



**THE OSLO CENTER**  
for Peace and Human Rights

**ANNUAL REPORT 2007**





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## A VISION IN ACTION



2007 was the first full year of work at the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights. Our vision is to make a difference for poor and oppressed people. Through our projects I think we have contributed to a better life for people in need. But there is much more to do!

As the UN Secretary General's special humanitarian envoy to the Horn of Africa, I coordinated, with good help from our staff, the efforts of the UN agencies working in the region to meet the consequences of recurrent droughts and floods. Eight million people were at risk. Thanks to the efforts of numerous people they were saved. We initiated and got approved a road map for increased food security for the countries concerned.

One of the main conflict dimensions in the world of today is between 'The Islamic World and the West'.

*It is of great importance to bring influential people together across borders, talking frankly about how to live with our differences and also focusing on common values as a platform for peace.*

Few if any religions actually have an aggressive profile in their scriptures. It is man-made. Religion is always interpreted by someone. But we can mobilise against such negative interpretations by enhancing our efforts to promote understanding between people. It is of great importance to bring influential people together across borders, talking frankly about how to live with our differences and also focusing on common values as a platform for peace.



The Oslo Center has in 2007 been active in different dialogue efforts, with a special emphasis on a two year project of cooperation with former president of Iran Mohammad Khatami's Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations. We want to contribute to increasing the understanding between the Muslim world and the Western world, in a situation of high tensions and rhetoric of war.

Democratic governments or governments that actually walk on the path to democracy should be supported. If we all want to make a difference in the long run, I believe we all must start by building a solid foundation within each state.

Democracy has gained ground over the last years. We want to contribute to a further positive development in projects for freedom of association in the Arab world in countries like Jordan, Morocco and Egypt (in cooperation with Club de Madrid), and coalition-building in countries like Kenya and Morocco (in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute).

To combat violations of human rights is still a huge challenge. The Oslo Center has been particularly concerned with North-Korea and Burma. The very difficult situation for the people of North Korea and Burma has unfortunately not changed for the better during 2007. We will stay committed to the fight for human rights in these countries, and will in the coming year also undertake a human rights-report of Eritrea.

The Oslo Center now has a solid economic funding, good working facilities and a competent staff engaged to realize our vision; to make a better world for poor and oppressed people by contributing to peace and respect for human rights. I thank all who have supported us in 2007.



**Kjell Magne Bondevik**

President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights





*It is the aim of this initiative to try to retake the public opinion from the extremists and engage in constructive dialogue.*





## A GOOD DIALOGUE

### **The Islamic World and the West**

Today we witness an increased polarisation between the Islamic World and the West. The ground is fertile for creating enemy images, stereotypes and generalisations of one another. Political and military actions have nurtured the polarisation and turned discrepancies into violent conflicts. The lack of understanding and the frequent humiliations inflicted upon Muslim communities by “the West” have resulted in deep resentment and misgivings about the way world politics function. Incitements against the West by persons and groups who claim to act in the name of Islam have further increased the polarisation. Hard-line elements on both sides of the divide exploit these rifts as justification for violence.

With a view to build bridges and transcend hostile images, a partnership has been established between the Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations (FDC), headed by former president of Iran, Mohammad Khatami, and the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights. In May 2007 this partnership was formalised by an agreement between the two centres.

The initiative aims at raising awareness in the West on how humiliating practices towards the Islamic world can add to the religious, cultural and political divide and be used by elements of society in the Islamic world seeking to escalate rather than reduce tension and conflict. On the other hand, extremism and terrorist attacks have resulted in negative perceptions of Islam. It is the aim of this initiative to try to regain the public opinion from the extremists and engage in constructive dialogue. The initiative also aims at including the gender dimension, both regarding participation and addressing women’s rights and participation in all its activities.

#### **The Oslo Conference on Religion, Democracy and Extremism**

As a first common effort, a conference was held in Oslo 15 - 16 May 2007, with co-operation from Club de Madrid. A diverse group of forty religious and political leaders, scholars and government officials from a range of Muslim and Western countries participated. The conference had high-level international participation from Bosnia, Chile, Iceland, Iran, Italy, Mauritius, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Spain, Sudan, the United States and Yemen. The conference received economic support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The conference participants discussed and endorsed a statement underlining the need to work together to promote intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity and human rights, including preparation for a follow-up conference in Iran in October 2008. The three co-organizers accepted a call from participants to:

- 1) Work actively for increased public understanding, awareness and mutual respect of each other and our respective civilizations, including by creating greater media attention to voices of reason;
- 2) Study further and apply lessons learned from inter-religious conflict and dialogue, as brought forward in the Conference, in order to inform the further work;
- 3) Include in dialogue activities those who may not have access to or predisposition toward processes of peaceful dialogue;
- 4) Communicate and collaborate with other initiatives sharing similar objectives.

