



The Role of Youth Leaders in Fostering Resilient Communities; Good Practices from Kenya, Pakistan and the MENA region.

Date: 10 June 2014
Time: 1:45 - 2:45 PM
Venue: United Nations Conference Room 3, UN Secretariat Building,
1 St Avenue & E. 45th Street

Purpose

The purpose of this panel on the margins of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review is to encourage interactive debates with the audience on the relation between security and development and also the role that youth leaders play in fostering community resilience against violent extremism. The panellists will present their experiences and perspectives for how the security and international development sectors can work together to develop programs and policies that are inclusive of youth leaders and also discuss ways in which the voices and expertise of youth can be used to build resilience against violence in their communities.

Host: Dutch PM to the UN

Sponsors and Organizers:

This panel discussion is organized by *Human Security Collective* (HSC) in collaboration with Cordaid, Hedayah and UNOY. HSC builds capacities of civil society in engaging policy discourses and policy makers on the effects of counter-terrorism measures on civil society's political and operational space. HSC is driven by the notion that security is too important to be left in the hands of states and military only. Since its inception, it has facilitated linkages between local communities and policymakers at the regional and international levels, and strengthened its engagements with the UN and EU to advocate for a human security approach to counter-terrorism, centering on the needs and capabilities of people in dealing with sources of threats.

Cordaid is the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development. It strives for a fair and sustainable society in which every individual counts; a society in which people share the Global Common Goods and one that leaves room for diversity. We gladly collaborate with individuals and organizations who share our values and goals.

Hedayah is the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, established in Abu Dhabi, through the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), a multilateral platform comprised of 29 countries and the European Union. Hedayah was initiated in response to the growing agreement in the international community of the need to prevent individuals from starting down the path toward radicalization, as well as to divert those already on that path before they are fully committed and mobilized. Hedayah was established to serve as the premier international institution for training and



capacity building, dialogue, collaboration, and research to counter violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, in support of long-term, global efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

UNOY is the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. It is a non-governmental youth-led network of 60 youth peace organizations, active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. *UNOY* Peacebuilders welcomes youth peace initiatives, organizations, and young peace builders regardless of gender, ethnicity, social class, religion, or any other distinction. *UNOY* Peacebuilders develops expertise on specific themes within peacebuilding that are most relevant for the members. The *UNOY* Peacebuilders as a network organization contributes to the work of its members and affiliates in two fundamental ways: Capacity building and Advocacy and Campaigning.

Structure: The meeting will be composed of a panel of five youth leaders from Kenya, Pakistan, Libya, Palestine, and Iraq. Each panelist will give a 5-minute presentation on their work, followed by a brief discussion. The aim of the panel is to encourage interactive debate and critical thinking on the role of young community leaders in fostering resilient communities that are vulnerable to violent extremism and the role the security and development can play.

Brief Background:

The international development community has long recognized the importance of including youth in community projects as a way to aid the community development process. Many youth are empowered to be problem-solvers, decision makers, and committed leaders who take ownership of local challenges and problems, and help to develop locally-led solutions. Also there are good examples of how youth leaders are actively involved in the design of community programs and policies, and how they play important roles, such as identifying conflicts, developing programming, leading program delivery, and representing other youth in their communities. As more meaningful involvement unfolds, organizational and community changes that reflect the priorities of youth will stimulate greater participation by youth in future decision-making.

In the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review (2012), UNESCO consolidated its Power of Peace Network initiative, which aimed at engaging and inspiring young people by harnessing the power of the media and information technology to support diverse social and cultural self-expression. Although this acknowledgement is encouraging, more recognition on the important role of young community leaders in fostering resilient communities is needed in addition to incorporating these practices into CVE strategies. This latter point is supported by the fact that many young community leaders engaged in intercultural dialogue and non-violent conflict transformation play a vital role in building community resilience.

Reflective of the good practices listed in the Ankara Memorandum on Good Practices for a Multi Sectoral Approach to Countering Violent Extremism produced by the GCTF, Hedayah organised a meeting in November 2013 to discuss the roles of families and communities in strengthening community resilience against violent extremism. During that meeting participants identified youth as the most likely instigators



of change within the community. Consequently, the need to invest in developing young community leaders as responsible citizens and role models was widely emphasized. It was pointed out during the meeting discussions that CVE programming should consider and respect the views of young people—and include them in the program design—whenever possible.

The panel presentation consists of five young community leaders. Two of them shall provide examples of good practice from Kenya and Pakistan on the prevention of young people from recruitment by extremist groups. In addition to that, HSC shall provide an overview of a leadership programme which is currently being implemented by HSC and Cordaid. The program is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and focuses on the MENA region. The panelists both from Libya and Palestine are part of this program and shall present their ambitions to work on issues of security in their communities. The fifth panelist is from Iraq. In his capacity as member of the Young Advocacy Team of UNOY, he shall present their work on advocating for a UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security. Both Cordaid and HSC are in partnership with UNOY to further this agenda.

Draft Program

- 1:45 - 1:50 Welcome Remarks
Mr. Jehangir Khan, Director of CTITF
- 1:50 - 1:53 Welcome Remarks by Peter Knoope from ICCT, moderator of the panel
- 1:53 - 1:55 Introduction to Youth Panelists
Jeanne Abdulla, Human Security Collective (HSC)
- 1:55 - 2:00 *Krmanj Othman,*
Young Advocacy Team, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Iraq
- 2:00 - 2:05 *Rewa Barghouthi,*
Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (PCPD), The State of Palestine
- 2:05 - 2:10 *Gulalai Ismail,*
Aware Girls, Pakistan
- 2:10 - 2:15 *Marouane Bakit,*
Society Hope Makers for Human Rights, Libya
- 2.15 - 2.20 *Robert Ochola*
From the Graves to the Ground, Kenya
- 2:20 - 2:40 Interactive Discussion
With Matilda Flemming, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)
- 2:40 - 2:45 Closing by delegate of the Dutch PM