



## MBB World Mediation News

Issue 4, November/December 2007

### Africa

**Algeria:** Authorities Undertake Mediation Between Government and Tuareg Rebels in Neighboring Mali, [El Khabar](#) (September 16, 2007)

**Ethiopia:** History of Mediation Efforts by Ethiopian Rulers With Various Opposition Groups May Raise Questions Regarding Government Motivation and Mediator Impartiality in Current Reconciliation Efforts, [American Chronicle](#) (October 1, 2007)

**Zimbabwe:** Regional Mediation Efforts in Zimbabwe Led by Southern African Development Community Seen as Only Hope for Country Nearing Collapse, [VOA News](#) (September 18, 2007)

**Sudan:** UN and African Union Team Up and Prepare for Peace Talks in Darfur Crisis, [VOA News](#) (October 10, 2007)

National Reconciliation Corporation Offers to Mediate Dispute Between National Congress and Sudanese Liberation Movement, [Smc.sd](#) (October 24, 2007)

**Nigeria:** Shared Belief in Understanding and Acceptance Led Imam and Pastor in Nigeria to Found Interfaith Mediation Centre, Muslim-Christian Dialogue, in 1995; Centre Has Reconciled Warring Factions, Educated School Children in Peace, [AllAfrica.com](#) (November 5, 2007) (Subscription Required)

### Oceania

**New Zealand:** Claims from Police Anti-Terrorism Raids in New Zealand Sent to Mediation by Human Rights Commission, [Stuff.co.nz](#) (October 30, 2007)

### East Asia

**Japan:** Japan Willing to Mediate Between United States and Iran Over Nuclear Technology Stalemate; Calls for Impartial Global Assembly to Free Nuclear Energy Decisions From Politics, [PressTV](#) (November 12, 2007)

**China:** China Praises UN Mediation Efforts in Myanmar After Government Crackdown on Pro-Democracy Protests, [Hemscott.com](#) (October 4, 2007)

### Inside MBB:

#### Organization Launches First International Effort

It was not a typical mediation training. We had a blackboard and chalk, but only one copy of Ken Cloke's mediation manual. Sitting at small student desks in a cement block classroom, the thirty-plus participants looked dreadfully uncomfortable. It was hopelessly hot, but there was no air conditioning and no drinking water other than a small plastic bag distributed with lunch. Along with my co-facilitators, Bartuah Ninwillay of Mediators Beyond Borders and two Liberians trained by the West African Dispute Resolution Center, I was offering a one-day workshop at the Buduburam Liberian Refugee Settlement outside Accra, Ghana in August. I was not sure things were going to go well.

I was so wrong. The Liberians were totally committed to learning the theory and skills of mediation. Perhaps there is nothing like many years of violent conflict in the country one calls home to make one realize that there has to be a better way to resolve differences. Liberia's two civil wars in the past 20 years nearly destroyed the country. Over thirty thousand refugees still live in the Buduburam Settlement in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, but they have managed to build schools and

## South-Central Asia

**Afghanistan/Pakistan:** *United States-Brokered Meetings Among Tribal Leaders From Afghanistan and Pakistan Shows Progress; But to Build on This US May Need to Permit Taliban at the Table,* [Toronto Star](#) (September 9, 2007)

**Sri Lanka:** *Human Rights Commission Regional Office Organizes Training Program for Officers of Mediation Boards in Polonnaruwa District to Enhance Coordination Among Boards and Improve Attitudes Toward Better Service,* [Daily News Sri Lanka](#) (September 24, 2007)

## Western Asia

**Turkey:** *Turkey Offers to Play Role in Improving Relations Between Lebanon and Syria,* [An-Nahar](#) (October 7, 2007)

## Middle East

**Israel/Palestine:** *Dramatist Uses Stage Project to Challenge Jewish and Arab Audiences to See a Common Narrative and Empathize With the Other Side in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,* [The Christian Science Monitor](#) (October 6, 2007)

*Playgrounds for Peace To Build Public Playgrounds for Children in Areas Between Muslim and Jewish Neighborhoods; Project Effectively Combines Social Justice, Conflict Resolution and Diplomacy,* [www.playgroundsforpeace.org](http://www.playgroundsforpeace.org)

**Jordan:** *Jordanian Delegation Attends International ADR Conference in Rome, Becoming One of First Countries in Region Formally to Recognize Mediation,* [Petra.com](#) (October 6, 2007)

**Lebanon:** *France's Foreign Minister Continues Efforts to Foster Understanding Between Lebanon's Feuding Leaders and Between Christians and Muslims, to Prevent Further Slide Into Chaos,* [International Herald Tribune](#) (November 12, 2007)

**Iraq:** *United States Institute for Peace Helps Tribal Sheikhs Near Baghdad Reach Agreement on Security, Quality of Life, With USIP-Trained Iraqis Leading Negotiations,* [United States Institute for Peace- Press Release](#) (October 19, 2007)

## Europe

**Scotland:** *Edinburgh, Scotland Once Served as Neutral, Hospitable, Discreet Center for Global Discussions Concerning Cold War; Could Play Similar Role Now For Serious Conversations About Urgent World Crises,* [The Scotsman](#) (October 30, 2007)

**Switzerland:** *Switzerland Builds on Centuries of Neutrality to Take More Active Role in Negotiating International Crises and Promoting Peace; Sets Summit With Russia to Discuss Bilateral Trade Issues,* [Itar-Tass](#) (November 9, 2007) (Subscription

churches and hold soccer matches. Many jumped at the opportunity to attend a workshop on mediation. Their questions made it clear that they were fully engaged as they grappled with the skills of reflective listening, third party neutrality, summaries and opportunities for recognition.

