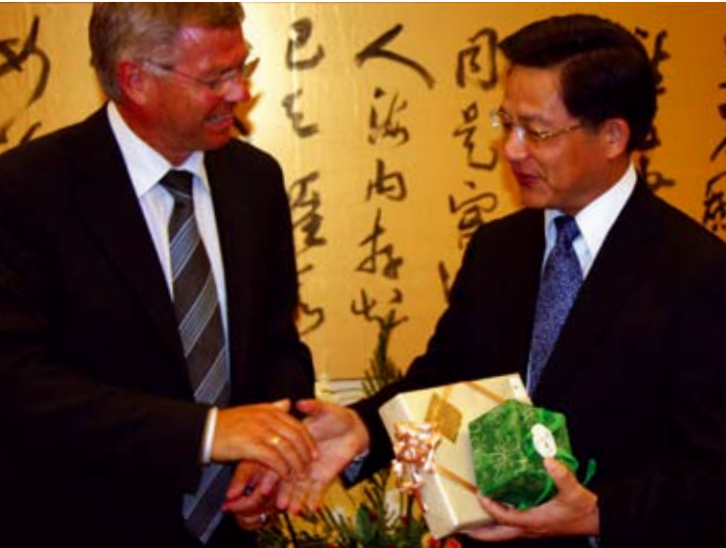


THE OSLO CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

20
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THE OSLO CENTER
for Peace and Human Rights



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MOBILISING FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



I believe it is possible to mobilise the international community to action through documenting human rights violations and bringing them to the attention of responsible leaders. In 2009 we presented a report on human rights and political development in Eritrea – one of the most isolated and oppressive regimes in the world. The report has been well received by civil society organisations, academics and policy makers. It has – naturally – also created debate, especially among Eritreans in exile. We believe the report and the organisations we engage with can move the unfolding tragedy in Africa's youngest nation higher up on the international agenda. This is not an objective in itself, but a necessary precondition for involvement and change for the people of Eritrea.

We have also continued our cooperation with fragile governments in their efforts to build stability through power-sharing and responsible leadership. This sort of cooperation, initiated by the governments themselves, requires continuity, commitment and partnership. We don't have all the answers or ready solutions. They must be crafted by the political leaders in office. But together with our partners we stand ready to share our experience from years in political life and government. The stakes are high. In some cases, fragile coalition governments may well be all that separates stability from chaos and violence.

2009 has also seen an increase in the Oslo Center's efforts at inter-religious dialogue and the formulation and development of an international framework for the protection of holy sites in conflict. Holy sites play an important role in conflicts around the world. We believe that it is possible to defuse the conflict potential of holy sites, beginning by acknowledging their importance to local communities and the international community, and building agreement on the need for their protection. Together with our international partners we have ventured into developing an internationally agreed framework that can help the world deal with holy sites in times of conflict, or even better, help us prevent a conflict from erupting.

Efforts to foster peace, dialogue and human rights can only proceed by incremental steps. There are no quick fixes or magic formulas. But by working systematically with our partners to influence responsible leaders in the international community, we can contribute to change; change in the lives of people for whom the stakes are high. It's about observing the moral basis of life in an international community – a community of real people, connected by a common history for which we are all responsible.

Kjell Magne Bondevik

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kjell Magne Bondevik".

President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights



FROM IDEA TO REALITY



Stortinget/Scampix

Since its inception four years ago, the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights has developed from an idea to a reality. It has become an institution with considerable competence and a

unique network in Norway and abroad. With funding primarily from the private sector, it is also a somewhat unusual institution on the Norwegian scene.

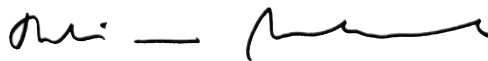
Unlike most non-governmental organisations and research institutions, which receive core financial support from the Government, the Oslo Center has developed partnerships and elicited support from Norwegian businesses that believe in its mission. They also believe in the value of expanding the conceptual, operational and political space which an independent, privately funded organisation can contribute to. That, in my view, is an important objective in itself.

