

# conciliation resources

*An International Service for Conflict Resolution and Prevention*



**Annual Report 1998**

# Conciliation Resources

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### Cover Photograph

During the 1990s over 1.5 million people have been displaced  
as a result of violent conflicts in the Caucasus.

The cover photograph depicts a displaced family in Georgia.

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# Introduction

In 1998, Conciliation Resources' principal areas of activity continued to be West Africa, in particular Sierra Leone and Liberia, and the production and distribution of *Accord: An International Review of Peace Initiatives*.

The work in West Africa remains extremely vulnerable due to the volatile political and military developments in the region. However, we have managed to continue to support project partners in their efforts to help move their communities from violence to sustainable peace.

The Accord programme came into its stride in 1998 with the publication of issues on Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Cambodia and a number of complementary activities, especially in relation to Sri Lanka. The series is proving to be a welcome learning resource for people actively involved in peace initiatives or affected by them. We are confident that we will be able to further improve its usefulness, increase its accessibility and ensure it reaches the intended readership.

CR's involvement in Fiji continued, as planned, at a considerably lower level than in previous years. Our long-standing project partner, the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF), redefined its role and began developing new programmes for the coming years, focusing on multiculturalism, human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions.

Two new programme areas took shape in the course of 1998: work in the Caucasus, in particular in relation to the conflict over

Abkhazia; and work in support of journalists working in situations of violent conflict in Africa. Both programmes are being developed further in 1999, benefiting from the experiences of the past years and the partnerships that have been forged.

Despite these positive developments, we were constantly reminded throughout 1998 of our shortcomings and the need to remain committed to critically and constructively appraising our methods and achievements, both positive and negative.

We also remain committed to the vision of a flexible, decentralised and informal organisation which operates effectively and efficiently, while providing a stimulating working environment for staff, associates and others.

To help us keep up with the expansion and growing complexity of CR's programme work we have made a number of organisational and administrative changes and have recently moved to new offices (see back cover for new address and contact details).

In the following pages we have attempted to provide space for an overview of the activities of our local partners and other collaborators. Their courage, energy, imagination and dedication to peaceful change within their societies remain the principal motivating forces for CR's activities.

The financial support and confidence of a wide range of donors has also been essential and is gratefully acknowledged.

In 1999, we will continue to strive to merit the confidence of all our partners.



Andy Carl  
Co-Director



David Lord  
Co-Director



Guus Meijer  
Co-Director

# West Africa

## Sierra Leone

In 1998, CR resumed elements of programming in Sierra Leone that had been disrupted by the coup in May 1997. The coup brought the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front junta to power and forced the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah into exile. In February 1998, an offensive led by the regional intervention forces, ECOMOG, drove the junta from Freetown into northern and eastern Sierra Leone, paving the way for a return of the Kabbah Government in March.

While pro-government militias and ECOMOG pursued the military option to neutralise the guerrilla forces, CR activities in collaboration with the Sulima Fishing Community Development Project (SFCDP) shifted back into southern Sierra Leone from refugee camps in Liberia. A workshop was held with Sierra Leonean journalists and a national assessment of youth issues in collaboration with ActionAid and UNICEF moved ahead. CR also began exploring requests for support for other peacebuilding activities involving community leaders in Bo and the Civil Defence Forces.

In April, CR Co-Director David Lord and Regional Co-ordinator Frances Fortune visited Sulima and neighbouring villages just inside the Sierra Leone border with SFCDP team leaders John and Prince Massaquoi. Hundreds of villagers, village leaders and civil defence members turned out to tell the CR team about the grim conditions for resettlement in their communities and to discuss reintegration of former combatants and the revival of local political processes. While in the region, the CR team also met with government officials, NGO representatives and civic leaders in Monrovia, Freetown and Bo.

In May, Frances Fortune began a period of maternity leave and was temporarily replaced by consultant Medina Wesseh, operating from Monrovia in support of the Sulima team and the Liberian Women Initiative. West Africa Programme Advisor Ron Fennell undertook two project development missions to Sierra Leone during June and July.

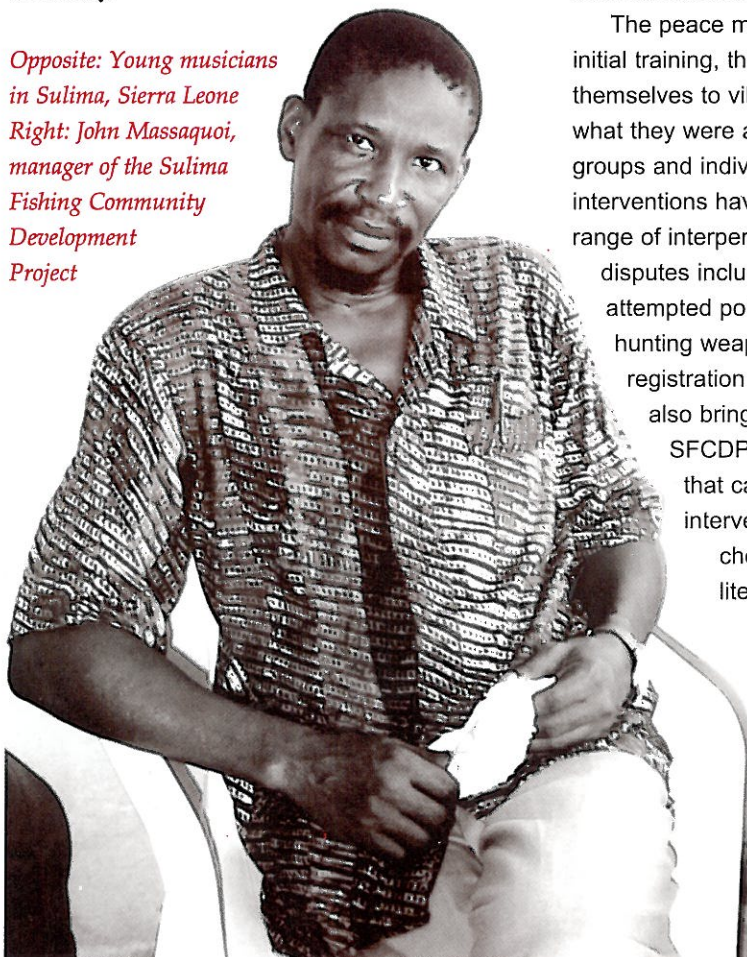
The instability within the region, difficulties of communication and transport, forced evacuations and other staff movements, stresses within partner organisations, and the reluctance of some donors to fund peacebuilding activities in such volatile



circumstances had negative impacts on CR's regional programming in 1998. Despite these difficulties, CR managed to maintain a level of support to existing project partners, explore new approaches and continue to liaise with local and international NGOs, governments and other interested parties.

The closing months of 1998 saw a determined counter-offensive by members of the guerrilla Revolutionary United Front and their allies, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, that drove pro-government forces out of the northwest of the country towards the capital. Elsewhere in the country, pro-government forces were no more successful in neutralising the RUF and AFRC, particularly in diamond mining areas adjacent to Sierra Leone's borders with Liberia and Guinea. In the early morning hours of 6 January 1999, elements of the guerrilla forces infiltrated Freetown. The attack triggered three weeks of fighting for the capital that saw hundreds of atrocities committed, claimed an estimated five thousand lives and destroyed large areas of the city.

*Opposite: Young musicians in Sulima, Sierra Leone*  
*Right: John Massaquoi, manager of the Sulima Fishing Community Development Project*



## Sulima

Throughout 1998, the Sulima team, working in extremely difficult conditions within Liberia and then Sierra Leone, continued to merge the promotion of peace and long-term reconciliation with practical crisis intervention and reconstruction and rehabilitation work in war-devastated communities. In 1998, the SFCDP was the only organisation systematically practicing community-based conflict resolution on the ground in southern Sierra Leone. This was possible, in part, because of the isolation of the area and because fighting was focused in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and Freetown.

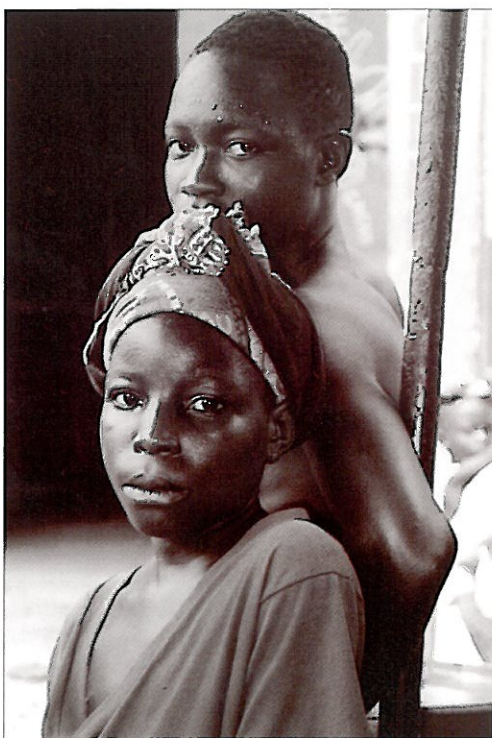
Team activities involved: training and deployment of community peace monitors in three chiefdoms; discussions with community groups on peace and reconciliation, community institutions and elections; and resolution of disputes among militia members and civilians. Group discussions with civil militia members focused on human rights, communal responsibilities, peace and reconciliation issues.

