buduburam, near Accra, Ghana. I was accompanied on the visit by Mr. Nene Amegatcher of the Ghana Arbitration and Mediation Association (GHAMA) in Accra. The visit was in response to an invitation from the nascent Buduburam Conflict Resolution and Peace Education Center (BUCRAPEC); this organization is founded/led by Mr. Wilmot Mitchell, who was a trainee at our ADR workshop in Liberia in 1999, but is now a refugee with his family at the camp. My visit was quite a moving experience, to see the squalor condition of the crowded camp of about 18,000 people. BUCRAPEC identified numerous areas of conflicts at the camp and the challenges it faces, and was encouraged to work closely with GHACMA in its program development/training, while we explore ways for future collaboration.

11th Annual Africa Conference on African Studies in California Schools, Colleges and Universities

The 11th annual Africa conference will be held from April 26-27, '02. The conference theme aims to review and examine African studies teaching and curriculum development in California schools, colleges, and universities. Part of the conference objective is to explore how we can do "more" in African studies at CSUS, as observed by the CSUS President, Dr. Donald R. Gerth, during his opening remarks at the '01 conference. The 2002 conference will experiment on the effectiveness of limiting the presentations to five-six plenary sessions of approximately 15 key topical presenters over a two day period. The renowned Afrocentric scholar, Dr. Molefi Asante of Temple University, has agreed to keynote the conference. We also plan to invite a high level official from the US State Department to speak on the evolving US-Africa Policy.

Grants

Two grant proposals have been submitted for funding consideration. One is for a Fubright-Hays seminar on culture, democracy, peace and development in Uganda, and the other is for the US Department of State for continuation of our ADR project in Ghana. Proposed activities are to begin next Spring through Fall.

Peace and Joy in the New Year!

Ernest E. Uwazie, Director



Peace and Conflict Resolution Initiative by the Federal Government of Nigeria

Editor's note: The following extract is from an interview with Dr. Sunday A. Ochoche, Director General, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Office of the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Abuja. Dr. Ochoche and Prof. Osita Eze (Director, Democracy & Development Studies at the Institute) visited CSUS-CAPCR from November 1-3. In this interview with the Editor, Nigeria's efforts to promote peace and conflict resolution within and outside Nigeria were discussed. Opinions expressed are those of the interviewee, not necessarily the viewpoints of CAPCR or the editor.

Brief background to the establishment of Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (IPCR)

IPCR was established as a parastatal under the Ministry of Cooperation and Integration in Africa, in the Office of the Presidency, federal government of Nigeria. It has been operational for one year. It serves as a research Institute, a think-tank, charged with the responsibility of promoting peace and conflict resolution and management, and post-conflict peace building in Nigeria and to a large extent in Africa. It draws on the country's experience in conflict and peace-keeping efforts both at home and in the West Africa region since the 1960s. The overall goal of IPCR is to institute best practices in peace and conflict resolution in Nigeria and Africa.

What strategies are in place to meet the set goals of the institute?

We have been able within the context of our mandate to initiate a number of activities that translate to what our goals are. The major task has been to ensure that through research, IPCR is able to make available data that provides adequate understanding of the conflict situation and more specifically how to deal with the root causes of conflict in the country. We synthesize the data for decision-making, policy formulation and implementation. On the other hand, training workshops for community leaders in conflict areas, notably the oil-producing region of Nigeria, allows these leaders to go back to the community to popularize a culture of peace in the community. Peace is a multi-faceted subject such that no one agency can take sole responsibility. In view of this, IPCR aims to build a network of partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in conflict prevention field, communities, religious groups and all stakeholders to promote its peace agenda.

How does IPCR sustain its programs?

Peace is all embracing as a concept and in value. Immediate response to peace efforts, intermediate and long-term planning are needed to help deal with all interventions to be taken. We do so by involving a broad spectrum of society. Continuing education through introduction of peace education in schools, colleges and the communities at large will go along way in ensuring a total mobilization of the society. The capacity to sustain this will depend on what IPCR is able to do to promote peace. We are working towards getting the public to 'catch the vision', that peace is security, security is development and if there is no peace and security in Nigeria and Africa in general, such an environment cannot provide suitable basis for sustainable development. It is our ability to catch the vision of peace building that will sustain all of our efforts.

