



The Global Coalition for
Conflict Transformation

Seventeenth GCCT Newsletter - September 2016

Introduction

TransConflict (www.transconflict.com) is pleased to present the seventeenth Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT) newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the GCCT and its members. The main purpose of this newsletter is to a) share information about the work of the GCCT and its members to a wider audience, and b) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between GCCT members themselves and with other interested parties.

- [Click here to learn more about the GCCT](#)
- [Click here for a complete list of GCCT members](#)

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To contribute to the next edition of the GCCT newsletter – which will be published in mid-December 2016 – please contact TransConflict at
- gcct@transconflict.com

1) New members of the GCCT

The GCCT was pleased to welcome several new members in the past several months, including (click on the links below for further information):

1. [Civil Forum for Peace \(Georgia\)](#) - The Georgian-Ossetian Civil Forum was founded in 2007 in the initiative of Georgian and Ossetian civil society activists and NGO's with the support of Dutch peace organization IKV PAX Christi. With the aim of building trust and creating peaceful atmosphere of coexistence in Georgian and Ossetian societies, the Civil Forum promotes dialogue between the divided groups.
2. [Stabilization Support Services \(Ukraine\)](#) - SSS implemented a civil society engagement and reconciliation program that focused on five key program components, including a Liaison Officer Program to improve engagement with IDPs, Peacebuilding Workshops, a Small Grants Program, Psychosocial Support and a Winter Shelter Program. In addition, SS has supported Ukrainian government bodies and civil society through a Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) and a Ministry of Defense Military Psychology Training Program. In addition, SSS has implemented a Night Vision Goggle Project and a Medical Support Project.
3. [Somali Anti-Tribalism Organization \(Somalia\)](#) - established in August 2014 by group of Somali intellectuals to tackle the problems facing the country. SATO aims to stimulate the potential of the Somali people to change their own lives through a sustainable, integrated people-centered development strategy. The organisation endeavours to contribute towards enabling target communities to find solutions to their challenges.

[Please click here for a complete list of GCCT members!](#)

[Please click here for further information on how to join the GCCT!](#)



2) GCCT Members in Focus – Act Change Transform (ACT!) from Kenya

TransConflict is pleased to showcase the work of [Act Change Transform \(ACT!\)](#) from [Kenya](#), a member of the [Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation](#).

Having been founded in the late nineties, ACT! (then known as Pact Kenya) played a leading role in engaging civil society in the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement process, which ultimately led to the birth of the world's youngest country, South Sudan, back in 2010.

Today, ACT's vision is for a Kenya with "empowered citizens and communities living a productive life in dignity", whilst its mission is "to support, partner with and to develop local organizations to be effective agents of lasting positive change." ACT's work is founded upon well-grounded context and conflict analysis; an approach which:

1. Engages all relevant stakeholders – government and non government;
2. Employs an empowering methodology, building capacities from baseline analysis;
3. Utilizes local resources; and is
4. Committed to conflict sensitivity;

ACT! works for positive change in four thematic areas, a) peacebuilding and conflict transformation; b) democracy and governance; c) women's empowerment; and d) environment and natural resource management. ACT! has provided technical assistance and guidance to over 300 non-state actor organizations, helping them to adapt to fast changing environments. Through tailor made, thematic trainings and mentoring programmes, ACT! has helped partner organizations have a greater impact on the process of societal transformation. ACT! consultants have helped organizations adapt to change more effectively through organizational capacity assessment, governance and leadership, and core competencies, services and programs.



Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation

Act! focuses on strengthening the both civil society organizations and communities to prevent, manage and transform conflicts, with a particular focus on countering violent extremism, addressing political conflicts (especially related to devolved governance) and managing resource based conflicts (which includes extractives and cross-border conflicts).

The Strengthening Community Resilience against Extremism (SCORE) project works with 15 local CSOs in six countries on the Kenyan coastal region to "strengthen community resilience against conflict and violent extremism through approaches such as interfaith dialogues and counter messaging, empowering women and girls to address violent extremism and conflict, advocating for the strengthening and harmonization of policies on CVE and land to mitigate land conflicts and youth empowerment by expanding economic opportunities and encouraging civic participation to reduce the allure of financial gain from VE and violence."

ACT! also manages DANIDA's Peace, Stability and Security (PSS) program in Kenya from 2016-2020, which aims to increase the capacity of local CSOs to address emerging conflicts and forestall violence; increase the leadership role of women in peace and security activities; enhance collaboration between CSOs and government agencies to address conflicts and extremism; increase the use of local information by relevant government authorities to improve national security policies; and strengthen evidence-based research which informs policy frameworks and decision-making structures.



