



Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

Peace & Reconciliation Report

February 13, 2008

Welcome to our weekly membership newsletter. We encourage you to share your reflections, news items, and experiences with others in the MBB community via this newsletter.

To submit information for the next issue, please e-mail batokovambb@gmail.com by the end of the day on Friday. The newsletter will be sent out every Monday.

Mark Your Calendars:

November 29

Student Chapter Meeting
Columbia, Maryland, USA

December 10

MBB LA Committee Meeting
Santa Monica, California, USA

January 7

Meeting for MD, D.C. & Northern VA
Washington D.C., USA

January 21

Pathways to Reconciliation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

January 21

The Promise of Nonviolence
Washington, D.C., USA

February 15 – 18

MBB Congress
St. Malo, Colorado, USA

More info at www.MediatorsBeyondBorders.org

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November 28 – Dec. 10

MBB Ghana-Liberia Initiative
Buduburam Settlement, Ghana, Africa

March 5 – 8

Hurricane Katrina Project
Biloxi, Mississippi, USA
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

More info at www.MediatorsBeyondBorders.org

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Newsletter Questions & Corrections

E-Mail Barbara Batokova
Peace & Reconciliation Report Editor
batokovambb@gmail.com

What's New at MBB

MBB hires an intern from Sudan



Mediators Beyond Borders just hired a new intern Majier Majuch from southern Sudan. Majier was born in Bor, Sudan in January 1981. In 1987, when he was 6 years old, he crossed the border to go to Ethiopia, leaving his mother, two sisters and four brothers behind. Majier and over 20,000 young men who traveled with him, were displaced by the war that broke out in Sudan in 1983. He spent four years in Ethiopian refugee camp, attending school. When he was 10 years old, he learned that his father was struck by lightning and passed away. In 1991 Majier returned to southern Sudan, because war erupted in Ethiopia as well. In 1993, Majier crossed the border again to go to Kenya to another refugee camp. In 1997, he applied to UNHCR for refugee status in the United States and in 2001, his application was accepted. Upon arrival to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Catholic Charities helped Majier get a job and apply for college. He attended the Community College of Allegheny County and after two years, he transferred to Point Park University in Pittsburgh, completing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 2007. Majier started learning English, which became his second language, while still in Sudan, as his uncle was a teacher. Majier's native language Dinka is widely spoken in southern Sudan, as it is the language of the largest tribe. He is also proficient in Arabic, Swahili and Spanish.

Majier's mother and siblings are still in Sudan, living in the countryside. He hopes to save up enough money by the end of next year to return to Sudan to visit his family. However, he would like to stay in the United States and help Sudan from the outside. "I am interested in conflict resolution and mediation. I am interested in seeing peace in Sudan," he said.



E-mail: Majier Majuch – majuchmbb@gmail.com

MBB finalizes protocols and legal documents

MBB is currently putting together final protocols and legal documents for informed consent travel waivers and hold-harmless documents. If any of our lawyers have expertise in the area and would like to volunteer to review these materials, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Lynn Cole**, *MBB Director, Tampa, Florida, USA*.



E-mail: Lynn Cole – lhc@lynncole.com

MBB to hold elections for Board of Directors and Officers

In early 2008, MBB will hold elections for the Board of Directors and Officers. If any of you are interested, it might be critical for you to attend the First Annual MBB Congress in St. Malo, Colorado. Please see details on the Congress in Upcoming Events section. Further details about elections will be posted in future newsletters.

Current Initiatives Updates

New project application submitted for Nigeria

Ben Kpae, President of Community Mediation Council (CMC), submitted a project application for a project in Nigeria. The Niger Delta of Nigeria is characterized by deep poverty, in spite of the abundant natural resources, especially oil. "In the last 40 years of oil extraction, oil revenues have been used to develop other parts of the country including the capital Abuja, leaving the core Niger Delta states impoverished. A substantial part of these funds have either found their way into private bank accounts in western countries or paid to paramilitary operations to deal with the unrest in the region. The several years of oil exploration and exploitation have plundered the environment," Ben Kpae writes.