Public participation is an important factor/strategy to get the public develop a culture of peace. In view of this, how do you get the public to take responsibility to support peace-building initiatives?

Peace is a multi-faceted subject that requires many partners to work together to achieve the goals set. It is also a multi-dimensional process in the sense that when you address issues about peace you are also dealing with agriculture, security, health and all other aspects of national development. IPCR works with the National Orientation Agency, an organization charged with the responsibility of mobilizing the public to matters of national development in Nigeria. IPCR relies a lot on this agency in order to make known the importance of minimizing conflict, and in general promote peace among diverse communities in Nigeria. In all, the mobilization of the public is a responsibility of many partners at the local, national and international level.

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► *Interview, continued*

Considering the responsibilities that IPCR is charged with, certainly we cannot overlook the possibility of major challenges faced in both domestic and international conflict resolution and management. Briefly comment on this.

We encounter a number of challenges that in one way or the other affect our efforts to maintain peace at home, leave alone within the West Africa Region. As earlier noted, IPCR was only established about a year ago. This “newness” means that many people may not be aware of the existence of the Institute. Closely related to this is the fact that the institute is a government initiative. Many people, especially warring factions, are suspicious or even unwilling to support such government initiatives. This is a challenge to us and as a result we have to work very hard for credibility and acceptance in the country. The challenge of integration, citizenship, and on the other hand, the urge for survival, all put together pose a major challenge to IPCR.

Another major problem faced is limited resources because the government solely funds the institute. In addition, communication infrastructure is very poor to sustain effective communication within and outside the country.

What are the major successes of IPCR so far?

In general, IPCR has several successes; first and foremost, in creating awareness on a number of issues in the area of conflict resolution and management. The legitimization of the institute by the government necessitates technical support for policy formulation and implementation of issues considered important in working towards a culture of peace within and outside Nigeria. In addition, this has built some credibility considering that state governments as well as the federal government have invited IPCR to seek advise during times of crisis in the country and the West Africa region in general. We have been able to host conferences on national and international issues relevant in conflict resolution and management. Some of the topics that showed a great deal of interest to diverse participants include globalization and its effects on security in Africa, challenges of managing African borders, early warning system in managing Nigeria's internal conflicts, among others. Training workshops for community leaders are also a big success. In all, IPCR has been recognized for its role in promoting peace in the region and thus attained an observer status in the Africa Union early warning operations.

What do you think is the prospect of peace in Africa?

Peace is not an event. Much of what we see in Africa now is a reaction to the conditions of injustice and oppression, and that in itself is an indication of some prospects. Fighting is not a solution; however much of it is an attempt to move from the dictatorial situation Africa suffered during the cold war period. What we are seeing is a struggle for economic justice, political participation, the right to be heard, self-determination, and the need to be part of a process of a majority to determine their own affairs. This is the critical stage of what Prof. Ali Mazrui has called the second liberation of Africa; it is a critical phase that calls for a sense of citizenship to provide appropriate level of expression.

How do you see IPCR collaborating with CAPCR?

IPCR is exploring the possibility of collaboration in the areas of conflict resolution training, conflict early warning system design, and exchange of staff/faculty between the two organizations. The shared mission between the two institutions contributes to concerted efforts to building and strengthening capacity to promote peace. We look forward to the prospects of such collaboration between CAPCR and IPCR.



**Summer 2002
Conflict Resolution Workshop**

The Seventh Annual Summer Workshop on Conflict Resolution is scheduled for June 17-21, 2002 on the CSUS campus.

Trainers for the workshop are Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director of CAPCR, mediator/trainer since 1988; Attorney Daniel Yamshon, who has over a decade of experience in both domestic and international mediation, arbitration and conciliation training and practice; Mrs. Thelma Johnson, highly acclaimed community and youth mediation and trainer, with more than 26 years of experience in management and supervisory positions in government/public agencies. Workshop participants will earn a certificate upon completion of their training. Tuition of US \$485 includes workshop registration, materials, and three meals.

