



Monthly Report

April 2007
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Social Science Tower, Room 740, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697
www.citizenpeacebuilding.org (949) 824-8687

A Word from the Directors..

This is the first edition of our bimonthly newsletter to keep you informed about our new developments and events. We appreciate your support for the Center's exciting activities and welcome your feedback and participation in all our work. The Center's programs thrive on your interest and action that contribute to a safer world. You can get up to the minute news about our programs at our website-- www.citizenpeacebuilding.org. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.

Greetings,

Paula Garb and John Graham, Co-Directors, Center for Citizen Peacebuilding



*Sagi Rasmovich, Israeli, and Dalia Labadi, Palestinian, share their stories at the CCPB breakfast.
(photo credit?)*

Our Mission Statement

The CCPB engages in research, education, and action supporting citizen participation in public peace processes. We help citizens seek realistic ways to improve human conditions locally and globally. CCPB activities aim to prevent violent conflict and, if violence occurs, to promote reconciliation and sustainable peace.

Difficult Dialogues Project

Building on continuing attempts to protect academic freedom, the [UCI Difficult Dialogues Project](#) uses approaches drawn from peacebuilding, and respect initiatives already underway to foster productive dialogue on campus. This year, the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding has taken on an even greater support role for this project. Through her work as Associate Director of the School of Social Sciences International Studies program, Paula Garb is leading initiatives designed to foster direct and open dialogue by UCI students in a positive and constructive environment. For example, the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding's Difficult Dialogues project hosts speakers and panels in the [International Studies Forum](#) that specifically address conflict resolution via open dialogue. These forums are open to the UCI community and the public. Also, the [International Studies Theme House](#), which is the International Peace and Conflict Studies House (IPACS), hosts distinguished speakers and house events in order to create a place where community, diversity, cultural education, and international concerns are valued and experienced. IPACS is a place where difficult dialogues about topics such as religious or cultural differences and how they affect student life at UCI can take place in a fun and safe environment. Please visit www.citizenpeacebuilding.org for more on these events.

NEWS

DIALOGUE IN SEGREGATED SOCIETIES: Research in Israel/Palestine and OneVoice at UCI

By Daniel Wehrenfennig

In times of material power politics, with economic interests and military power dominating world politics and deciding over war and peace, is dialogue a viable option for conflict resolution in the present? Trying to find an answer to this question as part of my thesis work, I conducted a series of interviews in Israel/Palestine last summer (2006). The goal was to get a better understanding of the dialogue processes in the region and learning why they seem to have disappeared since the Second Intifada. While in general compared to previous visits to the region, I found more misperceptions, fear and unwillingness to communicate. I was surprised to find that all organizations and initiatives I talked to who do engage in some form of dialogue were founded after 2000 and were mostly run by younger activists.

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NEWS ('OneVoice' Continued from page 1)

A great example of this new generation of organizations is OneVoice, a non-partisan grassroots organization seeking to bring reconciliation to the Middle East by mobilizing young leaders on both sides in order to challenge the broader moderate majority in the region to stand up for peace. On March 7th and 8th I was delighted to be a part of hosting a delegation from OneVoice through the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding at UCI. Our guests brought to the campus and community their enthusiasm and mission to mobilize moderates. They encouraged dialogue between the sometimes quarreling student groups and challenged us all with their new campaign of "What Are You Willing to Do [to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict]?" A question that is relevant in Israel and Palestine as well as Orange County and beyond.

JAMS FOUNDATION GRANT TO CENTER

The JAMS Foundation has awarded the Center \$48,000 to develop a training manual and a DVD of simulated mediations for counselors and other dispute resolution providers working in communities with high levels of gang violence. The materials will offer constructive approaches to addressing violent conflict between gangs, at-risk youth, and other individuals in troubled areas. The Foundation is the largest private provider of ADR-related grants in the world, having provided over \$1.2 million in grant funding to date (www.iamsadr.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 19th; 4:00pm

UCI Social Science Lecture Hall; Room 100

MARY ROBINSON

Former President of Ireland; Former UN High
Commissioner for Human Rights

"HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBALIZATION"

*This event is free and open to the public; Reception
Follows*

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democracy and
the Chancellor's Distinguished Fellows Series

FRIDAY, MAY 4th

**THE EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED; THE PRINCE HAS
CANCELED ALL HIS U.S. TOURS**

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS EL HASSAN BIN TALAL
Prince of Jordan

**"THE NEW MIDDLE EAST: CONVERSATION NOT
CONFRONTATION"**

Co-Sponsored by the Middle East Studies Student
Initiative, Difficult Dialogues, UCI's International
Studies Program and the Center for Citizen
Peacebuilding

**2006-2007 Faculty and
Student Fellowships****Center Administration**

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