Through cooperation with our financial supporters the Oslo Center is able to plan and develop targeted activities that meet felt needs in international efforts for peace and human rights. Without those resources, critical contributions to cooperation and dialogue with Islamic leaders; documentation of human rights violations in Eritrea and policy advice and support to the fragile governments in Kenya and Somalia, would not have been possible. We would like to thank our supporters for their partnership and contribution. It is their commitment that enables the Oslo Center to make a difference.

The strategic plan for the next three years sharpens the Oslo Center's focus and further develops our formulation of deliverables and anticipated results. It is an ambitious, but realistic plan. There are limits to any organisation's capacity and competence, and the Oslo Center will develop its strategic cooperation with other organisations in Norway and abroad. There is, in my view, no substitute for partnership in efforts for peace and the betterment of the human condition. Together we achieve more.

I look forward to following the realisation of the Oslo Center's strategic plan over the coming three years. I am glad to see that the Center stays the course, and I am convinced that it – with continued support from its partners – will make its mission statement a reality and further develop its niche among Norwegian and international organisations that strive for dialogue, peace and human rights for all.

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






FAITH AND POLITICS

Faith and politics touch upon some of the core issues of international relations today. We are experiencing a renewed focus on religion in national and international politics. With globalisation and migration, developments and incidents at the local level generate responses and reactions at regional and international levels – and vice versa. A case in point is the controversy over the Mohammed cartoons in 2005 which led to demonstrations in Muslim communities around the globe.

Conflicts over minority rights, especially those relating to religious expression, tend to reveal tensions and mutual scepticism. Such scepticism is often a consequence of a lack of knowledge and social engagement across religious and cultural boundaries. Many communities today, including in Europe, are marked by diversity or plurality, but not necessarily pluralism, here to be understood as interacting and integrated communities. Thus,

plurality means communities living side by side. Pluralism, however, develops from real encounters and relationships.

We see dialogue as an essential means to build better relations on the ground, between communities and across regions. Moreover, dialogue represents an adequate political tool for the process of formulating more inclusive and peaceful policies both locally and internationally. Indeed, the language of pluralism is that of dialogue – give and take for the sake of co-existence. It requires criticism and self-criticism. Dialogue means both speaking and listening. Dialogue reveals any common understanding as well as real differences. Dialogue does not mean that everyone “at the table” will agree with one another. However, it requires a commitment to stay at the table – with one’s views, attitudes and beliefs.

 *The initiative to develop a universal Code for Holy Sites is of great importance and may prove to be highly significant in not only serving the needs of religious adherents worldwide but also reducing religious tensions. Search for Common Ground looks forward to a close partnership with the Oslo Center in implementing this initiative for the benefit of all.*

- Sharon Rosen
Co-Director, Search for Common Ground, Jerusalem Office



HOLY SITES

The project “Code on Holy Sites” stems from the recognition that many conflicts around the world cannot be solved without special attention being paid to holy sites. There is a need for a mechanism to regulate and protect holy sites, places and buildings, especially during and after armed conflict. A universally implemented Code on Holy Sites can hopefully be used to promote peace and reconciliation between people of different religious and ethnic communities and different nationalities. It may also help prevent conflicts from erupting or escalating.

The project was initiated by the Trondheim-based One World in Dialogue and the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights during a conference in July 2008 in Trondheim, Norway. Here, religious leaders, academics, politicians and members of Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities from different parts of Europe and the Middle East came together to discuss the issue “Holy Sites – Places for Conflict or Dialogue?”. The group discussed conflicts and problems relating to holy sites, drawing

on examples from Jerusalem, Turkey, the Balkans and Norway and identified measures that would help make Holy Sites places of reconciliation rather than focal points of conflict. A second conference was organised in July 2009 where religious, political and civil society leaders agreed on a joint text, “A Code on Holy Sites”. The aim is to advance and expand the code so that it has both universal application and addresses the needs for safety, respect and acknowledgement of sacredness for holy places around the world.

In line with recommendations from the Trondheim conference, the organisers have set up a working group which will formulate a strategy and an action plan for the continuation and consider its contents in the form of an international convention. The global inter-religious network Religion for Peace and Search for Common Ground will join the Oslo Center and One World in Dialogue in the working group.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

April: The working group initiated a process to prepare a draft Code on Holy Sites

July: The second Trondheim Conference on Holy Sites. A first joint Code on Holy Sites and an action plan for the continuation of the process were agreed.