My dream has been to return to help facilitate a full mediation training and set up a mediation center where newly trained mediators can practice their skills before returning to Liberia as dispute resolution experts. This is very much needed as the Liberians struggle to rebuild and overcome the pain and brutality of the past. My dream is coming true as an MBB team of five – Robert A. Creo, Ingrid Lundberg, Prabha Sankaranarayan, Tammy Craig and I – travels to Ghana from November 28th to December 10th to assess the Buduburam project and implement next steps.

Harriett Nettles, MBB Founding Member

## Noteworthy:

### Seeking Common Ground, Muslim Leaders Reach Out to Christians

An open letter from 138 leading Muslims to worldwide Christian leaders calls for cooperation to create peace and understanding, by emphasizing the common foundation between Muslims and Christians (and Jews) based on key shared commandments of love of one God and love of neighbor. The 29-page letter dated October 13 seeks more than "polite ecumenical dialogue" between religious leaders, because the future and perhaps survival of the world is at stake, and concludes by urging peace

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**European Union:** *Building on Success of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Europe, Two Conferences Will be Held in Rome and Jerusalem to Train Mediators for Business Mediation*, [The Jerusalem Post](#) (October 1, 2007)

## South America

**Brazil/Colombia:** *Brazil Offers Support and Neutral Territory to Venezuelan President Chavez' in Mediation of Prisoner Exchange Between Colombian Government and Rebels*, [International Herald Tribune](#) (September 19, 2007)

**Colombia:** *At International Peace Seminar, Colombian High Commissioner for Peace Calls Venezuelan President Chavez's Mediation Efforts in Prisoner Swap "Best Step" Ever Taken By Colombian Government*, [Daily News Caracas](#) (November 12, 2007)

## Organizations

**United Nations:** *General Assembly Continues Focus on Reinforced Role of Mediation in Organization's Restructuring Efforts in Administration of Justice*, [US Federal News](#) (October 8, 2007) (Subscription Required)

*Office of the Embassy of Switzerland, Azerbaijan's Commissioner for Human Rights, and United Nations Department of Public Information Celebrate International Day of Peace With Exhibition Honoring Women Committed to Promotion of Peace and Development of Peace Culture*, [United Nations Department of Public Information](#) (September 20, 2007)

*UN Recognizes Role for Both Itself and Regional Institutions that Know Culture and Can Address Root Causes of International Disputes*, [M2 Presswire](#) (November 7, 2007) (Subscription Required)

**International Centre for Religion and Diplomacy:** *International Center for Religion and Diplomacy Hosts Reconciliation Dialogue to Enable American Christians and Middle Eastern Muslims to Build Trust; Work Includes Intervention in Identity-Based Conflicts Worldwide*, [Christianity Today](#) (November 1, 2007)

**Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict:** *Coalition Working in Kazakhstan to Promote Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; Group Joined With NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security to Increase Role of Women in International Efforts at Conflict Prevention and Resolution*, [Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict](#) (October 2007)

**Beyond Intractability:** *Motivated By Religious Goals of Seeking Peace, Religious Leaders and Faith-Based NGOs Frequently Play Prominent Roles as Mediators and Intermediaries in Conflict Scenarios Around the Globe; Religion Plays Positive Role in*

and harmony, with mutual respect and goodwill. The Islamic unity shown in the letter is notable, with influential signatories from the Sunni, Shi'a, Salafi and Sufi traditions. While the letter appears to present opportunities for dialogue and interaction, no specific response or next steps are proposed.

[Common Ground News Service](#) (October 16, 2007)

[Open Letter from Muslim Religious Leaders](#) (October 13, 2007)  
[Proposed Mediation Response](#)

## SURVEY: From Africa to Asia to the Americas, Mediation Continues to Develop Around the Globe

- The Moroccan branch of NGO Search for Common Ground has been in partnership with Moroccan Ministry of Justice to foster mediation; has launched new project to mediate family disputes through a call center.
- United Nations official encourages mediation in Angola, relying on both tribal chieftains and NGOs.
- Mediation encouraged in Kenya to avoid harming economy due to long delays in court.
- Hong Kong promotes mediation and considers it a global trend; mediation conference being held in November.
- Singapore's Ministry of State for Health began Medical Mediation pilot to help patients obtain clear explanations and fair settlements.
- Mediation has been formally instituted in Tonga this year, two mediators have resolved three-fourths of their eight cases.
- In Barbados, former high court judge urges turn to

Mitigating Conflict, [Beyond Intractability](#) (September 5, 2007)

**Search for Common Ground:** *In Humanity Lies Hope for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: If We Stop Looking Through the Lens of Politics, We May Find Real Opportunities for Dialogue*, [Common Ground News Service](#) (November 8, 2007)

**Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue:** *Group Publishes First Guide on Armed Conflict Mediation, Offering Standards and Good Practices in Peace Negotiations*, [M2 Presswire](#) (October 12, 2007) (Subscription Required)

mediation.

The Chickasaw Nation is following other American Indian tribes in adopting mediation programs as more in line with traditional tribal wisdom than formal court systems.

[Magharebia \(Morocco\)](#) (October 18, 2007)

[Angola Press Agency](#) (October 23, 2007)

[AllAfrica.com \(Kenya\)](#) (October 2, 2007)

[World News Connection \(Hong Kong\)](#) (October 13, 2007) (Subscription Required)

[Channel News Asia \(Singapore\)](#) (October 20, 2007)

[Matangi Tonga](#) (September 24, 2007)

[Cbc.cc \(Barbados\)](#) (October 18, 2007)

[Tulsa World](#) (October 23, 2007) (Subscription Required)

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