

CENTAR ZA NENASILNU AKCIJU
CENTRE FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION



Office in Sarajevo:
Bentbaša 31, 71000 Sarajevo, BiH
Tel: +387 33 272 560
Fax: +387 33 440 417
cna.sarajevo@nenasilje.org
www.nenasilje.org

3-MONTH REPORT

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2002.

Centar za nenasilnu akciju (Centre for Nonviolent Action) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation whose basic goals are peace building, development of civil society, cross-border cooperation and promotion of nonviolence.

Our main activity is to organise and implement trainings (seminars) in nonviolent conflict transformation and to support groups and individuals who wish to do this kind of work. Through training in nonviolent conflict transformation we are aiming to develop political awareness of the training participants, and to pass on skills in nonviolent dealing with conflict. At our trainings CNA gathers people from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Yugoslavia and Macedonia, hence giving special focus on networking, and communication between people from different areas, and supporting the process of prejudice reduction and trust building.

CNA started to work in 1997 with an office in Sarajevo. Office in Belgrade started in 2001. CNA is an external branch of KURVE Wustrow.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 2. MAIN ACTIVITIES | 5 |
| 2.1. The Fourth Training for Trainers Program | 5 |
| 2.3. Training for Members of the Trade Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hajdučka Voda - Teslić, Bosnia and Herzegovina | 6 |
| 2.4. A One-day Workshop in Prijedor, BiH, November 04, 2002 | 7 |
| 2.5. Training in nonviolent Communication and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation, Banovići, BiH, November 20-24, 2002 | 7 |
| 3. OTHER ACTIVITIES | 9 |
| 3.1. QPSW Seminar on «Dealing With the Past» | 9 |
| 4. PLANS AND DELAYED ACTIVITIES | 10 |
| 4.1. Plans | 10 |
| 4.2. Delayed Activities | 10 |

1. INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

In front of you is another three-month report, about the activities of Center for Nonviolent Action Sarajevo office.

Over the past three months we've been able to lay back and relax, enjoy a well-deserved holidays and renew our energy for further work, but also to continue working on the ongoing activities and prepare ourselves for those to come.

Together with our colleagues from Belgrade office, we've been preparing ourselves for a long-awaited return of our team member to Belgrade, his home town where he's returned after being absent for fourteen long years. Fortunately, the anticipated problems with military authorities didn't happen, therefore we didn't need to start the campaign we had prepared in advance. We consider that such an outcome is not only the benefit for our organisation, but also a great moral support for all those people who, for different reasons, refused to be a part of a militaristic system, and who are at the moment scattered all over the world, unable to go back to their homes.

Our colleague's transfer from Sarajevo to Belgrade office highlights the issue of our capacities which has become even more urgent. Since we want to respond to the recent development in the best way possible, we've decided to strengthen ourselves in terms of both quality and quantity. Therefore we hope we'll enrich our team in the forthcoming period with the skills and experiences of at least one more person.

The fourth in a row of Training for Trainers Programs is currently taking place. It now lasts for a year, and it consists of eight phases which are organised by CNA Belgrade office. After having completed five phases, we are under the impression that this extended concept gives a good chance for an additional empowering and encouragement to participants of the program who work on peace building, which was our intention in the first place. We are also very glad that the possibilities for joint initiatives and activities of people from our different Training for Trainers programs have opened up, thus significantly strengthening informal trainers' network in this region.

We've started a research in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aiming to explore possibilities to organize panel debates with participants of wars from Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a part of the project called *Dealing with the Past*. Our main impression is that it's going to take a lot of work and consideration in order to create suitable conditions for events like these in this region and that there's just a small number of organisations ready and willing to work on these issues. With respect to this situation, we keep thinking if it is necessary to be more visible as an organisation in Bosnian society, thus giving a contribution to strengthening of local capacities for opening up painful issues and processes such as dealing with the past.