The peace monitor system has involved initial training, the monitors presenting themselves to village leaders and discussing what they were attempting to accomplish with groups and individuals. Subsequent interventions have sought to deal with a wide range of interpersonal and community disputes including debt repayment, attempted poisoning, possession of hunting weapons, and conflicts over registration for relief food. The monitors also bring to the attention of the SFCDP team emerging problems that call for higher level intervention. The monitors were chosen on the basis of being literate and respected within their local communities.

In the general community meetings, participants discuss causes of violent conflict in the country, community conflicts and possible responses. In the

area, people describe the root causes of the war as poverty, abuse of power, greed, discrimination, injustice, ignorance, illiteracy, lack of patriotism, corruption, disrespect, favouritism and nepotism. To prevent future conflict, they suggest that there is a need to alleviate poverty, promote opportunities for education, encourage respect for the rule of law, as well as for accountability and transparency. To ensure that civil militia members have a good understanding of their social responsibilities, the SFCDP initiated a series of civic education workshops.

*Right:  
Sierra Leonean  
child refugees  
in Liberia*



*Below:  
CR Regional  
Co-ordinator  
Frances Fortune  
and community  
activist  
Aloysius Allieu  
return to the  
Bo office*



## Media support

The Freetown-based media was hard hit by the ongoing violence, destruction and uncertainty throughout the year. Planning for the first of a series of four workshops for the media restarted with the restoration of the Kabbah government and, with support from the US Institute for Peace, thirty-five participants from the capital and the provinces gathered in Freetown in October to examine the role of the media in the consolidation of peace and democracy. The workshop was facilitated by Michael Wolfers, a British journalist and media trainer with experience in more than thirty African countries, and Jannie Botes from South Africa, who teaches in the Conflict Resolution programme at George Mason University in the USA. It engaged journalists and managers in debate with senior military and government officials and with development and media experts. Subjects broached were the media's relation to the military, justice and reconciliation, media practices and ethics, conflict analysis and conflict reporting. It also provided practical skills training through the production of issue briefs and initiated thinking about the establishment of a professional mentoring system. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to re-examine and discuss their roles in the Sierra Leone conflict as individuals, media professionals and as opinion leaders.

## Youth in crisis

In June, the joint CR-ActionAid-UNICEF Youth in Crisis project was officially launched in Freetown. The ceremony led directly into a five-day programme review that brought together government officials, representatives of several dozen NGOs, educators, youth representatives and others to provide more input into the project and publicise it. Consultant James Vincent has ably represented CR on the project management team, as well as playing a key role in planning and implementation of the project. Ambrose James has been crucial in organising, animating and reporting on the on-site consultations with hundreds of youths.

Funded by the World Bank, ActionAid, UNICEF and the Canada Fund, the project carried out a total of twenty-one consultations in three locations — Freetown, Bo and Kenema — before the end of the year, despite the deteriorating security situation in many parts of the country.

The assessment process encouraged young people to articulate the problems they were facing and assess the opportunities to address them. Conflict and conflict resolution in general, and political and tribal polarisation in particular, were key topics, as were the abuse of young people, corruption and lack of educational and employment opportunities. In its year-end report the project team concluded that it had become apparent through the consultations that 'peacebuilding initiatives are ... crucial to the successful implementation of development projects in post-conflict Sierra Leone'. However, with the assault on Freetown in January 1999 and increased insecurity, the consultative process and implementation of micro-projects was temporarily suspended.

### **Militia-civilian relations**

In June and July, West Africa Programme Advisor Ron Fennell assisted two community activists in Bo, Aloysius Allieu and Sam Mokuwa, in the development of a programme to provide the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and local civil authorities in rural Sierra Leone with basic peacebuilding skills. A series of chieftom-level consultations would help assess attitudes to such issues as civilian control of security forces and possible compensation for militia members, and provide government with an appraisal of local security concerns and capacities. One expected outcome of the process is reliable and timely information for the planning of demobilisation and reintegration schemes for CDF members.

### **Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement**

In the face of the turbulent situation throughout much of the country, community activists in Bo have revived the Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement, an *ad hoc* organisation made up of fourteen local NGOs, Christian and Islamic leaders, youth

organisers, market traders, lorry drivers and others, that was formed in 1996 with support from CR. In October, key members of the movement reconvened and agreed to work towards addressing some of the most pressing problems facing the Bo community — increased poverty and deep divisions between segments of the community — as a starting point for laying the foundation for social reintegration and sustained peace.

In the short term, the objectives of the Movement are: to encourage civic groups to play an active role in peace education and reconciliation; strengthen the coping mechanisms of civic groups affected by the war; publicly promote forgiveness of former fighters; train peace monitors; and educate communities on government initiatives for reintegration.

### **Conflict resolution support**

To consolidate and learn from the experiences of CR and project partners in Sierra Leone, a workshop was organised in Bo in December by CR Regional Programme Co-ordinator Frances Fortune and Christian Council of Sierra Leone Co-ordinator Florella Hazeley. The principal objectives were to share information and experiences of conflict work in Sierra Leone, analyse and gain a better understanding of causes of conflict, improve skills for handling conflict and begin to establish co-operative working relationships between various organisations. With financial support from Christian Aid, members of the Sulima peacebuilding team, officials and trainers from the Christian Council of Sierra Leone, CR and ActionAid staff working on the Youth in Crisis project, members of the Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement, Civil Defence Force members and others met for four days of intense analysis and learning exercises based on participants' knowledge and experiences. Facilitated by Paul Clifford of Responding to Conflict and John Massaquoi of the SFCDP, the participants identified training needs such as: strategies and skills in peacebuilding; community development; monitoring; traditional resolution strategies; development, peace and civic education initiatives; data collection; and analysis skills.

# Liberia

**O**wing to the turmoil and uncertainty in Sierra Leone, CR looked to Liberia as a relatively stable anchor for regional programming in 1998. With Frances Fortune evacuated to Monrovia in mid-1997 because of the coup in Sierra Leone and increased levels of violence throughout that country, CR was able to provide direct support to the Liberian Women Initiative (LWI) and Sierra Leonean refugees within Liberia, particularly members of the displaced Sulima Fishing Community Development project team.

At the beginning of 1998, LWI completed development of its Bridges to Peace programme, which is aimed at mobilising Liberian women as post-war bridge-builders at the national and community levels. Key programming objectives are:

- to identify women to serve as peacemakers in urban and rural communities
- build the skills of women activists to intervene in the constructive transformation of conflict or potential conflicts in their communities
- to provide training for women to be in a better position to seek genuine reconciliation in their communities
- to raise awareness of the need for dialogue at the national and community levels for meaningful reconciliation

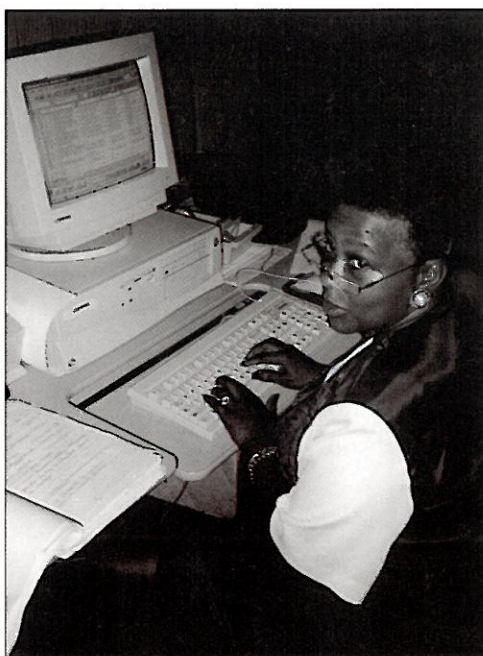
LWI also sought to continue to provide voter education programming in anticipation of municipal and chieftaincy elections in 1998.

However, by mid-year general levels of insecurity within Monrovia and elsewhere in the country, lack of movement on the part of the Liberian government to adequately fund the elections, intimidation of LWI members and other members of civil society, and internal problems within LWI conspired to delay project implementation. LWI Secretary General Etweda Cooper was briefly detained by government security forces in July after publicly seeking information on the

disappearance of a prominent woman activist. In September, fighting in Monrovia between government supporters and those of former warlord Roosevelt Johnson left dozens of people dead and caused widespread panic. An LWI meeting in downtown Monrovia was abandoned when the fighting erupted. The offices of CR consultant Medina Wesseh were looted and cash, telephone, fax and computer stolen.

