

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



THE OSLO CENTER  
for Peace and Human Rights



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# BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

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I believe it is possible to move agendas forward by sharing personal and professional experience, by building confidence and trust and by having the audacity to make sensitive issues the topics of dialogue. It is a question of openness, competence, respect and the quality of personal relationships.

It is with this conviction that we have initiated dialogue and accepted invitations from governments, organisations and individuals who – in their pursuit of dialogue, democracy and human rights – see it as in their interest to invite cooperation with an independent actor.

It is as an independent actor and competence base that we have offered support to the building of a coalition government and responsible leadership in Kenya, where we have shared personal and practical experience of power-sharing, as well as contributed with knowledge of the nuts and bolts of democratic governance.

In our human rights efforts, we devoted our resources in 2008 mainly to documenting and focusing international attention on human rights violations in selected countries. Together with our international partners we issued a report on the ongoing challenge of human rights in North Korea in 2006, and an updated version in 2008. These reports are currently among the most compre-

hensive accounts of the humanitarian condition in one of the world's most isolated and oppressive regimes.

The Oslo Center is not building wells or providing vaccines. The results of our efforts are sometimes barely visible or measurable in quantitative terms. Our contribution is rather to build bridges between people with different and sometimes conflicting life stances and political views, and to foster an understanding of 'the other' through dialogue. Together with international partners we have created venues for the exchange of ideas, experiences and confidence-building across highly charged religious and political divides.

There are no quick routes to putting right everything that is still going wrong in the world. But by bringing commitment and competence to bear in concerted efforts to influence people in responsible leadership positions, we believe that it is possible to move important issues up on political agendas. No issue can be more important than that of human dignity, and in our view that is what human rights, peace and democracy are all about.

**Kjell Magne Bondevik**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kjell Magne Bondevik". The script is cursive and elegant.

*President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights*



# A YEAR OF NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

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Stortinget/Scampix

The number of violent conflicts in the world has declined over the last 15 years. Fewer people die violent deaths as a consequence of armed conflict, and democratically elected governments have increased in number.

Even if there may be reasons for optimism, historical developments are not linear. Social and political forces challenge achievements and progress. Human rights and democratic governance are under pressure, social injustice instigates resistance and unrest and – in Western and non-Western societies alike – stereotypical images of ‘the other’ fuel animosity, religious schisms and sectarianism.

It is in this context that institutions like the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights are acutely relevant. The Oslo Center represents a new kind of organisation on the Norwegian scene. It is an independent organisation with relevant competence, sufficient resources and a unique international network that can be a supplement to the important work that governments, non-governmental organisations and research institutions are making in the fields of democracy, peace and human rights.

I am convinced that the Oslo Center has made the right choice in identifying its main priorities as the promotion of democracy, human rights and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. The Center

has already demonstrated its competence, energy and relevance in these areas, in Norway and internationally.

2008 was a year of notable achievements for the Oslo Center, highlighted perhaps by the cooperation that has been established with the former President of Iran, Mohammad Khatami, and his Foundation for Dialogue Among Civilisations. Such cooperation leads to contacts and networks of a value that can hardly be exaggerated in today’s world.

As Chairman of the Board I look forward to following and supervising the many ongoing and planned activities at the Oslo Center in 2009. The expectations of the Board are high. But I have no doubt they will be met.

**Thorbjørn Jagland**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first name followed by a horizontal line and a more elaborate second name.

*Chairman of the Board of Directors*






# DIALOGUE FOR PEACE

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Dialogue is a way of communicating which focuses on understanding the other side rather than convincing others that you are right. Yet, as dialogue has become a major political slogan, there is a risk that the term will lose any significance beyond political conversation, debates or public discourse. But dialogue is not just a distinct method; it represents a specific approach and perspective on conflict resolution. The Oslo Center views dialogue as a precondition for successful mediation and negotiation. Meaningful and relevant dialogue processes must nevertheless be built on principles: it must include the real parties; it must be properly rooted; and it must be safe in the sense that the real issues of the conflicts can be brought to the table in full confidentiality.