We did several training events and workshops as a response to invitations from various organisations from which we gained different experiences. What is common for all these activities is that we've confirmed how important it is to work on empowering

people in local communities. We are, however, very critical towards certain organisations, which organize these type of activities, and their attitude when it comes to work. It seems to us they lack sensitivity towards young people and their needs. We still need to see what we can do about it.

The recent elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has proved once again that this country is in deep political and social crisis. It's become quite common to hear the breaking news sounds like: «Today The High Representative has passed a law on ...» or «Two humanitarian organizations have been shut down *to a request from US government* ». Almost 50% of citizens doesn't recognize the elections as a chance for an actual social change, while the great majority of those who do vote put their trust in parties which stand for ethnical and religious division, the very same ones that had their share in escalation of violence and war in 1992.

The situation in neighbouring countries and regions of Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro is not much better, therefore, we can repeat once again, that there's a great and urgent need to work, throughout the whole region, with even more dedication and focus and with lot more concrete cooperation and communication between the institutions, organizations and individuals who want to change things and promote different options and value systems.

2. MAIN ACTIVITIES

2.1. The Fourth Training for Trainers Program

Over the past three months we implemented the fourth (a five-day training in Bečej, Vojvodina) and the fifth phase (follow up meetings) of this year's Training for Trainers Program. It was organised by CNA Belgrade office. You can find more information on these activities, and the whole Training for Trainers Program as well, in a three-month report from our Belgrade office.

2.2. The Research in Bosnia and Herzegovina Regarding the Project «Dealing with the Past»

One of the activities we've started pursuing in this trimester, is the research of possibilities and needs for public debates with veterans in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the part of our project called "Dealing with the Past". In that phase of the research, we had meetings with members of several organizations from Tuzla, Bijeljina, Zenica..., with members of Disabled Veterans' Associations and with few potential participants. In these meetings, we presented the project in details and our ideas about it, discussed the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with respect to the need for this type of project and possible difficulties we might encounter while implementing it.

Although it is still early to draw some general conclusions, it seems that most people we've met are cautious and have some reserves, to say at least, when it comes to organising debates in their own communities. This is primarily the case regarding safety issues and the estimation that people in Bosnia and Herzegovina are tired of the themes that have something to do with the war: most of them are traumatised because they suffered heavily during the war. This may turn out to be a serious difficulty at the debates, because the audience's reactions might be unpredictable as well as the way they accept people who come from "the other side". Most of the people we talked to thought that for the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina was very important to start such work, especially with the type of concept of debates we had had in Serbia. Nevertheless, they were unable to answer whether they could accept cooperation in this field or not. They pointed out to the need and the importance of an additional review of capacities and conditions in their local communities. In relation to that, we agreed to do some work on analysing certain local communities (Tuzla, Zenica and Bijeljina) in the forthcoming period, with regards to the safety conditions, possibilities of media coverage and the citizens' willingness to take part in events like these.

Furthermore, it is necessary to reexamine the concept of the debates, and try to find the acceptable form for each local community (public debates, semi-closed forums, and TV appearances...). We also discussed their support in finding potential participants - former soldiers and getting in touch with local veterans' associations. One of the organisations we had visited, replied to us several days later, having stated that based on their activist experience, they considered there were no conditions for the implementation of the project and that they were unable to get more involved in it.

In the upcoming period, we plan to visit several other organisations, veterans' associations and media in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mostar and Gornji Vakuf.

After that, we plan to make an evaluation of the research process and together with our colleagues from Belgrade office make concrete and definite decisions about the implementation of the project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2.3. Training for Members of the Trade Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hajdučka Voda - Teslić, Bosnia and Herzegovina

From October 10 - 12, 2002 the seminar on the theme of "Basis of Work Legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Team Work and Understanding of Conflicts", was held in Hajdučka Voda, near the town of Teslić. The seminar was organised by The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Two members of CNA team, Adnan Hasanbegović and Tamara Šmidling, prepared and conducted three workshops as a part of this training.