Environment and natural resource management

ACT! has been working with communities across Kenya to improve their ability to sustainably utilize the natural resources which are key to peoples' day-to-day existence and the local economy. Mitigating the impacts of environmental challenges is imperative for diffusing the very conflicts that they can drive.

The Changieni Rasili Mali (CRM) Facility aims to improve citizen participation, particularly of poor people, in the governance of natural resources (land, water and forestry) by supporting non-state actors (NSAs). Since the programmes inception, the Facility has awarded some 115 grants for a variety of initiatives designed to promote smart agriculture and clean energy; raise awareness about climate change

mitigation and adaptation; build organization capacity; strengthen policy analysis and advocacy; promote land rights; resolve land conflicts and diversify livelihoods.

Democracy and Human Rights

ACT! works to empower civil society organizations and communities to actively participate in governance and public decision-making processes. In order to achieve this, the Program equips communities with the requisite skills, knowledge and resources to enable to demand greater transparency and accountability. A key part of this program is better understanding of the local decision-making context through a power analysis, which helps identify systematic barriers to participation by marginalized and excluded groups. Other components include research and analysis; advocacy and lobbying; and network and alliance building. Key projects included the Kenya Civil Society Strengthening Program (KCSSP), the Partnership for Transparency Fund and Accountable Governance in the Context of Devolved Government.

Strategy for 2016-2019

In its strategy for 2016-2019, entitled 'Collaborating for Sustainable Impact', ACT! has laid out a number of shifts in direction, deemed necessary to consolidate its status as one of Kenya's leading peacebuilding organizations. The first advocates a more partner-centered approach, which have been essential to Act!'s success to date. The second involved re-orienting Act's management through restructuring to ensure clearer leadership, strengthening operational oversight and focusing on three specific themes. Finally, recognizing its role as an effective intermediary organisation, ACT! will constructively engage the Kenyan government and private sector in order to improve the enabling environment and leverage social entrepreneurship.

Please click here to learn more
about Act Change Transform
(ACT!) from Kenya



3) GCCT Insight and Analysis

This section provides an overview of the insight and analysis produced and published by members of the GCCT on a variety of conflict and conflict transformation related topics (click on the links below to read the entire article):

1. [The Ferhadija Mosque – the untold story](#) - TransConflict is pleased to present a documentary exploring the untold story behind the Ferhadija Mosque in Banja Luka, which was inaugurated on May 7th 2016, the twenty-third anniversary of its destruction.
2. [Technology in the service of international conflict resolution](#) - Arik Segal and Béatrice Hasler Lev-Tov - Applying technology and in particular virtual platforms and virtual reality (VR) as complementary tools in people-people projects, can help improve the effectiveness and impact of peacebuilding work.
3. [Young refugees and peacebuilding – a missing link](#) - Dylan Jones and Matilda Flemming - The ability and willingness of young people to build networks across social lines, engage in creative problem solving and act as community leaders presents an opportunity for bottom-up change.
4. [Danish Demining Group releases mine risk education films](#) - DDG in Afghanistan has released three short films to be used as part of mine risk education (MRE) programming for children, youth, and their parents.
5. [Youth participation 101 – five simple tips for including youth in peacebuilding](#) - UNOY Peacebuilders – UN Security Council Resolution 2250 calls for the inclusion of youth in peacebuilding and the prevention of violence. That means that policy makers, NGOs, international organisations and others all need to find out how to include youth in their work.
6. [Sri Lanka – the halfway mark](#) - The Sri Lanka Campaign – In September 2015, the UN Nations released a major report on Sri Lanka in which it found strong evidence that serious rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity had been committed during the civil war. In response, the government of Sri Lanka pledged a wide-ranging set of measures designed to address the legacy of the war. The Sri Lanka Campaign is currently monitoring these promises and the results remain concerning.
7. [Strengthening organisational capacities to build peace – research report](#) - UNOY Peacebuilders is pleased to present their latest research report: Youth Impact for Peace: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Six European Youth Organisations.
8. [The farce of the UN’s recent tourism conference in Sri Lanka](#) - The Sri Lanka Campaign – For the last four years, the Sri Lanka Campaign has been running an Ethical Tourism Campaign, to highlight how visitors to Sri Lanka can increase the social benefits, whilst mitigating the political harms, of their trips to Sri Lanka.
9. [Birthday wishes for South Sudan](#) - Jelena Savic – To mark the fifth birthday of South Sudan, TransConflict is pleased to present a list of birthday wishes that help chart a more optimistic course for the world’s youngest country.