Why inter-religious dialogue? Too many interventions are formulated on high political levels without the necessary political and social support. In many parts of the world, religious leaders represent considerable constituencies in civil society. By including religious communities and their leaders we can contribute to broad support for peace processes and reconciliation. Yet, there are examples of communities where religious leaders would not make a positive difference due to their lack of social and political influence. There are also contexts where religious leaders are more engaged in maintaining division than to solve conflict. Interventions must therefore be viewed in the context of the local situations and the role and credibility of the respective religious leaders.

 *Our world which is darkened by discrimination, lies and disrespect for human dignity, desperately needs common efforts for understanding, justice and respect. The cooperation between the Foundation for Dialogue among Civilisations and the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights has already made an important impact and I am sure it will be fruitful in the future.*

**- Mohammad Khatami**

*Former President of Iran and Head of  
Foundation for Dialogue among Civilisations*



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## FAITH AND POLITICS

### DIALOGUE FOR RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

**There is nothing new in religion being used to legitimise political decisions; this has also been a reality in Norwegian political life until today. But when mainstream opinion defines religious and cultural differences as a vital cause of conflict, it is deeply problematic. It is dangerous because it provides oversimplified explanations of highly complex issues, and because such explanations have a tendency to increase tensions between people of various religious faiths within and across communities.**

With globalisation and migration we have seen how developments and incidents at the local level create responses and reactions at regional and international levels – and vice versa. This was demonstrated in the controversy over the Mohammed cartoons in 2005. This conflict brought out the need for more knowledge about the dialectics between faith and the formulation of political agendas and

better contact between people of different religious, political and cultural affiliations.

It is against this backdrop that our cooperation with The Foundation for Dialogue among Civilisations, headed by the former president of Iran Mohammad Khatami and the Club of Madrid, was made a priority for the Oslo Center in 2008.

Together with our partners we have created meeting places for people of various religious faiths, political viewpoints and national backgrounds. Relations have been established and cultivated, and sensitive issues have been brought up. And after sessions of dialogue and debate, participants have been able to express shared views on highly sensitive matters relating to the role of religion, gender equality, human rights, faith and politics. This project has received economic support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**April:** How should the state relate to religion, and what role does religion play in the public sphere and in influencing policy? A group consisting of 25 religious and political leaders and academics committed to promote inter-religious understanding, pluralism, respect for human rights and equality attended a workshop on Religion and Politics in Geneva.

**June:** "Sharing experiences: Women, Equality and Peace" was the title of a workshop organised in Oslo. The participants worked out initiatives, policies and practices on both the political and religious sides that can be instrumental in ensuring equal participation of women.

**June:** During Mohammad Khatami's visit to the conference in Oslo, a dialogue seminar was organised jointly with the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. Approximately 400 students from 90 countries participated in the seminar about dialogue between cultures with Mr. Khatami and Mr. Bondevik.

**October:** Teheran provided a powerful symbolic context for the conference "Religion in the Modern World". Forty religious and political leaders, scholars and representatives of international organisations agreed on a substantial statement with a very concrete plan of action, committing themselves to work for sustained dialogue among and within religions and cultures.

**October:** Mr. Bondevik met with the President and the Supreme leader of Iran, together with a delegation from the conference in Teheran. They discussed the importance of dialogue and the avoidance of conflict-orientated rhetoric. Mr. Bondevik also brought up the human rights violations in Iran. The Oslo Center also met with human rights defenders and a women's rights movement.