COOPERATION WITH FOUNDATION FOR DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

From 2006 we have been engaged in an active partnership with former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami and his Foundation for dialogue Among Civilizations. Khatami's engagement for dialogue grew out of his life as a political and religious leader in Iran - a country with particular significance on the international scene with regard to Islamic-Western relations. Khatami is one of several influential Muslim leaders and intellectuals who have framed a vision of dialogue across religious and cultural divides.

Khatami's Foundation aims at enhancing the climate for dialogue and cooperation across religious, political and regional boundaries. Attention to inter-religious and political dialogue within Europe is explicitly stated as a priority. Undeniably, Europe has a history of creating "otherness" through colonialism and our history of both anti-Semitism and current islamophobia. Together

with Foundation for Dialogue among Civilisations we will promote and create venues for dialogues with representatives from political, civil, academic and religious life with the aim of drawing up innovative policy recommendations.

Since the Iranian presidential election in June 2009, Khatami has not been able to pursue his international involvement. By the end of 2009 our cooperation is thus on hold, due to the difficult situation of one of the key reformist leaders in Iranian politics.

However, the Oslo Center has also kept up a continuous dialogue with Iranian human rights organisations and activists, in and outside Iran with a special focus on two issues: women's rights and religious freedom.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

Spring: The Oslo Center initiated contact with human rights organisations in and outside Iran.

April: Talks with Mohammad Khatami in Istanbul during the UN Alliance of Civilizations conference about the current situation in Iran and the future cooperation between the Oslo Center and the Foundation for Dialogue Among Civilizations.

May: The Oslo Center presented a paper in a Conference on "Peace, Human Rights and Religion" in the Iranian city of Qom. The fifth in a series of biannual human rights conferences taking place in Iran, supported by UNDP. The conference was hosted by Mofid University, one of three universities in Iran offering a master's degree in Human Rights.



POLITICAL COALITION-BUILDING

The Oslo Center believes that support for emerging democracies contributes to the promotion of peace and human rights. The objective of this program is to help strengthen democratically elected governments, based on power sharing, viable coalitions and respect for democratic rights.

Coalition governments in fragile democracies are not necessarily guarantees for sustainable democratic development. In some cases, however, broad coalition governments may well be all that separates stability from chaos and violence in politically challenging situations. The Oslo Center offers support to governments based on our broad political experience. Responding to explicit interest from political leaders, the Oslo Center shares experi-

ences and expertise on how to make coalitions work in order to meet the expectations from the electorate. Although political cultures and contexts are clearly different, many of the challenges of power sharing and coalition building are similar, and we believe in the value of sharing one's experience. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is our partner in projects for coalition-building and strengthening democracy projects in Kenya, Somalia and Mongolia. The idea behind these projects has been to inspire political leaders to embrace the concept of power sharing and to develop an understanding of practical steps and procedural measures that have worked well in other countries.

 *NDI greatly appreciates the collaboration with Kjell Magne Bondevik and The Oslo Center in our efforts to help advance democratic institutional reforms in Kenya, Somalia and Mongolia. The Oslo Center's practical advice on structures and mechanisms that can help maintain coalition governments has been of great value in our programs.*

- Kenneth Wollack

President of National Democratic Institute (NDI)





COALITION-BUILDING PROJECTS

In partnership with The National Democratic Institute, the Oslo Center has been working with coalition governments, parliamentarians and political parties in three very different countries in 2009.

Kenya

Kenya is held together by a fragile coalition government. In 2008 Kenya did not succeed in putting together a tribunal to convict those responsible for the violence that followed the election in 2007 and resulted in 1500 deaths. At the same time there have been serious allegations of inefficiency and corruption, not least in connection with the food crisis affecting the country. The Oslo Center has been invited to Kenya several times over the last two years in order to share experiences on developing and leading coalition governments, and to help build a culture of compromise and consultation among political parties and politicians. The Kenyan coalition government still faces major challenges, and if it falls apart, a return to violence may be the result.