10. [Complementary agendas – women and youth building peace](#) - UNOY Peacebuilders – We in the youth peacebuilding community must be careful not to allow the exclusionary nature of discourse on violent extremism to have an impact on how resolution 2250 is implemented in coming years and months.
11. [Sri Lankan Army – release record of war ‘surrendees’](#) - The Sri Lanka Campaign – For the first time the Sri Lankan army has confirmed that a record of individuals moving across the front-line at the end of the war was kept and – whilst the number of individuals accounted for by the record remains unclear – could potentially be a major development in helping to establish the last known whereabouts of many of the disappeared.
12. [Sri Lanka – repairing the damage of the Paranagama Commission](#) - The Sri Lanka Campaign – For Sri Lanka to move on from its past, it must acknowledge it. The Paranagama Commission has served only to prop up a sense of denial designed to avoid coming to terms with that past. For this reason, the Commission should not play any role in Sri Lanka’s future.
13. [Affecting power structures – gender and youth perspectives](#) - Hajer Sharief - In areas of conflict, support from the international community is often greatly needed. However, the design of this support directly affects power structures in the affected community. A crucial question is therefore: Who receives the international community’s support? Who is invited to take part in negotiations?
14. [“People far from the fire don’t feel the heat” - an update from Iraqi Kurdistan](#) - TransConflict is pleased to present a letter written by Cathy Breen who is currently part of a peacemaking team in Iraqi Kurdistan with Muslim Peacemaker Teams, a member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation from Iraq.

***To contribute analysis and insight to TransConflict.com,
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4) GCCT Activities, Advocacy, Research and Requests

Strengthening common efforts to combat violent extremism in Afghanistan

Cooperation for Peace and Unity is implementing a comprehensive approach to combating violent extremism in Afghanistan.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) is an essential aspect of peacebuilding in today's changing landscape, and as such, CPAU seeks to integrate CVE best practices in all its projects as an educated and resilient people is less likely to resort to extremist actions. CPAU is therefore dedicated to encouraging the linkages between peacebuilding measures and CVE practices.

While the CVE objectives originally stem from the security and defense arena, the expanding scope of CVE efforts is increasingly touching the area of peacebuilding and both the UN and US have acknowledged the inexorable connection between the two. While CVE focuses on building resilience among populations vulnerable to radicalization, peacebuilding - in its broader agenda of conflict prevention - also focuses on CVE, since violent extremism oftentimes is a driver for conflict and a hindrance for building sustainable peace. CVE in the context of its security efforts brings the conditions for effective peacebuilding which in turn plays an important role for building the capacity of civil society.

CPAU focuses on the aspects which build the resilience and capacity of civil society and thus represents the point where peacebuilding and CVE meet. CPAU's peacebuilding experience is beneficial for its CVE work, since peacebuilding practices help develop a more in-depth understanding of violent extremism, its causes in localized contexts, and helps to develop tailored approaches to counter violent extremism.

CPAU's Countering Violent Extremism Department (CVED)

Through its established CVE Department (CVED), CPAU taps into its community network as well as collaborating with national, regional, and international key stakeholders to implement various CVE initiatives throughout the country. CPAU's work on preventing and countering violent extremism reflects established and overarching regional and international PVE and CVE efforts, shaped by the U.S. State Department, UN General Assembly, and Human Rights Council.

CPAU's CVE efforts are grounded in long-term community trust gained by CPAU over the last two decades through its peacebuilding activities. This gives unparalleled access to communities across Afghanistan and thereby, the CVED is able to use existing and trusted social and religious platforms for the implementation of programs on preventing and countering violent extremism. CPAU's network grants us access to influential leaders and, more importantly, provides CPAU with an intimate knowledge of the issues facing communities across different regions in Afghanistan. This in turn is essential in identifying local drivers for radicalization and extremism and coming up with targeted and tailored methods to countering violent extremism.

CPAU's CVE Department has also proven to be a substantive platform for promoting and enhancing tolerance, community cohesion, social inclusion, pluralism, gender equality, and moderate religious perspectives which we believe are core principles of a democratic society and key tools for eliminating radicalization and extremism. This is also where CPAU can link its peacebuilding and CVE efforts through enhancing the people's awareness of their basic rights and by giving them the tools to become advocates for social change. Thus, CPAU is not only increasing the community's resilience but also provide the groundwork through capacity building within the society.