#### **The Tehran workshop on Extremism and Tolerance**

As a direct follow-up of the Oslo conference, The Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations and the Oslo Center organised a focused workshop on the theme "Extremism and Tolerance" in Tehran 15 November 2007.

A group of twenty religious and political leaders, scholars and representatives of different organizations aimed at fostering tolerance and to devise more productive ways of combating extremism. The group addressed the issues of root causes and inflaming factors of extremism, the role of ideology and religion and how to promote tolerance where extremism grows.

The workshop participants widely agreed that occupation, discrimination, deprivation, injustice and humiliation are amongst the root causes of extremism. There was a need to distance religious beliefs based on thought and rationality from extremism and acts of terrorism. It is dogmatic and absolutist interpretations of religion that are prone to sacrificing human life and even leading the perpetrators to sacrifice their own lives.

As constructive ways of combating extremism, several measures were mentioned; expansion of the room for political expression, promotion of multilateralism and pluralism, closing of the social-economic gap between North and South. The conference participants agreed that respect for universal human rights should be promoted and form a common aim of our work.

Visiting Iran we met with several women's organisations discussing different issues concerning women's rights. We also had an initial dialogue with Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, the first female Vice President of Iran. She is currently a city councilwoman elect of Tehran and she is collaborating in the workshop on Gender and equality to be held in June 2008.



Although it is difficult to measure what has been achieved so far, the project can be seen as a contribution to the various international dialogue initiatives, adding value by bringing influential politicians into a much needed dialogue on religion, tolerance, diversity, human rights and democracy.

The project will continue in 2008 with two workshops, one on Religion and politics and one on Gender and equality during the spring followed by a conference in Iran. This workshop was carried out with financial support from the Umoe Group.

### **Democratic Dialogue and Freedom of Association in the Arab World**

The Oslo Center is supporting The Club of Madrid in their project on democratic dialogue and freedom of association in Jordan, Morocco and Egypt. It is supported by the European Commission and the UN Democracy Fund. The purpose is to assess efforts to promote democracy and intercultural dialogue in an era when concerns about instability and terrorism have become widespread.

*This project brings together leaders of the Arab world and of consolidated democracies in an intercultural dialogue on critical issues related to free association and democratic participation.*

The Club of Madrid is an independent organization dedicated to strengthening democracy around the world by drawing on the unique experience and resources of its Members – 70 democratic former heads of state and government Jordan.

In coordination with the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan we have been facilitating and participating in meetings between representatives of the government and civil society in public affairs.

Our delegation focused on discussing freedom of association and the electoral system, the media, parliamentary elections and freedom of association at the legislative level. Central issues discussed included electoral law, political parties` law, public gathering law and NGO laws. We have met with a diverse group of State Representatives and members of civil society.

While much has been achieved in Jordan, we believe that the dialogue between civil society and government institutions can be strengthened. On these Club of Madrid missions we have worked with former Prime Minister Abdulkarim Al Eryani (Yemen) and former President Valdis Birkavs (Latvia).





*The focal point is a process of learning about  
the democratic progress.*



## **Morocco**

In the dialogues in Morocco we have focused on Freedom of Association. The focal point is a process of learning about the democratic progress achieved by Moroccans and identifying remaining challenges and how to address them.

A key challenge in consolidating freedom of association is reducing the gap between the normative and the real – between a solid legal framework and the implementation of the laws, a point repeated and validated by many Moroccan civil society interlocutors.

With the assistance of local project partner Maroc 2020, the delegations have met a broad array of Moroccan government, and parliamentary and civil society representatives.

Several dialogue sessions have been held with State and non-State actors on freedom of association for human rights and local organisations, and with regard to legislative reform and women's political participation.

On these Club of Madrid missions we have worked together with former Prime Minister Zlatko Lagumdzija (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Former Prime Minister of Bulgaria Philip Dimitrov and Former Prime Minister of Sudan Sadig Al Mahdi.



*The Oslo Center will continue to make its experience and inputs available to the parties with a view to developing good governance through power sharing and coalition governments.*





## PEACE THROUGH DEMOCRACY AND CO-OPERATION

### **Counselling the political parties and presidential candidates in Kenya**

During 2007, Kjell Magne Bondevik and The Oslo Center visited Kenya twice to share experiences from the development and running of effective coalition governments. At The Oslo Center we have systemized these lessons learned in a special manual for use in meetings with political leaders and parties.

At the invitation of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Nairobi Mr. Bondevik met with representatives of the key political parties and presidential candidates, in June and in October.

The idea behind this initiative has been to inspire the political leaders in Kenya to embrace the concept of power sharing and to develop an understanding of practical steps and measures that have worked well in a stable democracy like the Norwegian. While the political systems and challenges differ considerably between Kenya and Norway, the meetings have shown that there is great interest for learning from the Norwegian experience.

