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HIPSIR MISSION
Blend the theory and practice of peace building and international relations while engaging in research, publication and policy formulation.

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In this first issue of Peace Dialogue, I would like to welcome peace studies students, peace practitioners, Alumi from Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), researchers and scholars in peace studies and international relations to participate in this open forum dialogue and intellectual engagement. We will be discussing social, political, economic and religious issues that concern our society today. The Peace Dialogue provides an open space where we can all make analysis of our context, identify the major challenges, and available opportunities and make recommendations for the desired social change.

HIPSIR was founded in 2004 and is part of Hekima College which is a Constituent College of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. HIPSIR offers MA degree in Peace Studies and International Relations. HIPSIR also offers accredited certificate courses in conflict analysis, transitional justice, human rights and good governance; peace-building, conflict resolution and reconciliation; Catholic Social Teaching; refugee, migration and peacebuilding; leadership and management, among others. HIPSIR will have two intakes for accredited certificate courses: November 2013 and February 2014. HIPSIR is run by Jesuits (a.k.a. Society of Jesus, an international Catholic religious order), and is therefore founded on centuries of Jesuit educational tradition which puts emphasis on academic excellence and full human formation with a view to changing our society into a better place. Jesuits run 220 universities and institutions of higher learning all over the world. The first Jesuit university, The Gregorian University, was founded in 1651.

The agenda for peace in Africa is today a very relevant and important issue of concern. There are 17 countries in Africa currently in conflict or recovering out of conflict. The latest entry into the list of African conflict is Mali where the northern Islamic militant groups had called for the secession of part of the country and have put up a militant resistance. The military intervention led by the France in support of the government led to an end to conflict and peaceful elections that ushered in a new government. We hope that the political transition will be peaceful. The shocking news that streamed all over the media about the terrorist attack on shoppers and employees at the West Gate Mall in Nairobi, stunned the nation. The attacks demonstrated that the terrorist cells are still active all over the world and that we have a responsibility as social scientists to raise questions and seek answers: Why is this happening? What is the origin of all this? And, how can it be addressed? Such attacks are symptomatic expressions of much deeper problems: economic marginalization, ideological radicalism, religious fundamentalism, proliferation of small arms, lack of cohesive policies in the management of regional security and militarization of peace and conflict at all cost. Nigeria continues to be afflicted by the menace of the Boko Haram terrorist attacks particularly in the northern part of the country. Côte d’Ivoire is in a political transition that is faced with the challenge of reconciliation. The Central Africa Republic (CAR) has recently experienced a coup d’état and the challenge to the new is Government is to unite the country and consolidate national security.

The African Union (AU) is overwhelmed in its capacity to address all these conflicts. Under the peace and security structure of the AU and the Panel of the Wise, the AU is in a better position to transform the current conflicts into opportunities for dialogue that will lead towards institutional reforms that would foster inclusive governance and political accountability. The continent will thus have to invent creative ways of mitigating conflicts while placing credible mechanisms and systems that can sustain peace.

From the Director’s Desk
Transitional justice is a term that has recently emerged to refer to processes of justice aimed at addressing past crimes against humanity as a measure of post conflict reconstruction. Transitional justice puts emphasis on social-political accountability and aims at fostering a new beginning through execution of four main pillars: unveiling of past crimes and historical injustices; prosecution of the crimes; reconciliation of communities affected by the conflict; and compensation of affected families and individuals.

Revelation of the past crimes through a truth and reconciliation process is fundamental to any transitional justice process. This is tied to a thorough process of investigation and truth telling that ought to be subjected to a forensic audit to ensure that truth is attained to the highest degree. There are however concrete challenges with the truth research and truth telling process. Often times the persons responsible for past crimes could have been in a previous government or military or in a government still in power, hence politically powerful. These individuals could derail the investigations or intimidate witnesses. On the other hand if the individuals were deeply affected by the past crimes and are still traumatized they may not be willing to speak out about the past crimes. This means that the truth, justice and reconciliation process has to design ways of getting the victims to tell their story. Truth telling process is a delicate issue, requiring cautions handling.

Prosecution of crimes is yet another important element of the transitional justice process. One of the objectives of the transitional justice process is to end impunity and develop a culture of social-political accountability. This requires that past crimes are punished. Generally, there exist several options to punishing past crimes: the government can establish a local tribunal to look into the past crimes; there could be an ad hoc local tribunal made of both local and international judges; a special court set up by International Court of Justice (ICJ); or an international court under International Criminal Court (ICC). In recent years the ICC has gained currency, especially in Africa, where it has had the highest number of cases, much to the protest of the African Union that has complained that the continent has been unfairly targeted by the Court.

