

November 2007

A Trilateral Alliance for Peace

Sarah Ozaky Lazar, founding member of the Alliance for a New Humanity and active member of the Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum, met with Italian Prime Minister Prodi, and Foreign Minister D'Alema, to receive their blessing and support to establish a Trilateral Alliance for Peace in cooperation with the Region of Tuscany and European NGOs.

Later Sarah and the Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum joined the huge march for Peace from Perugia to Assisi, in which more than 200,000 from all over the world took part.

The new Alliance is planning a series of projects and civil gatherings to promote peace in the Middle East. One key player in this is Minister Massimo Toschi, the Tuscan Minister for International Cooperation, Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Peace, who travels around the world to bring support to people in war zones and communities in need. The region of Tuscany supports many projects, including a "Save the Children" project which brings sick Palestinian babies to Israeli hospitals, and it conduct training for democratization and governance in Congo.

<http://www.peacengo.org>

The Human Forum: A Symphony of Transformation

Come join us at the Human Forum of the Alliance for a New Humanity in Costa Rica 11, 12 and 13th March 2008. Take part in inspiring interactive dialogs guided by Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson, Richard Tarnas, Jaime Jaramillo, Anwar Fazal, Dr. Ariyatdne, and many others, as we together seek to assess the transformational forces that are changing our world for the better, and adopt commitments, tools and action lines for scaling up and uniting them in a symphony of transformation.

Find out more about this unique event and register online

For any general information please contact Mabel Lassalle at 1-787-722-7728, email mabel@anhglobal.org

Shift Happens

Shift Happens is a 6-minute video that summarizes where the world is heading. As it rattles off one trend after another, the video makes some startling points such as the fact that there are more school kids with a genius IQ in China than there are school kids in the United States. Or that a week's worth of the New York Times contains more information than the average person absorbed in a lifetime in the 18th century. The overall message is that the world is changing exponentially.

[View the Film](#)

[Alliance Action](#)

[Toronto Chapter of ANH](#)

Just under a year ago Kim Klingler contacted the Alliance, looking for a Toronto Chapter. There wasn't one, but Kim was undeterred:

"I quickly found 20 people, then 30, now well over 50. I was overwhelmed! So many emails! SO many people reaching out.

Now, we have a core group of what I call "action Volunteers" who meet every Sunday afternoon. These Action Volunteers are the steering committee and have made an amazing team. We plan to launch a sensational two part event, and have introduced the Be the Change program, and meditation retreats into our splinter discussion groups.

I am beyond elated, and have no doubt, that this group will create magical connections and actions that are seen felt and heard. We are a large group, that is growing at exponential rate. Please let everyone know we are here, working and welcoming all!"

Contact Kim Klingler at kimono007@primus.ca

[Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour](#)

The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour will conduct it's 3rd tour of Israel and Palestine this Fall. The group features two Israeli comedians, an African American Jewish comedian and a Palestinian American comedian who have performed internationally since their founding less than 8 months ago.

The tour begins with two performances at the Ambassador Hotel in Jerusalem featuring new Palestinian and Israeli comedians on Friday Nov. 30, and a formal performance on Saturday Dec. 1. They have six more shows planned during the tour along with three workshops in the West Bank. The group hosts workshops under the banner Punchlines for Peace to teach comedy and humor to Palestinian and Israeli youth.

The Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour launches their US Tour January 12, 2008 with a special concert celebrating the opening of the new Spertus College in Chicago. See the website for more details.

www.IPCComedyTour.com

Contact Ray Hanania at rayhanania@comcast.net.

Nonviolence

In a thought-provoking piece, Jack Santa Barbara invites us to consider nonviolence as the key element that could bring together diverse groups and non-governmental organisations to create a more effective and focused movement for change.

“When various and currently unconnected movements come to appreciate a shared core value, then new and creative opportunities emerge.”

Accepting nonviolence as a core value and extending the concept of nonviolence beyond humans will bring greater unity to disparate groups, generate enthusiasm and facilitate collaboration and effective action

More...

Artisan Economy

Our “Turning Point” column features stories of individuals working in the mainstream who experience a moment of epiphany and change in their lives; who embrace a more holistic, organic and human-scale approach to their work.