Issues of common concern range from the very fundamental need to undertake frequent meetings within an effective cabinet, which has never been customary in Kenya, to the more advanced models of intra- and inter-party collaboration to ensure broad support for cabinet level decisions and reforms in sensitive political matters.

The election and ensuing developments in Kenya at the end of 2007 demonstrated the need to make further progress in the political process.

### **Starting a coalition building process in Morocco**

In December Kjell Magne Bondevik participated in a two day programme through NDI Morocco, and their engagement in building political parties and develop sustainable coalitions, both in incumbent and opposition. The goal is to develop Morocco as a sustainable democracy and as a good example in the Arab world.

Over the past decade, Morocco has witnessed substantial change as it explores greater political and social openness within the framework of a centralized monarchy. Morocco should be commended on real progress on the road to a true democracy.

The September 7 Legislative Elections were marked by historic absenteeism, with a voter turnout rate of 37%, the lowest in the country's history, 19% of which were rejected. This means that only 18% of Moroccans cast an effective vote for a political party or a coalition.

Along with a seminar hosted by NDI/the Advisory Council on Human Rights (CCDH), we focused on Movement Popular (MP) who withdrew from the government after the elections. Members are now trying to build a party, and coalitions with other parties.



## **Establishing a Forum for Muslim Women for Democracy and Human Rights**

In May 2007 a Forum for Muslim Women for Democracy and Human Rights was established in Oslo. The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights facilitated the meeting. Benazir Bhutto was elected as Chair Person for the Forum. She was later tragically assassinated. The forum was supported by the Forum for freedom of Expression Foundation (Fritt Ord).

*The goal was clear from the beginning – to establish a forum for Muslim women that would represent an alternative voice in the Muslim world on democracy and human rights.*

The initiative came from the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto and Latifa Jbabdi, the president of the Women's Action Union (UAF) in Morocco, an organisation that has worked to change Morocco's family code, the Moudawana, since 1987.

Project manager at The Oslo Center Kristin Aase has together with Johan Candelin, Executive Director of First Step Forum in Finland, had a close dialogue with the two initiators concerning who to invite to the meeting and the content of the documents to present to the participants. The goal was clear from the beginning – to establish a forum for Muslim women that would represent an alternative voice in the Muslim world on democracy and human rights. The intention was to start with a small group of women from different Muslim countries to quickly establish the Forum and then expand from there.

In addition to Bhutto and Jbabdi, the following women were present at the meeting in Oslo: Hoda Mohamed Badran from Egypt, Asma Jahangir from Pakistan, Leila Alikarami from Iran, Leila Abdul Hamid Sharaf from Jordan, Rokiatou Ndiaye Keita from Mali, Fawzia Jassim Ali Alkhaja and Ghada Jamsheer from Bahrain, Aicha Lakhmas from Morocco. Shirin Ebadi from Iran supported the initiative and had sent a message to be read to the participants, since she was not able to come. During two days of meetings the group managed to agree on establishing a forum and formulate a vision and goals for the forum.



The vision is as follows: "Believing in the basic values of Human Rights, equity, and Democracy as supported by the spirit of Islam, the forum was established to empower Muslim women and to acquire a strong global voice to promote these values.

Recognizing the importance of networking, the forum provides an independent and nonpartisan platform for Muslim women around the world to support the values of peace and justice.

Recalling that Islam is a religion of peace, this forum resolves to enhance the culture of tolerance within and amongst all communities."

### **A Mother`s Cry for a Healthy Africa**

**- a campaign in the framework of Inter Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA)**

The Campaign "A Mother`s Cry for a Healthy Africa" was launched by the women who attended the pre-Summit of the Inter Faith Peace Summit in April 2005.

The campaign was adopted by the Inter Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA), an action oriented organisation for the seven main religions in Africa.

In order to expand the space for women in Africa and take the campaign further, IFAPA sent a delegation of women from five different religious communities on a study tour to the Nordic countries. The study tour was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visit to Norway was organised by the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights.

The study tour will be followed up by regional and local empowerment programs for women members of IFAPA. The Oslo Center gives the IFAPA counselling support for finding funding for activities within the campaign "A Mothers Cry for a Healthy Africa".

The campaign`s objectives are in line with the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. The resolution expresses a strong commitment to recognising and improving the position of women in conflict and peace processes.

Kjell Magne Bondevik is a commission member of IFAPA, and in that capacity also attended the IFAPA Commission meeting in Tripoli. During the stay we had talks with the authorities on human rights, interreligious dialogue and freedom of religion.

In the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Abdelhaft Zletny emphasis was on the need to improve women`s rights and participation in society and political life, freedom of expression and the need to reduce antagonism between religions.