Somalia

Somalia is known as the world's pre-eminent example of a 'failed state'. However, that description must not make us blind to efforts over the last few years to re-establish a more inclusive Somali government. Responding to a request from NDI, the Oslo Center is participating in a new program for targeted

capacity-building workshops and assistance to support Somalia's new and broader coalition government and their key staff members. Somalia's New Coalition Transitional Federal Government was born of a peace and reconciliation process facilitated in Djibouti. The Oslo Center's and NDI's Somalia program seeks to enable Government leaders to carry out their duties in a better way by providing targeted training for many of the specific skills and competencies integral to democratic governance.

Mongolia

Since Mongolia's transition to democracy in 1990, the country has enjoyed a high degree of political openness and is generally seen as an example of a successful young democracy. Nevertheless, the short history of democratic governance has been characterised by coalition governments that have found it difficult to resolve disagreements in and between the political parties. By invitation from Mongolia's political leaders we started a program together with NDI this year to promote a more constructive relationship between the coalition and the opposition, and between the Government and Parliament. The Oslo Center has met with different partners and stakeholders in the new coalition government in Ulaan Baatar, as well as the coalition parties, to help develop best practices in coalition governance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

April: We continued dialogue with Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, Vice President Kalonzo Mysoko, party presidents, secretary generals and other high level party officials to promote procedures for consultations between the political stakeholders.

May: Three days of internal and external communication training with staff from the Offices of the Somali President and Prime Minister. Together with the director of NDI Somalia, the Oslo Center also met with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General to identify areas for continued cooperation and support.

June and November: The Oslo Center visited Ulaan Baatar to meet the coalition government and discuss areas of future cooperation. The delegation met with the Office of the Prime Minister, the secretary generals of the two government parties, parliamentary leaders, opposition MPs and civil society.

September: The Oslo Center consulted with Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga in New York about the challenges ahead. The Oslo Center also exchanged views with Nobel Laureates Wangari Mathay and Kofi Annan to discuss our cooperation and the political situation.



HUMAN RIGHTS


Enhancing respect for human dignity is an overall objective of the Oslo Center. Our principal tool is engaging with politicians and civil servants in support of basic human rights such as freedom of speech and religion, as well as freedom from want and fear. The human rights program of the Oslo Center contributes to international efforts for the realisation of people's civil and political rights.

Discrimination and repression are often symptoms of underlying and unsolved political problems. The Oslo Center's experience and expertise in dialogue, combined with our access to networks of politicians and international decision makers, provides a strong platform for our work on human rights.

One of our key priorities has been under-focused human rights crises. Another priority has been

to strive for a clearer international commitment for human rights where competing interests and priorities prevail. Recent examples are our engagement for human rights in North Korea, where the nuclear issue has dominated the agenda. Another example is Eritrea, where the fight against terror has been the focal point of key actors.

Our human rights program focuses on three of the world's most oppressive regimes, Eritrea, Burma and North Korea. Key elements of our approach are documentation, awareness-raising and contribution to policy formulation. Together with our international partners the Oslo Center has helped keep Burma and North Korea high on the international agenda, as well as securing increased attention to the massive human rights abuses in Eritrea.

 *The Oslo Center's report on human rights and political developments in Eritrea is a positive and important contribution to a better understanding of the situation in Eritrea. It is an exemplary commitment to universal human rights and it gives me great pleasure to commend it to readers.*

- Bereket Habte Selassie,

Distinguished Professor of African Studies, Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina and former Chair of the Constitutional Commission of Eritrea





ERITREA

Eritrea is Africa's youngest state and one of the most totalitarian regimes in the world; it is a one-party state, and the people are under siege by its own government. The pretext of external enemies is used as an excuse to deny people their basic rights. There is no freedom of opinion or expression, people cannot organise themselves and assemble as they wish, nor practise their religious beliefs freely.

The government does not allow any alternative voices to be heard. No independent press exist, and national NGOs are strictly controlled by the government.

