



May-June 2008

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Africa

Community leaders meeting, Mount Elgon – Kenya

In May, Saferworld organised a meeting which brought together community leaders from the Mt Elgon area in Kenya, which has a history of violent conflict between ethnic groups over land issues. Participants included community elders, peace committee representatives, religious leaders and youth. They discussed the peace and security situation since the recent military intervention in the area and its impact on local communities, as well as reflecting on the various peace interventions in the district.

Isiolo inter-district peace meeting, Kenya

In May, Saferworld supported and facilitated an inter-district peace meeting in Isiolo which brought together the District Security and Intelligence Committees, the District Peace Committees, the Community Policing Committee, and a number of other important local actors from Isiolo and the neighbouring districts. Participants discussed strategies for addressing a range of inter-district conflict issues, including disputed district boundaries, the use and smuggling of illegal firearms, cattle-rustling, and the fencing-off of land by private conservancies.

Somali civil society meet UN Security Council in Djibouti

In May, Saferworld in conjunction with its Somali partners Centre for Research and Dialogue and Puntland Development and Research Council, helped a delegation of 15 Somali civil society leaders to meet with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in Djibouti. The UN Special Representative for Somalia welcomed the delegation and encouraged them to draw on their firsthand experience of the situation in Somalia to act as a neutral pressure group for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The delegation spoke of the escalating humanitarian crisis, and impressed upon the UNSC the need for the international community to provide sustained and coherent support for an inclusive and non-military solution to Somalia's conflict. The UNSC appreciated the opportunity to interact with Somali civil society, and the UN asked the delegation to stay throughout the peace talks in Djibouti, reflecting the positive contribution that the group had already made to the process.

Training on civilian oversight and police accountability, Uganda

In June, in Uganda, Saferworld participated in a training workshop on civilian oversight of the police services organised by the non-governmental organisation, Human Rights Network – Uganda. The training was aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to support the development of accountable and democratic police services. Saferworld facilitated one of the workshop sessions which focused on lessons learnt from the performance of the Kenyan police during the post-election violence in Kenya.

UPDF workshop on SALW National Action Plan, Uganda

In June, in Uganda, Saferworld facilitated a workshop organised by the Uganda National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF). The workshop,

attended by ten senior UPDF officers, agreed the UPDF goal and purpose in respect of SALW control, designed a process for developing a work-plan, and committed to work for its adoption by the UPDF authorities.

Asia

Linking climate change and security in Bangladesh

In June, in Dhaka, Saferworld and local partners, the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, organised a roundtable on the impact of climate change on migration and security. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Environment, the Climate Change Cell, several local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the International Organisation for Migration, and academics from University of Dhaka. This event provided an initial platform to bring together experts, decision makers and activists on climate change and security in Bangladesh that Saferworld hopes will develop further in the future.

Community safety pilot projects in Bangladesh

In May, Saferworld met with its community safety partners, Bangladesh Rural Advance Commission (BRAC) and ChangeMaker to review progress on the pilot sites as the project approached the end of the grant period. Both pilot sites – in Kishoregonj (rural) and Kamrangir Char (urban) – have been successfully addressing the safety and security issues identified by the local communities. UK Department for International Development (DfID) and the British High Commission in Dhaka visited the Kamrangir Char pilot site, accompanied by Saferworld and ChangeMaker, and met the children and parents using the childcare facilities as well as the advisory committee, made up of members of the local community. In June, Saferworld held a workshop with BRAC and ChangeMaker to collectively design a three-year community safety programme that builds on the existing project. The proposal aims to continue and develop the community safety work so that lessons can be learned and implemented at the national level.

Report on human security launched in Bangladesh

The survey report, 'Human security in Bangladesh' was published in June and has been disseminated widely. In May, Saferworld gave DfID staff in Dhaka a briefing on the key findings of the report.

Meeting with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in Nepal

Saferworld organised a meeting in Kathmandu in June with the Nepali Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) to look at access to justice, conflict-sensitive approaches, and community safety so the Ministry can consider how to include and address these issues in its work. The meeting was very well attended with over 50 people present from the MoPR and many of the other ministries. The MoPR is keen to work with Saferworld on these issues and Saferworld will explore ways in which it can support the Ministry's initiatives in the coming weeks.

SALW survey launched in Sri Lanka

In June, Saferworld supported the National Commission Against the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms (NCAPISA) in launching its 'Survey Report on the Prevalence of Illicit Small Arms in Sri Lanka' in Colombo. The panel for the launch included the former Inspector General of Police (IGP), Chandra Fernando, and the Secretaries of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The launch was well attended, including by officials such as the former Defence Secretary, and the incumbent IGP, NCAPISA members, donors, international and local NGOs, and was widely reported in the Sri Lankan media. The report covers difficult issues important for public safety, the rule of law and democratic good governance in Sri Lanka. An international launch will be held at the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms Biennial Meeting of States in New York in July.

Europe

Engaging civil Society with EULEX, Kosovo

In May, Saferworld attended a conference hosted jointly by the European Peace and Liaison Office (EPLO) and European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The meeting highlighted EULEX's

enthusiasm for engaging more closely with both international and Kosovo civil society and getting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in developing accountability mechanisms.

