



The Institute for  
Sustainable Peace  
www.2peace.org

## Peace Notes

Volume II, Issue 1

### Agitate! Integrate! Co-create!

#### Generous Donors Sponsor Third Annual Leadership Development Workshop

Thanks to Humanity United and a committed individual donor, 26 young Sudanese leaders and American activists gathered in Estes Park, Colorado at the end of May to transform their thinking about leadership and sustainable peace.



The Institute's Third Annual Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) drew Sudanese from communities around the U.S. and Sudan itself who represent the regional, ethnic, and religious diversity of their troubled homeland.

During the LDW, participants tackled some of the toughest issues Sudan faces today, including ongoing violence, food security, education and human rights. Guided by Institute Senior Fellows and mentors, these young Sudanese left the workshop with ongoing commitments to continue the work and relationships they began in Colorado. In fact, plans are moving forward to launch an Institute for Sustainable Peace in Sudan!

Randy Butler expressed his admiration for the commitment of these young Sudanese to peace: "I continue to be inspired by my brothers and sisters from Sudan. They have overcome hardships in the midst of the ravages of civil war and genocide that I cannot even imagine. They did more than survive. They emerged with an unwavering determination to invest themselves fully in building sustainable peace. At our workshop, they opened themselves to one another, built bridges of understanding across historic enmity and division, and are now actively collaborating on concrete initiatives that will help create a better future for the Sudanese people. What a privilege to be able to work and walk among them!"

### Dina's Story

#### "No Sudanese Should Forget the Homeland"

Late at night, sitting safely on sofas in the Estes Park YMCA, Sudanese men and women shared their stories of growing up amid unspeakable violence.

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### BE A PEACEMAKER!



We are peacemakers on a shoestring budget and we need your help to keep our work going!

A gift to The Institute for Sustainable Peace can be put to work immediately. You may choose to support our mission as a whole, or you may make a gift to the project that speaks to you most strongly.

Please consider making a gift online at [www.2peace.org](http://www.2peace.org) or via mail at 3217 Montrose, Houston, TX 77006. The dollars you invest in the

Listening to the loss and devastation that so many of these young people have experienced in their short lives is difficult and humbling.

But to see them respond to these experiences by embracing peace, seeking reconciliation, and working to help their homeland is deeply inspiring.

Dina was born in Juba, Sudan in 1988. Ethnic violence reached her hometown when she was only five. She remembers digging holes and hiding in them for hours to escape gunfire, sometimes buried beneath other desperate people. Her school was blown up. Walking anywhere meant risking one's life, as gun battles raged between civilians and militia.

Dina's family fled to the capital city of Khartoum to escape the violence. But knowing that Dina's brother would be forced to join the military at age 18, the family made the difficult journey to Egypt and then to the United States.

Now living in Akron, Ohio, Dina is completing her nursing education. She is deeply grateful to the U.S. for providing her with an education and a safe haven for her family. But she hopes to return to Sudan, using her medical skills to help those suffering from war, disease, and malnutrition. Dina will leave behind the comfort and safety of the U.S. because, as she says, "No Sudanese should forget the homeland."



**Dina and Sahar share a moment at the LDW**



**Sudanese Participants and Texans Together Activists**

### **Renewing Our Minds Returns**

*"When I first participated in ROM, I could not believe that people so different could love and respect each other without prejudice."*

When the Renewing Our Minds (ROM) Gathering began in 1999, the scars of war were still vivid on the landscape of southeastern Europe. Years of fear and fighting had etched themselves into the hearts and faces of the people. After so many years of conflict, could there be another way?

After ten years of ROM, hundreds of young people have learned that there is. ROM has built a core of leaders who embrace reconciliation, integrity, and servant leadership. We have proven that it is possible for these young people to transcend prejudices and return home to spread the message to their communities.

This year's ROM Gathering takes place in Fuzine, Croatia in August. We look forward to welcoming back old friends and inspiring a new group of young people to embrace peace over war.

Institute are well-managed and deeply appreciated.

### **Board of Directors**

Mary Beth Arcidiacono  
Chris Bilton  
Dr. Robert Creech  
Dr. Abdel Fustok  
Ronald Hulme  
The Rev. David McKechnie  
John Rhem

### **Calendar of Events**

Randy on the Radio  
Second Saturday at 8am  
92.1 FM

Cafe Dialogue  
Third Thursday, 6 - 8:30  
the breakfast klub  
3711 Travis

Mark Your Calendar!  
September 1st  
Ouisie's Table  
We're planning a very special event at Ouisie's to benefit the Institute!  
Special guest speaker to be announced soon!



Most ROM participants are unable to pay their own way, and we rely on individuals, foundations, and congregations to sponsor this transformative experience. You can provide a full scholarship for one young leader with just \$1,000. A gift of \$2,000 covers all their program expenses and travel. Contact the Institute at 713-533-4920 for more information or to help a young peacemaker come to the ROM Gathering this year.

### Welcome New Senior Fellows!

**Mark Chupp** is Assistant Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. His work over the past 25 years has focused on community building, community development and inter-group conflict transformation.

**Jean-Marie Ngendayho** is currently a Visiting Scholar in Residence at Texas Lutheran University. Born in Burundi, he comes from a long line of kings and rulers and has served in some of his nation's highest offices. But he has also had to flee Burundian dictatorships as he fought for democracy, and has lived as a refugee in South Africa, Finland, and the United States.

### Senior Fellows

Dean James Alfini  
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Mustafa Tameez  
Dr. Samuel Totten  
Michael Treadwell  
Dr. John Van

### Questions and Answers with Randy Butler



Q: Why is the Institute focusing on Sudan?

A: There's a point at which people in a community decide they are ready for peace and real peacebuilding. And the people of Sudan are ready. They've seen enough violence and war. There's a new generation of leaders saying, "Enough. There's got to be a better way."

Q: What was different about this year's LDW?

A: All of our peer leaders were Sudanese who participated in past LDWs. After three years, we've developed a critical mass of Sudanese alumni who return to serve as small group leaders and mentors.

Q: What was one of the most meaningful moments for you at the LDW this year?

A: The five-hour dialogue we conducted in which participants not only were able to share their vision for a peaceful future for Sudan, but also speak openly and authentically about some of the most divisive issues facing the country. This was not peacefaking, it was peacemaking! We work so hard in our workshops to build a relational container that can hold the difference in the group. And this one definitely held! We were even able to tackle different views about whether Sudan should remain united or separate into two countries.

Q: How can Institute supporters help?

A: Become partners with the Institute and invest in this important work. Also, consider attending next year's LDW. We always have participants who aren't from Sudan, and their presence is much appreciated. It means a great deal to the Sudanese to know that there are people in the U.S. who care about their plight.