In cooperation with the Stromme Foundation and Norwegian Mission to the East we have launched a comprehensive report on the human rights situation in Eritrea. The report "The Lasting Struggle for Freedom in Eritrea – Human Rights and Political Development, 1991-2009" places the human rights situation in Eritrea in a historical and political context. Through dialogue with key officials from the EU, the US and the UN, we have contributed to a renewed human rights focus on Eritrea. One of our key recommendations for the UN is to appoint a special rapporteur and an investigation commission on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

October: The Oslo Center launched a human rights report on Eritrea, authored by Professor Kjetil Tronvoll, University of Oslo. At a seminar in Oslo, the report and policy recommendations were launched and constructively debated with representatives of the Eritrean Diaspora, academics, NGOs and government officials. The report was also presented to the US State Department and to the US Congress and Senate in October.

November: The Eritrea report was well received by the delegates at a conference organised by Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA) in Brussels. The Oslo Center also launched the report in New York together with Human Rights Watch, and presented it to high-ranking UN officials.

December: UN Human Rights Council addressed Eritrea in the Universal Periodic Review. The Oslo Center has been assisting the review of Eritrea with documentation and recommendations. In December, the Oslo Center also met with high-ranking EU officials to discuss Eritrea and the Horn of Africa.



BURMA

In spite of signs that the military junta in Burma is keen to improve its relations with the USA and Europe, there are no signs that the human rights situation in the country is improving. On the contrary, the junta has tightened its grip on the opposition, and the military crackdown in the Eastern part of Burma has led to an increase in the number of child soldiers, refugees and internally displaced people.

A key concern of the Oslo Center has been the increasing number of political prisoners, which has now risen to more than 2200. Another focal point has been the complex situation in Eastern Burma. We have underlined the need to bring Asia's longest-lasting civil war into policy formulation for sustainable peace and democracy in Burma. This can only be achieved if the ethnic groups are included in a broad political process.

The Oslo Center has been engaged in the broad campaign to free the legitimate winner of the 1990 election and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 14 of the last 20 years in house arrest. The Oslo Center has consistently called for a political process which includes the political opposition and the ethnic groups as well as the junta.

The Oslo Center initiated a campaign which brought together 112 former heads of state to encourage UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to visit Burma. After his visit there in July 2009, several key stakeholders have reviewed their Burma policies.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

April: The Oslo Center and other NGOs organised a conference on the situation in Eastern Burma. The conference attracted participation from NGOs, researchers and government officials.

May: The Oslo Center and other NGOs encouraged the UN Secretary General to establish an international group of experts to investigate whether violations of international humanitarian law have been committed in Eastern Burma. Such an UN initiative should also press for the Government of Burma to permit access to all parts of the country for international humanitarian assistance.

June: The Oslo Center, in collaboration with Club of Madrid, urged the governments of China, India and Russia to press for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release.

August: The Oslo Center brought up the conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi with the Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister, and urged China to use its influence to press for her release. Bondevik encouraged China to take new initiatives to promote an inclusive process in anticipation of the 2010 elections.



NORTH KOREA

The humanitarian crisis and the human rights violations in North Korea are among the most staggering in the world. This is well documented in two of our reports (2006 and 2008), developed together with our partners. The reports argue that the Government of North Korea has failed in its “responsibility to protect” its own citizens. For too long the world has ignored the unfolding human rights crisis in North Korea, fearing it might obstruct discussions on nuclear weapons.

In our view, the grave human rights violations and humanitarian challenges must be brought higher on the international agenda. A sustainable solution to the nuclear issue should include key issues related to development, human rights and democracy, as well as the country’s integration into the world economy.

The Oslo Center submitted a report on the humanitarian and human rights situation in North Korea to the UN in 2009. The report offers concrete recommendations shared with members of the UN Human Rights Council prior to the review of North Korea in December 2009. We have argued strongly for an international response to the human rights crisis through the UN Security Council, but also for increased international awareness of the humanitarian and human rights situation and increased international involvement.

Towards the end of 2009 the dire human rights situation has not improved. Our recommendation is to include the humanitarian and human right crisis in the Six-Party Talks when they resume.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

April: The Oslo Center submitted a report on human rights violations in North Korea to the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR), where we recommend pressuring the government to open the country for humanitarian relief, release the political prisoners and allow access for the UN special rapporteur. The report is developed in partnership with DLA Piper and the U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.

