



Human Security in the DRC Seeking Solutions from the Ground Up

Thursday, March 24, 2011
9:30-11:30 am

Johns Hopkins SAIS
Nitze Building, Kenny Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

Human Security is an ongoing emergency situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Reports of rape and massacres of civilians are regularly coupled with reports of MONUSCO's ineffectiveness and the active participation of the national army in human rights violations. Moving beyond the grim descriptions of human rights abuses, what is the role of civil society in protection, fostering stability and building peace? What policy mechanisms are available in the short and long terms to address these critical issues at the national and international level?

Speakers:

Susan Braden

Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Global Women's Issues, State Department

Nita Evele

Executive Board Member, Congo Global Action

Judithe Registere

Outreach & Development Director, Women for Women International

Moderator:

Sandra Melone

Executive Vice President, Search for Common Ground

Bios:

Susan Braden

Susan Braden is the Senior Policy Advisor in the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the State Department. In this capacity, she works with other agencies to promote sustained peace and development by empowering women around the world and combating violence against them. Formerly, Ms Braden spent five years at one of the world's largest relief organizations advancing the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. As Save the Children's Senior Director for Policy and Advocacy on Humanitarian Response, she travelled to and advocated on behalf of women in countries affected by conflict including Sri Lanka, Burma, Northern Uganda, Pakistan, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Georgia, Armenia, Lebanon, Jordan and West Bank/Gaza. Prior to joining Save the Children, Ms Braden spent almost two decades in the United States Government at the National Security Council, Defense Department, and the CIA on the Middle East and Central Europe. In 2003, she received the Knight Cross Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland for her efforts to improve US-Polish relations and assist Poland's entry into NATO. She also received the Secretary of Defense's Medal for Excellence and Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service. Ms Braden has a BA in history from Dartmouth College and an M Phil in International Relations from Oxford University.

Nita Evele

Nita Evele is the coordinator and executive board member of the Congo Global Action Coalition and an activist from the DR Congo. In her role, among other things, she directly connects with communities affected by war in Congo. She particularly makes sure that the voice of women, the most affected by the war, is heard and their perspectives included in the peacemaking process. Ms. Evele is also a member of the Coalition of Pluralists and Congolese Patriots (COPPAC), a group of Congolese who are committed to the fight for equal and human rights in DRC.

Judithe Registere

Judithe Registere is the Outreach & Development Director at Women for Women International. Judithe launched WfWI programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2004 where she established a vibrant program of direct financial assistance, rights education, vocational skills training and income-generation. Judithe went on to set up WfWI program in Southern Sudan in 2005 while continuing to provide support to the DRC office, overseeing the launch of the program and establishing organizational structures and building staff capacities.

Judithe holds a Master of Arts in Philosophy and Social Policy from American University, a Masters Certificate in Advanced Social Research from Afrikaans University in South Africa, and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Boston College. She is a Fellow Alumnus of the prestigious Salzburg Seminar, which is a forum that brings together future and current thinkers and leaders from different cultures and global institutions to develop ideas geared towards the solving of international problems.

Prior to joining Women for Women International Global Team based in DC as Outreach & Development Director, Judithe served as a key member of the UK office's management team. Judithe has been featured on 60 Minutes with Anderson Cooper and interviewed by various media on the impact of violence on women in conflict and the importance on investing in women for peace and development.

Sandra Melone

Sandra Melone has been at Search for Common Ground since April 1995, and has served as SFCG's Executive Vice President since February 2008. Previously, she served as Executive Director (from August 2004); established our Brussels headquarters and founded our Women's Peace Centre in Burundi. Before coming to SFCG, she worked in human rights advocacy with Amnesty International and in international education. Sandra has given numerous presentations and led workshops on conflict prevention, resolution and transformation, mediation, negotiation, consensus-building, facilitation and cross-cultural communication. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, and the Voice of America and has written articles on the media and conflict resolution; the role NGOs can play in the field of Track II diplomacy and reconciliation; and the complementarities of governmental, non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector initiatives. She is a founding member of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT) and of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). She has served on the Board of the Fédération des Associations Internationales en Belgique (FAIB); and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), where she currently serves as Board Vice Chair and head of the Membership Committee. She studied at the University of Chicago and Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. She speaks English, French, German and Romanian.

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