Carole Bamford, founder of Daylesford Organic, recalls how an encounter with organic farmers twenty years ago inspired her to transform a conventional farm into a successful organic business. Daylesford Organic is now a thriving enterprise that celebrates the unique role of the artisan and is dedicated to the preservation of traditional techniques.

More...

Earth I Love

“In the western world we follow fashions, and the current fashion is to talk about climate change. In the 1960’s the fashion was to talk about nuclear war. When I met Bertrand Russell (then 92), I said ‘Lord Russell, you are my inspiration but I have one problem with your philosophy, and that is that your agenda on nuclear war is driven by fear.’

The same thing is happening with the mounting public awareness of climate change: it is driven by fear – fear of the loss of the consumerist way of life.”

Satish Kumar encourages us to reconnect with nature and see sustainability as a way of life, not something we do just to save our possessions.

More...

Italians March for Peace

by Stefania Milan

ASSISI, Italy - About 200,000 people marched from Perugia to Assisi Sunday calling for “all human rights for all” and the end of wars. The 24km “peace march” between the two towns in central Italy concluded a “peace week” featuring some 400 initiatives on peace and human rights. These included the 7th assembly of the United Nations of the People in Perugia Oct. 5-6. “Peace and justice walk together” and “Water for all” were among some of the banners at the march. Many carried the famous “peace flags” that marked Italian protest against the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Participants also joined the “Stand Up!” action in line with the United Nations’ “No Excuse” campaign to promote the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight goals agreed in 2000 to cut poverty and to improve health and education. People in the rally sat and then stood up to urge the Italian government to allocate 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) to foreign aid.

The march, the 17th such, was started by peace activist Aldo Capitini in 1961. It is organised by Peace Roundtable, a coalition of Italian NGOs, unions, church groups and local administrations working for peace and solidarity.

AFGHANISTAN: Unveiling Women's Rights

By Fawzia Sheikh*

Credit:IRIN

Female police recruits in Kabul

KANDAHAR, A giggly, sweet demeanour masks Shaqofa's toughness.

Her dark hair swept up in a traditional headscarf secured under a standard police cap, Shaqofa offers a stark contrast to the many Afghan women who don the restrictive, full-length burqa, a symbol of Taliban rule in the 1990s still observed six years after the regime's fall.

Shaqofa joined the police two years ago out of a desire to investigate crimes committed by the Taliban who "kill the people for no reason," she told IPS.

Under the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan, administered by the United Nations Development Programme, more women are being recruited as police officers, gender units are being established within police headquarters and law-enforcement officers are being sensitised toward issues like domestic violence.

More...

MEDIA: Citizen Journalism Opening Up Political Space in Africa

Linus Atarah

HELSINKI, Oct 19 (IPS) - Anyone with a mobile phone can call a radio station in Ghana now to question a government minister about the promises he made election time.

The communication revolution has broken through the earlier world in which official information was offered through government-controlled radio or television. This has brought greater transparency and accountability in the governance

process, says Aida Opoku-Mensah, director of information and communication technologies at the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The marriage between radio and the mobile phone in Africa has also made it difficult to rig elections, she said, because journalists at polling stations can quickly report anything going wrong.

More...

In brief

Wiser Earth

WiserEarth is a networking forum connecting thousands of organizations that address social justice, poverty, and the environment. It provides the tools and a platform for NGOs and citizens to find each other, make connections, build alliances and where possible, to share resources.

More...

The Duck Effect

In a remote part of Guangdong province, ducks and rice are being raised together in an experimental eco-agricultural project. This hybrid of the traditional farming practices of Japanese rice farmers eliminates the need for fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides, as the ducks eat all kinds of insects, worms, snails, other pests and even the seeds of weeds. The ducks also help to loosen the soil and bring more oxygen into the water.

More...

Organic is best

A new £12 million study from the UK shows that some organic foods, including fruit, vegetables and milk, may be more nutritious than non-organic produce.

More...

Clutter Clearance

Clutter makes chaos! Care2.com have six easy steps to get your home back! And once you've sorted it – find a new home for your stuff with Freecycle

More...

<http://www.freecycle.org>