



MBB World Mediation News

Issue 15, January 2010

Western Europe:

Switzerland: *Recent Vote Banning Construction of New Minarets Is Moment of Risk But Also Opportunity to Open Dialogue and Explore Underlying Apprehensions,* Guardian.co.uk (December 11, 2009)

Southern Europe:

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: *Promotion and Use of Mediation Considered Important in Country's Bid for EU Membership,* [BBC International Reports \(Europe\)](http://BBC International Reports (Europe)) (November 24, 2009) (Subscription Required)

Northern Africa

Sudan: *Darfur Mediation Team Urges Government to Create Environment Conducive to Peace Talks,* Sudan Tribune (December 28, 2009)

Peace Talks to Resume on January 24 in Qatar, [BBC International Reports \(Middle East\)](http://BBC International Reports (Middle East)) (December 15, 2009) (Subscription Required)

Mediation Team to Implement Consultative Meetings with Representatives of Civil Society and Regional Movements to Ensure Inclusive Peace Process, Sudan Vision (November 22, 2009)

Rebel Group Calls on Commission of African Union (AU) to Support Ongoing Efforts by AU-UN Mediator; Recent Efforts Include Road Map for Peace Process, [BBC International Reports \(Middle East\)](http://BBC International Reports (Middle East)) (November 23, 2009) (Subscription Required)

Algeria: *New Mediation Process Allows Citizens to Bypass Courts in Favor of Process Rooted in Village Traditions,* Magharebia (December 2, 2009)

Western Africa

Niger: *Talks Begin Between Government and Opposition, Mediated by Economic Community of West African States,* AFP (December 22, 2009)

Don't Miss:

MBB's Third Annual Congress

Washington, DC

March 5-7, 2010

[Register Now](#)

Inside MBB:

A Word from MBB President Kenneth Cloke:

In December 2009, delegates from around the world met in Copenhagen, Denmark for the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in an effort to reach a comprehensive agreement before the commitments set out in the Kyoto Protocol expire in 2012.

MBB was the only dispute resolution organization approved as a Non-Governmental Observer for the Copenhagen meeting. MBB brought nearly 100 mediators from 20 countries to Copenhagen to urge delegates to include a mediation provision in the new climate change agreement so as to reduce the length, intractability and cost of climate conflicts. As we now know, Copenhagen fell short of producing a binding agreement. Yet the conflicts and problems that are being triggered by climate change are proceeding unabated. MBB views mediation and other conflict resolution techniques as powerful and effective ways of reducing and resolving these conflicts.

Labor Minister Bestowed with Fellowship of Chartered Institute of Mediators and Conciliators, Emphasizes That Mediation Has Yielded Positive Impact in Niger Delta Region, [Nigerian Compass](#) (December 17, 2009)

Opposition Groups in Talks with Regional Mediator Aiming to Defuse Political Crisis, [AFP](#) (November 12, 2009)

Guinea: *Country Hopeful Regional Mediation Can Resolve Political Crisis, [VOA News.com](#) (December 14, 2009)*

Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore Leads Mediation Efforts Among Members of Military Government and Political Opponents to End Leadership Crisis and Establish Dialogue, [VOA News.com](#) (November 18, 2009)

Eastern Africa

Uganda: *Six Major Political Parties Meet in Kampala, Organized by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, to Foster Inter-Party Cooperation and Sustainable Democracy, But Failed to Execute Memorandum of Understanding, [AllAfrica.com](#) (December 21, 2009) (Subscription Required)*

Zimbabwe: *South African President Jacob Zuma Dispatches High-Powered Mediation Team for Meetings with Country's Main Political Parties, [Zim Net Radio](#) (November 29, 2009)*

Kenya: *Executive Director of Kenya Human Rights Commission Warns That, Despite Outward Appearance of Successful Mediation, "Silence for Peace" Deals and Institutional Resistance to Accountability May Threaten Truth Commission's Work and Opportunity for Lasting Peace, [The EastAfrican](#) (December 7, 2009)*

Somalia: *Local Islamists Insist Will Only Accept Mediation Based on Shari'ah Law, [BBC International Reports](#) (October 27, 2009) (Subscription Required)*