*The consultation process was concluded on 26 June by presenting an agreed road map for food security in the Horn of Africa. It was a proud moment.*





## HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE

### UN Mission for the Horn of Africa

#### **Six Countries and the United Nations adopt Road Map for Food Security**

After the emergency response to the severe drought in the Horn of Africa in 2006 - where the lives of more than 8 million people were saved at the beginning of 2007 the new UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, extended Kjell Magne Bondevik's mandate as special envoy. The task now was to lead the development of a road map for longer term food security in the Horn of Africa region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda).

Special advisor Geir Sjøberg visited Nairobi, Kampala and Rome in order to lay the ground for effective inter-agency collaboration within the UN system. Kjell Magne Bondevik officially launched the initiative in early 2007 at meetings in Rome and Geneva.

The Oslo Center then secured financial resources from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, enabling the six Horn countries to produce national reports outlining their respective needs and opportunities. These reports were a result of stakeholder workshops in the six countries in the first half of 2007, supported by the UN system in accordance with the overall guidance provided by special envoy Bondevik.

On the basis of the national reports, the six countries were invited to Nairobi in June, with a view to sharing experiences and to refocusing on the collective attention on food security in the region. Under the stewardship of Kjell Magne Bondevik, high level representatives of the six governments and the heads of the six UN country teams and specialized agencies gathered around the table with the African Union, regional bodies, the international donor community and financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

The consultation process was concluded on 26 June by presenting an agreed road map for food security in the Horn of Africa. It was a proud moment. The six countries pledged to continue to share experiences and move forward together, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) committed themselves to undertake the advocacy at the international level. The mechanisms for change are now in place. In order to realize their full potential, continued international attention will be required to bring about the political will necessary for the marginalised groups to receive the help they need, the "transitional investments" highlighted by the road map.

Bondevik and the Oslo Center formally completed the UN assignment for the Horn of Africa when presenting the road map and debriefing the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the head of OCHA, John Holmes, at the UN headquarters in New York in July 2007. (Read "UN News Release of 26 June 2007" on the next page)





## NEWS RELEASE - 26 JUNE 2007

### GOVERNMENTS, UN AGREE ON ROADMAP TO TACKLE HUNGER IN HORN OF AFRICA

**NAIROBI** – Six African governments and the United Nations today agreed on a road-map to tackle the root causes of rising hunger across the drought-plagued Horn of Africa, warning that the next major crisis could force more than 20 million people into needing emergency assistance.

The roadmap was the result of months of planning capped by two days of talks in Nairobi that ended today between government representatives of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, regional bodies, donors, international financial institutions, research organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and the United Nations.

“The hard work starts now,” said Kjell Magne Bondevik, UN Special Humanitarian Envoy to the Horn of Africa. “We have identified what works best and where. The biggest challenge is to scale up successes to extinguish hunger in the Horn rather than just fighting fires each time one breaks out.”

“The Horn is hit by some of the world’s most severe food crises and they are coming faster and more furious because of climate change, environmental degradation and a host of other factors,” he said. “We all now need to show the commitment to end this cycle of despair and disaster, which if not stopped could next see over 20 million people in need of assistance.”

*“None of this will work, however, unless the best responses are escalated across the region,” he said. “If we want to change the Horn so it supports people instead of increasingly makes them victims, I appeal to you all to back this campaign on behalf of those brave survivors of one of the harshest environments in the world. Otherwise this failure will only haunt us all.”*

More than 70 million people – 45 percent of the total population – in the Horn live in abject poverty and face food shortages. In the past six years, four major emergencies hit the region.

The result of government-led consultations with the support of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme is a roadmap to scale-up prioritized interventions in the six countries. National talks since January produced a list of 170 successful projects, an armoury of interventions that can be extended and expanded in the battle against hunger.

“In the Horn of Africa to end this scourge, we need to protect and rebuild the livelihoods of the food insecure and enhance their long-term resilience to shocks such as droughts. This is what we hope to do in this comprehensive partnership,” said FAO Assistant Director-General Tesfai Teclé.

“Sceptics may say this is unrealistic because food insecurity is so widespread and chronic,” said Paul Gulleik Larsen, director of the Office of the WFP Executive Director. “But you only climb a mountain by trying. If we turn our backs on the causes of hunger, the cost – in human and financial terms – will ultimately be much higher than the price of accepting this challenge.”

**Six sets of priorities for partnerships for food security in the Horn of Africa were identified:**

**Broad alliances to support millions of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists**

**The environmental challenge; combating land degradation and desertification**

**The role of women as a primary force for rural transformation;**

**Livelihoods diversification and income-generating activities for the food insecure;**

**Risk management and crisis response;**

**Institutional strengthening and community-focused capacity building.**

**The 170 best projects drawn from the six countries include among many others growing trees, rehabilitating land, veterinary services for drought-stricken pastoralists; agricultural advisory services for farmers; bee-keeping; dairy development; fisheries; micro-enterprises; eco-tourism; digging water wells and irrigation systems, and growing vegetable gardens.**





## Promoting Human Rights in Burma

Burma has been subject to the world's attention, as the military junta brutally suppressed the peaceful demonstrations in September 2007. Pro-democracy activists began the movement, which escalated into a huge monk-led demonstration against the ruling junta.

