



nonviolent peaceforce
fuerzas de paz noviolentas
la force non-violente de paix

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26 May 2006

Dear Member Organisations of the Nonviolent Peaceforce,

We greet you all from the shores of Circle Lake, Minnesota, USA where we are meeting with the NP Executive Committee to oversee the work of NP and prepare for the coming International Assembly.

As you will have heard by now, our Muttur office in Sri Lanka suffered a **grenade attack** on 21 May, injuring Field Team Member Fabijan Periskic from Serbia as well as two passers-by, we have asked for an immediate and unbiased investigation into this incident. But this attack comes at a time of growing tensions and war-like violence in the North and East of Sri Lanka and in the last several months over 300 people has been killed in the escalating violence.

We have been responding to the worsening situation in **Sri Lanka** with a strengthened team and increasing presence in the affected areas. We believe this is the time to demonstrate the effectiveness of unarmed civilian peacekeeping and to really focus on what can be done to support the peace process in Sri Lanka. We hope you are able to pick up this challenge wherever you may be.

At our Executive Committee meeting here in Minnesota we have reaffirmed the Sri Lanka project as our number one priority as an organisation. But we are also looking carefully at our next steps towards becoming a more global organisation with development of new field projects in other parts of the world. The EC approved in March the deployment of an advance team to Mindanao in the Philippines to further develop and fundraise for a possible next stage presence there in the coming months.

Over the last several months exploratory work has been taking place in **Uganda and Colombia**. The programme committee has been developing proposals for the IGC to consider at its meeting in September. The Uganda proposal is for another advance team that will further explore possibilities for NP presence there. The Colombia proposal would add significantly to the existing international presence in the country. NP teams would be working in areas where others like PBI are scarce or not present at all.

Meanwhile we have been developing our capacities to respond more quickly and on a larger scale to prevent violence and support local initiatives for peace. In July we will hold in Thailand the first **'training for trainers'** who will then be training on a regional basis to build up the pool of people who are trained and available for NP work. We are also developing an international Register to enable people interested in this work to sign up and get involved. We are also working on the fundraising and procedures needed for a Rapid Response capacity.

The **International Assembly** of all member organisations of NP will now take place in Nairobi Kenya from 9-12 March 2007. This will be an opportunity for all of us who are committed to the work of NP to review what has been achieved since the convening event in 2002 and to set the strategic direction for what we want to achieve in the coming years. Our member organisation, Chemchemi, is hosting the meeting and we are actually seeking funds, however we have not yet secured funding for this meeting, so we will need everyone to help

think of ways to raise the money to get people to this meeting. At the International Assembly we will elect a new IGC for the next 3 years. It is important that the regions and constituencies of NP start thinking now about who could serve in this capacity.

The current IGC that has served since 2002 meets for the last time in September. **Lyn Adamson** has resigned from the IGC to take up the temporary post of Capacity-Building Director of NP. We are very grateful for the work she has done on the IGC and for what she will be doing now as a temporary staff member.

Thank you for all you are doing to help build the Nonviolent Peaceforce and best wishes for your own work and activities.

Yours,

Tim Wallis/Claudia Samayoa,
Co-chairs, NP International Governing Council