Traditional Elders of Hiran Region Welcome Mediation Efforts Between Two Rival Clans, [AllAfrica.com](#) (October 25, 2009)

Middle East

Yemen: *Tribal Mediation Successfully Ends Blockade of Road Supplying Capital with Gas Supplies, [World News Connection](#) (October 30, 2009) (Subscription Required)*

Israel/Palestine: *Russia Warns Against Decline in UN's Role in Peace Process, Says Third-Party Mediations Have Failed to Restart Talks, [Ria Novosti](#) (December 21, 2009)*

Syria: *Government Does Not Have High Expectations for Peace Talks With Israel, but Optimistic About Sincerity of US*

[MBB Katrina Team Completes Additional Training in October 2009: "Turning Conflict Into Collaboration,"](#) as Part of Initiative to Help Community Mediators Improve Skills and Build Community Mediation in Louisiana and Mississippi in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina; MBB Katrina Team Partners with Mississippi Mediation Project and Family Mediation Council of Louisiana

Meditation:

"Peace is the marriage of the people and the planet, with all attendant vows."

Anonymous

Art and Dialogue:

Iranian and Scandinavian Musicians Performing on the Banks of the Rhone Show That Cultures Can Converge Into Something Harmonious: "*When East Meets West Through Music*", by Mehra Rimer, [Common Ground News Service](#) (December 8, 2009)

Documentary Captures Experience of Local Mediators Who Traveled to Israel and the West Bank on Mission to "Just Listen"; Film Entitled "*Stories from the Green Line*" Debuts at Ethical Society of Philadelphia, [Philadelphia Daily News](#) (November 17, 2009)

Tehran Al-Alam Television Carries Episode of Regular Program "*With the Event*" Entitled "*The Taliban continue their threats, Washington asks Riyadh to engage in dialogue with them,*" on November 2, 2009; Discussion Focuses on How Washington Will Respond to Taliban's Conditions If Willing to Negotiate, [World News Connection](#) (November 3, 2009) (Subscription Required)

["The Shift: A Movie Being Made by a Movement,"](#) by Lighthouse Films, Chronicles the Faces, the Stories, and the Leaders Assisting in Social Transformation

Intentions in Reinitiating Dialogue, [Ynet News](#) (December 18, 2009)

Turkey/Armenia: *After Extensive Mediation by US and Russian Officials, Armenia and Turkey Sign Treaty, Designed to Open Borders and End Long-Running Tensions; However, Joint Historical Commission Will Be Established to Look into Atrocities of 1915, and Both Sides Concerned Exposure Will Lead to Reopening of Differences*, [World Market Media](#) (October 12, 2009)

Iraq: *Iraqi Foes Give Mediation a Chance; University of Massachusetts Professor Padraig O'Malley Convenes Third in Round of Mediation Sessions (Beginning in 2007) to Help Parties Develop Problem-Solving Mechanisms, with Aim to Allow Arabs, Kurds and Turkmens to Resolve Their Many Disputes on Their Own*, [The Boston Globe](#) (November 19, 2009)

Western Asia

Azerbaijan: *Parliament Adopts Peacekeeping Bill, Including Provision Supporting Implementation of Peaceful Mechanisms of Settlement or Mediation During Territorial or Other Disputes with International Communities*, [Wap.apa.az](#) (December 25, 2009)

South-Central Asia

Iran: *Mediation by the Wise (or Elders) Is Suggested as Way to End Country's Tensions Over Recent Elections, Many Skeptical*, [BBC International Reports \(Middle East\)](#) (November 24, 2009) (Subscription Required)

Some Reformers Suggest That Through Mediation, National Unity May Be Preserved and Public Trust Restored, [BBC International Reports \(Middle East\)](#) (October 8, 2009) (Subscription Required)

Cinema Guilds Ask Culture Minister to Mediate Issue of Travel Restrictions on Cineastes, Which Followed Political Unrest in June, [Tehran Times](#) (November 11, 2009)

Pakistan: *Noted Personalities Support Opposition Party Chief Imran Khan's Offer to Act as Mediator Between Militants and Government to Find Solution to Ever-Expanding Problems of Terrorism; Taliban Accepts Offer Unconditionally, Ball in Government's Court*, [The Nation](#) (December 26, 2009) (Subscription Required); [The Nation](#) (December 11, 2009)