Within the global CVE agenda, CPAU places specific focus on the following items:

1. Challenging Traditional Thinking

CPAU consistently works to break with traditional and patriarchal norms in Afghanistan especially in regards to traditional gender norms. CPAU facilitates systemic transformations and to build capacity among the Afghan female population which, in turn, will have a positive spill-over effect on increasing the community's resilience to radicalization. CPAU has provided training and peace education for female politicians and media workers, established the first ever Afghan Amateur Women's boxing Association (AAWBA), and is working on providing women with the tools to become agents within the informal justice sector against gender-based violence. CPAU is also strengthening the position of female Afghan security forces, as it believes that women will be vital for the shaping of a national CVE strategy.

2. The Promotion of Moderate Religious Views and Religious Tolerance

CPAU works for the promotion of moderate religious views and religious tolerance in order to increase the spread of mainstream Islamic knowledge. To achieve this, CPAU works closely with the Ministries of Religious Affairs and Hajj, and the Council of Ulema and have excellent working relations with national and international religious scholars. CPAU's main CVE projects - the Afghanistan Forum - is based on tackling issues affecting Afghan lives, including CVE, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and women and youth empowerment based on a moderate Islamic perspective.

3. Empowering Women and Youth

CPAU acknowledges the important role women and youth are playing for preventing and CVE. Especially in Afghanistan - with one of the world's youngest populations - youth are the primary target group for violent extremist recruiters. Young men and women need to build resilience against radicalization tendencies and therefore play an important role in CVE. Linking capacity building with increasing resilience of Afghanistan's most vulnerable populations, CPAU has provided peace education classes to more than 30,000 male and female students. CPAU's Peace Education Program promotes a culture of peace, reconciliation and peaceful conflict resolution amongst elementary, secondary and high school children, their teachers and parents. Through using teaching and training materials grounded in the socio-cultural reality of Afghanistan this program generates a sense of shared responsibility amongst

youth for constructive conflict transformation, to prevent violence, to encourage individuals and communities to deal with violence proactively, and ultimately build sustainable peace at the local level.

4. Strengthening the Counter-Narrative of Violent Extremist Messages through Creative and Innovative Media Strategies

For the successful implementation of various projects, CPAU has collaborated with Twan Media Productions; an Afghan-based production house which is undertaking a selection of significant and challenging media engagements, including the production of radio soap operas and the creation of simple animations for children and regional public discussions about the role of religious leaders. Twan Media produces relevant Public Service Announcements (PSAs), plus radio shows, and disseminates mentioned media outputs in order to strengthen community awareness and social cohesion.

5. Conducting in-depth Research to Identify Local Grievances and Drivers for Radicalization

Thorough research on local grievances and drivers for radicalization is essential for both peacebuilding as well as CVE efforts in order to allow for those measures to be effective, long-lasting and sustainable. As Afghanistan's first locally led research organization, CPAU has extensive experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative research on a community, district, and provincial level. This has included original research on conflict trends, livelihood issues, and human rights, plus monitoring and evaluation of education, governance, and rule of law projects implemented by international donors, other NGOs, and by CPAU itself. CPAU has conducted more than 70 high-quality research projects with the latest reports including the "Road to National Peace Report" and an assessment of the security and justice situation in Kunduz Province from 2011 to 2014/15 in light of the Dutch Integrated Police Training Mission (IPM).

6. Building the Civilian Criminal Justice Capacity

Strengthening the rule of law, awareness of such, and the people's access to the formal and informal justice sector is a basic prerequisite for good governance and thus for building resilience to radicalization and violent extremism. One of the key works CPAU undertakes is establishing what are known as Peace Councils, based on the traditional justice system of village elders gathering in community councils called "Jirgas" or "Shuras" to mediate disputes between parties. Where individuals engage with the formal justice system, CPAU also provides assistance through Justice Support Workers (JSW) – individuals fully trained in either formal or Sharia Law. To date, CPAU has created or worked with around 10,000 shuras/Councils across the country as a significant pioneer in the informal justice sector, using innovative programming to establish long term relations between formal and informal justice sectors.