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## CODE OF HOLY SITES

**The Oslo Center is involved in formulating a code of Holy Sites to protect sacred spaces and locations for religious worship during and after conflicts. Together with the Norwegian organisation One World in Dialogue and a network of religious leaders, academics and political leaders, we will seek to have the Code of Holy Sites endorsed by religious communities, national governments and national and international organisations and institutions.**

The holy sites in Jerusalem are venues of international worship and sites of political strife. They are at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet, surprisingly, the many efforts to promote peace, mostly by those outside the Middle East, have ignored the issue. Fifteen

years after the brutal war in Bosnia Herzegovina, acts of vandalism and obstruction of the rebuilding of wrecked religious shrines continue. This is happening despite the fact that the Dayton Agreement clearly forbids discrimination on the basis of religion. In fact, the abuse of religious freedom and destructive actions directed at religious sites has, since the ending of the war, occurred in each and every area where any one of the three ethnic groups in Bosnia Herzegovina is dominant. The goal is to develop a Code of Holy Sites to protect such sites during and after conflict. The Code also aims to be a tool in preventing conflicts as well as in resolving disputes over holy sites.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**July:** 'One World in Dialogue' and the Oslo Center invited representatives of Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities from different countries to take part in a dialogue to discuss the issue "Holy Sites – Places for Conflict or Dialogue" in Trondheim.

**Autumn 08:** Since the conference we have established a international working group to draft a Code. The group has representatives from different religious communities.

**Further initiatives:** The working group will prepare a written draft on a Code of Holy Sites which will be discussed and amended when the conference reconvenes in Trondheim in July 2009.



# PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

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The Oslo Center believes that support to new and emerging democracies contributes to the promotion of peace and human rights. The objective of this programme is to help build stronger democracies based on power sharing, coalition-building and respect for democratic rights. For democracy to deliver and meet the expectations of the people, effective policies for redistribution of wealth, poverty reduction and income generation are necessary. We must also recognise that the relations between the state, the private sector and civil society are key factors in a nation's ability to create and sustain equal opportunities for its population.

Over the last decade democracy as an idea and a form of government has attained an almost undisputed position in the international community. Yet, the discourse of democracy can often be far removed from the lived experience of the citizens of the state. Building legitimate and functioning democracies is a slow and painstaking process which demands true commitment from local politicians as well as backing from the international community. The Oslo Center seeks to support commitments made by political leaders in emerging democracies.

 *We have discussed with the Oslo Center how to manage Cabinet, Parliament and the political parties. Mr. Bondevik has shared his own experiences from running coalition governments. For me as Prime Minister this has been very helpful.*

**- Raila Odinga**  
*Prime Minister of Kenya*



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## POLITICAL COALITION-BUILDING

**The Oslo Center offers support based on broad experience from politics in a democratic system. Several young and fragile democracies have coalition governments. The Oslo Center offers to share its experience and expertise on how to make coalitions work in order to meet the expectations from the electorate. In spite of different political cultures and contexts, mature and immature democracies still face many of the same challenges.**

As a partner in coalition-building and democracy projects in Kenya, Somalia and Morocco, we have cooperated with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The idea behind this initiative has been to inspire political leaders to embrace the concept of power sharing and to develop an understanding of practical steps and measures that have worked well in other countries.

### **Kenya**

In the lead-up to the elections in December 2007, The Oslo Center worked with NDI to help all of Kenya's major political parties participate more efficiently in building a coalition. As part of our contribution to the mediation efforts spearheaded by Mr. Kofi Annan, NDI invited Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik to advise on the formation and structure of the proposed Grand Coalition and to underscore the urgent need for a rapid resolution of the situation.

The Oslo Center held meetings with Prime Minister designate Mr. Raila Odinga, Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, Nobel laureate Wangaari Maathai and other key politicians. The meetings addressed issues related to the formation of a grand coalition, such as its governance platform, composition and relation to key government sectors. Effective approaches to conflict resolution were also addressed. In a meeting held on March 4 2008, President Mwai Kibaki and Mr. Odinga discussed recommendations developed by NDI and the Oslo Center, and resolved that a six-member committee be created to develop a governance platform for the coalition. During 2008 the Oslo Center stayed in close contact with the key players to share information and views and to discuss how we can best contribute in the further process.