The ICC is a recent organ that was founded in 2002 after the signing of the Rome Statute in July 1998. Kenya ratified the Statute on 15th March 2005, and it entered into force on 1st June 2005. The founding of the ICC was built on the previous ad hoc tribunals established by the UN Security Council resolutions in the 1990s, namely, The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Other ad hoc tribunals have been formed or are in the process of being formed in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cambodia, Afghanistan and East Timor. Coupled with the ICC is the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine, which was adopted by the UN in 2005. The R2P asserts that nations have the responsibility to protect their citizens and prosecute those responsible for mass crimes within their borders, failure to which the international community would intervene.

One of the major limitations of the ICC has been its heavy reliance on the host governments to conduct investigations in order to produce the evidence in court. However,
if some of the wanted individuals are strongly connected to the government or are part of the government, it makes it very difficult to produce credible evidence for prosecution. A lot will depend on the government of the day. For example, in Kenya, both the president and deputy president are wanted by the ICC to answer charges on crimes against humanity linked to the violence that ensued after the disputed results of the 2007 General Elections. This situation makes it difficult for the ICC to carry out effectively any pending investigation. Similarly, in Ivory Coast, the former president Laurent Gbagbo and his wife Simone Gbagbo have been indicted by the ICC for crimes against humanity that occurred during the post election violence in 2010. The current government is in a position to gather as much evidence as possible given that they are dealing with a political opponent. This could blind the ICC efforts in investigating crimes that could have been committed by the members of the current government during the conflict.

It is however important to stress that external structures of justice are not sufficient in ending impunity and bringing the desired social-political change. The key to social change lies in the institutional reforms of the judiciary, executive and legislative structures in order to uphold the rule of law and enhance political accountability. It is equally important to address other forms of impunity related to corruption, insecurity and ethnicized politics that alienate some parts of the population from enjoying the national resources. The success of international law therefore lies on the existing local structures of governance. The emphasis should be put in strengthening these structures. According to Article 17 of the ICC’s Rome Statute, a state should only resort to ICC if it does not have the capacity to try the cases. However, the ICC Prosecutor is afforded *proprio motu* (Latin for, “on his own impulse”) power, which authorizes him to initiate an investigation without the recommendation of the state.

Another important aspect of transitional justice is reconciliation of communities affected by the conflict. Instituting a process of reconciliation in a post conflict setting is one of the most challenging tasks for transitional justice process. A number of countries have adopted truth and reconciliation commissions to initiate a reconciliation process. However, in most cases these commissions would offer their recommendations to the government which would then decide on whether to implement the report or not. More often than not the process of reconciliation has been superficially undertaken without a thorough engagement with the population. It is important to involve different stakeholders in the reconciliation process: victims, perpetrators, religious leaders, civil society and political agents. A broader approach to reconciliation process is critical for the success of the transitional justice initiatives.

Amnesty could be offered to individuals who have committed past crimes as a way of fostering the process of reconciliation. In 1990s the offering of amnesty became popular. These varied from blanket amnesty without any form of punishment, discriminate distribution of amnesties as a political settlement between opponents, and conditional amnesty. The amnesty process should, however, not exclude the process of reparation that could require the accused individuals to carry out community service or compensate, to a certain extent, the affected persons. Jurisprudence should also be applied in the law courts in order to make sure that different factors are taken into place before offering an amnesty. To date there are diverse disparities in the manner in which amnesties are offered by states. Besides, very few states have amnesty laws that can be applied to address past crimes.

In conclusion, the success of any transitional justice process has to take into account a broader and more consultative approach to healing and reconciliation. While the primary objective is to end impunity and restore the rule of law, the long term goal ought to be peace sustainability through institutions that respect human dignity and uphold the common good of the peoples.