***Learn more about Cooperation for Peace and
Unity from Afghanistan!***

An open letter from the Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice to Ban Ki-moon

TransConflict is pleased to present an open letter from the [Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice](#) to outgoing UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, regarding the current situation in Sri Lanka.

Dear Secretary-General,

Much has changed in Sri Lanka since your last visit in May 2009. On that occasion you said [“I have travelled around the world and visited similar places, but \[these are\] by far the most appalling scenes I have seen.”](#) Many of the changes have been positive: there has been no return to fighting, the IDP camps that you visited have been disbanded, and most people in Sri Lanka feel freer than they did under the oppressive Rajapaksa regime.

The United Nations, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, has played a significant role in this transition. However, Sri Lanka’s transition from armed conflict to a lasting and a sustainable peace is far from complete, and it is important to maintain the high level of international pressure and scrutiny necessary to see it through.

We would urge you, in your statements during your visit, to make the four following general points, and additionally to take up one specific case which we consider vitally important and emblematic.



First, we would urge you to draw attention to the serious human rights issues that persist in Sri Lanka. Ongoing violations of human rights, including sexual violence, are still taking place in the north and east of the country. As a result, the climate of fear which used to grip the entire nation still exists among large numbers of people, particularly in those areas. Here civil society remains under a significant degree of surveillance. [Furthermore, most land under military occupation has still not been released to its rightful owners, the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act is still in daily use, and around 120](#)

[Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation \(GCCT\)](#)

[people are still detained without charge.](#) This climate makes the implementation of Sri Lanka's reconciliation and transitional justice agenda far more difficult.

Secondly, we feel it would be appropriate for you to use this opportunity to apologise to the people of Sri Lanka for the United Nations' inadequate efforts to prevent loss of life in early 2009. [As you yourself said,](#) the 2012 United Nations Internal Review Panel Report demonstrated "that the United Nations system failed to meet its responsibilities". [Our research has shown](#) that many survivors of the Sri Lankan civil war feel that they are owed an apology, not just by the Government of Sri Lanka for its actions, but also by the international community and the UN for failing to make greater efforts to protect them. An apology would go some way to restore their faith in the system and to build support for UN efforts to support justice, accountability and reconciliation in the country.

Thirdly, we feel it is essential that you impress upon the Government of Sri Lanka the importance of fulfilling the commitments that it has made. As you have said, ["the victims of all communities, their families and the Sri Lankan nation itself demand no less than a full and proper reckoning."](#) In September 2015 the Government of Sri Lanka co-sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, thereby committing itself to a series of actions which, if implemented in full, would give the opportunity for such a reckoning.

Yet already there have been disturbing signs that the resolution will not be implemented. The first of the four mechanisms established by the resolution, the Office of Missing Persons, was brought into being with only very minimal consultation with the families of the disappeared, and the President of Sri Lanka [has made a series of statements](#) suggesting that no international judges, defence lawyers or authorized prosecutors will participate in the accountability mechanism, in direct and serious contravention of the resolution. [We have been monitoring the implementation of the 25 action points contained within the operative paragraphs of the resolution.](#) We find that only three of the 25 are on track, and we have cause for concern with regard to eight of them. We are particularly concerned about the absence of any substantial progress on the issue of accountability.

We fear that the Government of Sri Lanka may not be committed to the programme of transitional justice, despite its importance for victims and for reconciliation within Sri Lankan society, and that the Government may feel that it has now done enough to satisfy the wishes of the international community. We trust that you will make every effort to ensure that your visit will not have the unintended consequence of reinforcing this perception, which would only undermine Sri Lanka's hard-won and yet to be implemented reconciliation programme, and thereby the prospects for lasting peace.

Fourthly, it is vital that the international community remain engaged in Sri Lanka's reconciliation process for some time to come, and be willing to offer such support as is needed. It is therefore imperative that you publicly give the fullest possible support to the High Commissioner's efforts to open a country office in Sri Lanka. A country office would support the process set out in Resolution 30/1, report on what is

happening on the ground, and act as a bridge between the reconciliation process and the Government of Sri Lanka. We hope you will use your visit to advance the negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government on the establishment of this office.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the case of Balendran Jeyakumary, a single mother from Kilinochchi whose son appears to have been disappeared and who was arrested and held in detention for almost a year after speaking out about this. [She continues to be harassed to this day by the police.](#)

This is not only having a terrible effect on Jeyakumary and her young daughter. It also has serious consequences for Sri Lanka as a whole. Jeyakumary is not a professional activist but a concerned mother. Her case is a totemic one, and her treatment is having a chilling effect. There are many mothers in Sri Lanka who lost children in the war. The way Jeyakumary has been treated is causing them to lose faith in Sri Lanka's truth-seeking mechanisms, and to be less willing to participate in the Government's mechanisms for tracing missing persons. We urge you to raise her case, its wider implications and effects, and the ongoing harassment of war survivors and activists of which it forms a part, with your hosts.