CMC focuses on providing youths with alternatives to dealing with conflict situations, especially in villages. CMC has trained over 200 youths in various communities within the Niger Delta in conflict management, and intends to increase the number of youths trained.

If anyone would be interested in exploring the possibilities of this project or serving on the project assessment panel, please e-mail to the address listed below. Also, let us know if you have experiences or contacts in the area.



E-mail: nigeria.mbb@gmail.com

Current & Proposed Projects:

This report was compiled by **Ken Cloke**, *MBB President, Santa Monica, California, USA*. If you wish to volunteer with a project, serve on the project assessment panel, e-mail to the e-mail address below each project. All travel is self-funded by volunteers.

• Pittsburgh Somali Refugee Project:

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: **Sandi DiMola**, *MBB Director, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*

Project Assessment Panel: **Prabha Sankaranarayan & Martha Harty** *Founding Members, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*

MBB Members Involved:

Project activities: Facilitating meetings and dialogue between Somali Bantu refugees and public schools in Pittsburgh.

Upcoming events: Facilitating meetings and dialogue.

Supporting Student Chapter: University of Pittsburgh (?)



E-mail: somaliproject.mbb@gmail.com

• Ghana-Liberia

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: **Bob Creo**, *MBB Secretary-Treasurer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*,

Project Assessment Panel: **Harriet Nettles**, *Founding Member, Mechanicsville, Maryland, USA*, **Ingrid Lundberg, Prabha Sankaranarayan**, *Founding Members, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*

Project Partners: During the assessment trip, meetings will be held with numerous potential collaborators on this initiative.

Project Activities: **Harriett Nettles** will spend several days in Monrovia, Liberia engaged in meetings on this initiative. Mediation training at the Buduburam Settlement. **Bartuah Ninwillay**, *Founding Member, Buduburam Settlement, Ghana* has been working very hard in preparation for the trip. He will assist with the logistics component of the trip and will also be a presenter during the trip. He is also a great local resource for cultural and local issues.

Upcoming events: November 2007 – training and needs assessment trip to Ghana and Liberia
January 2008 – follow-up trip

Supporting Student Chapter: University of Pittsburgh

Penelope Bissett – Coordinator of Child Soldier Restorative Initiative



<http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org/pg83.cfm>



E-mail: ghana.mbb@gmail.com

• Hurricane Katrina Project – Mississippi/New Orleans

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: **Nan Waller Burnett**, *MBB Director, Golden, Colorado, USA*

Project Team: **Ken Cloke**, *MBB President, &*, **Joan Goldsmith**, *MBB Director, Santa Monica, California, USA*, **Louise Phipps Senft**, *Founding Member, Baltimore, Maryland, USA*, **Marvin Johnson**, *Founding Member, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA*, **Linda Hughes, Tony Nowak**, *Founding Member, Hernando, Mississippi, USA*, **Patricia Porter**, *San Antonio, Texas, USA*

Project Partner: Mississippi Mediation Project – Laurel Kaufer; Mediation Program at the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court – Director Sharon Norwood, Coordinator for the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Upcoming events: March 5-8, 2008 training and needs assessment trip to Mississippi and New Orleans.

Supporting Chapter: Regis University (?)



<http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org/pg85.cfm>



E-mail: neworleans.mbb@gmail.com

• Nepal

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: **C.J. Larkin**, *MBB Director, St. Louis, Missouri, USA*

Project Assessment Panel: TBD

MBB Members Involved: **Alan Gross**, *Founding Members, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, USA*, **Caryn Espo**, *Los Angeles, California, USA*

Project activities:

Upcoming events: 2008 – A fact-finding and training trip is being considered.

Supporting Student Chapter: Washington University in St. Louis (?)