August: The Oslo Center raised the human rights and humanitarian situation in North Korea with Chinese officials. The Oslo Center met with Chinese experts on North Korea and visited the border town of Dandong.

December: The Oslo Center provided documentation and policy recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva prior to the Universal Periodic Review of the country.

MENTAL HEALTH



Stigma is a major challenge in efforts to improve the quality of life for people suffering from mental illness. There is a need to demystify and increase public knowledge about mental health problems.

The Oslo Center's approach to mental health is rights-based. The right to health is enshrined in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It recognises that everyone has the right to "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health".

Mr. Bondevik left office for 3½ weeks in 1998 when he suffered a depressive reaction during his time as prime minister. His unusual openness about his personal experience has been met with keen interest from individuals and organisations who think he provides an important and credible voice in the fight against stigmatisation. In order to reach out to a broader audience we work with local partners in targeted countries and give interviews on mental health issues to international media.

In 2009 the Oslo Center supported Amnesty International Ireland in their campaign for mental health as a human right. The campaign focused on using the human rights framework to call for political action within the field of mental health. Together with The Oslo Center US Foundation, Mr. Bondevik also gave a series of lectures on the topic in the United States.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

September: Mr. Bondevik held a keynote speech at an event organised by The National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) in Wisconsin, USA. The aim was to raise awareness among legislators and media, and allow them to see that mental illness can truly affect anyone. Participating at an event in Duluth, focusing on the need for services for the mentally ill in Northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota.

October: Supporting Amnesty International Ireland and their mental health campaign. During a visit to the Parliament in Dublin, we participated in the launch of a report on mental health in the Oireachtas (the Irish parliament), a survey of Irish Politicians' Attitudes and Experiences of Mental Health.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

DEBATE ON INTEGRATION IN NORWAY

The Oslo Center invited to an open seminar at Litteraturhuset on the 15th of December concerning the political debate on integration of immigrants in Norway. "We want to contribute to a more knowledge-based discussion about immigration and integration. Today we have a debate dominated by emotions and myths. The question is whether myths and emotions also influence the policy making in this area", said the president of the Oslo Center, Kjell Magne Bondevik in his opening address.

ANNAN CALLED FOR A VALUE-BASED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

Mr. Kofi Annan was the key speaker at the Oslo Center Seminar 2009 in February. Mr. Annan called for an urgent return to a value-based system of governance to guide the international community in tackling the economic, climate, food and poverty crises. He worried that the financial crisis would be used by rich countries to break development promises to poorer nations. The Oslo Center Seminar is organised each year in connection with the meeting of the Oslo Center Board of Trustees.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR POSSIBLE UNIVERSALITY

Académie de la Latinité invited to its 19th Conference in Oslo in February. This conference was part of a series of initiatives to develop the conceptual base for the High Level Group of Experts established under the United Nation's Alliance of Civilizations. The Oslo Center,

together with The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, co-hosted the conference. Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik was invited as a keynote speaker, where he elaborated on Human Rights and their possible Universality.

PROMOTING FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN KAZAKHSTAN

In 2009 the Oslo Center has held direct talks with the Government of Kazakhstan on human rights, focusing on freedom of religion. During two visits to the country, the Center has raised concerns regarding smaller religious groups like Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krishna and evangelical churches. These are often rendered suspect in public debates by being portrayed as "sects". Our work has been carried out jointly with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and other NGOs, and has been financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Oslo Center is encouraging Kazakhstan to use its 2010 role as chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to strengthen the human rights situation in the country.

MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE IN WASHINGTON

Along with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, as well as religious leaders and experts, Kjell Magne Bondevik participated in the opening discussion of the "A Common Word conference" in Washington in October. Will a common word lead to a common deed? That's the challenge that the "Common Word" group of scholars posed at its fourth major Muslim-Christian dialogue conference at Georgetown University. The conference aimed at fostering global peace and security between Muslim and Western societies. "Policy must breach conflict rather than build differences. It requires criticism and self-criticism of all parties involved. Dialogue is the language of pluralism," Bondevik said in his speech.