### **Somalia**

While Somalia is popularly known as the world's pre-eminent example of a 'failed state', that characterisation should not overlook efforts over the last years to reconstitute an inclusive Somali government. Upon request from NDI we are participating in a new programme for targeted capacity-building workshops and assistance to support the emerging Council of Ministers Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of the President, and key staff members. This initiative is funded by the Norwegian government (MFA).

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**March:** The Oslo Center met with the opposition leader from the Orange Democratic Movement Mr. Odinga and other politicians, party leaders and key players.

**August:** Meeting with Mr. Annan to share information and views and to discuss how we can best contribute to the coalition-building process in Kenya.

**August:** New visit to Kenya to meet with Kenyan Prime Minister Mr. Raila Odinga, six of his ministers and party leaders.

**August:** A four-day workshop with Somalia's transitional administration to develop its central leadership and decision-making structures.



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## DEMOCRATIC DIALOGUE AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

The Oslo Center is supporting the Club of Madrid in this project on democratic dialogue and freedom of association. The project brings together leaders of the Arab world and members of the Club of Madrid in a dialogue on critical issues related to free association and democratic participation.

The purpose is to support efforts to promote democracy and inter-cultural dialogue in an era when concerns about instability and terrorism strongly influence policy. We have brought together key players for a

productive dialogue on their experience of reforms for freedom of association, accomplishments, best practices, and lessons learned. The aim has also been to promote better legislation and legal practise regarding freedom of association in the project countries. Through our cooperation, we have also contributed to the institutionalisation of frequent dialogue and communication between government and civil society in the project countries.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

In the first year of the project (February 2007-February 2008), we participated in activities in Jordan and Morocco. Accomplishments and lessons learned were shared in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia in the second year of project implementation (March 2008-March 2009) in order to multiply the project impact.

**March, October and December:** We have been part of three missions to Egypt in 2008. The overall objective has been to improve the capacity of civil society and authorities to build a shared vision for the promotion of freedom of association.

**February:** Regional Plenary Meeting in Jordan, under the patronage of King Abdullah II of Jordan. Key government officials and leading civil society members from Bahrain, Jordan and Morocco were brought together.

**November:** Global Forum on Leadership for Shared Societies in Rotterdam. At the Forum, high-level and emerging leaders from government, politics, civil society and other decision-shaping institutions discussed how to improve social inclusion.

**December:** The prime ministers in Jordan and Egypt received recommendations worked out in collaboration between the government authorities, political parties and important actors in civil society.




# HUMAN RIGHTS

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The overall objective for our human rights programme is the realisation of people's civil and political rights, particularly in countries with oppressive regimes. In connection with our work for inter-religious dialogue between religious and political leaders, the Oslo Center aims to promote religious freedom and the rights of women and minorities. The Oslo Center's preferred tool for such support is dialogue, combined with efforts to link dialogue with technical assistance. When

a dialogue approach is not considered possible or effective, the approach will take other forms and other ways, such as advocacy efforts at national and international levels. The Oslo Center recognises that there may be inherent contradictions and tensions between low-key dialogue and international advocacy efforts. The strategy and approaches applied in support of human rights need to be context-specific and flexible.

 *For the people inside Burma it is very important that there are voices outside promoting their freedom and human rights. I am glad that the Oslo Center is committed to the fight against oppression of the Burmese people.*

**- Dr. Sein Win**

*Prime Minister of the National Coalition Government  
of the Union of Burma*



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## BURMA

**The Oslo Center aims at promoting democracy and respect for human rights in Burma by raising awareness of the situation in the country, and keeping it on the international agenda.**

It is estimated that the Burmese junta holds as many as 2,100 political prisoners, including the legitimate winner of the 1990-election and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 14 of the last years in prison or house arrest. Advocating for the release of political prisoners has been one of the Oslo Center's main activities in 2008.