For application/registration information, contact CAPCR by phone at 916.278.6282, by fax at 916.278.7692 or email uwaziee@csus.edu



Summer 2001 Fulbright-Hays GPA Seminar on Cultural Heritage and Modernization in Ghana

Final Project Report Summary

By: Professor Ernest E. Uwazie, Project Director

The 5-week summer seminar was intended to promote faculty teaching and curriculum development in African studies at K-16 public education institutions in California. It was also an attempt to enrich the international/intercultural components of general education courses by taking the select group of 15 public school teachers from northern California and faculty from campuses of the California State University and area community colleges to Ghana, West Africa. In addition to the seminars/lectures, the participants visited significant historical and major cultural sites in Accra, Tamale, Kumasi, Akosombo, and Cape Coast areas of the country.

The project was funded by the US Dept. of Education, in collaboration with CAPCR and the International Studies Project at Sacramento (ISPAS). The Legon Center for International Affairs (LECIA) at the University of Ghana and the Student and Youth Travel Organization (SYTO) in Accra, Ghana served as the host institutions. The trip occurred from July 3-August 7, 2001. Dr. Jessie Gaston, CSUS Professor of History/Ethnic Studies and CAPCR Board member, served as the project co-director and team leader in Ghana.

The project objectives were successfully met through the 15 lectures on various topics related to the theme, interactions with senior government officials (e.g. Minister of Education, Attorney-General/Minster of Justice, trial and appellate judges, members of parliament, etc.) and their counterparts in primary/secondary schools and colleges/universities throughout the four regions visited, family home stay experiences in urban and rural settings, participation in the renowned international PANAFEST ceremonies, personal cultural explorations as well as individual research and numerous group curriculum development exercises.

In sum, the 2001 Group Projects Abroad (GPA) seminar on cultural heritage and modernization in Ghana fully accomplished its set tasks and objectives. Currently, the participants are implementing the knowledge from the seminar in their teaching, curricula development and

scholarly activities, thereby fulfilling the project goals of enhancing the infusion of African studies in K-16 education.

The success of the GPA seminar primarily rests on the careful selection of participants and the extensive pre-departure orientations. Upon selection of the participants, the orientations commenced in late March, with a series of activities aimed at communicating the program objectives, expectations and travel tips (before, during and after the Ghana trip) to the participants. The activities were also aimed at building a team spirit of cooperation and group bonding. We had a total of 8 days/60hrs of targeted seminar orientation. The last 5 days/40hrs of the orientation were conducted as a conflict resolution/cultural awareness/diversity workshop. In addition, the participants attended the May 3-5 Africa conference at CSUS as part of the orientation. During the conference they had the opportunity to meet and interact with the Ghanaian delegation at the conference as well as participated in the various discussions on the conference theme of "human rights, justice, peace and development in Africa". From all indications, the orientation activities prepared the participants very well for the trip.

From May 23 to June 3, the project director made a planning trip to Ghana. During this trip, he met with the

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SOLICITATION AND NOMINATION FOR CAPCR 2002 PEACE AWARDS

CAPCR is soliciting nominations from individuals, organizations, institutions and other private/public agencies for its 2002 African Peace Awards. Nominees must have excellent accomplishments in the area of peace education and conflict resolution/violence prevention services or research on and/or involving Africa(ns). Such work could be domestic (in U.S.), international in scope, or cross-cultural.

Send all nominations before February 15, 2002 to the Awards Committee c/o Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director, CAPCR, CSUS, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6085



► *Fulbright-Hayes Seminar, continued*

SYTO and LECIA representatives, separately and collectively, to discuss the program, finalize the daily itinerary, conclude lodging and transportation arrangements, resolve pertinent budget issues, and visited/met the program coordinators in Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Tamale. I also provided the SYTO/LECIA representatives with the participant biographic data, for their planning of the program, home stay arrangements and meal preparations. The planning trip was also critical to the success of the seminar, to the extent that it produced the program itinerary, finalized necessary arrangements/logistics and the budget.