Meanwhile, frictions among LWI members that had stalled programme implementation were slowly coming to a head. With the active support of a number of Liberian civil society organisations and CR, LWI moved to confront its structural problems and their consequences. By the end of the year, the organisation was back on track and planning for its first constitutional convention. That convention eventually took place in February 1999 and saw the election of a full executive slate, adoption of a constitution and bylaws. The organisation also rededicated itself to promoting and supporting the empowerment of Liberian women and the entrenchment of democracy in Liberia through active engagement in peacebuilding.

*Etweda Cooper, Secretary General of the Liberian Women Initiative*



## Grassroots peacebuilding

**I**n August, the Sulima peacebuilding team convened a peace and civic education meeting in Zimmi Town in the remote south of Sierra Leone, not far from the Liberian border. The excerpt below of the project team's report provides a glimpse of grassroots peacebuilding in a country at war.

There was a conflict between a Kamajor (civil militia member) and the Regent Chief of Makpele Chiefdom, which was brought up by the Kamajor. The complaint was about a house the Kamajor was asked to vacate. The house allegedly was to be used as a clinic for the benefit of the community. As there were no other suitable houses to serve as a clinic, the Chief decided to ask the Kamajor to vacate the house. But the Kamajor was offended by the Chief's action and wrote him a letter, challenging him and the elders by demanding why he should vacate the house.

The Kamajor alleged that the Chief and elders were trying to evict them from houses in Zimmi, which civil militia fought to liberate from the Revolutionary United Front and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council forces. The Kamajor refused to vacate the house because his family's house had been burned down by the junta forces. He accused the Chief of being a junta collaborator because the house had been used by the junta forces.

A committee made up of the head of the peace monitors, three civilians, including a woman, two police officers, two Kamajors and an ECOMOG officer was set up by the Project Co-ordinator. Because of the gravity of the problem, the committee immediately went to work.

The head of the peace monitors asked that the letter written by the Kamajor be read out ... In the letter, the Kamajor alleged that the Chief had served the junta and was against serving the Civil Defence Force. The Kamajors were being asked to vacate the houses they occupied because of the Chief was a collaborator. The Kamajor then challenged the Chief, elders and other local authorities to justify asking him and other Kamajors to vacate the houses ...

The head of the peace monitors asked both parties whether they wanted this conflict resolved by the newly established committee. Both sides agreed.

The Chief explained that he had asked the Kamajor to leave the house because it was the only one suitable for a clinic for the benefit of all in the area, and for no other reasons. The head of the peace monitors, recalling the Kamajor's letter, said it was harsh, threatening and disrespectful. He argued that it would have been better if the Kamajor had approached the Chief and elders in a respectful manner to find a solution to the problem ...

A member of the committee, a police officer, reminded the Kamajors that the CDF was formed and financed by civilians in their respective chiefdoms to enable their children to defend their areas. Since the Kamajors are not governors of the people, they must learn to respect and obey the people in order to get the blessings they now yearn for.

The chief and elders said that they had no intention of evicting any Kamajor from other houses because they had done a good job as was expected of them. The Chief claimed that he and the elders had always wanted good relations with the civil militia.

However, it was concluded that the Kamajor, in writing such a letter to his Chief and elders, had shown disrespect and defied civil authority. The Kamajor, looking apologetic after realising his mistakes, went and knelt down before the Chief and the elders. The Chief and elders were asked to find another house for the Kamajor within a month. This was accepted by the Chief and elders as an acceptable resolution of the problem. Other Kamajors were asked to report to the Chief whoever threatened to evict them from the houses they occupy. The conflict was thus resolved.

# African media and conflict

## Consultation

In May and June 1998, CR Programme Associate Abiodun Onadipe and Peter Du Toit, from South Africa's Ecumenical Media Centre, conducted an intensive consultation on African conflict and the media, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The consultation focused on the role that the media, individual journalists and media organisations could and should play in situations of armed conflict or potential violence, as well as on their needs and action necessary to enable the media to fulfil their desired role.

The project was designed and implemented in collaboration with three partner organisations in Africa: the West African Association of Journalists (WAJA) in Ghana; the Press Union of Liberia (PUL); and the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM). Other organisations involved were the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), the Gambian Press Union and the Tanzanian Media Institute.

The assessment included three facilitated regional meetings in Accra (Ghana), Monrovia (Liberia) and Lusaka (Zambia), attended by journalists from the Gambia, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria, from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and from Zambia, respectively. Participants included people working for state-owned, independent media, print as well as radio, experienced senior editors and their junior colleagues, men and women.

The process resulted in a detailed report, including recommendations which were taken up in a three-year programme proposal. From among the round-table participants, specific reports were commissioned in order to supplement and revise CR's original *African Media and Conflict* paper, which was circulated along

*Counting of votes at the municipal elections on Lagos Island, Nigeria, 5 December 1998*





*Participants at the Election coverage workshop for journalists, Enugu, Nigeria, January 1999*

with the consultation report for further comments and debate, and is now available on CR's website.

## Election coverage workshops in Nigeria

The sudden death of Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, in June 1998 created the space for international agencies to engage more directly with media and other organisations in Nigeria. At their request, CR supported a group of Nigerian NGOs — the Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Advocacy, Academic Associates PeaceWorks, and the Independent Journalism Centre, working in collaboration with the Nigerian Union of Journalists — in the organisation of a professional training programme on election coverage for print journalists. Funding was provided by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

One-week workshops were held in December 1998 and January 1999 in four cities, each catering for fifty senior journalists from different parts of the country: Abuja (Middle Belt and North Central), Kaduna (North), Lagos (South West) and Enugu (South and East). CR's Abiodun Onadipe and Guus Meijer, and consultant Michael Rose constituted the external resource people. In each workshop they were joined by Nigerian trainers Ralph Ekeh, Bilikisu Yusuf, Shedrack

### Pointers for quality election coverage drafted by participants in the ELECTION COVERAGE WORKSHOP Kaduna, Nigeria, December 1998

*Acknowledging that Nigerian journalists operate in a peculiar social, political and economic environment, the following have been agreed to:*

The role of reporters in an election is to guide voters toward the goal of making informed choices about the future direction of the country and who is to represent them.

The media should play a watchdog role in an election, helping to ensure that procedures and regulations are widely known and adhered to.

Reporters should be balanced, bold and knowledgeable in their presentation of the facts, avoiding sensationalism and making a clear distinction between reportage, commentary and analysis.

Reporters should be well aware of their own personal, political, family, religious, ethnic and gender biases and strive to rise above them.

All parties and players should be given fair coverage during the campaign, but a sustained effort should also be made to provide information about the integrity and past record of party leaders and candidates.

Seek credible sources for all information and any voting results.

Material should be presented using clear and precise language that will allow voters to fully understand the issues and facts being presented.

Media proprietors and senior editors should be encouraged to shield their reporters from intimidation, censorship and other impediments to carrying out their duties.

Reporters should resist pressure from any quarter to suppress or alter facts. They must not accept or condone inducements aimed at influencing coverage and they should exercise caution in accepting corporate or government assistance in meeting expenses incurred on their assignments.

The media should strive for the ideal by identifying national problems and goals, and ascertaining through facts how these are to be addressed.

Confidence, dignity, good taste and finesse should be apparent in all election coverage.

Best, Ozonnia Ojielo, and by guest speakers. WAJA President Kabral Blay-Amihere was a guest speaker at the first workshop. Besides political and professional issues relating to election coverage, participants looked into their role as journalists with regard to conflict and violence. At the end of each workshop a list of 'Pointers for Quality Election Coverage' was drafted. Concrete plans were made with some of the partner organisations for follow-up activities.

