



## NOTEWORTHY:

**Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in Constructing a Permanent Record of the Country's 14 Years of Civil War, Becomes First Truth Commission to Reach Outside its Borders to Collect Testimony from Refugees; Project, Coordinated by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, Based in Several American Locations, Including Staten Island, New York, Home to Largest Liberian Community Outside Africa, [New York Times](#) (September 18, 2007)**

**United Nations Security Council Reaffirms Commitment to 2005 Resolution Regarding Peaceful Resolution and Prevention of Disputes, Including Use of Mediation, with Focus on Africa, [U.S. Federal News](#) (August 28, 2007) (Subscription Required)**

**Mediators Meet in Oslo, Norway to Discuss Ways to Ensure Continued Confidence in Mediation as Preferred Means of Settling Global Disputes;**

## MWB WORLD MEDIATION NEWS

### ***Africa***

***Sudan:*** *Ancient Tradition of "Al-Jawdiyah," or Mediation, Based on Principle That Method of Resolving Disputes as Important as Outcome; Institution Respects Power of Tribal Customs, Traditions and Values to Resolve Conflicts and Build Peace, [World News Connection](#) (August 19, 2007) (Subscription Required)*

***Ethiopia:*** *Country Ready to Embrace Mediation in Attempt at More Peaceful Resolution of Internal Disputes Among Citizens and Cross-Border Conflicts, [AllAfrica.com](#) (August 10, 2007)*

***Malawi:*** *Government May Be Seeking to Mediate Budget Impasse*

Two Malawi government officials reportedly sought assistance by churches to mediate with the opposition party in parliament in an efforts to pass a budget resolution. The request for the churches to mediate was confirmed by the Livingstonia Synod's General Secretary, but government officials insisted the churches are intervening on their own initiative.

[The Daily Times](#) (July 13, 2007)

***Zimbabwe:*** *South African President Mbeki Receives Additional Support from Southern Africa's Heads of State in Efforts at Mediation Between Zimbabwe's Ruling and Opposition Parties; New Standby Peacekeeping Force Created for Regional Conflicts, [VOA News](#) (August 17, 2007)*

*President Mbeki Makes Headway in Zimbabwean Mediation in Efforts to Move Toward Elections, [SW Radio Africa \(London\)](#)(September 5, 2007)*

***Ghana:*** *Mediation Among Ga Parties Allows Annual Harvest Festival to Proceed Without Incident, Despite Predictions of Strife, [AllAfrica.com](#) (August 14, 2007); [AllAfrica.com](#) (August 11, 2007)*

**Group Explores Ways to Better Ensure That Peace, Once Achieved, Will Last,** [M2 Presswire](#) (August 3, 2007)(Subscription Required)

**United Nations Uniquely Qualified to Intervene in Iraq's Global Crisis, With Power to Convene the International Community and Mediate Complex External and Internal Conflicts Outside the Realm of Politics; Lasting Stability Requires Military Strategy to Support Mediation Efforts of International Community,** [New York Times Editorial](#) (July 20, 2007)

## **BOOK NOTES:**

***Choosing to Engage: Armed Groups and Peace Processes* (London: Conciliation Resources, 2005)**

In International Conflicts Where Armed Groups Are Often Necessary Participants in Efforts at Peace, Essay Offers Advice for Non-Governmental Organizations Seeking to Mediate, Without Resources of or Access to Inter-Governmental Institutions Such as United Nations, [The Theosophical Order of Service - USA](#) (August 30, 2007)

***The Courage for Peace*, by Louise Diamond (Berkeley, CA: Canari Press, 2000)**

Empowering Not Only Ourselves Through Shifts in Attitude, But Those Who Live in Countries Rife With Conflict, Through a Partnership Approach Based

## **Oceania**

***Fiji: United Nations Successfully Mediates Election Census Dispute Between Australia and Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics,*** [Radio Fiji](#) (August 11, 2007); [Fiji Government Online](#) (August 10, 2007)

## **South Asia**

***Afghanistan: Opposition Leader in Pakistan Offers to Mediate Between Taliban and Western World to Restore Relations,*** [Islamabad Pulse](#) (July 29, 2007)

***Nepal: Government Rejects UN Role in Mediation, Seeks to Resolve Crisis With Rebel Groups Internally,*** [People's Daily Online](#) (July 28, 2007); [ReliefWeb](#) (July 26, 2007)

***Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission Provides Training for Mediators; Mediation Successfully Settled 92,000 Human Rights Disputes in 2005-2006,*** [Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka](#) (August 29, 2007)