There were 18 participants altogether, all of them activists of branch trade unions' youth sections from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The organizers had the idea to make two trainings (the one in question was the first part) during which participants would be introduced to some legal aspects of trade union activism, and get a chance to work on the issues and problems of team work and understanding of conflicts that they were encountering on daily basis, in their professional and personal environment. The first day of the seminar was dedicated to work legislature and the role of the union in its creation and implementation. The other part of the seminar was left for workshops, prepared by CNA teammembers.

Working with such an interesting target group was a challenging task for CNA team. We found that the group had a great potential for an active participation in changing the social patterns and values, as well as for creating a different social atmosphere. Since we estimated it was necessary to work on empowering and sensitizing of this target group, we gladly accepted to do three workshops on this seminar.

We agreed to work in this seminar aware of the time limit, which is not in favor of comprehensiveness and wideness of the themes covered, therefore we tried to make an outline of key points concerning the following themes: nonviolent communication, team work and decision making and understanding of conflicts, within a very limited timeframe. It was our impression that the intention was achieved to a great extent, also thanks to the group's great willingness to take an active role in the process. Most of the participants knew each other and had some previous experiences from working together, therefore building of the group was much easier. There was an atmosphere of trust and safe space which made work very pleasant and comfortable.

During the work process, many questions arose, initiating others to think about them, opinions were expressed transparently, with a lot of self-reflection coming from participants, which made the training team especially satisfied.

During evaluation, most participants expressed their satisfaction with the work methods and procedures, as well as the selection of themes covered. Here are some of their statements taken from evaluation:

- I think we've all learned something. Working within the team and the group helped us.
- I came home that I was looking for and opened the door that were hiding the multitude of possibilities.
- It was educational and brief. It is a well designed process.
- It seemed unclear when I looked at the program, but I was very satisfied afterwards.

The second part of this program is going to be implemented next February, therefore we think there will be enough time to get back to some issues which remained uncovered, due to a limited timeframe.

2.4. A One-day Workshop in Prijedor, BiH, November 04, 2002

On November 4, 2002, the workshop on the theme of *understanding of conflict* was held in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the part of a five-day training called «Let's make the peace» («Pomirimo se»). It was organized by The Agency of Local Democracy - Prijedor in cooperation with an Italian organisation called Osservatorio Balcani and prepared and conducted by CNA team member Nedžad Horozović. Workshop gathered 14 participants - mostly members of youth clubs, but also young NGOactivists from Prijedor, Novi Grad, Banja Luka and Zavidovići.

The training covered different themes ("world" context - globalisation, the role of the community and people's diplomacy, territory and networking ...) offering participants different approaches and work methods (lectures, interactive workshops, plenary discussions). Although the entire training was called: *Training in nonviolent conflict resolution/transformation*, just one day was planned for work on understanding of conflict, therefore it was impossible to cover this subject more deeply and comprehensively.

Facilitator of the workshop tried to set it up and moderate it in such way to open up some space for drawing parallels between situation in local communities where participants were coming from, as well as to empower them to take over responsibility in society and perceive possibilities for action.

During evaluation of the workshop, participants were especially satisfied with workshop dynamics and the fact that they were able to take part in all the exercises and discussions.

Since the invitation for this workshop came on such short notice (only two days before the beginning of the training) there was very little time to get to know the concept and the goals of the training, as well as to prepare it. The impression remains that a lot more could have been accomplished if the people who had created and facilitated certain parts of the training had been able to influence the creation of the entire process. Also, the goals of the training could have been achieved to a bigger extent and the training would have had more to do with the actual title if they had had a chance to communicate and exchange ideas about the contents of the training. This way, the themes that were covered didn't seem to be clearly in relation to each other neither did they seem to be chosen in accordance to the goals of the activities.

We are glad to point out that participants from this group have a great willingness to work on both themselves and the problems in their communities, which tells us that it is very important and necessary to work with young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina on empowering them, but that it also requires a precise idea about the things that one wishes and is able to do about it.