# Fiji

## New constitution

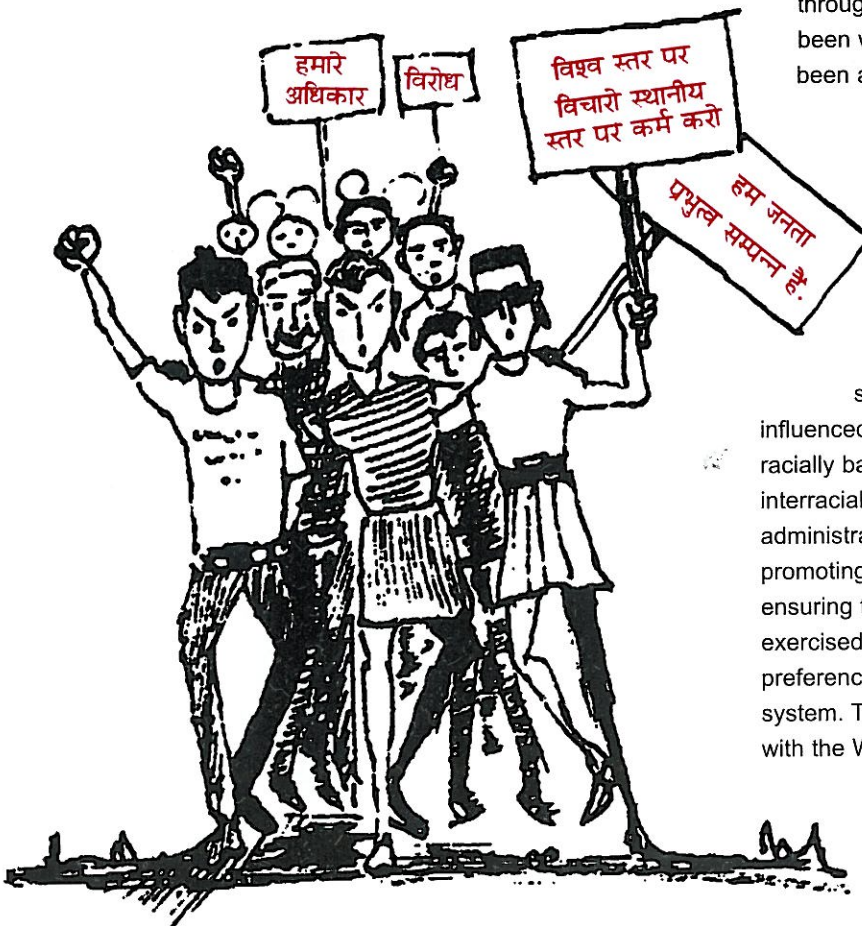
**C**R's long-standing project partner in Fiji, the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF), had another dynamic year in 1998. After playing a lead role in promoting civil society involvement in the constitutional review process, which culminated in the constitutional settlement of July 1997, the CCF sought to help consolidate the democratic gains in this new constitution. This has involved popular education work, promoting a deeper understanding of the 1997 constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, as well as advancing a popular understanding of the new electoral system. The CCF has continued to promote state-civil society dialogue through popular consultations on draft legislation stemming from the review process. The organisation also

entered a new phase in its organisational development, which involved working in closer co-operation with the Fiji government, as well as the appointment of two new Directors to the programme, Reverend Akuila Yabaki and Professor Yash Ghai.

## Your Constitution, Your Rights

The cartoon-illustrated booklet, *Your Constitution, Your Rights*, developed, produced and distributed by the CCF in association with CR, was formally launched in February 1998 by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka. In collaboration with the Methodist Church, the booklet was translated into Fijian and Hindi. It has been widely distributed and is currently being used in schools throughout the country. The booklet has been widely praised and CR has since been approached to promote similar initiatives in other parts of the world.

The CCF also undertook a significant amount of work to help the government and NGOs prepare Fiji's electorate for the parliamentary elections in May 1999. The new system, whose design was heavily influenced by external advisors, is still largely racially based but is intended to de-escalate interracial tensions and deliver a multi-ethnic administration. The CCF was committed to promoting these positive outcomes as well as ensuring that the voters fully understood and exercised their option to use graded preferences under an 'alternative vote' system. The CCF worked in collaboration with the WAC Theatre Group on an educational drama on these themes. They also worked with the Supervisor of Elections on

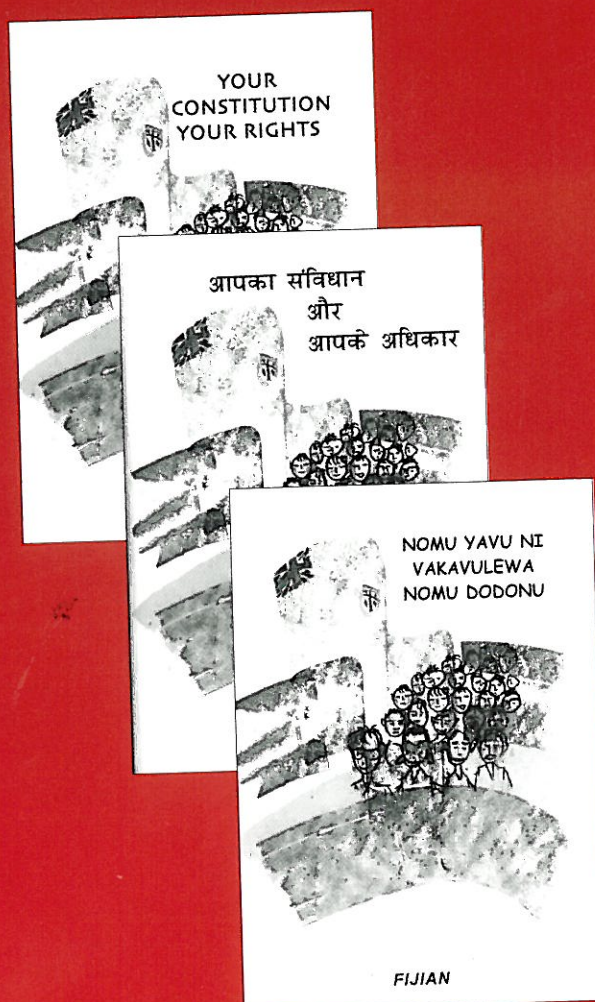
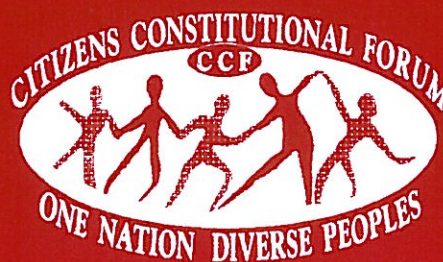


the production and use of a voter education kit, producing and disseminating educational posters and leaflets, and running workshops of their own.

In collaboration with the Institute of Justice and Applied Legal Studies at the University of the South Pacific, the CCF convened an international consultation on 'The Importance of National Human Rights Institutions'. This was organised in part to raise awareness in Fiji of the importance of the proposed Human Rights Commission and partly to flesh out a CCF submission to the Attorney General on civic concerns about the form and structure of the commission. The consultation was attended by the Prime Minister, the Ombudsman, the Leader of the Opposition and speakers from Amnesty International, the UN High Commission for Human Rights, and the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The CCF made a number of other submissions in order to ensure that new legislation would take account of popular concerns. Professor Yash Ghai gave the first of what will become an annual lecture on human rights entitled 'The Implementation of the Fiji Islands Constitution'.

Following the constitutional settlement, Fiji is faced with the challenge of defining its own approaches to the prevention of racism and the promotion of multiculturalism. The CCF has been working with education boards, other NGOs and the Ministry of Education on researching and developing a series of curriculum modules for twelve- to fourteen-year-olds. Drawing on its experience in producing public education materials, the CCF is focusing on issues of citizenship, understanding the new constitution and cross-cultural issues. As in other areas of work, the CCF has drawn on comparable international experiences and benefited, via CR, from the support of the International Centre for Intercultural Studies at the University of London. This work was featured in a World Council of Churches 'Peace to the City' campaign and video and will continue to be a major strand of the work of the CCF.

For the CCF itself, 1998 was a year of transition. With the appointment of two programme directors, the organisation sought to raise financial support for a continued programme of work on the themes of multiculturalism, human rights and strengthening democratic institutions. It has been mutually agreed that this new phase of activities should continue to increase the self-sufficiency of the CCF and reduce the active support role of CR.



# The Caucasus

In 1998, the Caucasus became a new area of work for CR. The violent conflicts of the early- to mid-1990s are sores which continue to fester on the body politic of the region. Societies are only partially coming to terms with the notion that democracy in multi-ethnic regions means participation in decision-making by diverse constituencies, the airing of different views and potentially increased levels of social and political dissonance. Undoubtedly, ways in which difference, ethnic or otherwise, is handled in

*'It was important that the workshop focused on the needs of Abkhaz NGOs and didn't see the problems of our society through the prism of Georgian-Abkhaz relations. For the first workshop, we decided to separate issues of third sector development from those of the resolution of the overall conflict.'*

Liana Kvarchelia,  
UNV community  
facilitator in Abkhazia

societies undergoing political and economic transition will have a significant impact on whether or not democratic processes will flourish or succumb to persistent instability.

CR began work in the Caucasus as a result of a series of informal consultations conducted by Programme Associate Jonathan Cohen on joining the organisation at the end of 1997. In the course of 1998 he made several field visits, during which he discussed the current plans, aspirations and potential need for

external support with a range of individuals and organisations in the region. The first concrete projects to be taken up related to the conflict over Abkhazia.