Some of the major highlights of the program in Accra included: lectures at the LECIA/University of Ghana and at the W.E.B DuBois Center in Accra by Dr. Ali Mazrui and Professor Anyidoho; meetings with members of the African American community living in Ghana; and reception in honor of the seminar participants. The other receptions at the four sites in Accra, Kumasi, Tamale, and Cape Coast, also provided wonderful opportunities to socially interact with local Ghanaian educators and administrators. The Health/Medical orientation, the cross-cultural orientation and the language orientation by SYTO personnel were very informative and useful. The Courtesy calls on the Minister of Education and other officials and dignitaries were great opportunities to interact with those deeply involved in the Ghanaian government. Some of these individuals were actually blood relatives of Ghanaians who were part of the early nationalist movement against British colonialism. The visits to the Parliament House and High Court to witness the proceedings and interact with the members of parliament and the judges were high points. The group was surprised that both young male and female attorneys (barristers) still wear the judicial wig and robe during court proceedings.

Organized trips to the local markets and art centers were also another highlight for the group, as the Fulbrighters quickly learned the art of African negotiation or sale bargains at the art center in Accra, the goldmine in Obuasi, the craft/kente cloth weaving villages of Ntonso and Ahwiaa-near Kumasi. En route to Tamale (northern region) from Kumasi, the group had a wonderful picnic at the Kintampo Water Falls. On one of the days in Tamale, the group visited the Mole National Park, Ghana's main game reserve. The trip to Tamale gave the group an opportunity to observe some of the regional and terrain differences as well as more of Ghana's ethnic and religious

diversity. The group also enjoyed the lodging, family stays and site visits in Kumasi and Tamale. In fact, the group adopted some poor school children in Tamale by offering them secondary school scholarship through the assistance of the SYTO office in Tamale.

One of the most memorable experiences took place in Cape Coast. The group appreciated being there during the 5th international PANAFEST celebration. The group attended the open ceremony where there were traditional rulers from various countries in Africa adorned in their traditional regalia. There were also performers from various regions of Ghana as well as many from the Americas and the Caribbean. On one of the nights some of the members participated in a candlelight walk to the Cape Coast Slave Castle to give recognition to all those who lost their lives and/or freedom in the transatlantic slave trade. The march ended in a visit to the underground slave dungeons; many bought special memorial candles from the PANAFEST grounds to signify their remorse. The tour of both the Cape Coast and Elmina Slave Castles evoked strong feelings and emotions among the participants.

During the seminar, the participants attended 15 lectures at several Ghanaian universities, including the University of Ghana in Legon, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, the University for Development (Agriculture) Studies in Tamale, and



Fulbright group with traditional ruler and cabinet in Tamale.

Ghana's citadel of teacher education at the University of Cape Coast. Some of the lecture topics included Ghanaian society and culture, Women and development in Ghana, Pan Africanism and globalization, Indigenous justice and politics in Ghana, the Education system in Ghana, Health care delivery and HIV-AIDS in Ghana, Traditional Medicine in Ghana, Human rights and conflict resolution in Ghana, among others.

The group also visited numerous significant historical and major cultural sites: eg. the WEB DuBois Center, and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial in Accra; the Asantehene (King) Palace and Museum in Kumasi, the landmark Akosombo Dam, the renowned Aburi Botanical gardens,



Fulbright group at the University of Ghana, Legon.

the Obuasi goldmine and kente cloth weaving villages of Ntonso/Ahwiaa near Kumasi, the Mole National Park near Tamale, Cape Coast and Elimina slave castles/dungeons and Kakum nature park near Cape Coast. Equally, the group experienced first hand the Ghanaian people as hospitable, friendly, and content with whatever they have.

From the participants' reflections and project evaluation report, it is clear that the project activities, 1) developed the participants' greater understanding of Ghanaian culture; 2) exposed them to the value of education in the country's development; 3) gave the participants' first hand knowledge of the country's role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its attempts at reconciliation and Pan-Africanism; 4) allowed the participants to interact with their counterparts in Ghana and establish long-term relationships. 5) allowed the participants a golden opportunity to see Ghana as an example of an African country with more prospects than the typical conflict image of the continent that is portrayed in western media. 6) produced 2 videos, 3 slide trays, 200 photos and other materials from the seminar for use by other teachers and libraries.