E-mail: nepal.mbb@gmail.com

• Zimbabwe

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: **Ken Cloke** *MBB President, &* **Joan Goldsmith**, *MBB Director Santa Monica, California, USA*

Project Assessment Panel: **David Bristow**, *Founding Member, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*, **Sharon Maier**, *Founding Member, Mill Valley, California, USA*, **Anna Spain**, *Founding Member, Washington, D.C., USA*

Project activities: **Sharon Maier** has made numerous trips in 2007 to the location.

Upcoming events: TBD

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: zimbabwe.mbb@gmail.com

• **Arab-Israeli Conflict**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: Rachel Wohl, MBB Director, Annapolis, Maryland, USA

MBB Members Interested: Dorit Cypis, Founding Member, Los Angeles, California, USA; Jonathan Reitman, Founding Member, Brunswick, Maine, USA

Project activities:

Upcoming events:

Supporting Chapter: Maryland and Washington D.C. Chapter (?)



E-mail: arabisraeli.mbb@gmail.com

• **Kosovo**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: Lynn Cole, MBB Director, Tampa, Florida, USA

Project Assessment Panel: TBD

Project activities:

Upcoming events: Fall 2008

Supporting Chapter: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia



E-mail: kosovo.mbb@gmail.com

• **Cambodia**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: TBD

MBB Members Involved: Mneesha Gellman

Project activities:

Upcoming events: Fall 2008

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: cambodia.mbb@gmail.com

• **East Timor/Fiji**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: TBD

Project Assessment Panel: Susan Mullins, Founding Member, Los Angeles, California, USA, Calum Campbell, Founding Member, Perth, Australia

Project activities:

Upcoming events:

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: easttimorfiji.mbb@gmail.com

• **Ecuador**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: TBD

MBB Members Involved: Anthony E. Nowak, Founding Member, Hernando, Mississippi, USA, Tom Fiutak

Recent project activities: Work in the rainforest with indigenous people, environmental groups, and farmers and ranchers.

Upcoming events:

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: ecuador.mbb@gmail.com

• **Nicaragua/Central America**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: TBD

Project Assessment Panel: Richard DeWitt, MBB Director, Coral Gables, Florida, USA

Project activities:

Upcoming events:

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: nicaragua.mbb@gmail.com

• **Lebanon**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: Lynn Cole, *MBB Director, Tampa, Florida, USA*

Project Assessment Panel: TBD

MBB Members Involved:

Project activities:

Upcoming events:

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: lebanon.mbb@gmail.com

• **Morocco, Uganda, Sri Lanka**

If interested in volunteering in these areas, please e-mail us.



E-mail: mediatorsbeyondborders@gmail.com

• **Sister Organization Support**

PROJECT BOARD LIASION: Richard DeWitt, *MBB Director, Coral Gables, Florida, USA*

MBB Members Interested:

Project activities: Identifying a list of organizations working in other countries, such as Doctors Without Borders, Choice, and Engineers Without Borders, and offering mediation assistance and training their members to resolve conflicts on their trips.

Upcoming events:

Supporting Chapter: TBD



E-mail: sisterorganization.mbb@gmail.com

Student Chapter News

Regional Committee News

Board Member Profile

Robert A. Creo, *MBB Secretary-Treasurer*



Robert A. Creo received his B.A. in 1974 from Brandeis University and received his J.D. in 1977 from Washington University of Law. Mr. Creo is a mediator, arbitrator and educator. He is an Adjunct Professor at University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Chatham University. He has arbitrated or mediated for over 4,000 days since 1979, including catastrophic loss claims, complex commercial transactions, construction, employment and interpersonal disputes.

He has been retained to serve as a consultant in complex litigation and as an expert witness. For many years, he had served as a neutral for professional football, baseball and the U.S. Senate. His publications are numerous and he is internationally recognized as an educator in conflict resolution, and has worked extensively abroad. He has served as a founder and leader in numerous dispute resolution entities.

New Members

MBB Welcomes new Founding Mediator Members

Howard Broadman, *Visalia, California, USA*; **Mike Bugason**, *Kinshasa, Congo*; **Teresa Sisk**, *Seattle, Washington, USA*

Member Presentations & Media Presence

Please e-mail us about your activities. E-mail batokovambb@gmail.com.