South-Eastern Asia

Thailand: *Phuket Police Introduce Mediation Process to Settle Dispute; Skilled Mediators in Great Demand*, [Phuket Wan](#) (December 28, 2009)

Of Interest:

[3rd European Conference on Mediation Will Be Held in Paris on May 27 and 28, 2010](#), Organized by the European Mediation Network Initiative

[3rd European Conference on Collaborative Practice to Be Held in Munich in June 2010 Will Feature "Challenging Conflict," with Gary Friedman and Jack Himmelstein, Focusing on Complexity of Conflicts in Expanding Global Community](#), [Idealawg](#) (December 23, 2009) (Subscription Required)

[Liberian Peacebuilding Office Holds Second Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop; More Peace Ambassadors Trained in Rural Areas](#), [AllAfrica.com](#) (December 17, 2009) (Subscription Required)

[National Union of Mediators from Romania Gather at Romanian Parliament on November 28, 2009 in First Annual Congress, with Theme "Mediation as a Lifestyle"; European Association of Mediation Sends Message of Support](#), [PR.com](#) (December 6, 2009)

[The International Finance Corporation, a Member of the World Bank Group, Sponsors University of South Pacific's 2009 Law Week in Vanuatu to Promote Awareness of Mediation Benefits](#), [FinChannel.com](#) (November 24, 2009)

[The Professional Mediation Center, Established in 1996 at St. Joseph University in Beirut, Trains Mediators in All Walks of Life, Bridges Divisions Among Youth; Program Recently Trained 75 Young Lebanese in five Rural Districts, with Participants from Shia, Sunni, Druze and Maronite Faiths](#), [Daily News Egypt](#) (November 12, 2009) (Subscription Required)

[Harvard Mediation Group \(Created by Harvard Law School's Roger Fisher\) Has Long-Term Investment and Successes in Negotiating Iraq's Internal Tribal Wars; Boston Has Become Global Hub for Teaching Conflict](#)

Mediating Parties in Map Ta Phut Environmental Dispute Reach Understanding; Plan Expected in February, [Thai Press Reports](#) (November 25, 2009) (Subscription Required)

Oceania:

New Zealand: *Number of Suicides and Murders Caused by Family Breakups Could Be Reduced If Government Funded Mediation for Child Custody Disputes, Claim Local Mediators, [NZHerald.co.nz](#) (November 20, 2009)*

North America

United States: *Eight-Year Old Lawsuit in West Virginia by Victims in 2001 Flood Moves to Mediation, [West Virginia Media](#) (December 11, 2009)*

In Case of Girl Who Fleed Family in Fear of Life After Converting to Christianity from Islam, Ohio Judge Rejects Family's Request for Mediation without Attorneys Present, and Agrees with Girl's Attorney to Continue with Counseling and Delay Mediation, [Fox News](#) (December 23, 2009)

In Same Case, Florida Judge Had Favored Mediation, But Family Rejected Any Role for Mediation in Islam, [American Thinker](#) (December 5, 2009)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Proposes Indirect Negotiations Through US Mediation Between Israel and Palestinians, [World News Connection](#) (October 30, 2009) (Subscription Required)

JAMS Proposes First-Ever Mediator-in Reserve Policy, Allowing Parties to Pre-Select Mediator at Start of International Arbitration; If Issues Threaten Arbitration, Parties May Move to Mediation Quickly if Desired, [PR Newswire](#) (November 23, 2009)

South America

Colombia/Venezuela: *Spanish Government Willing to Mediate Crisis Between Two Countries, Help Establish Valid Mechanisms to Lessen Tensions on Permanent Basis, [Podor360](#) (November 17, 2009)*

Brazil: *President to Meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Open Dialogue Regarding Iran's Nuclear Ambitions; Mediation Is Backed by US President Barack Obama, [Reuters](#) (November 19, 2009)*

Chile/Argentina: *Pope Visits on 25th Anniversary of Peace Treaty Signed Between Former Dictators with Papal Mediation, [AFP](#) (November 29, 2009)*

Resolution Theory and Practice for Uses in Law, Diplomacy, and Business Around Globe, [Boston.com](#) (November 9, 2009)

