



TOGETHER *for peace* IN COLOMBIA

Monday, October 15th - 2012

Fredshuset, Møllergata 12

SAIH | Studentenes og Akademikernes
Internasjonale Hjelpefond

 Save the Children
Norway

 HEALTH
AND
HUMAN
RIGHTS
INFO INFO

 Caritas
Norge

 LO OSLO

 pbi
making space for peace

 Latin-Amerikagruppene
i Norge (LAG)

 Storgruppe for fred
i Colombia

 LO

 MAGDALENA
NORWAY

 SU
Sjunde
Ungdom

 THE
KARIBU
FOUNDATION

 The Norwegian
Human Rights Fund

 NRC
NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

 9 7807
HANDELSKAMPANJEN

 CHANGE THE WORLD

 Norsk Folkehjelp

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Tjenestemannslag

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TOGETHER *for peace* IN COLOMBIA

Next week, the Colombian government and FARC-EP will meet in Oslo to try to find a solution to one of the world's oldest armed conflicts. Large parts of the Colombian population have lived under a dramatic humanitarian situation for decades; five million people have been forced to flee their homes, the majority of them women.

Violations of basic human rights and international humanitarian law have been part of everyday life for Colombians. Tens of thousands of women have been victims of sexualized violence. The conflict also affects civil society organizations. Thousands of leaders and activists in the unions, indigenous people's organizations, women's organizations, among students, journalists, and in human rights organizations have been persecuted, harassed and killed.

We, the human rights and humanitarian organizations working in and/or for Colombia, believe that the conflict can only be solved through dialogue. We are encouraged by the announced peace talks to be facilitated by Norway and see them as an important step on the path towards peace.

We invite you all to show your support for the peace talks and the peace building work in Colombia by meeting up at FREDSHUSET, Møllergata 12, 7th floor, Oslo. October 15 from 11 a.m to 5.15 p.m

The goal of the gathering is to garner enthusiasm and spread information. We will look at the possibilities and challenges in Colombia in light of experiences from other peace processes. Political leaders and leading personalities from Norway and Colombia will address the assembly. We will discuss what is at stake and analyze Norway's role. We want to show what Colombia is and what Colombia can be. After 50 years of conflict, there is light at the end of the tunnel, but the obstacles are still many. If the negotiations succeed, millions of people will be able to return home, and their everyday life will be normalized. Several generations of Colombians have never experienced true peace. They need our and the international community's support to secure a better future.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

PROGRAMME



11:00 - 11.15 WELCOME

11:15 - 12:45 CAPTURED BY THE COLOMBIAN CONFLICT

Journalist **Romeo Langlois** - *Abducted 33 days by the FARC*

Langlois works for the French TV channel France 24. He was captured while he was following a military patrol that was ambushed on April 2012.

Aida Avella - *Victims for Reconciliation in Colombia*

Avella is a former councilor from the Unión Patriótica in Bogotá. She survived a terrorist attack against her. She is engaged at the Association of Victims of State Violence, MOVICE. She works at ILO in Geneva.

Yesid Arteta - *Previously a guerilla soldier, now in Oslo for peace*

Arteta is an ex commandant of the FARC. He has lived in Europe since 2006, after 10 years in prison in Colombia. Currently he works as a researcher at the School of Peace Culture at the University of Barcelona.

12:45 - 13:15 REFRESHMENTS

13:15 - 14:45 PRIO (PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OSLO) - SUM (CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT)

Towards a lasting peace in Colombia? Today's process in light of international and historical experiences

Daniel García-Peña - *What can we learn from previous peace processes in Colombia?*

Jennifer Schirmer - *Seeking dialogue in Colombia*

Wenche Hauge - *Norway's experiences as a facilitator in peace processes: what have we learned?*

Knut Andreas Orgland Lied - *Land ownership and peace in Colombia: what has changed?*

Facilitator: **Benedicte Bull**

14:45 - 15:00 RECESS

15:00 - 17:00 PANEL DISCUSSION

What is necessary to achieve a long lasting peace in Colombia?

León Valencia, Director of Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris and columnist in Revista Semana

Piedad Córdoba, Colombianos y Colombianas por la Paz

Elisabeth Rasmusson, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council

Jan Egeland, Director of Human Rights Watch, Europe. UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Colombia (1999-2002)

Facilitator: Journalist **Sigrun Slapgard**

17:00 - 17:15 CLOSING REMARKS

Martha Rubiano Skretteberg, Secretary General, Caritas Norway

SPEAKERS



ROMEO LANGLOIS

Romeo Langlois is a French journalist who works for the TV channel France 24. He was abducted by the FARC guerilla in April.