The overall goal of the Oslo Center's work on Burma is to promote human rights and democracy. Specific goals are to keep Burma on the agenda nationally and internationally and to influence the Burmese junta to opening up for democratic reforms. UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari has visited Burma twice since September, but little progress has been made so far. Gambari and Bondevik have had several talks during the last half year of 2007.

As the term of the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi was about to expire in May, the Oslo Center initiated a campaign for her release. A letter from 59 former prime ministers and presidents was sent to the junta urging it to release Aung San Suu Kyi and participate in peaceful, tripartite dialogue between the military, National League for Democracy, and Burma's ethnic groups. In the wake of the demonstrations and the violent crackdown in September, the Oslo Center sent an appeal on behalf of 21 former prime ministers and presidents to the Chinese President urging him to encourage the Burmese junta to dialogue with the opposition. Both these initiatives were implemented in collaboration with Club de Madrid and the international law firm DLA-Piper.

In its effort to promote a coherent Norwegian policy on Burma, the Oslo Center especially addressed the Government Pension Fund – Global's investment in Burma. While official Norwegian policy towards Burma is to recommend no investment, approximately 20 of the companies that Norway invests in through the Pension Fund – Global are present in Burma.

The Oslo Center has publicly challenged the Minister of Finance, Kristin Halvorsen, to withdraw investment from companies present in Burma, with special emphasis on companies investing in the strategically important fields of gas and oil. The Oslo Center also advocated for changes in the Ethical Guidelines for the Pension Fund – Global, so that companies investing in weapons and weapon technology should be withdrawn from the fund's portfolio. The Oslo Center has also publicly challenged the media on using the Olympics in China to place this human rights issue on the agenda.

To encourage a more coherent international approach towards Burma was the main purpose of a visit to India, Thailand and Indonesia. Through meetings with government officials in India and Indonesia and exile Burmese groups in Thailand, the attitude of the international community towards Burma was discussed. Meetings were also held with ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) officials in Jakarta.





## Promoting Human Rights in North Korea

In collaboration with the Washington-based Committee for Human Rights in North Korea and the global law firm DLA Piper (headed by former senator George Mitchell), The Oslo Center continues to participate in a campaign for improved human rights in North Korea.

In this campaign we call upon the international community to take up human rights as an integral part of its policy vis-à-vis North Korea, in accordance with the responsibility-to-protect principle established by the United Nations in 2005. In the ongoing 6-party talks (North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States), the nuclear issue has so far been dominant. Important as that issue obviously is, it is also important to arrive at actions for collaboration with North Korea that can improve the daily lives of millions of Koreans.

As part of this effort, Kjell Magne Bondevik presented a report in the US Congress and travelled to Brussels in March to discuss the matter with concerned parties across the EU. The findings and recommendations in the 2006 report (which Mr. Bondevik commissioned together with former Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel and Nobel Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel) were at the heart of these discussions.

In December 2007 the Oslo Center visited Washington and New York and discussed the matter with a range of actors in the United States and at the United Nations. The timetable is now set for an updated report on the human rights situation in North Korea to be launched by Kjell Magne Bondevik in Tokyo, Seoul and Washington in the spring of 2008.

## Mental health

It is a human right to get a proper treatment for mental illnesses. That`s why Kjell Magne Bondevik through the Oslo Center recounts his personal experiences to fighting stigma on mental health.

Mental illness affects people of all ages in all countries and societies, from the boy soldier in Sierra Leone traumatized by years of bloody civil war to the aging farmer in South Africa and the MP in Westminster suffering from depression. Mental illness has a profound impact on the quality of life for individuals and families and stunting economic growth in societies around the world.

To promote awareness of these issues, The Carter Center - in partnership with The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights and the South African Depression and Anxiety Group - coordinated a series of events and media coverage over three days in observance of World Mental Health Day, Oct. 10, 2007.

In a 2001 report, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that about 450 million people around the world suffer from a mental or neurological disorder. Yet these illnesses remain some of the most unrecognized and underreported health problems. People continue to suffer silently because they are unable to access the services they require or they worry about social stigma surrounding their disorder.



## **WHO and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)**

In 2006, Mr. Bondevik was asked to become a goodwill ambassador to the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, a request he readily accepted. PMNCH is working actively to reduce the number of deaths of newborn, children and mothers in pregnancy-related complications with a global network of more than 80 members.

Main activities for the Oslo Center in 2007 have been information and fund-raising activities. As one concrete result, Rotary Action Group for Population and Development has become involved as a contributor to the Partnership.