Divided policies on Burma in the international community remain a challenge. While the West has

imposed sanctions to exert pressure on the regime, Asian countries have applied a so-called constructive engagement policy in order to promote change. The military regime has been able to take advantage of this division. The Oslo Center calls for a coherent international approach towards Burma.

The Burmese Junta is determined to pursue its own "roadmap to democracy", and a referendum on a constitution was pushed through in the wake of the devastating cyclone Nargis during the spring 2008. The cyclone left around 140 000 people dead. The Oslo Center is insisting that the political process in Burma must be inclusive and involve the political opposition, the ethnic groups and the junta.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**April:** The Oslo Center directed a workshop on Burma at the international conference "Peace and Reconciliation in South East Asia" organised by the International Association for Human Values.

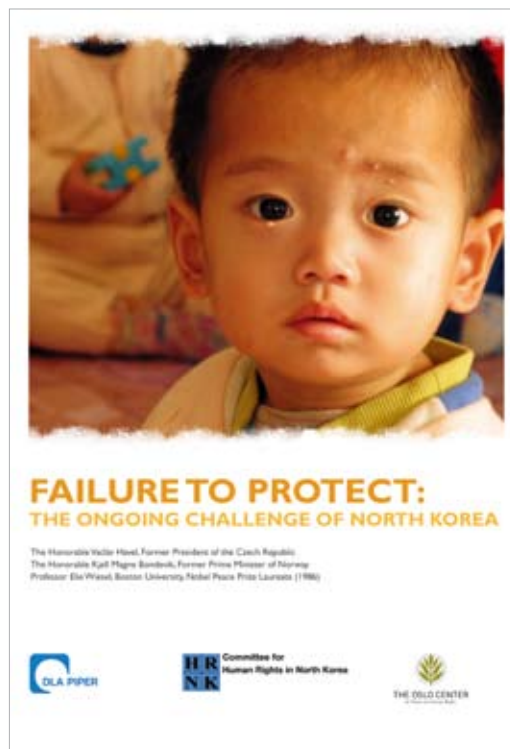
**November:** Through an international campaign, the Oslo Center gathered the signatures of 112 former Presidents and Prime Ministers on a letter to the UN Secretary-General, encouraging him to visit Burma and pursue the release of all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The initiative placed the situation in Burma at the top of the international agenda.



## NORTH KOREA

The humanitarian crisis and the human rights violations in North Korea are among the most staggering in the world today. Although North Korea received international attention after its nuclear test in October 2006, the human rights abuses in North Korea have largely remained an issue of secondary concern on the international agenda.

The Oslo Center's objective is to contribute to raise international awareness about the humanitarian and human rights situation in North Korea, and to advocate for international involvement. In cooperation with the American law firm DLA-Piper and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, an updated report about the humanitarian and human rights situation was finalised and published in 2008. The report gives concrete recommendations on how to strengthen the UN annual resolution on North Korea's human rights situation.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**September:** The report *Failure to Protect: The Ongoing Challenge of North Korea*, co-authored by Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, Mr. Vaclav Havel and Mr. Elie Wiesel was launched. In order to reach the international audience with a possible influence in the UN, a launching event in New York was hosted by the Czech UN ambassador. The report brought the human rights situation in North Korea to the headlines in international media.

**October:** A letter from Mr. Havel and Mr. Bondevik to the EU Chairmanship (France) encouraged the EU to propose a strengthening of the annual UN resolution on North Korea, referring to the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, and establishing an expert group to assess whether the situation in North Korea can be considered a Responsibility to Protect situation.