The group's formal presentation of their seminar experience occurred on November 3, from 10am-2pm, at Carol's Bookstore, a local African-American bookstore in Sacramento. During the session, they presented how they are integrating the knowledge into their curricula, with very innovative powerpoint/visual aid presentations. The presentations by the K-12 teachers adapted the California International Studies Content Standards, with clear/specified objectives and measurement criteria. The university faculty presentations demonstrated the infusion of the Ghana experiences in the teaching of women and justice, African history, African-American literature/writing, world cultural geography, and the sociology of culture/conflict theories. Final curriculum development and materials are

due for submission by January 13, 2002. Other presentations are being scheduled at the participants' respective institutions during the Black History month in February, the CSUS Multicultural Education conference in March, and at the Africa 11th annual conference from April 26-27, 2002, on the theme of "Teaching African Studies in California schools, colleges and universities."

With these concrete achievements and plans, there is no doubt that the project had a profound educational impact on the participants and that it accomplished its goal of professional development. By the project, African studies programs in the participating institutions have been definitely positively impacted. From present plans by participants, an average of 75 hours of instruction on Africa, each semester, have been added to the respective participant curriculum. Given the relatively recent nature of the travel, we expect that the curricular impact will be fully realized in future. CSUS-ISPAS will continue to work with the participants through Spring 2002 semester to advance the curriculum development activities.

In conclusion, the 2001 Summer Fulbright was a great success. CAPCR looks forward to proposing future programs in other parts of Africa in years to come. The programs remain an invaluable teaching tool and search for a better global understanding. We are grateful to USDE-GPA for awarding us the grant and hope that we will be successful in future submissions; we appreciate the support of ISPAS and cooperation of our host institutions.

List of Seminar Participants

Ernest Uwazie, Director, *CSU Sacramento*
Jessie Gaston, Co-director, *CSU Sacramento*
Kaylene Richards-Ekeh, *CSU Sacramento*
Hortense Simmons, *CSU Sacramento*
Maggie Deleon, *CSU Sacramento*
Agnes Riedmann, *CSU Stanislaus-Turlock*
Craig Davis, *Sacramento City College*
Mariah Norwood, *Elk Grove Unified School District*
Asa Salley, *Sacramento City Unified School District*
Jeremy Predko, *Sacramento City Unified School District*
Josephine Watts, *San Juan Unified School District*
David Thompson, *San Juan Unified School District*
Rikki Butler, *Davis Joint Unified School District*
Barbara Desmangles Simpson, *Rio Linda Union School*
Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi, *Berkeley High School*



Revisiting 2001 Third United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and The Implications of the Compromise

(Excerpts of guest lecture on Nov. 8 at CSUS. Full paper available upon request to CAPCR. Opinions expressed here are those of the author and not necessarily those of CSUS-CAPCR.)

*By Assumpta Acam-Oturu, Independent Producer/Host
"SPOTLIGHT AFRICA," KPFK 90.7 FM
Pacifica Radio for Southern California*

The World Conference Against Racism held in Durban, South Africa confronted contemporary and past history of inhumanity as human rights violations. A lack of recognition for contentious issues of slavery and reparations had not been attained and it was time for the global community to find a forum for effective resolve. The conference was about a known reality, about victims whom human history spoke of their plight. It was also about perpetual victims of racism and racial discrimination. The conference popularly referred to as Durban 2001, unveiled human rights violations in the past and present, and circumstances in the early years of the 21st century that had created an environment for humanity to confront and find remedies to enable a future dignified world. It occurred under the umbrella of the Commission on Human Rights, a body the United Nations General Assembly empowered with the task of combating racism, racial discrimination since the late 1970s.

As the world succeeded in defeating institutionalized racism in South Africa, the United Nations was now forced to guide the world into another phase of the fight against human injustices and inequality. This move seems inevitable given the prevailing trends of globalization and militant protests.