Since the war in 1992-93, relations between Georgia and Abkhazia have been volatile. In May 1998, there was a brief resumption of hostilities. Negotiations between the Abkhaz authorities (not recognised by the international community) and the Georgian government have been mediated by the UN and Russian Federation since 1993. These negotiations have fluctuated between periods of fruitful dialogue

and complete stalemate. Although there has been movement on some issues, there is little common ground for a resolution of the basic dispute on the political status of Abkhazia. The Abkhaz demand sovereignty and an equal rather than subordinate relationship between Sukhumi (the Abkhaz capital, called Sukhum by the Abkhaz), and Tbilisi, and talk of confederation. The Georgians are prepared to grant autonomy within an asymmetric federation. There is a further stumbling block: Georgia requires a safe return of the 150,000 to 200,000 people displaced by the conflict before the issue of Abkhazia's status can be resolved, whereas the Abkhaz authorities demand a determination of the political and legal status of Abkhazia before the issue of IDPs can be resolved, fearing that the pre-war demography would leave the Abkhaz in a minority within Abkhazia.

One of the main objectives of CR's work in the region is to assist the development of local NGOs which are grappling with the severe socio-economic and political consequences of the conflict. Another important objective is to expand the space for dialogue and discussion within Abkhaz society by facilitating the provision of resources and access to information through workshops, internships and training opportunities abroad, and the provision of literature. The development of the capacities of civil society and its influence on political life is part of an effort to bridge the gap between high politics and broad social constituencies within both Georgia and Abkhazia and to broaden discussion about non-violent options. A major problem is that in both societies ordinary people and politicians appear divorced from one another. Furthermore, people at both levels, in Abkhazia and Georgia, all too often base their judgements of the other side on minimal information and contact.

In November 1998, a capacity-building workshop for NGOs was conducted in Pitsunda, Abkhazia with the Centre for

Humanitarian Programmes (CHP), and in collaboration with United Nations Volunteers (UNV). The workshop was facilitated by Liana Kvarchelia, UNV Community Facilitator, Arda Inal-Ipa and Batal Kobakhia, of CHP, and CR's Jonathan Cohen. In addition, Martin Schümer, the UNV Co-ordinator in Georgia, who has been an indispensable point of contact for local and international NGOs and other agencies involved in the region since 1996, helped to organise and attended the workshop. Twenty people from twelve different Abkhaz groups and organisations participated in the workshop. In the words of Arda Inal-Ipa, 'Although NGOs in Abkhazia are a recent development, they bring together the most active part of the community — people responding immediately to the needs of society, generating fresh ideas and offering new approaches in dealing with the post-war situation.'

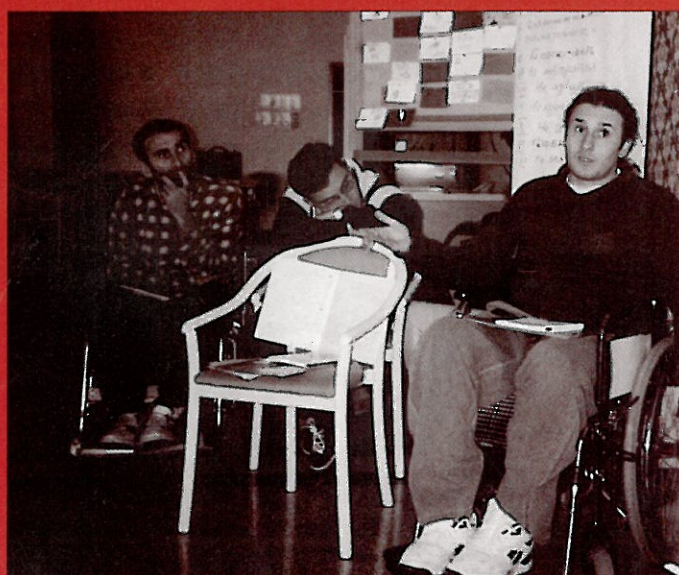
Workshop participants were encouraged to use their own experiences as a basis for learning. Discussion centred on what people in civil organisations can do for social reconstruction during socio-economic and political transition and in the aftermath of violent conflict. The roots of Abkhazia's isolation may lie in politics, but the psychological, social and economic impact is also enormous, feeding back into the political atmosphere in which negotiations occur. The initiatives of NGOs and their attempts to provide social services are crucial, especially since the authorities are unable to meet all needs. NGOs provide openings to discuss diverse issues such as youth, the environment, trauma relief, unemployment, agricultural development, drug abuse, education and health care. Elsewhere in Abkhaz society there is currently very little space for this. Moreover, representatives of these NGOs are some of the few people in Abkhaz society maintaining or establishing contacts with NGOs in Georgia and organisations elsewhere in the Caucasus, as well as internationally based organisations.

Supporting dialogue and reconciliation initiatives between the conflicting parties is an important strategy, but it is equally important to assist NGOs, particularly in Abkhazia, to play an expanding role in the development of their society. In Georgia, the

development of NGOs has been under way for several years, producing one of the most vibrant civil societies in the former Soviet Union.

A second workshop for NGOs in Abkhazia, which focused on conflict resolution, took place in the spring of 1999, while several workshops for journalists are planned for the first half of the year. A larger programme relating to the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict is being developed in collaboration with the local UNV office and others. Discussions in relation to work elsewhere in the Caucasus and central Asia are being explored.

*Participants in the Pitsunda workshop*



*Among the participants in the Pitsunda workshop were war veterans who have established the Association for Spinal Disabilities*

# Accord

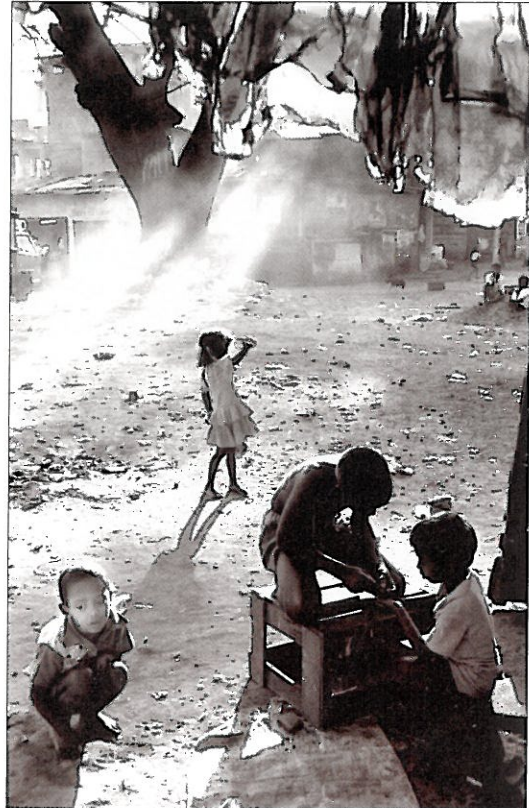
## *An International Review of Peace Initiatives*

### Guatemala

After the publication in December 1997 of *Negotiating Rights: The Guatemalan Peace Process*, the second issue of *Accord*, Co-editor Rachel Sieder represented CR at the launch of its Spanish-language version at a conference in Guatemala City in January 1998. The event, organised by the Facultad Latino-Americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO-Guatemala) and attended by all major parties of the country's long war and following peace process, proved to be very timely for the debate on consolidation and strengthening of the ongoing peace process. The issue was published as volume 38 of FLACSO's Cuadernos de Debate series.

### Mozambique

*The Mozambican Peace Process in Perspective* was published in January 1998. The issue documents the negotiated settlement which brought to a close thirty years of warfare in Mozambique. In addition to the complete text of the General Peace Agreement and other primary documents, it contains analysis on regional diplomacy,



*Above: Shanty town in Kandy, Sri Lanka  
Below: A family home burned down by Renamo,  
Gaza Province, Mozambique, 1989*



church mediation, financial incentives, and healing and reconstruction, written in part by people directly involved in these issues. It was launched in London at a reception in April at the Royal Commonwealth Society, co-hosted with the Mozambican High Commission and the *Journal of Southern African Studies*. A Portuguese-language version of part of the material is to be published in *Arquivo Histórico*, the journal of the Mozambican National Archive at the University of Maputo. The publication of the Mozambique issue caused a stir in the pages of the Mozambican and Zimbabwean press. Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama felt it necessary to deny the hard evidence of financial payments by Lonhro and the Italian government reported in Alex Vines' article.

## Sri Lanka

Issue number 4, on Sri Lanka, was published in August 1998 under the title *Demanding Sacrifice: War & Negotiation in Sri Lanka*. It contains selected texts and agreements from the war and peace process, including letters exchanged between President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge and the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Velupillai Pirabhakaran, plus background articles on government peace strategies, constitutional reform, popular Buddhism and Tamil aspirations.

It was a challenge to the Accord programme to discuss and document a conflict, which, although having a long history of political settlements made and broken, has not reached even a pre-negotiation phase. The issue sought to take an even-handed editorial position providing both analysis of the conflict to date and insights on past negotiation efforts in an effort to sketch an outline of the process and form of a possible settlement. The issue was well and critically received in and outside of Sri Lanka.