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## MENTAL HEALTH



**Proper treatment for mental illness is a human right. Mental illnesses affect people of all ages in all countries and societies, from the boy soldier in Sierra Leone traumatised by years of violent civil war, to the aging farmer in South Africa and the Member of Congress in the US who suffers from depression.**

Estimates made by WHO in 2002 showed that 154 million people globally suffer from depression. As many as 450 million people around the world suffer from a mental or neurological disorder of some kind. The Oslo Center`s approach to mental health is rights-based. Adequate treatment of mental illnesses is a human rights issue. It is also a matter

of human value and human dignity. Stigma is a major challenge in the efforts to improve the quality of life for people suffering from mental illness. Because of his personal history, Mr. Bondevik has an important and credible voice in the fight against stigmatisation.

Our biggest outreach in 2008 was in London in cooperation with the UK-based organisation "Stand to Reason". The seminar enabled parliamentarians, representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors and central and local governments to exchange ideas and debate the symbolic impact of MPs being open about their own mental health; and whether the removal of statutory barriers would assist the British Government`s efforts to encourage people on long-term incapacity benefit to seek gainful employment.

In order to reach out to a broader audience we have given interviews on mental health issues to international media (UK, Denmark, Netherlands and USA). As a result of these efforts Mr. Bondevik did an in-depth interview about his personal experience and anti-stigma work with the BBC and BBC World.

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**January:** "Westminster the workplace: What happens if leaders experience mental illness?" Mr. Bondevik spoke at a parliamentary reception, exploring the particular stress and strains that public life puts on those who participate in it, politicians in particular. The event created a debate in British media about the stigma associated with mental illness.

**March:** High level conference on mental health in Brussels. The European Union plays a key role in supporting Member States and stakeholders on mental health issues. Mr. Bondevik called for the EU and the member states to do more in the anti-stigma work.

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## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### CUBA

The Oslo Center has emphasised network-building with actors within Cuba and with individuals and organisations in the US that promote a normalisation between the two countries. A partnership agreement was signed in 2007 with the Centro de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD), an ecumenical dialogue centre based in Cárdenas, Cuba. In 2008 the Oslo Center supported the CCRD's publishing and distribution of a brochure on the two human rights covenants, signed by Cuba in 2008.

### ERITREA

The Oslo Center has commissioned a report on Eritrea, aiming for an increased focus on the human rights situation and its long-term implications in terms of stability and development. The report will be the first of its kind on Eritrea, addressing the human rights situation and its possible political consequences in a comprehensive manner. In 2008 the Oslo Center and some of our partners visited key areas in Sudan and Ethiopia bordering Eritrea, in order to gather information on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

## MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) supports country-led efforts towards universal provision of essential interventions for maternal, newborn and child health, promoting the

fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. Mr. Bondevik became a goodwill ambassador to the PMNCH in 2008 and has engaged in information and fundraising activities vis-à-vis Rotary International.

## AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERSHIP

The Club of Madrid is engaged in a project to promote women's participation and leadership in politics in several African countries, including Uganda, where the Oslo Center has been involved. Here gender quotas have significantly increased the number of women participating in politics and government. The Oslo Center visited Kampala in March to exchange leadership experiences with key female and male leaders. Among the key issues were legislative priorities on gender equality. The project also seeks to commit politicians to support the passing of gender-related legislation in Parliament.

## 60 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was marked by an international seminar held in Oslo in November 2008. Several national and international experts discussed the universality of the Human Rights declaration, questioned the United Nations' ability to provide effective protection of Human Rights and examined whether human rights defenders have made a difference. The seminar concluded with a debate on the condition of human rights in Norway. The seminar was organised as a collaborative effort between the Oslo Center and several Norwegian NGOs.

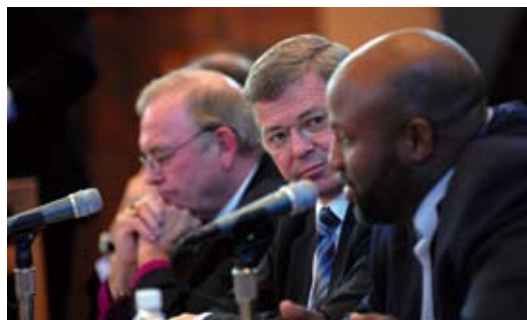
# THE OSLO CENTER ESTABLISHED IN THE U.S.