2.5. Training in nonviolent Communication and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation, Banovići, BiH, November 20-24, 2002

Three CNA teammembers (Adnan Hasanbegović, Milan Colić and Helena Rill) held a four-day training in nonviolent conflict transformation to an invitation from Civic Association „Youth Center“ from Zavidovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local people

recognized the need for this kind of training because of the ever lasting consequences of violence and conflicts in their communities. During the war, there were armed clashes between Bosniaks who were majority in Zavidovići, and Croats who were majority in a neighbouring town of Žepče. Each of these towns still has refugees from the other one, although two towns are only few kilometers away from each other. There's an ongoing need for trust building between them.

A training like this has already been implemented last year, where youth of Zavidovići and Žepče took part, together with members of CNA team and one of their colleagues. After pursuing an examination of needs, Youth Center confirmed that there was still a need for this kind of training.

However, one day before the training we found out that young people from Žepče would not turn up. We weren't informed about the actual reasons for it. The program and the goals of the training were partly changed due to their absence, but anyway CNA considered that even in an homogenous group it was important to work on the issues of conflict and violence and empower participants for activism as a way to qualitative changes in the society. The following subjects were worked on: nonviolent communication, team work, decision making, perception and understanding of conflicts, violence / nonviolence and power.

Twelve young people took part at the training, 10 of which were Bosniaks from Zavidovići, and two were Serbs from Prijedor. The group was both ethnically and gender unbalanced: there were four women and eight men. Since three people had to leave the training due to some urgent matters, the size of the group was changed which influenced the whole dynamics. They left two days after the training had begun, therefore the training team wasn't sure how it was going to affect further work because smaller group meant less interaction between participants. However, the group exceeded all expectations: most participants got really deep into subjects, expressing their reexaminations, analyzing more the process of exercises than their contents.

Team's got the impression that the issues which were covered were just as well completed and not left halfway or not deep enough, and that work on these issues was very important for participants. Here is what some of the participants stated when asked what they had gained on the training (taken from the training evaluation):

- I've got better understanding, great knowledge we didn't really think about.
- I've gained lot of knowledge, opinions which opened up a whole new way of thinking - something that was inside of me but I've never found out about it, until now. I've got the energy and power; in my mind, I've got settled a concept how to pass on all of this to other people. I've broadened my horizons with something I can think about, the way I look at the world has widened.
- I've gained new acquaintances, friends. I've got really good mates. I've got the desire to dedicate myself to this subject.
- I've managed to understand some things are happening every day. I haven't been thinking in this way. I've managed to understand how important these things are.

The team thinks that one person carries the potential for multiplication of knowledge and skills - for Training for Trainers programme, while several others are for Basic Training in Nonviolent Conflict Transformation. At the external evaluation, team has came up with a conclusion that this training encouraged participants to work on local level, to educate and empower people to take an active involvement in their local community, and not just on regional level.

The training team encountered the difficulties concerning behaviour of some individuals who had organized the training. Although CNA team finds it important to support local capacities, people from the local organizations showed disrespect towards both work and participants of the training in a 'you-are-here-for-us' kind of way which CNA team considered uncooperative and inadequate and not the right way for work on peace building.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES

3.1. QPSW Seminar on «Dealing With the Past»

Queker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) organised the seminar titled "*How Do We Deal With the Past*", in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), from November 26-29, 2002. CNA team member Adnan Hasanbegović took part in it.

Participants were NGO activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia. The training was facilitated by members of QPSW regional team together with guest/lecturer/moderator Roberta Bačić, an activist from Chile.

The concept of the seminar was a combination of lectures, interactive workshops, presentation of video and written material and plenary discussions.

For 17 years, Roberta has been working actively on the process of dealing with the past in Chile, where after the coup d'etat in 1973 an extremely violent military dictatorship was established. It caused many victims and other difficult consequences in general for Chilean society, which has been going through process of social reexamination, reconciliation and recovery ever since. Those facts were used as a basis to make the concept of this seminar. We were given a detailed presentation of Chilean experiences in dealing with the past, mostly through the example of the Commission for the Truth. Roberta was an external collaborator to this commission and a representative of Chilean human rights organisations and other activist groups and organisations.