## **African Religious Health Assets Programme**

### **Combating HIV/AIDS through religious groups**

The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, in partnership with Norwegian Church Aid, have pledged to promote the African Religious Health Assets Programme. This initiative aims to enhance the roles and contributions of religious entities in combatting HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, where the situation is precarious, and where some 40% of health resources have been estimated to be operated by faith-based organisations.

The Oslo Center collaborates with the Vesper Society of San Francisco, California, to develop programs in the area of health and social policies through the "Health and Human Rights Program". Tor S. Haugstad, MD, PhD works for Vesper in a 20 % position from his office at the Oslo Center.

In 2007, The Oslo Center contributed to the restructuring of ARHAP with a coordinating secretariat in South Africa, making ARHAP a cohesive network. The programme has now been endorsed by WHO and The Global Fund and received financial support from the Gates Foundation, UNAIDS, The Vesper Society and others. In order to facilitate implementation of the programme, the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights has pledged to take part in activities to promote the program with donors and government counterparts in pilot countries.





*The overall goal of the Oslo Center's work on Burma is to promote human rights and democracy.*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board consists of the following members:

**THORBJØRN JAGLAND, CHAIRMAN**

H.E. Thorbjørn Jagland, Chairman  
Speaker of the Storting, Former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**H.E. TARJA HALONEN, FINLAND**

President of Finland, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice, Minister of Nordic Cooperation, Minister of Health and Social Affairs. Member of Parliament 1979-2000.

**MS. LONE DYBKJÆR, DENMARK**

Member of Parliament 1973-77, 79-94, 2005-, Member of the European Parliament 1994-2004, Minister of Environment 1988-90.

**MR. VIDAR HELGESEN**

Secretary General of IDEA (Sweden). Former State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**MS TORA AASLAND** (Until October 2007, when she was appointed Minister of Research and Higher Education). County Governor, Member of Parliament 1985-93.

**MS. TURID LEIRVOLL** (from November 2007)

Party Secretary of Socialist People`s Party (SF) in Denmark. Party Secretary of the Norwegian Socialist People`s Party (SV) from 1993-2001.

**MR. STIG OLAV JACOBSEN**

Investor, Berg Jacobsen Group.

**MS. KRISTIN AASE** (spring 2007)

Special Advisor, Employees` Representative

**MS. HILDE SALVESEN** (from autumn 2007)

Special Advisor, Employees` Representative.

Substitute representatives (From autumn 2007):

**MR. SVERRE LODGAARD**

Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)

**MS. ANNE HEGE GRUNG**

PhD Fellow at the University of Oslo



To strengthen the competence of the board two additional persons were recruited in 2007 as substitute representatives .Ms. Anne Hege Grung, a Theologian of the The Faculty of Theology at the University of Oslo and Sverre Lodgaard, Senior Research Fellow at the Department of International Politics at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

The Board has held four board meetings with a total of 37 agenda items. In addition to the board meetings it also organized a strategy session together with the staff. The annual budgets for 2007 and 2008 have been examined and approved by the Board. The Board has also adopted a new Strategy Plan.

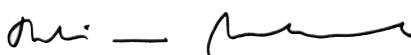
**The activities in the Oslo Center will be carried out according to these priorities:**

1. Dialogue project "The Islamic World and the West", with special emphasis on interfaith dialogue and the gender dimension, in cooperation with Club de Madrid and Khatami's "Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations"
2. Follow-up and development of the Human Rights projects in North Korea, Burma and Eritrea
3. Democracy projects: Coalition-building (Kenya, Morocco), Freedom of association (Morocco, Jordan, Egypt)

The dialogue projects will be specifically oriented towards Africa and the extended Middle East. At the same time, it may be useful to have input and participants from areas that are not particularly discussed in the dialogues. We will particularly work on dialogue through the Commission for Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA), Club de Madrid, the Forum for Dialogue Between Civilisations in Iran and The Alliance of Civilizations.

In 2007 a partnership was established between the Oslo Center and The Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations (FDC), headed by the former president of Iran, Mohammad Khatami. The aim of the cooperation is to increase understanding, reduce differences and promote peaceful dialogue between "the Islamic world" and "the West".

As a component of the work for democracy, staffers at the Oslo Center will, in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), share their experiences in establishing and leading coalition governments with leaders of coalition participants in countries with little experience of this kind. Relevant countries are initially Kenya and Morocco. In 2008 we will consider extending this activity to several countries and other participants from the Oslo Center.



**Thorbjørn Jagland**

Chairman





## AGREEMENTS ON CO-OPERATION

The Oslo Center strongly supports the idea of networking to take advantage of the best available expertise, knowledge and skills to promote peace and human rights. We work closely with different NGOs, institutions and organisations in this respect.

The Oslo Center has signed written agreements on cooperation with The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, with the Kim Dae-jung Library and Museum, Seoul, Korea and with The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), Helsinki, Finland.