The conference provided the world community with an opportunity in the post-apartheid era to engage on a broader agenda to combat racism, racial discrimination and related issues. The conference was about victims of racism, racial discrimination and how to move humanity forward to tolerance, inclusiveness, respect and dignity. For the United Nations, South Africa was an appropriate venue, a source of strength built on policies put in place to nurture a new South Africa. The world was reflecting on a possible fresh dawn drawn from the spirit of freedom from

racism in the country. The overall objective was to examine and discuss historical and present human injustices and inequalities, and formulate a progressive agenda for better co-existence in the world.

Five expert meetings were held throughout the world regional blocks to define the conference agenda. Africa focused on the "Prevention of Ethnic and Racial Conflicts in Africa;" Asia dealt with "Migrants and Trafficking of Persons with Particular Reference to Women and Children," Eastern Europe addressed the "Protection of Minorities and other Vulnerable Groups and Strengthening Human Rights Capacity at the National Level." Latin America and the Caribbean on the other hand, discussed "Economic, Social and Legal Measures to Overcome Racial Discrimination." Western Europe outlined the "Remedies Available to the Victims of Acts of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and on Good National Practices in the Field." At the conclusion of the five regional expert meetings, a Declaration and Plan of Action was developed outlining critical and relevant aspects to each region. Three United Nations Preparatory Conferences were then convened for the purposes of integrating all regional concerns into the Draft Declaration and Program of Action for final negotiation and adoption in Durban, South Africa.

Contentious issues of apology for slavery and colonialism, reparations and Zionism emerged during the second preparatory conference. Ways to work out agreeable text on these issues including the Middle East crisis led to a deadlock.

The conference was set to take place amidst some uncertainties, especially about United States' participation. Nonetheless, the world converged in the final phase that would outline practical strategies to combat pressing global problems of racism, ethnic conflicts, xenophobia and intolerance. It was evident that many parts of the world were hurting from the lack of recognition of the impact of mass slavery and exploitation of colonialism that



have stunned the development of poor countries, particularly in Africa. For eight days, the world concentrated on negotiating agreeable language of the basic Draft Declaration and Draft Program of Action. The two documents were so far a world consensus, and testimonial approach to the conference six thematic areas defined by the world regions. Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) delegates participated effectively in lobbying to influence intergovernmental meeting on the agenda. In the midst of the heated exchanges, Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, was the guiding voice, always steering delegates on course and urging for dialogue where the deep hurt of individuals, peoples and cultures at their invisibility and exclusion can find expression.

Africa's response was forthright. The Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo pointed out that "Apology is intrinsic in the healing process, and it constitutes veritable basis for demonstrating remorse for wrong done and seeking atonement or forgiveness. It is imperative that we show our ingenuity by finding ways to ensure that we do not allow the history of slavery and colonialism to continue to plague the memory of the world. Whoever closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present. Apology closes the door against bitterness and anger in the heart of the victim, and does not connote any reprisal or litigation, nor should it lead to any. I must, however, disabuse the minds of those who believe that every apology must be followed with monetary compensation for the victims. For us in Africa, an apology is a deep feeling of remorse, expressed with the avowed commitment, that never again! Will the individual who offered the apology, have recourse to such reprehensible act? And like a political pardon within a state, the recipient of the apology forgives. The issue of reparations then ceases to be a rational option." On the same theme, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan noted that "the issue of reparations is very complicated. It will not disappear, but this is not the place to resolve that issue."

The Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, who received applause and laughter from the delegations during the Roundtable of Heads of State, dismissed racism as nonsense because everybody came from Africa. "Then some left, went to other places and lost their color. They came back to say they are superior to those they had left

behind." President Castro took center stage to wild applause. He gave a deep analysis of the effect of racism which, he said, was the causative factor in a world where the plunderers and robbers preside over the instruments of oppression and watch while children starve and die. He spoke from the heart, and accused the US and Europe of wanting to continue to plunder Africa and increase attempts to divide the continent while keeping it involved in conflict.

African countries compromised over issues of grave concern to the continent, abandoning the fact that the United States and Europe was built on the back of African slavery, exploitation and continued plunder. It was therefore not surprising that European apology had been watered down to none at all.