THE OSLO CENTER US FOUNDATION



In order to build broader international support for its projects, the Oslo Center has established a foundation in the United States: The Oslo Center US Foundation.

The Oslo Center US Foundation works to further the interests, influence and activities of the Oslo Center in the United States of America. The foundation will provide support for specific projects; engage Americans in the efforts for peace and humanity spearheaded by the Oslo Center, and plan events in support of such efforts. The foundation will also identify funding sources, collect contributions and maintain funds in support of the project work undertaken by the two organisations.

The board of the Oslo Center US Foundation is chaired by former US ambassador to Norway, Tom Loftus. Members of the board in 2009 were: Ms. Janet Dolan, Ms. Lois Quam, Mr. Robert M. Skare and Mr. Orlyn Kringstad.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

May: A forum was held in Minneapolis on "Dialogue for Peace: Bridging our Differences". This forum focused on how to build effective pluralistic societies. The forum discussed the value of dialogue in a crisis situation and used as a case study the Norwegian response to the uproar after the Danish Mohammed cartoons were published in 2006.

September: A tour around the US to promote the work of the Oslo Center, to raise awareness for our most important projects and to seek funding. Kjell Magne

Bondevik participated in events such as a seminar with The Madison Committee on Foreign Relations, a forum hosted by the Lubar Institute for Studies of Abrahamic Religions (LISAR), he made a speech at the World Affairs Council of Northern California, and he gave a lecture at University of San Francisco.

November: A presentation for organisations and potential supporters in New York to highlight the work of the Oslo Center.



PARTNERS

The Oslo Center works in partnerships to take advantage of the best available expertise, knowledge and skills to promote peace and human rights. The Oslo Center works closely with different NGOs, institutions and organisations in this respect, and has cooperation agreements with:

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 Civilizations (Switzerland)

National Democratic Institute (NDI) (USA)

Club de Madrid (Spain)

Alliance of Civilizations (UN)

The University of Oslo (Norway)



STAFF



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 strategy 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 cooperation, human rights and peace building 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 is also a graduate of the Gimlekollen School of Journalism and Communication.



John Bjørnebye, Senior Advisor/Ambassador

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.



Alf-Åge Hansen, Special Advisor

Hansen is in charge of the Oslo Center's work on human rights. He has an MSc in Politics (IR) from the University of Tromsø, and worked with the Euro Arctic Barents Cooperation before attending the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomatic academy in 2001/2002. His first posting as a career diplomat was with the Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia 2003-2006 where he followed the African Union, IGAD, the Ethiopian-Eritrea border conflict, Somalia, Sudan etc. From 2006-2009, Hansen worked at the Political Section at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London. Hansen has been working on security policies, democracy, human rights and development policies.



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 program "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.



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 Faith and Politics program 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.



Hilde Salvesen has been granted a leave of absence.

Students with internship at the Oslo Center in 2009: Inger Bult, Lucas Albert Franco, Andreas U. Mjelva, Nikolai Hegertun, Beate Solli, Cecilie Haugerød, Ocean Marambanyika, Sylvia Rani Rognvik, Dag Rune Sameien and Maria Gudmundsdottir.



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Assistant Professor, University of Oslo

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INCOME AND EXPENSES

	2009	2008
INCOME		
Contribution	11 337 028	12 845 691
Other income	952 400	900 000
TOTAL INCOME	12 289 428	13 745 691
COST FROM OPERATIONS		
Compensation and social costs	7 119 410	6 634 822
Depreciation	302 426	287 074
Other operating expenses	4 873 353	6 521 765
TOTAL COST FROM OPERATIONS	12 295 189	13 443 661
PROFIT & LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	-5 762	302 030
FINANCE		
Interest income	170 902	415 619
Financial income	0	14 263
Interest expenses	-34	-206
Financial expenses	0	0
TOTAL FINANCE	170 868	429 676
INCOME AND EXPENSES	165 106	731 706
ALLOCATIONS		
Transferred to Other Equity	165 106	731 706
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	165 106	731 706

Subject to financial audit.

PEACE THROUGH DEMOCRACY AND DIALOGUE