Member Publications

Please let us know about your recent publications. E-mail batokovambb@gmail.com.

Members Reflections

Please send us your thoughts to be published in this section. E-mail batokovambb@gmail.com.

Grants & Funding

MBB First Annual Congress – Grant Writing Committee Session

MBB would like to invite anyone who would like to arrive early on Thursday Nov. 14 to join the Grant-Writing Committee. Please e-mail **Nan Waller Burnett**, *MBB Director, Golden, Colorado, USA*, if interested.



E-mail: Nan Waller Burnett –
disputepr@aol.com

Donors

In the Field

MBB to travel to Ghana

Harriett Nettles, *Founding Member, Mechanicsville, Maryland, USA*, who left for Liberia last Friday November 23, will be joined by **Robert A. Creo**, *MBB Secretary-Treasurer*, and *Founding Members Ingrid Lundberg* and **Prabha Sankaranarayan**, both from *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA* in Ghana for the assessment trip. The group will stay in Ghana until Dec. 10.

Richard DeWitt travels to Uganda

Richard DeWitt, *MBB Director, Coral Gables, Florida, USA*, left for Uganda on a non-MBB related matter on Nov. 27. If you have any contacts in the country, please e-mail Richard.



E-mail: Richard DeWitt - rdewitt@resolvedisputes.net

Upcoming Events

Exploring Possibilities for Global Peace: Regional Meeting for Maryland, Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia

When: Monday, January 7, 2008
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

All Interested people are welcome. Come learn about MBB, and opportunities to volunteer your conflict resolution skills to help build global peacemaking capacity.

Where: Seekers Church (*no affiliation with MBB, which is a secular nonprofit*)
276 Carroll Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012



Call: Rachel Wohl – 410-841-2260



E-mail: Rachel Wohl - rachel.wohl@mdcourts.gov

MBB to hold its First Annual Congress in St. Malo, Colorado on Feb 15-18, 2008

Mediators beyond Borders will hold its first congress titled “**Transforming the World, One Conflict at a Time**” in the St. Malo Retreat Center in Colorado, USA. Topics of discussion include strategies to help save the planet; indigenous/environmental disputes; culture, prejudice and bias reduction; role of VORP and restorative justice and many others.

Speakers include: **Kenneth Cloke**, JD, LLM, Ph.D., *President of Mediators Beyond Borders*
Daniel Bowling, Esq. Co-Author “Bringing Peace into the Room”
John Paul Lederach, Ph.D. & **Herman Weaver**, Ph.D. “Peacebuilding: Songs from the Road”

Costs: \$695.00, double/ \$895.00 single *Price includes lodging, all meals, supplies, retreat and MBB Congress.



<http://www.mediatorsbeyondborders.org/pg8.cfm>



E-mail: Nan Waller Burnett – disputepr@aol.com

Administration

OVERHEAD

Currently all administrative expenses and overhead are provided from membership dues and supporter donations. **Robert A. Creo**, *MBB Secretary-Treasurer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA* and **Sandi DiMola**, *MBB Director, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA* donate office space for MBB. All directors, officers and mediators serve as volunteers and do not receive any compensation for their administrative or professional services. Directors and members expend their personal funds to participate in conferences and activities on behalf of MBB. Neither the officers or directors receive any reimbursement for travel.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues statements are mailed once each quarter, with quarterly payment option or annually, with \$ 1 per day minimum.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Financial statements are issued monthly for Board of Directors and distributed annually to membership. If anyone would like a copy of the most recent one, please e-mail **Kimberly A. Cox**.

MBB INTERNS

Barbora Batokova and Stephanie Della Camera are interning at the MBB Office in Pittsburgh. Barbora is originally from the Czech Republic and is currently a senior at Chatham University, majoring in Professional Communications. Steff, originally from Philadelphia, is a junior at Chatham University majoring in Accounting and Management.

CONTACT INFO

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Majjer Majuch, *MBB Intern* – majuchmbb@gmail.com