The Durban 2001 touched the core of Africa's problems on a global context. The conference documents provided remedies for the plight of African peoples on the continent and the Diaspora, as well as energized the momentum for further debates. To many critics, Durban 2001 may not have achieved what it was set up to do. There were many compromises, the text and language were watered down to accommodate creators of the pains, and suffering addressed at the conference. It is now left to the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to continue fuelling the burning torch lit at Durban 2001. Michigan Congressman John Conveys, before departing from South Africa, spoke about how to move beyond Durban. He proposed an international conference on racism and similar issues in 2003 to be hosted by African nations and African-Americans without the auspices of the United Nations.

[Sources for article quotes: Reuters, 3rd United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance official documents, press briefings, press conferences and interviews of delegates at the World Conference in Durban, South Africa, August 28 to September 8, 2001]



Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution

The Center is located in the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), one of 23 campuses of the California State University system — the largest system of higher education in the world. The CAPCR draws upon the resources of a highly trained interdisciplinary team of faculty/scholars and conflict resolution experts as well as a diverse advisory board committed to the Center's mission. The Center also draws on the unique assets of CSUS, California's Capital University.

services of CAPCR

TRAINING

CAPCR faculty offer training in mediation, negotiation, arbitration, in peace-building, peace-making, conciliation, early conflict warning system, facilitation of dialogues, and alternative dispute resolution.

EDUCATION

CAPCR faculty can help you develop curricular and teaching/training materials in conflict resolution and conflict/violence prevention, and can provide you with program design assistance and accreditation advice, system design and network building, as well as case development techniques.

RESEARCH

CAPCR faculty conduct conflict resolution program evaluation, and prepare and present conferences/seminars and requests for proposals; publication of select conference papers is available.

DIRECT SERVICE

CAPCR faculty provide group facilitation advice, focus group strategies, mediation, arbitration, negotiation, conflict resolution process advice, and election observation/supervision.

highlights of CAPCR

Independently and in conjunction with other agencies such as the U.S. State Department and Department of Education, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the USAID, the California Wellness Foundation, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in Lagos, the Nigerian Human Rights Commission, the University of Ghana in Legon, the Ghana Bar Association and Ministry of Justice, the University of

Liberia in Monrovia, the University of Dakar in Senegal, etc., the CAPCR has developed a number of initiatives since its founding in 1996:

- * A program in West Africa on Alternative Dispute Resolution (Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Liberia)
- * Advanced Conflict Resolution Workshops on Early Conflict Warning and Implementing Peace Accords
- * Assessing the Feasibility for ADR and Court Case Management studies in Ghana
- * An Interethnic Ethnic/Religious conflict resolution seminar training in Nigeria
- * An annual international conference on Africa on various conflict resolution and peace themes at California State University, Sacramento
- * The Africa-US Youth Peace & Cultural Education Program (on-going)
- * Annual summer institute/workshop on Conflict Resolution at CSUS
- * Annual Africa Peace Awards
- * Annual youth summer conflict resolution training workshop at CSUS
- * Africa-U.S. Peace Studies Exchange of students, scholars, professionals, policy makers and community leaders in the U.S. and Africa
- * Development of culturally relevant training videos and case simulations
- * The Youth Mentoring Program in inner-city communities and schools in Sacramento
- * Production of educational videos
- * A visiting scholars and dignitaries program
- * Partnerships with numerous non-governmental organizations in Africa

sponsored publications

- Interethnic/Religious Conflict Resolution in Nigeria (1999)
- Conflict Resolution and Peace education in Africa (forthcoming 2002)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution training manuals
- Making Peace, CAPCR newsletter (twice a year)



Become a Partner of the CAPCR

The CAPCR needs your support to achieve and expand its unique collaborative efforts to promote peace education and conflict resolution in/on Africa/USA. For more information, please contact

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Partners receive the CAPCR newsletter, special program invitations, discounts on CAPCR services and events, and recognition in CAPCR publications and programs. Your financial support is tax deductible.

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*Option: pay \$150 per year for four years

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Calendar of Events

APRIL 26-27, 2002

Teaching African Studies in California Schools,
Colleges, and Universities

JUNE 17-21, 2002

Summer Institutes on Conflict Resolution

Making Peace

A Newsletter of the Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution
www.csus.edu/org/CAPCR

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