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**In order to support the projects and programmes of the organisation, the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights has established a foundation in the United States. The Oslo Center – US Foundation was launched with a series of debates, seminars and meetings in Washington DC, New York and Minneapolis at the end of September 2008.**

One of the many launching events was a panel debate on the relationship between Iran and the West, which gathered about 400 people at Augsburg College. The mission of the Minneapolis-based Oslo Center - U.S. Foundation is to promote peace and human rights through support of particular projects and programmes initiated by the Foundation, the Oslo Center, or other organisations and individuals.



Specifically, the Foundation will strive to further the interests, influence and activities of the Oslo Center in the US and elsewhere in the world by providing support for specific projects, and by engaging Americans in the efforts for peace and humanity spearheaded by the Oslo Center. In August the newly established foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Democratic Institute, chaired by Dr. Madeleine Albright.

The board of the Oslo Center – US Foundation is chaired by former US ambassador to Norway, Tom Loftus. Members of the board are Ms. Janet Dolan, Ms. Lois Quam and Mr. Orlyn Kringstad.



# PARTNERS

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The Oslo Center works in partnerships to take advantage of the best available competence and experience to promote peace and human rights. We have formalised cooperation agreements with the following organisations and institutions:

**The Carter Center** (USA)

**Kim Dae-jung Library and Museum** (Korea)

**The Crisis Management Initiative** (Finland)

**Centro de Reflexión y Diálogo** (Cuba)

**Foundation for Dialogue Among Civilisations** (Switzerland)

**National Democratic Institute** (NDI) (USA)

**The Club of Madrid** (Spain)

**Alliance of Civilizations** (UN)

**The University of Oslo** (Norway)



# STAFF

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**Kjell Magne Bondevik**, President

Mr. Bondevik is the founder and president of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights. He was Prime Minister of Norway 1997-2000 and 2001-2005. He has also been Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Church and Education. He was a member of the Norwegian Parliament 1973-2005. Mr. Bondevik served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa in 2006-2007. Mr. Bondevik holds the degree of Cand.Theol. and was ordained as a priest in the Lutheran Church of Norway in 1979.



**Simon Rye**, Executive Director

Mr. Rye has the overall responsibility for strategic and professional development, financial management and human resources. Previously, Mr. Rye was Director of the Peace, Gender and Democracy Department in the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). He has broad experience from development, conflict management and peacebuilding and has also served as a diplomat for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Rye has a Ph.D. in social anthropology and has also worked with international health issues for several years.



**Hans Petter Bergli**, Communication Advisor

Mr. Bergli is the Oslo Center's press contact and is responsible for communication strategy and related activities. Previously, he worked as a communication advisor at the Norwegian Labour and Welfare administration (NAV) and the National Insurance Administration. He has also worked as a freelance journalist. Mr. Bergli holds the degree of Cand.Polit. (Master of Political Science) from the University of Bergen, and has also graduated from the Gimlekollen College of the Media.



**John Bjørnebye**, Ambassador, Senior Advisor

Mr. Bjørnebye is a retired ambassador from the Norwegian Foreign Service. He is mainly responsible for translations and quality assurance at the Oslo Center. He also maintains contact with foreign Embassies and helps organise conferences and other events. During his years in the Foreign Service he was Counsellor for Human Rights, Chief of staff to the Foreign Minister, Assistant Secretary General, and served in Bangkok, Paris, New York, Washington, Tokyo, Brussels and Luxembourg. He has also been director for Europe and North America in UNESCO. Mr. Bjørnebye holds the degree of Cand.Philol.



**Tone Holme**, Administrative Secretary

Ms. Holme is the President's personal assistant. She is also in charge of the administration of the Oslo Center, and she organises meetings and travel. Ms. Holme was a secretary at the Prime Minister's Office from 1994-2007, and she has also worked at the Ministry of Finance and at the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.