We would be happy to provide you with any further information you require on any of these matters.

Kind regards,

Fred Carver, Campaign Director, Sri Lanka Campaign.

***Please click here to learn more
about the Sri Lanka Campaign for
Peace and Justice!***



[Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation \(GCCT\)](#)

Moving forward the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250

With the announcement by UN Secretary-general, Ban Ki-Moon, of Graeme Simpson as Lead Author for the [Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#), as well as an advisory group of experts to support the study process, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 takes a step forward.

With the announcement by UN Secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon of Graeme Simpson as Lead Author for the [Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#), as well as an advisory group of experts to support the study process, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 takes a step forward. The Progress Study was mandated by the UN Security Council when it adopted Resolution 2250 in December 2015, to provide a basis for meaningful implementation of the resolution at local, national and international level.

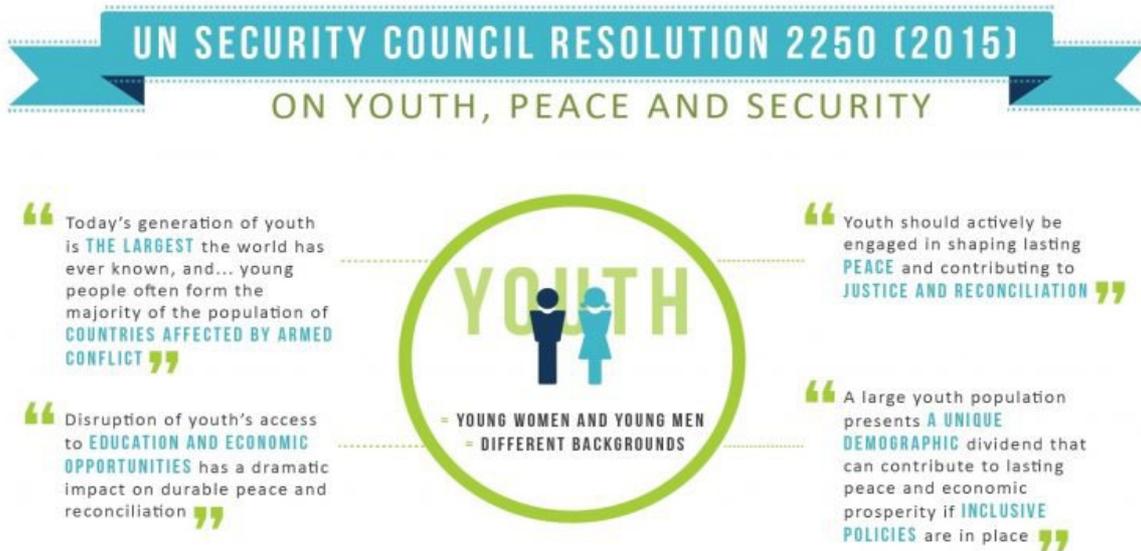
Achaleke Christian Leke of Local Youth Corner, Cameroon, member organization of UNOY Peacebuilders, says that the Progress Study “will be a bedrock in concretizing this historic global agenda on youth, peace and security for the coming years and decades. This resolution hold the key to sustainable world peace, and for a young peacebuilders like myself, its findings will be extremely timely and important.”

The advisory group is composed of 21 experts of diverse backgrounds including youth and non-youth, academics, practitioners, and individuals from different regions of the world. The members of the advisory group are: Farea Al-Muslimi (Yemen), Luz Alcira Granada Contreras (Colombia), Scott Attran (USA), Cherner Bah (Sierra Leone), Ikram Ben Said (Tunisia), Malual Bol Kiir (South Sudan), Kessy Martine Ekomo-Soignet (CAR), Ilwad Elman (Somalia), Matilda Flemming (Finland), Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts (Jamaica), Saba Ismail (Pakistan), Thevuni Kavindi Kotigala (Sri Lanka), Nur Laiq (UK), Mieke Lopes Cardozo (Netherlands), Robert Muggah (Canada), Hussein Nabil Murtaja (Palestine), Funmi Olonisakin (Nigeria), Salim Salamah (Syria), Ali Saleem (Pakistan), Hajer Sharief (Libya), and Marc Sommers (USA).