***Sri Lanka: "Cordial" Settlement of Disputes Embraced***  
Since it was established in 1988, Sri Lanka's Mediation Boards Commission (MBC) has grown to 286 panels serving most of the country, with 7,000 appointed mediators. The volunteer mediators receive only expenses and deal with civil matters (up to a monetary limit), land and boundary disputes, family and individual conflicts, and minor crimes, most of which must be mediated prior to litigation. Between 70,000 and 122,000 disputes have been mediated annually in recent years, with resolution of about half. Mediation is consistent with Sri Lanka's long history of settling disputes in a cordial manner, and the Chairman of the MBC explains that the country's commitment to mediation stems from recognition that mediation goes to the root of problems so that they are not repeated. The Chairman recently established nine mediation panels with 200 mediators in the northern Jaffna district, with positive response from Tamils, and is hopeful that the mediation program will build confidence between North and South.  
[The Nation](#) (July 22, 2007)

## **Southeast Asia**

***Papua/Indonesia: International Mediation Critical to Papua in Achieving Autonomy Deal,*** [Reuters](#) (August 7, 2007)

## **East Asia**

***South Korea: South Korea Seeks to Mediate Hostage Crisis With Taliban; Parties May Turn to Influential NGO, Red Crescent Party,*** [The Hankyoreh](#) (August 7, 2007)

***North Korea: Six Countries Negotiate Over Energy Crisis and Nuclear Plans***

on Our Common Existence and Universal Truths, Will Enable the World to Transform and Move Toward Peace, [The Theosophical Order of Service - USA](#) (August 30, 2007)

## **MEDITATION:**

"We don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory." Howard Zinn

## **DON'T MISS:**

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**Daniel Bowling, Esq., Co-Author "Bringing Peace Into the Room"**

**Erica Ariel Fox, JD, Harvard Negotiation Insight Initiative**

**AND Special Guests:**

**John Paul Lederach, PhD. & Herman Weaver, PhD**

**"Peacebuilding: Songs from the Road"**

Negotiators from the U.S., South Korea, Japan, China and Russia met with their North Korean counterparts recently to discuss details of an energy deal in connection with North Korea's promise to disable its nuclear facilities. While progress is being made that could address North Korea's energy crisis and reduce risks from its nuclear program, many details still need to be worked out and verified, and negotiators remain cautious.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (August 7, 2007) (Subscription Required)

## **Middle East**

**Palestine:** *Fatah Demands Hamas Apology as Arab Countries Attempt Low-Level Negotiations in Region*, [The Jerusalem Post](#) (August 8, 2007)

*Hamas Welcomes Russia's Efforts to Mediate Between Warring Palestinian Factions*, [The Times of India](#) (July 30, 2007)

## **Europe**

**Finland:** *Non-Profit Crisis Management Initiative Founded by Former Finnish President Brings Iraqi Shia and Sunni Muslim Groups Together for Talks*, [BigNews Network](#) (August 22, 2007)

**United Kingdom:** *Using Mediation to Curb Gang Wars*  
In its efforts to reduce gang violence and murders, the police force in Manchester, England is looking to Northern Ireland's use of mediation in the late 1980s which helped Catholics and Protestants break the cycle of retaliatory violence and ultimately settle their issues. The process under consideration involves using community members as mediators between rival gangs in a police-sponsored program, which is already under way in Birmingham.  
[Manchester Evening News](#) (August 7, 2007)

## **Caribbean**

**Trinidad and Tobago:** *Mediation Welcome in Volatile Country*

With even minor disputes sometimes leading to murder, Trinidad and Tobago's efforts at mediation are achieving some success. A government mediation program reports that since 2006 over 1,700 men and women have turned to mediation to resolve disputes involving family conflicts, neighborhood disputes, threats and harassment, as well as aggression among juveniles. Some of the cases were referred by the courts and others self-referred, but enough have been resolved amicably to encourage promotion of mediation.

[Trinidad and Tobago Express](#) (August 31, 2007)

## **South America**

**Argentina:** *Foreign Minister Communicates Country's*

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*Support for Chavez' Mediation Efforts in Colombian Crisis,*  
[Prensa Latina](#) (September 9, 2007)

**Brazil/Colombia:** *Brazil Becomes Second Country to  
Offer Support to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in  
Mediation for Release of Political Prisoners in Colombia,*  
[Mathaba.Net](#) (September 4, 2007)

*Chavez' Efforts May Resolve Colombian Crisis,* [Mathaba.Net](#)  
(September 7, 2007)

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