**Øistein Mjærum**, Special Advisor

Mr. Mjærum is in charge for the programme “Democracy and coalition building”. He also runs the Mental Health project, and is coordinating the collaboration with the Club of Madrid, the Oslo Center US Foundation and The National Democratic Institute (NDI). Mr. Mjærum was Political Advisor and assistant press spokesman in the Prime Minister’s Office from 2001-2005. He has also worked in the Norwegian Parliament and as a Press Secretary in the Christian Democratic Party. Mr. Mjærum holds the degree of Cand.Mag. from the University of Oslo - in political science, theology and administration.



**Hilde Salvesen**, Special Advisor

Ms. Salvesen is in charge of the Human Rights programme. She is also responsible for the “Politics and Faith” project and has regional responsibility for Asia and Latin America. Her background is from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, being stationed at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Guatemala. She has also worked with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Norwegian Church Aid, and has been a researcher at International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). Ms. Salvesen holds the degree of Cand.Polit. (Master of Political Science) from the University of Oslo.



**Einar Steensnæs**, Senior Advisor

Mr. Steensnæs is the former Executive Director at the Oslo Center. From 2009 he has a supportive role in different projects and represents the Oslo Center in some cooperating organisations. Mr. Steensnæs has a long career in Norwegian politics and has been Minister of Education and Research (1989-90) and Minister of Petroleum and Energy (2001-2004). Since 2005 he has been a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Paris.



**Ingrid Vik**, Special Advisor

Ms. Vik is responsible for the “Dialogue for Peace” programme at the Oslo Center. She also has regional responsibility for Africa and the Middle East. Ms. Vik is a historian of religion and was previously engaged as the Director of Nansen Dialogue. She has also worked in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Vik has been a researcher at the University of Oslo, in the field of religion and conflicts.



*The Oslo Center is grateful to Kristin Aase, Geir Sjøberg and Line Torvik for their contributions to the center until the middle of 2008.*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008

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**H.E. Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland** (Norway)

Chairman of the Board.  
Speaker of the Norwegian Parliament.

**Ms. Lone Dybkjær** (Denmark)

Member of Parliament.

**H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen** (Finland)

President of Finland.

**Mr. Vidar Helgesen** (Norway)

Secretary General of IDEA (Sweden).

**Mr. Stig Olav Jacobsen** (Norway)

Investor. Berg Jacobsen Group.

**Ms. Turid Leirvoll** (Denmark)

Party Secretary of Socialist People`s Party (SF)  
in Denmark.

**Ms. Hilde Salvesen** (Norway)

Staff representative. Special Advisor at the Oslo  
Center for Peace and Human Rights.

*Substitute representatives:*

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# INCOME AND EXPENSES

	2008	2007
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contribution	12 845 691	9 700 000
Other income	900 000	1 687 600
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13 745 691</b>	<b>11 387 600</b>
<b>COST FROM OPERATIONS</b>		
Compensation and social costs	6 634 822	5 769 166
Depreciation	287 074	257 820
Project cost	0	22 209
Other operating expenses	6 481 552	4 155 199
<b>TOTAL COST FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>13 403 448</b>	<b>10 204 395</b>
<b>INCOME AND EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>342 243</b>	<b>1 183 205</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>		
Interest income	415 619	220 732
Financial income	14 263	13
Interest expences	-206	-12 963
Financial expenses	0	-1 550
<b>TOTAL FINANCE</b>	<b>429 676</b>	<b>206 232</b>
<b>INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>771 919</b>	<b>1 389 437</b>
<b>ALLOCATIONS</b>		
Transferred to Other Equity	771 919	1 389 437
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATIONS</b>	<b>771 919</b>	<b>1 389 437</b>

# PEACE THROUGH DEMOCRACY AND DIALOGUE