Several members of the advisory group have a background in UNOY Peacebuilders: Kessy Martine Ekomo-Soignet, Saba Ismail and Thevuni Kavindi Kotigala all work for UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations, Hajer Sharief is a member of the Youth Advocacy Team and Matilda Flemming previously worked for the UNOY Peacebuilders International Secretariat. The other members of the advisory group similarly have very strong backgrounds in working on youth participation in issues of peace and security.

On the nomination of Graeme Simpson as lead author, Gwendolyn S. Myers of UNOY Peacebuilders member organisation Messengers of Peace Liberia affirmed: “I’m thrilled with the appointment of Graeme Simpson as the lead author to establish the basis upon which the implementation of the

UNSCR2250 would be formed. The contribution of young people to peace and security to a large extent has been ignored in the past but this announcement foretells a brighter future for young people. Without the meaningful and active participation of young people in peace and security issues, the quest for global peace would be an illusion to be pursued. We ask for all young peace advocates to support this initiative and call on world leaders to encourage youth engagement in peace, security and stability matters”



The findings and recommendations that the progress study will produce will be presented to the UN Security Council on December 2017, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 2250.

***Please click here to learn more
about the United Network of
Young Peacebuilders!***



[Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation \(GCCT\)](#)

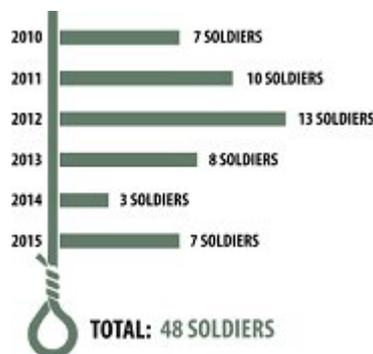
Suicides and murder statistics in the Armenian army

Over a period of six years, from 2010 to 2015, the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh armed forces suffered a total of 206 fatal casualties, of which 48 were due to suicide and 43 the results of murders.

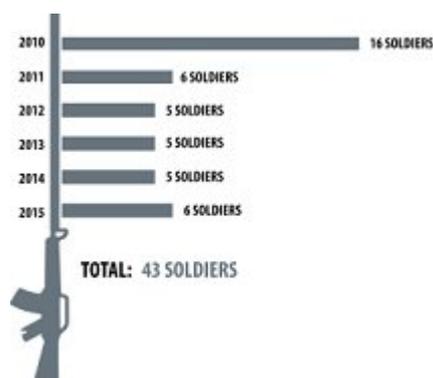
The material was prepared based on the available data from www.safesoldiers.am database.

Over a period of six years, from 2010 to 2015 the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh armed forces suffered a total of 206 fatal casualties, of which 48 were results of suicides and 43 results of murders. That number does not include the fatalities that were the result of ceasefire regime violations on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the line of contact. In percentage this numbers are equivalent to 23% and 21% of total non-combat casualties during the last 6 years. The statistics of suicides and murders for the last six years are presented in Infographics 1 and 2.

Infographic 1. Soldiers died as a result of suicide in Armenian military forces (2010 – 2015)



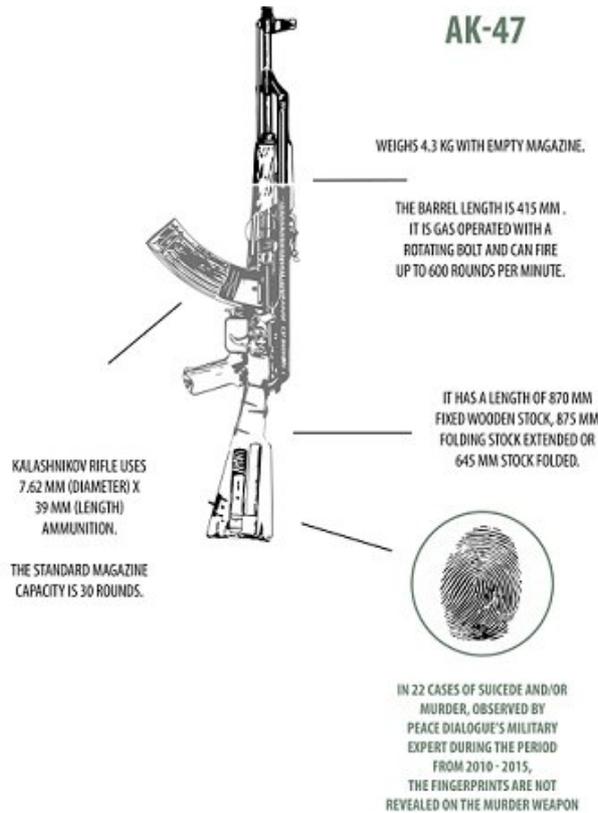
Infographic 2. Soldiers died as a result of murder in Armenian military forces (2010 – 2015)