Conflict analysis in Bosnia – feedback workshop

In May, Saferworld travelled to Sarajevo, Bijeljina, Brčko and Mostar in Bosnia to gather information through workshops, interviews and focus groups about the causes of tensions and conflict in the local communities. This will be written up into a conflict analysis in order to inform Saferworld's decisions about its future work in Bosnia and ensure conflict sensitivity. Later in the month we presented our draft findings to local NGOs, embassy and donor representatives and received positive comments on both our methodology and findings.

International advocacy and communications

Saferworld hosts meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding

In June, Saferworld arranged for the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Carolyn McAskie, to visit London. During the day, a roundtable was held with Department for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff where the role and future challenges of the Peacebuilding Commission were discussed. In the evening, Saferworld chaired a panel discussion in the Houses of Parliament where Carolyn was joined by the former UK permanent representative to the UN, Lord Hannay of Chiswick, and the economist Paul Collier. The event was well attended by over 50 MPs, peers, government officials and members of civil society.

Fragile states and aid effectiveness

Saferworld has continued to play a leading role in discussions on how to improve the effectiveness of aid in fragile states in the run-up to the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in September this year. The Forum will issue an agenda for action which will update the 2005 Paris Declaration and will include reference to how donors should ensure that their aid is effective in fragile states. Saferworld has worked with fellow non-governmental organisations and EU, UK and other member state officials to ensure that suitable language is agreed at the Forum.

IPPR's National Security Commission

In 2007, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) set up a National Security Commission to take a fresh look at approaches to national and international security. In June 2008, Saferworld presented to a seminar organised by IPPR to inform the Commission's thinking on conflict prevention.

Strategic issues

Second meeting of UN Group of Government Experts on Arms Trade Treaty

In May, Saferworld took part in a series of side meetings in New York at the second meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) discussing the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of an Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations. The opportunity was used to gather intelligence on the progress of the GGE group discussions, strengthen links with a number of states and make delegates aware of 'Making it Happen', a recent Saferworld report on monitoring and verification that will be the start point for some future work on this issue.

Saferworld meets Chinese arms experts

In May, Saferworld undertook an outreach trip to China in conjunction with Tsinghua University, the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, and Africa Peace Forum. The purpose of the trip was to develop our relationships and profile amongst Chinese arms control experts, take forward discussions on small arms and light weapons diversion and engage in dialogue about relations between Africa and China – particularly in terms of arms control and conflict prevention. Overall, the trip was a success with several new contacts made and potential future work identified.

Report on the ten years of the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports is launched

In June, in Brussels, Saferworld, with the support of Raul Romeva I Rueda MEP, hosted a reception to launch 'Good conduct?: Ten years of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports'. Around 90 guests attended, including non-governmental organisations from across Europe, European Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) representatives from 22 out of the 27 Member States

and a number of representatives from the Council, Parliament and Commission. The report received considerable media coverage and will serve as a springboard for further dialogue with COARM and other government and EU officials on issues such as the importance of having a legally-binding common position and responding to the challenges of globalisation.

NGO/industry discussions on Export Control Act review

In June, Saferworld, Amnesty International UK, Omega and Oxfam GB met with UK defence industry representatives to negotiate an agreed position on extraterritorial controls on arms brokering. Following extensive discussions, a consensus was reached and a representative of the Defence Manufacturers Association tasked with producing a summary of the agreement. Once the note is received, its content will be more fully negotiated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and industry and, hopefully, a joint position forwarded to HMG. Any changes to secondary legislation could, in theory, be completed in April 2009.

Saferworld trains participants on security sector reform course

In June, at the University of Birmingham, Saferworld ran a training session on community-based policing as an approach to police reform as part of a Global Facilitation Network on Security Sector Reform course for Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development officials. Representatives generally had a high level of operational experience including supporting security and justice sector development (and policing in particular) in the Balkans, Africa and Afghanistan/Iraq. Saferworld's session concentrated on the role of civil society actors in supporting police reform, how to gain a more realistic understanding of what can be achieved and how to set up for long-term sustainability.

Geneva Forum meeting on implementation of the UN Programme of Action

In June, Saferworld participated in a meeting organised by the Geneva Forum and which focused on improving the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA). With the Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) taking place from 14-18 July, the meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from states, UN agencies and NGOs to share ideas on how the PoA's implementation could be improved. Key issues considered were how to improve national reporting on implementation of the UN PoA, how to better focus global discussions on practical implementation and what measures could be taken to provide practical support to governments. Saferworld will be attending the BMS in New York in July.

Organisation

New appointment

Paul Murphy, Head of Europe Programme

Internal appointment

Tom Donnelly, Advocacy and Policy Officer

Sarah Preston, Project Co-ordinator, Sudan

Goodbye, and thank you

Nicolas Benton, Asia Project Officer

Zora Kostadinova, Europe Intern

Jérôme Mellon, Project Co-ordinator, South Eastern Europe

Alex Nyago, Project Co-ordinator, Horn & Great Lakes Region

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