In the course of its preparation in 1997 and 1998 by issue editor Liz Philipson, a series of consultations and workshops were convened. Participants included Tamil nationalists and government supporters, as well as independent voices, who were

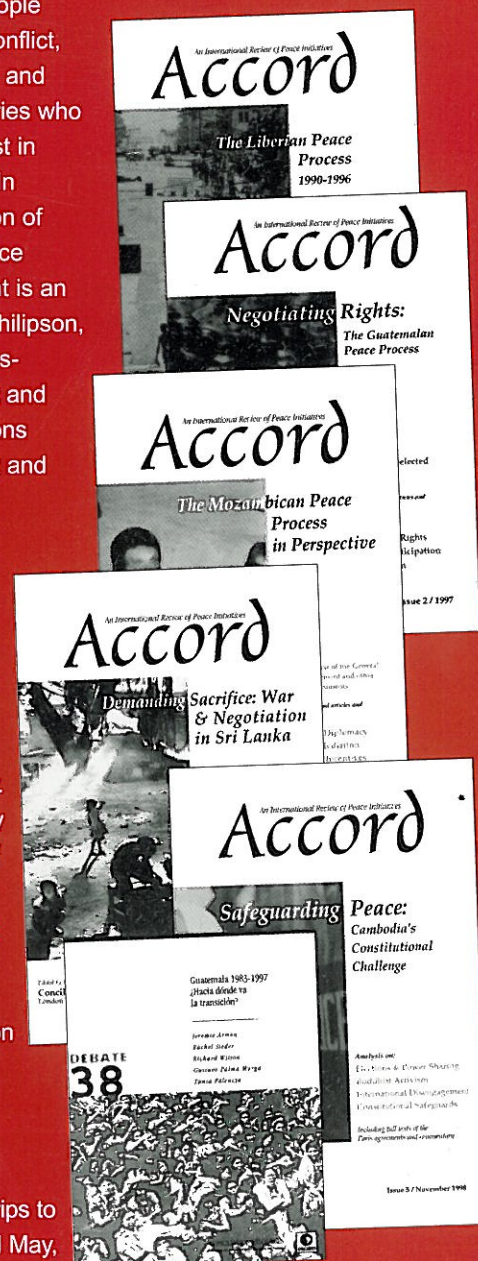
brought together to analyse the dynamics of the situation. These exchanges and other meetings in and outside Sri Lanka fed into the papers contained in the *Accord* issue.

CR has agreed with the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies to produce and distribute the Sinhala and Tamil editions of *Accord* in 1999. Public libraries and NGOs are the primary targets for distribution.

As part of editing the *Accord* issue, Liz Philipson undertook an extensive series of interviews with people who have been directly involved in past negotiations. During the course of writing and publishing *Accord* a mass of normally inaccessible source material was collected. CR decided that it would be useful to issue this to people directly involved in the conflict, both the principal parties and representatives of countries who have indicated an interest in mediation or facilitation. In addition to the compilation of documents in this resource dossier, a key component is an extended essay by Liz Philipson, which provides a 'process-oriented' analysis of past and possible future negotiations between the government and the LTTE.

## Cambodia

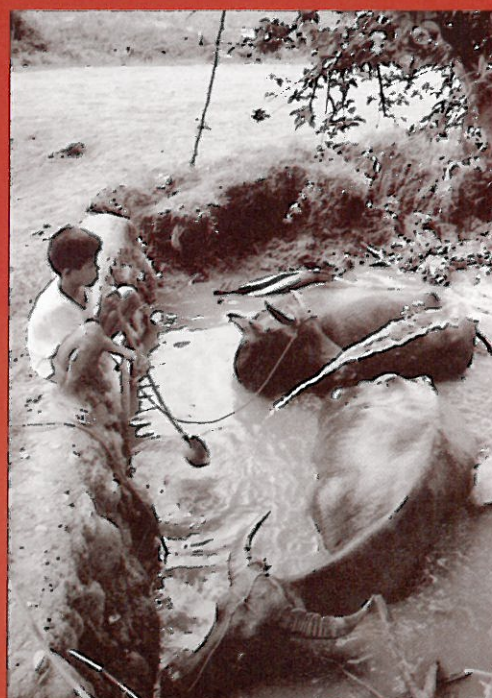
Issue number 5, *Safeguarding Peace: Cambodia's Constitutional Challenge* was published in October. It consists of some twenty articles, more than half of them written by Cambodians. It highlights the need for a greater emphasis by the international community on 'institution-based' rather than 'personality-based' peacebuilding initiatives. The issue editor, Dylan Hendrickson, made two trips to Cambodia in January and May,





during which he conducted research, commissioned articles and provided editorial assistance to local contributing authors. He also established a partnership for the purposes of the project with two local institutions.

A Cambodian English-language edition of *Accord* was produced by the *Phnom Penh Post* and distributed to members of the new government, local and international development agencies and NGOs, the local and international press, the diplomatic community, student groups and academics in Cambodia and Thailand. This distribution will continue in 1999. A Khmer-language issue is currently being produced by the Khmer Institute for Democracy and will be distributed in 1999. A seminar in Phnom Penh to discuss the issues raised will coincide with the publication of the Khmer edition.



*Top: Buddhist monks and tank, Cambodia  
Bottom: Boy washing water buffalo, Mindanao*

## Philippines–Mindanao

Issue 6 of *Accord*, *Compromising on Autonomy: Mindanao in Transition*, published in early 1999, considers the difficulties faced in implementing the 1996 peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front in Mindanao. Issue editor Mara Stankovich, an independent researcher who has worked in and around the Philippines for some years, spent three weeks in the region in October

1998 following up authors' contributions and explaining the work of *Accord*. This was done through a series of meetings with both government officials and members and commentators on the Moro situation. Throughout, CR worked closely with The Peace Education Center at Notre Dame University and The Research and Development Center at Mindanao State University, who helped to identify and provide authors. Supplemental funding permitting,

Accord also plans to support these two organisations in convening three review seminars to be held in Mindanao on the faltering peace process, using this and other *Accord* issues as a resource. Translation and production of five local language editions, possibly in formal and 'popular' formats, form part of our partners' plans.

### Georgia-Abkhazia

In conjunction with his other work in the Caucasus, CR Programme Associate Jonathan Cohen met potential authors to discuss the forthcoming issue on the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict, introducing earlier *Accord* issues to those directly involved in the peace process and gathering more documentation. It is hoped that the *Accord* programme will become a framework for more active forms of involvement and information exchange at the heart of a peace process.

### Distribution

Individuals and organisations with a direct involvement in peace initiatives or similar processes, either as protagonists or as third parties, continue to be the target readership for subscription and subsidised copies. Another priority has been making the series better known in policy-making and academic circles and expanding sales figures and paid subscriptions. We continue to receive orders and favourable feedback on past issues of *Accord* from readers world-wide. The texts of all issues of *Accord*, as well as other materials produced and distributed by CR, are freely available on CR's website. The address is <http://www.c-r.org>

### Independent evaluation

Richard Reoch was contracted to undertake an independent review of the first two years of the *Accord* programme, which was designed as a three-part process. After conducting extensive interviews with some of *Accord*'s readership, Richard wrote up a report that was tabled for discussion at a peer review meeting at the end of January 1999.

The third stage of the programme evaluation was an internal review which has resulted in the redefinition of the program and its priorities for another two years.

*'We find the Conciliation Resources material and Accord excellent. We use their publications on peace processes in our MA teaching on Conflict Resolution; for example we have a Beninois diplomat this year who was part of the ECOWAS group working on a peace settlement in Liberia; he is writing up an account of his diplomatic experience and found the Accord report on Liberia useful. Other students find the material useful too. We find it helps our own research on comparative peace processes, and it is useful background for thinking about our active peace-building project work on Kosovo.'*

Dr Hugh Miall, Richardson Institute for Peace Research, Lancaster University, UK

*'I have used the material in different training activities, as an instrument for discussing the dynamics of conflicts and the ways to build paths for reconciliation. The material provides an excellent example of how to put together all the "nuts and bolts" of a conflict in order to develop a sound analytical framework ... It has been extremely useful in the context of our work in the "Ecuador-Peru: Second Track Diplomatic Initiative".'*

Oscar Schiappa-Pietra, George Washington University, Washington DC, USA

# Project development and other activities

**A**s in previous years, CR staff were involved in a range of activities in addition to our own project and programme work. Jonathan Cohen completed his study on conflict prevention instruments in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) — part of a wider project undertaken by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'. The study will be published as part of the final report of this project, which is focused on West Africa, but looked at the OSCE and Central America as points of comparison. The different components were presented and discussed at a conference in Dakar, Senegal in October.