African Officials Join Seminar on Enhancing African Union Capacity on Mediation; Seminar Used Examples of Peace Processes in Sudan, Guinea, Somalia, Burundi, Comoros, Madagascar, and the Central Africa Republic to Draw Lessons for Improving Capacity, [World News Connection](#) (October 24, 2009) (Subscription Required)

United Nations University Hosting Newly Appointed Turkish Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN, Mr. Ertugrul Apakan, Who Is Discussing How the International Community Can Best Fulfill Its Role and Responsibility As a Mediator in Conflict Situations, October 21, UN Headquarters, [Turkish Journal](#) (October 15, 2009)

Noteworthy:

"African Union and the Challenge of Conflict Management," by Uchenna Nzeako, [This Day \(Nigeria\)](#) (December 27, 2009) (Subscription Required), Discusses "Frantic" Peace Efforts Aimed at Managing Conflict-Ridden Africa

"President Alvaro Uribe's Possible Third Term and Conflict Resolution in Colombia," [International Crisis Group, Latin America Report No. 31](#) (December 18, 2009)

"From a Language of Solutions to a Language of Reconciliation," by Marzug Halabi, [Common Ground News Service](#) (December 3, 2009), Says Shift in Language May Bring Real Points of Conflict and Implicit Values to the Surface and Aid More Meaningful Negotiations

"World Citizen: Mediation as the Third Path to Global Power," by Frida Ghitis, [World Politics Review](#) (December 10, 2009) (Subscription Required) Discusses How Countries with Less Military Might May Develop "Mediating

Organizations

UN: *Ombudsman to Be Appointed by UN Secretary General*, [Mediate.com](#) (December 28, 2009); [Ombudsman and New Mediation Division](#)

The Peacebuilding Commission, the Central Intergovernmental Body Mandated with Ensuring that the UN Leads in Coordinating International Efforts to Aid Populations in Post-Conflict Situations, Is Underutilized, Finds UN Report; 2010 Review of Commission's Work Provides Opportunity to Build on Experiences, Define Potential Role in Support of Expanding UN Peacebuilding Agenda, and Enhance Support to Countries Emerging from Conflict, [US Federal News](#) (November 25, 2009) (Subscription Required)

USAID: *In Partnership with Rabat Center for International Mediation and Arbitration, Will Develop Cadre of Experienced Mediators to Assist Globally*, [USAID FrontLines](#) (November 2009)

Others: [Taking It Global](#) Is Online Community of Youth Interested in Global Issues and Creating Positive Change, Provides Members with Information and Links to Global Organizations Involved in Conflict and Peacebuilding, Including [Institute for International Cooperation and Development](#), and [Alliance for Peace \(Nepal\)](#)

[Human Security Gateway](#): Online Database of Human Security-Related Resources Designed to Make Information More Accessible to Policymakers, Researchers and Interested Public

[The Global Peace Convention](#): Annual Gathering of Peace Builders from Around the World Provides Opportunity to Exchange Information and Learn Best Practices to Improve Quality of All Peacebuilding Projects

Muscle" to Gain Prestige and Become Influential Players on Global Scene

"*The Reintegration Process for Child Soldiers in Liberia*," by Janel B. Galvanek, [African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes: Conflict Trends, Issue 3](#) (November 2009)

"*Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction*," by [US Institute of Peace](#) and [US Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute](#) (November 2009), Presents Comprehensive Set of Shared Principles for Building Sustainable Peace in Societies Emerging from Violent Conflict

"*Mediation and Peace Processes: IPI Blue Paper No. 8*," by International Peace Institute (October 19, 2009), Published as Part of Program "Coping with Crisis, Conflict and Change"; With More Armed Conflicts Likely to End in Mediated Settlements, and New Conflict Drivers Such as Climate Change Demand Broader Substantive Agendas, There is Need for Wider Range of Mediators with Specialized Skills

Editors: [Keith L. Seat](#) (kseat@keithseat.com) & [Brenda E. Hansen](#) (hansenbe@comcast.net)

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1807 Jancey Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1065 | Phone: 412-441-1151 | Fax: 412-441-1152 | www.MediatorsBeyondBorders.org

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