In 2007 we signed agreements with Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD), a Cuban centre for dialogue located in Cárdenas in Cuba and the Geneva-based Foundation for Dialogue Among Civilisations, an international foundation established in 2007 by Mohammad Khatami, former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the initiator and key sponsor of the 2001 United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilisations.

### Collaboration with the University of Oslo

We collaborate with the University of Oslo on a Master`s Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies (PECOS). In 2007 we also signed a similar agreement with the Faculty of Theology at the University of Oslo. The students work on concrete projects at the Oslo Center. They assist our Special Advisors and gain valuable experience which is also pertinent for their master`s theses.





## WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

The working environment is considered to be good. The employees have participated in personal consultations with the management, and a manual on Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) has been updated.

A survey of the working environment is made once a year. To improve the physical working conditions ventilation in the ground floor has been upgraded.

A safety representative is appointed by the employees. The Chief of Staff (Head of personnel) and the safety representative took part in a course on HSE arranged by HSH (Federation of Norwegian Commercial and Service enterprises). During spring the staff participated in a first aid and heart starter course.

No on-the-job injuries or accidents have been reported. Absence due to illness is very low.

The activities taking place at the Oslo Center do not harm the natural environment. However, the Oslo Center has signed an agreement with the MyClimate initiative to compensate for the environmental damage linked to air travel. In 2007 we paid 34.852,99 NOK in compensation.

An information advisor has been employed in order to raise the media visibility and to serve the press in a more professional manner. There are 4 women and 4 men employed at the Oslo Center. In addition, there are two male part-time workers. The President, the Executive Director and the Chief of Staff are all men. The Board of Directors consists of four women and three men.





## STAFF OF THE OSLO CENTER



**Kristin Aase**, Special Advisor

Background:

Executive Director, Fretex East Norway.

Director, Cultural Department, Sponsor Service.

Head of Information and Project Developer, Church of Norway City Mission

Project Director, Ministry of Children and Family Affairs.

Consultant, Human Rights House.



**John Bjørnebye**, Senior Advisor,

Background:

Ambassador Norwegian Foreign Service 1970-2006.

Positions:

Counsellor for Human Rights,

Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Assistant Secretary General,  
Director General.

Postings: Bangkok, Paris, New York (Consul General), Washington

D.C. (Consul General), Tokyo (Ambassador), Brussels & Luxembourg (Ambassador).

Director, Europe & North America, UNESCO, Paris.



**Kjell Magne Bondevik**, President

Background:

Prime Minister 1997-2000 and 2001- 2005.

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Minister of Education and Ecclesiastical Affairs.

Member of Parliament 1973-2005.



**Tone Holme**, Administrative Secretary (from October 1st)

Background:

Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office 1994-2007.

Secretary, Information Unit at the Ministry of

Finance and at the Ministry of Local Government and  
Regional Development.



**Øistein Mjærum**, Chief of Staff

Background:

Political Advisor, Prime Minister's Office 2002-05.

Information Advisor, Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group.

Secretary for Information, Christian Democratic Party National Headquarters.

Journalist.





**Vibeke Ellen Mæland**, Administrative Secretary (until August 31st)

Background:

Secretary to the Norwegian Ambassador, Wash. D.C. Secretary, International Dept., Prime Minister's Office.

Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Secretary, UN Mission of Norway, New York.

Secretary, Olympic Games Police Staff.



**Hilde Salvesen**, Special Advisor

Background:

Secretary of Embassy, Guatemala.

Engagements in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NORAD,

International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO),

Norwegian Church Aid,

Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations.



**Geir Sjøberg**, Special Advisor

Background:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1994-2006.

Project leader, African Issues, Section for Peace and Reconciliation.

Focal Point Ethiopia-Eritrea, Somalia and Great Lakes.

Norway's Team to the UN Security Council.

Programme Coordinator – UNDP.

OECD-DAC delegate.

Political Advisor Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

Member, Delegation of Norway to the Climate Change Negotiations.



**Einar Steensnæs**, Executive Director

Background:

Minister of Petroleum and Energy 2001 – 2004.

Minister of Education and Research 1989-1990.

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Norwegian Parliament 2000-2001.

Member of Parliament 1993-2005.

Member of the Executive Board, UNESCO since 2005.



**Line Torvik**, Information Officer (from October 15th)

Background:

Political journalist in Norway's largest newspaper VG, researcher in TV2's editorial staff for the debate programme Tabloid, press secretary and advisor for international affairs at SVs

parliamentary group, secretary for organisational, international and women's issues at SVs

Head Office, President of the National Union of Students (NSU).



## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan** (Ghana) Former UN Secretary General

**Dr. Hans Blix** (Sweden) Chairman of The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission

**Ms. Julie Christiansen** (Norway) Former member of Parliament

**H.E. Mr. Kim Dae-jung** (Korea) Former President of Korea.  
President of the Kim Dae-jung Library and Museum

**Mr. Jan Egeland** (Norway) Former UN Under-Secretary-General

**Mr. Bjørn Engesland** (Norway) Secretary General of  
the Norwegian Helsinki Committee

**Mr. Jappe Erichsen** (Norway) The Norwegian Refugee Council

**H.E. Vigdis Finnbogadóttir** (Iceland) President of the Board of Trustees.  
Former President of Iceland

**Mr. John B. Hardman** (USA) The Carter Center

**Ms. Lena Larsen** (Norway) Scholar at the University of Oslo

**Dr. Janne Haaland Matlary** (Norway) Professor at the University of Oslo

**Ms. Marit Nybakk** (Norway) Member of Parliament

**Mr. Holger B. Rotkirch** (Finland) Former Finnish diplomat

**Ms. Anne Sender** (Norway) Leader of the Jewish community in Oslo

**Ms. Torild Skogsholm** (Norway) Executive Director

**Ms. Heidi Sørensen** (Norway) State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment

**Ms. Marit Tingelstad** (Norway) Former Member of Parliament





## FUNDING

Financial support has been secured through agreements on annual contributions from private enterprises, mainly for five years. These contributions have been given without preconditions other than those which follow from the center's by-laws and good accounting practice.

New financial contributor in 2007 is The Reitan Group. Ole Robert Reitan, on behalf of the Reitan Group, signed a five year sponsor agreement. The agreement is in line with similar agreements signed by other sponsors of the Oslo Center.

### The following companies have contributed:

<b>Aker ASA</b>	<b>Berg Jacobsen Gruppen</b>	<b>Canica as</b>
<b>DnB NOR</b>	<b>Gjelsten Holding</b>	<b>Havila Shipping ASA</b>
<b>Hydro</b>	<b>Mosvold &amp; Co</b>	<b>Olav Nils Sunde</b>
<b>Orkla</b>	<b>O.T. Tønnevold</b>	<b>Reitangruppen</b>
<b>Rica Hotels ASA</b>	<b>StatoilHydro</b>	



## PROFIT & LOSS

	Note	2007	2006
<b>INCOME</b>			
Contribution		9 700 00	8 794 745
Other income		1 687 600	764 000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>11 387 600</b>	<b>9 558 745</b>
<b>COST FROM OPERATIONS</b>			
Compensation and social costs	2	5 769 166	3 169 561
Depreciation	3	257 820	96 687
Project cost		22 209	0
Other operating expenses		4 155 199	1 986 193
<b>TOTAL COST FROM OPERATIONS</b>		<b>10 204 395</b>	<b>5 252 440</b>
<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS FROM OPERATIONS</b>		<b>1 183 205</b>	<b>4 306 305</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>			
Interest income		220 732	0
Financial income		13	31 958
Interest expenses		-12 963	0
Financial expenses		-1 550	-900
<b>TOTAL FINANCE</b>		<b>206 232</b>	<b>31 058</b>
<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS</b>		<b>1 389 437</b>	<b>4 337 362</b>
<b>ALLOCATIONS</b>			
Transferred to Other Equity		1 389 437	4 337 362
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATIONS</b>		<b>1 389 437</b>	<b>4 337 362</b>

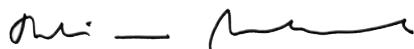
## BALANCE SHEET

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
<b>Equipment</b>			
Inventory, equipment	3	1 160 005	1 045 710
<b>Total equipment</b>		<b>1 160 005</b>	<b>1 045 710</b>
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>1 160 005</b>	<b>1 045 710</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
<b>Other current assets</b>			
Prepaid expences		34 380	22 024
<b>Total other current assets</b>		<b>34 380</b>	<b>22 024</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalentents</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6 745 582</b>	<b>5 222 691</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>6 779 961</b>	<b>5 244 715</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>7 939 966</b>	<b>6 290 425</b>

## BALANCE SHEET (continue)

<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
<b>Restricted Equity</b>			
Restricted Equity	5	100 000	100 000
<b>Total Restricted Equity</b>		<b>100 000</b>	<b>100 000</b>
<b>Retained earnings</b>			
Other Equity		5 726 800	4 337 362
<b>Total Retained earnings</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5 726 800</b>	<b>4 337 362</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>5 826 800</b>	<b>4 437 362</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable		144 334	94 784
Social security etc.		549 130	510 326
Prepaid contributions		903 205	500 000
Accrued pensions		0	242 634
Other short-term Liabilities		516 452	505 318
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2 113 166</b>	<b>1 853 062</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2 113 166</b>	<b>1 853 062</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b>7 939 966</b>	<b>6 290 425</b>

Oslo, 25. Februar 2008



Thorbjørn Jagland, Chairman of the Board

Sverre Lodgaard, Board Member

Vidar Helgesen, Board Member

Turid Leirvoll, Board Member

Anne Hege Grung, Board Member

Lone Dybkjær, Board Member

Kjell Magne Bondevik, President