In June, Jonathan was asked to serve as external evaluator of a workshop on peacebuilding in Kosovo, held in Thessaloniki, Greece under the auspices of the Richardson Institute of Lancaster University. Subsequently, the UK Department for International Development requested his input in helping them develop their policy in relation to the unfolding Kosovo crisis. He also served as a resource person for a workshop in Northern Ireland, involving representatives from Moldova and Transdnistria organised by the Moldovan Initiative Committee of Management as part of its ongoing programme. From January to May, Jonathan taught a seminar on conflict and peace as part of the London School of Economics' International Relations Department Masters programme. He also sits as an external member on the advisory board of a British Know How Fund scheme for Russia — 'Partnerships in the Non-Profit Sector'.

Other activities relating to the Caucasus have included Jonathan's participation as a delegate on an Amnesty International mission to Georgia in May 1998; facilitating the visit

to London on a MacArthur research fellowship of Dr Dato Darchiashvili, of the Tbilisi-based Centre for Civil-Military Relations and Security Studies; and conducting the first phase of a context study of the work of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Georgia, which was completed in February 1999 in collaboration with the Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin, Germany.

In July, Co-Director Andy Carl travelled to Dhaka, Bangladesh to take part in a conference on the implementation of the peace agreement signed in December 1997 between the Bangladeshi government and the Jana Samhati Samiti from the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Towards the end of the year, Andy Carl was asked to help a group of Ugandans — Kacoke Madit — develop an initiative aimed at promoting Ugandan and Acholi participation in addressing the conflict in Northern Uganda between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army. The project received funding support in early 1999 and will be implemented by Kacoke Madit with CR's assistance.

Co-Director Guus Meijer continued his participation as a trainer/facilitator in the programme on 'Improving Inter-Ethnic Relations in Central and Eastern Europe', sponsored by the King Baudouin Foundation (Brussels, Belgium), national Soros Open Society Foundations, and others. A region-wide seminar was held in Bratislava, Slovakia in February and another one in November in Predeal, Romania. Guus also served as resource person for a meeting in Sweden organised by the Life & Peace Institute in Uppsala, in which a number of civil society representatives from Algeria came together for informal and exploratory discussions.

CR continued to participate in UK-based and international networks and platforms,

such as the Committee for Conflict Transformation Support (CCTS), the UK Network on Conflict, Development and Peace (CODEP), and the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation. The CCTS facilitated several field visits and training workshops in Croatia, strengthened collaboration and information-sharing between member organisations with regard to work in former Yugoslavia and in the Caucasus and organised two one-day workshops in London. The first workshop, in January, explored the personal and political obstacles

to the return of refugees and internally displaced people after violent conflict. The second was held in November and focused on the purpose and content of conflict resolution training, animated through a critical assessment by Judith Large. These and other activities were reported in the *CCTS Newsletter*, edited by David Lord and available on CR's website (at <http://www.c-r.org/ccts>). In 1998 CODEP established its own secretariat and appointed a co-ordinator. Andy Carl was co-opted onto the Executive Committee and also acts as the co-ordinator's line manager.

## Organisational development and staffing

In line with the steady expansion of CR's project and programme work, the number of staff is slowly growing. In order to further the professionalisation of all office operations and support the administrative and financial side of projects and programmes, Moira Blake was appointed as Administrator and Finance Officer in September. Office procedures and systems, including the computer network, are constantly being upgraded.

The Accord team has grown substantially in size. Programme Co-ordinator and Accord Series Editor Jeremy Armon left CR at the end of September to realise a long-harboured dream of returning to Africa. His successor is Laura Gibbons. Simon Finch joined the Accord team in October as Production Editor and the position of Marketing and Distribution Co-ordinator was filled at the beginning of 1999 with a job-share between Rebecca Abraham and Daniele Lamarche.

Several people working on specific projects, such as *Accord* Issue Editor Mara Stankovitch, were based at CR during the year, and other casual and temporary staff came in on an irregular basis for bookkeeping, computer support, graphic design, sales and distribution, and administrative support. The problems resulting from ten or more people using the office at any one time have been solved with the move to larger offices.

In March 1998, two new Council members were installed. Mischa Mills works as Information Officer at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London and was previously with UNESCO's Culture of Peace programme in Paris. Mark Bradbury is an independent consultant on issues related to development, relief and conflict, and has been associated with CR's West Africa programme practically from the start. In September, Dr. Norbert Ropers, Director of the Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management in Berlin, also joined the Board. Mark Hoffman replaced Cristina Sganga as Chair in June.

# CR Staff in 1998

**Rebecca Abraham** *Part-time Marketing and Distribution Co-ordinator of Accord since March 1998.* Before joining CR, Rebecca was Administrator of a church in London. Previously, she worked as a business consultant in Colombo, Sri Lanka and as an executive at the Central Bank of India in Chennai, India. She has also briefly written for an Indian newspaper. She is an Indian citizen and did a BA (Hons) and an MA in Economics at the University of Delhi. Languages other than English: Malayalam, Hindi and some Tamil, Sinhala and French.

**Jeremy Armon** *Accord Series Editor / Programme Manager until October 1998.* Between 1993 and 1996, Jeremy studied and worked at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex (MPhil). He did research on governance, conflict and pastoralism, and military/security establishments in Africa. Before joining CR, he worked in the policy department of Oxfam UK/Ireland, providing research and administrative support around conflict issues. His first degree, a BA (Hons) in Psychology and Sociology, is from the University of Leeds.

**Moirá Blake** *Administrator and Finance Officer since September 1998.* Before joining CR, Moirá worked as the Administrator/Fundraiser at the Migrant and Refugee Forum in London. Previously she was a Project Officer for an international women's organisation and has also worked for the Save the Children Fund in Hong Kong. She holds a BA (Hons) Social Science degree from the Polytechnic of Central London and an MA in Development Studies from SOAS.

**Andy Carl** *Founder and Co-Director of CR, with primary responsibility for the Fiji and Accord programmes.* From 1989 to 1994, Andy was Senior Programmes Co-ordinator for International Alert (London) on initiatives in Southern Africa, Sri Lanka, Western Europe (racism), Liberia, the Philippines, Colombia, Iraqi-Kurdistan and elsewhere. Previously, he was National Co-ordinator of the Central America Human Rights Committee UK (1986-89). He is a US citizen and was educated at the University of California at Berkeley (BA) and Trinity College, Dublin (MPhil).

**Jonathan Cohen** *Programme Associate.*

Jonathan joined CR after having served as Deputy Director of the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations in The Hague, working with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Previously, he worked as Programme Officer on the former Soviet Union at International Alert in London and as a consultant to the Peace Research Institute, Oslo and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, London. He has travelled extensively in the former Soviet republics and, in 1991, spent a year in Moscow doing oral history research. He holds a BA from the University of Bristol and Masters degrees from the University of Oxford and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London. Languages other than English: Russian.

**Simon Finch** *Production Editor of Accord since October 1998.* Simon was the Information Co-ordinator of the Press and Publications Department at Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London. Before joining CR he had been working on community arts projects in Northern Ireland.

**Frances Fortune** *Regional Programme Co-ordinator for West Africa, since March 1997, based in Bo, Sierra Leone.* Before joining CR, Frances worked as a consultant to UNICEF with the Children Living in Especially Difficult Circumstances programme and in support of the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare. Previously she worked with the European Union, Caritas/Concern Universal, GTZ Bo/Pujehun Rural Development Project, CUSO (The Gambia), and the FAO Women's Agricultural Project. She is a Canadian citizen and holds a BSc (Hons) from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Languages other than English: Krio, French.

**Laura Gibbons** *Accord Series Editor / Programme Manager since September 1998.* Laura joined CR from the Overseas Development Institute, where she was Editor of the Relief and Rehabilitation Network. From 1991 to 1995 she worked as Press Officer and Government Affairs Consultant with a UK and European Union focus, and as

Policy Officer for the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Northern Ireland, Lord Holme of Chesterland. She holds a BSc (Hons) in European Politics and French from the University of Manchester and an MA in European Administration from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Languages other than English: French.

**Dylan Hendrickson** *Issue Editor Accord Cambodia until October 1998.* Dylan joined CR as Co-editor of the Mozambique issue of *Accord* after a period of extensive research and writing about development and security issues for a number of international and UK-based agencies. Between 1991 and 1993 he served as an aide to Cambodia's Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh in the context of the UN-sponsored peace process. He holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Sussex. His research focus was on conflict issues in Mexico, Kenya, Nigeria and Cambodia. He was raised in Nigeria, is a US citizen and did his undergraduate studies in Seattle, USA and at the University of Aix/Marseille. Languages other than English: French, reasonable Danish and Hausa.

**Shanti Kar** *Bookkeeper.* Shanti was educated in West Bengal and in the UK and holds professional qualifications in computing (City and Guilds Computer Programming and Information Processing) and office systems (Hounslow Borough College). Previous positions have included Assistant Management Accountant with Cahners Exhibitions Ltd, Senior Accounts Clerk with Twoco Ltd and Computer Accounts Clerk with Sunbury Metal Pressing Ltd. Languages other than English: Hindi.