AIDA AVELLA

Aida Avella is a former councilor of the Unión Patriótica in Bogotá, and participated at the National Constituent Assembly of 1991 after the peace dialogues between the government and the M-19. Currently she is an adviser for the grassroots organizations in Colombia on topics of human rights before ILO and UN in Geneva, Switzerland.

YESID ARTETA

Arteta is an ex commandant of the FARC. He has lived in Europe since 2006, after 10 years in prison in Colombia. Currently, he works as a researcher at the School of Peace Culture at the University of Barcelona

DANIEL GARCIA-PEÑA

Daniel García-Peña is a historian and has taught history and political science at Colombian universities. During the Samper government, he was High Commissioner for Peace (1985-1989), before becoming director of Planeta Paz, an association of grassroots sectors working for peace in Colombia. In the city government of Gustavo Petro in Bogotá, he was responsible for international relations. He is now the Colombian General Consul in Paris. García-Peña is also a known columnist in *El Espectador* and other Colombian media.

JENNIFER SCHIRMER

Dr. Jennifer Schirmer is an anthropologist and Senior Researcher at the Center for Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo. She is Associate Researcher at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, School of Advanced Study, the University of London, and a member of the Reference Group of the International State Crime Initiative of King's College London (University of London)/ University of Hull/ Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Her work has centered on building dialogue between the various conflictive sectors of society. For the past 10 years, she has directed an MFA-funded peacebuilding project in Colombia to provide dialogue space between the armed forces, political elite, journalists and former guerrillas with regard to such topics as restitution of land and rural development, drugtrafficking, the rights of victims and human rights. She is the author of a number of articles on peacebuilding and the drugs economy in Colombia.

WENCHE HAUGE

Wenche Hauge is a senior researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). She has a PhD (cand polit) on conflict causation and conflict dynamics and has had several large projects focusing on peace processes and peacebuilding.

KNUT ANDREAS O. LID

Knut Andreas Lid works as advisor at Caritas Norway where his main responsibility is the coordination of the organization's international engagement. He is a political scientist by training and has conducted research on the Colombian conflict at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo. The main focus of the research was the institutionalization of transitional justice mechanisms in Colombia.

LEÓN VALENCIA

He is Executive Director at Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris and columnist at the *Semana* magazine. He also wrote for *El Tiempo*, *El Colombiano*, and for national and international journals. He was the winner of the Simon Bolívar National Journalism award in 2008 in the category "opinion". Presenter and Director of the programme "Controverse" at "Channel Capital". Author of many books.

PIEDAD CÓRDOBA

Córdoba is a former senator of Colombia who served for four terms from 1994 to 2010. She is a Colombian of African descent and has represented these minorities in congress as part of the "Poder Ciudadano Siglo XXI" political movement. Córdoba has been a constant supporter of legislation addressing discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation and race. During 2007, Córdoba participated as an official government mediator for the humanitarian exchange discussions between the Government of Colombia and the FARC guerrilla group, along with Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez. She was nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. Piedad Córdoba is the leader of *Colombianos por la Paz*.

JAN EGELAND

Jan Egeland was the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Colombia, and from 1990 to 1997 he was State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has 30 years of experience from international work with human rights, humanitarian situations, and conflict resolution, and was among the initiators of the peace negotiations that led to the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1993. Today, Jan Egeland is a deputy executive director of Human Rights Watch and the director of its European operations. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, he was the executive director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. From 2003 to 2006 he was UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

ELISABETH RASMUSSEN

She is the Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and responsible for the organization's program activities in around 20 countries as well as more than 3000 staff who work to protect and assist displaced people in some of the most difficult conflicts in the world. She has been engaged in humanitarian work in a number of places in the world, including Colombia. Rasmussen has a degree in political science from the University of Oslo.

MARTHA RUBIANO SKRETTEBERG

Martha Rubiano Skretteberg was born in Colombia, is trained as a lawyer, and has been working with international humanitarian and development aid for many years. She has been Country Director for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia, and Director of the women rights organization FOKUS in Norway. Martha is currently holding the position as Secretary General for Caritas Norway. Her professional background also includes several positions in state administrations in both Colombia and in Norway, where she worked on issues relating to immigration and integration as well as international drugs policies.