As seen in the Infographics above, the highest number of suicides was recorded in 2012 (13 soldiers), while the highest number of murders were in 2010 (16 soldiers). The data include both intentional and unintentional murders, based on the articles of criminal code under which the investigation of the cases is being done.

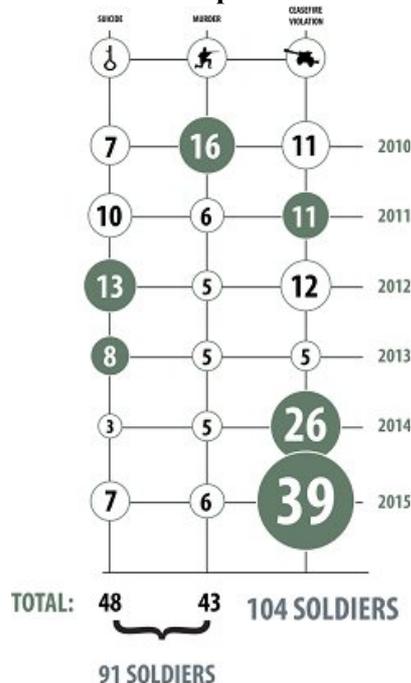
The Kalashnikov rifle, AK 47, or its latest modifications, have been officially accepted and used by the Armenian Armed Forces from the first days of the Armenian Army. This automatic gun is the main tool of the suicides and murders in the Army.

Infographic 3. Technical characteristics of AK-47



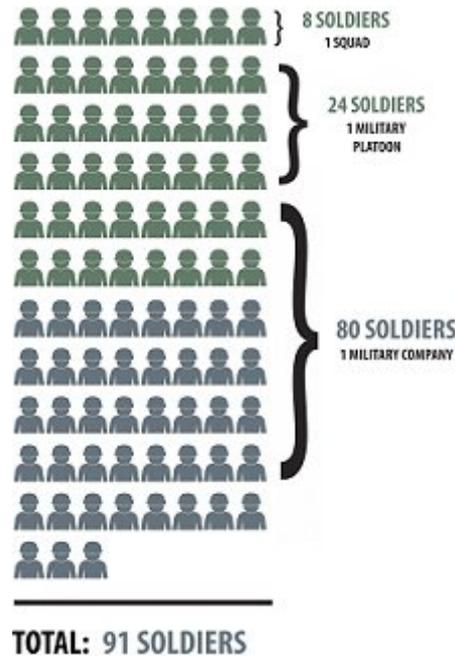
The observation of the criminal cases shows that the majority of suicides and murders during the mentioned period were recorded in the military units stationed on the Armenian -Azerbaijani border or the line of contact (92%). Experts and MoD officials note that the reason for this phenomenon is the easier access to the military ammunition. According to the observation of 22 criminal cases related to suicides and murders in the mentioned period, carried out by Peace Dialogue NGO's military expert, the fingerprints have never been revealed on the murder weapon in any of those 22 cases.

Infographic 4. Comparison between the number of soldiers deceased as a result of suicides, murders and ceasefire regime violations for the period 2010-2015



As shown in the image, before 2013 more Armenian soldiers died as a result of suicide and murder than as a result of ceasefire violations. However, the number of military loses related to the violations of the ceasefire increased after 2014 as a consequence of tensions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and at the line of contact. The Infographic 4 also shows that during the period from 2010 to 2015 the suicides and murders took the lives of 91 soldiers.

Infographic 5. In the last 6 years the Armenian military forces lost more than 1 military company of soldiers as a result of suicides and murders



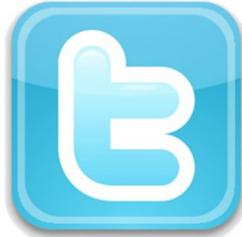
[The Suicides and Murders Statistics in the Armenian Army for the period 2010-2016 in Adobe PDF format \(1.4 MB\)](#)

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