**David Lord** *Founder and Co-Director of CR, with primary responsibility for West Africa and the African Media and Conflict programme.* A Canadian citizen, David worked previously at the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in Ottawa, and as an editor and writer for a number of Canadian media organisations, including The Canadian Press news agency and *The Montreal Star*. Before helping to found CR, he was a consultant and researcher for International Alert. David is a graduate of Sir George Williams University (BA), the University of Western Ontario (DipJ) and has studied at the Centre Professionels des

Journalistes in Paris and the Canadian International Institute for Applied Negotiation in Ottawa. Languages other than English: French.

**Guus Meijer** *Co-Director, with specific responsibility for organisational development.* Guus was Chair of CR's Council from the start in 1994, and held positions of Training Officer at International Alert in London and INCORE, Northern Ireland, organising conflict resolution training programmes in different parts of the world. He worked as a researcher and lecturer in socio-linguistics in the Netherlands and in Mozambique and was Co-ordinator of the Eduardo Mondlane Foundation in Amsterdam. He is a Dutch citizen and a graduate of the University of Amsterdam and the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague (MA in Development Studies). Languages other than English: Dutch, Portuguese, French and German.

**Abiodun Onadipe** *Programme Associate, working specifically in the West Africa and the African Media and Conflict programmes.* Abbey is a specialist in conflict resolution and analysis and has researched and written extensively on democracy, government and conflict in Africa. He was a journalist for several years in Nigeria and has a doctorate degree in International Relations from the University of Kent at Canterbury. He is a Nigerian citizen. Languages other than English: Yoruba and French.

**Liz Philipson** *Issue Editor and Co-ordinator of Accord Sri Lanka until August 1998.* From 1993 to 1997, Liz worked as South Asia Programme Manager at International Alert. Previously (1983-93) she was a researcher and office manager for Jeremy Corbyn MP and before that she worked as an underwriter and claims assessor. She has held many positions in the British Labour Party and trade union movement. Currently, she is Chair of War on Want and a fellow of the Centre for the Study of Global Governance of the London School of Economics and Political Science. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from the University of the South Bank.

**Mara Stankovitch** *Issue Editor of Accord Mindanao since July 1998.* Mara is a freelance writer and editor based in London.

## Summarised statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 1998

| <b>INCOME (UK £)</b>                                  |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | <b>1998</b>    | <b>1997</b>    |
| <b>Unrestricted Grants</b>                            | <b>147,694</b> | <b>67,898</b>  |
| Bolton's Trust  | 85,000         | 20,000         |
| Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs                    | 25,000         | 25,000         |
| Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency | 37,694         | 22,898         |
| <b>Restricted (Project) Grants</b>                    | <b>429,106</b> | <b>285,302</b> |
| Accord  | 162,905        | 96,994         |
| Sierra Leone  | 78,318         | 77,059         |
| Liberia   | 47,027         | 60,851         |
| West Africa Briefing                                  | 11,475         |                |
| African Media and Conflict                            | 101,486        |                |
| Fiji  | 31,925         | 38,923         |
| Caucasus  | 7,445          |                |
| <b>Other Income</b>                                   | <b>31,109</b>  | <b>10,586</b>  |
| Consultancy Fees                                      | 19,209         | 9,932          |
| Accord Sales  | 2,964          | 654            |
| Interest Received                                     | 8,936          |                |
| <b>Total Income (A)</b>                               | <b>607,909</b> | <b>363,786</b> |

| <b>EXPENDITURE (UK £)</b>             |                |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Funded Projects and Programmes</b> | <b>407,009</b> | <b>281,268</b> |
| Accord                                | 160,107        | 92,082         |
| Sierra Leone                          | 78,245         | 75,033         |
| Liberia                               | 36,474         | 56,138         |
| West Africa Briefing                  |                | 11,475         |
| African Media and Conflict            | 100,210        |                |
| Fiji                                  | 24,721         | 46,540         |
| Caucasus                              | 7,252          |                |
| <b>Project Development</b>            | <b>77,069</b>  | <b>21,985</b>  |
| <b>Core</b>                           | <b>74,413</b>  | <b>36,984</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenditure (B)</b>          | <b>558,491</b> | <b>340,237</b> |

|                                     |               |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Balance at 31 December (A-B)</b> | <b>49,418</b> | <b>23,549</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 1998

| ASSETS AND LIABILITIES UK (£)          | 1998           | 1997          |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                    | <b>17,224</b>  | <b>15,906</b> |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                  |                |               |
| Cash at Bank                           | 151,948        | 59,866        |
| Debtors - Accrued Income               | 38,830         | 20,069        |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>            | <b>190,778</b> | <b>79,935</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                     |                |               |
| Creditors - Accrued Liabilities        | 40,707         | 30,671        |
| Deferred Income                        | 80,768         | 28,061        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>               | <b>121,475</b> | <b>58,732</b> |
| <b>Current Assets Less Liabilities</b> | <b>69,303</b>  | <b>21,203</b> |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                      | <b>86,527</b>  | <b>37,109</b> |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                           |                |               |
| <b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>       | <b>53,353</b>  | <b>29,847</b> |
| General Reserve Fund                   | 33,353         |               |
| Designated Fund                        | 20,000         |               |
| <b>Restricted Income Funds</b>         | <b>33,174</b>  | <b>7,262</b>  |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                     | <b>86,527</b>  | <b>37,109</b> |

These summarised accounts have been extracted from the full audited accounts of Conciliation Resources for the year ended 31 December 1998 and they may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information copies of the full audited accounts can be obtained from Conciliation Resources. The full audited accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27 March 1999 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

Auditors' Report on the summarised accounts of Conciliation Resources for the year ended 31 December 1998:

*'We have examined the summarised accounts which have been extracted from the full audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998. In our opinion the summarised accounts are consistent with the full audited accounts.'*

Ramon Lee & Partners, Registered Auditors,  
Chartered Accountants, New Roman House,  
10 East Road, London N1 6BG

## Notes on summarised accounts 1998

- **Project Development** CR's Council has elected to set aside a part of unrestricted income to cover initial expenditure on projects or initiatives for which external funding has not yet been received.
- **Core** Core expenditure refers to the total costs for management and administration, less the contributions for overheads made by projects and programmes. Although Core costs have more than doubled from one year to the next, they still only represent 13.5% of total expenditure. CR makes great efforts to keep its Core costs as low as possible. However, the nature of the project activities we are involved in — in particular their labour-intensive character — makes it virtually impossible to cover all management and administration costs directly from project overheads. We therefore remain dependent on unrestricted grants and other untied income, such as consultancy fees, to continue our work.
- **Balance and Reserves** The balance for 1998 includes a total of £25,912 restricted money carried forward for specific projects and programmes. Out of the remaining surplus of £23,506 unrestricted money, £3,506 is added to the General Reserves and £20,000 designated for Project Development in 1999. It is CR's policy to maintain a balance of reserves to cover future contractual liabilities, following guidelines generally accepted for charities.
- **Deferred Income** This refers to grant monies received in 1998 for work to be done in 1999, £30,000 of which is unrestricted and the remaining £50,768 tied to specific projects.
- **Future** All programming areas of 1998 (Fiji, West Africa, African Media and Conflict, Caucasus, Accord), have partly secured funding for continued activities in 1999. At the time of writing, these new commitments for 1999 — which are in addition to the monies carried forward and the deferred tied project income referred to above — in total exceed £230,000. There are also commitments for unrestricted funding for 1999, covering Core and Project Development expenditure, totalling about £60,000.

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- Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan
- Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida)

CR has also been instrumental in obtaining funds for the exclusive use of local partners. These are not represented in our financial accounts.

# conciliation resources

*An International Service for Conflict Resolution and Prevention*

**Conciliation Resources (CR)** was established in 1994 to provide an international service to local organisations pursuing peacebuilding or conflict transformation initiatives. CR's principal objective is to support activities of people and groups working at community and national levels in preventing or transforming violent conflict into opportunities for social, political and economic development based on more just relationships.

In striving to attain that objective, CR:

- **assists** local organisations in the development of indigenously rooted, innovative solutions to short- and long-term social, economic and political problems related to armed conflict or communal strife
- **involves** previously marginalised or excluded groups in community and national peacebuilding processes
- **helps** build or strengthen civic capabilities for dialogue, problem-solving and constructive action, locally, nationally and sometimes regionally, when existing mechanisms for effective participation are either weak or lacking
- **promotes** organisational transparency and accountability, as well as inclusive and participative decision-making
- **participates** in the local and international development and dissemination of conflict transformation practice and theory
- **enters into** partnerships and collaborative arrangements with other organisations and participates in networks such as the Committee for Conflict Transformation Support (CCTS), the Network on Conflict, Development and Peace (CODEP) and the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation
- **draws on** a pool of skilled staff, programme associates and consultants to apply a wide range of expertise in addressing armed conflict or the threat of large-scale violence

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