Along with the introductory report about the importance and need for dealing with the past, presentation of the experiences of Chile was used as a basis for the discussion about the situation in former Yugoslavia with respect to dealing with the past, about commissions for truth, similarities and differences between the two regions, and the relevance of Chilean model in our conditions. There were plenty of interesting and useful discussions at the seminar. Those that were the most impressive were the ones concerning the concept of "truth" within the social context as well as the one about the current situation and the activities with relation to dealing with the past in former Yugoslavia.

The invitation for this seminar came at the right moment for CNA, because of the concrete activities we have been pursuing in relation to the subject. Besides the exchange of experiences and ideas, there was a detailed presentation of our work on the project named «Four views » with an intention and an open invitation to activists for co-operation in the upcoming sequel of this project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. We've established firsthand contacts with representatives of several organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, potential partners on the project of public debates with former soldiers. This is very important to us in this phase of research of needs and possibilities for the implementation of the debates in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Seminar was quite useful and empowering.

The only complaint addressed to the organizers came because they didn't invite members of CNA Belgrade office or some other organisations from Serbia, directly involved in work on initiating process of dealing with the past, with plenty of first-hand experiences in this field.

More information on this seminar is available from QPSW Sarajevo office.

E-mail: qpsw@bih.net.ba

4. PLANS AND DELAYED ACTIVITIES

4.1. Plans

Here are the activities of both our offices, planned for the upcoming three-months: The Basic Training in Nonviolent Conflict Transformation, in Vogošća, from December 13 - 23, the continuation of the research about possibilities to work on Dealing with the Past in Bosnia and Herzegovina, networking meeting organised by CNA Belgrade office focusing on the process of dealing with the past in the region of former Yugoslavia. For the beginning of next year, some of our members are going to visit Center for Peace Studies in Zagreb, Croatia and present our experiences up to date, as well as our future activities concerning the work on Dealing with the Past.

4.2. Delayed Activities

Here are the activities of both our offices, planned for the upcoming three-months: The Basic Training in Nonviolent Conflict Transformation, in Vogošća, from December 13 - 23, the continuation of the research about possibilities to work on Dealing with the Past in Bosnia and Herzegovina, networking meeting organised by CNA Belgrade office focusing on the process of dealing with the past in the region of former Yugoslavia. For the beginning of next year, some of our members are going to visit Center for Peace Studies in Zagreb, Croatia and present our experiences up to date, as well as our future activities concerning the work on Dealing with the Past.

CNA will very much welcome feedback, suggestions,
questions and criticism concerning this report and our general work.
Your thinking along helps us.
Thank you.

*Many thanks to all those who are supporting
The project of KURVE Wustrow - Centar za nenasilnu akciju,
financially or through their engagement that made this project possible
and helped to secure its implementation
and all of those who are with us in their thoughts.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Auswärtiges Amt - German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Biro za ljudska prava Tuzla
Branko Todorović
Berghof Stiftung & Berghof Research Institute for Creative Conflict Management
Cara Gibney
Celia McKeon
Committee for Conflict Transformation
Conciliation Resources
Centar za mirovne studije Zagreb
CNA ured u Beogradu
Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft Vereinigte Kriegsgegner - DFG VK Bielefeld
Internationale Ärzte zur Verhütung des Atomkrieges - IPPNW Deutschland
Jasmin Redžepović
Martina Fischer
Menschenrechtsreferat des Diakonischen Werkes
Miodrag Živanović
Natascha Zupan
Nina Vukosavljević
GTZ
Quaker Hilfe
Quaker Peace and Social Witness London
Roland Salvisberg
Sezam Zenica
Suedost Europe Kultur e.V.
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Uno Stiftung
All training participants

Adnan Hasanbegović
Nedžad Horozović
Tamara Šmidling

For Centre for Nonviolent Action

in Sarajevo, december 2002.

This report may be distributed freely with the acknowledgement of the source.