“Truth telling is a delicate process and ought to be handled cautiously. The truth, justice and reconciliation process has to design ways of getting the victims to tell their story.”
With the roll out of devolution, Kenya is opening a new chapter in history. Perhaps this could mark one step in the right direction in a long and perilous journey towards pryng open the Kenyan system of governance which has for many years remained either closed or heavily centralized. However, Kenya’s devolution is as complex as it is ambitious. It is one of the few in the world. This is a kind of system that seeks to shift power from the centre to entirely new local administrations set up from scratch. In as far as we appreciate the fact that devolution is a territorial division which fosters a combination of self-rule and shared-rule at two co-variable levels, it is important to understand that devolution is not federalism owing to the fact that the level of autonomy of devolved units in devolution is lower than that of a federal arrangement. government are still higher in a devolved government than in a federal state. There is what unites us as Kenyans while our diversity grants us relative autonomy through county governments. For instance, Chap. 9, Part. 2., Art. 131 (1e) states that “the president is the symbol of national unity.” The question we should be asking ourselves is whether he will be able to reflect the face of Kenya as such.

Devolution in Kenya is not absolute autonomy. Division of power should not and must not be allowed to jeopardize the civil sense of belonging to “one nation.” While other aspects like health and public administration are devolved, there are some aspects that can never be devolved. These include the military and finances. For example, according to constitutional dispensation, the national government of Kenya remains in charge of education, security, foreign policy, national economic policy and planning.

Kenya is making an historical turnaround. With the setting off of a devolved system of governance the journey from one government to 48 governments has begun (48 in the sense that there is one central government and 47 county governments). Previously the country was divided into eight provinces and over 100 districts, but executive power was largely vested in the central government, headquartered in Nairobi. Now, 47 governors with their respective county assemblies will be in charge of the new local administrations to oversee functions such as agriculture, health facilities, sanitation, transport and trade licenses, as well as the responsibility to generate revenue for their counties e.g. through taxation.

Finances

Finances are to be regulated by the treasury. Money is to be allocated in clear and in a manner constitutionally provided for. Counties are allowed to raise revenue through tax collection and with possibilities of borrowing/lending and/or receiving grants and donations but
with approval of the central government. Counties are accountable both to the people and to the central government. What is interesting and worth noting regarding finances is the fact that funding follows structures but in Kenya it is the other way round! This is why there is need for the populace to watch out, especially now that most counties are formed purely by single parties or coalitions thereby lacking in checks and balances.

Looking at the criteria of allocation of funds, we realize that some counties especially the urban centers like Nairobi still stand a chance of getting a Lion’s share, thanks to their high population. Urban centers still remain the heavily populated places in the country and since population accounts for 45% of the allocation, it is clear that the densely populated counties are definitely going to get more funds than their counterparts.

Devolution is a very complex endeavor. Its success largely depends on many factors, such as the political good will and the cooperation at all levels starting from the grassroots.

Citizen participation

Democracy is founded on the concepts of popular participation and inclusivity. Citizen participation is not only provided for in the Constitution but also highly encouraged by Kenya’s democratic system. There is a very strong legal framework for citizen participation in Kenya. Citizen power can be categorized into three broad types: passive power (inherent but not exercised), physical power (diverse corporeal and ideological engagement) and fiscal power (power of money). All these powers are inherently present and lie with the citizens; the challenge is to educate as many people as possible to take up their rightful role by exercising their power. Citizens are encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities. They are called upon to make valuable contribution to the governance process.

Many ways exist for the people to exercise their power. For instance, through voting, searching for all necessary information about their governments, participation in public and private political discussions and debates, lobbying members of the Senate, the National Assembly and the County Assembly to vote in certain ways, signing petitions on desired government actions or policies, writing letters and using other means of communication to express issues of concern and raising revenue (e.g., through taxation). Furthermore citizens can participate by being members of political parties, attending public meetings and forums, campaigning for favorite candidates for electoral positions, holding and openly demonstrating their position regarding some issues through peaceful protests, vying as candidates for elective positions, engaging in voluntary work for community development, serving through military or other national service, conducting peaceful civil disobedience to unjust laws and poor policies, and thorough community policing.

Benefits of citizen participation

Response to the needs of the community by public officers who better understand the demands of the citizens, increases credibility, sense of belonging, and generation of alternative views from a greater diversity. Furthermore, citizens get more informed of the projects and activities of their government. They make community concerns known and aid in prioritizing them. The diverse and unique skills and views are made known to the government officials. It is agreeable that through citizen participation the society affords a public that is more aware and can effectively judge government responses to particular issues and its conduct in general. The capacity of citizens is greatly improved and increased. It is through fully participation, that citizens feel a sense of having greater ownership over government decisions when public officials consult them. This participation also goes a long way in legitimization of public policies. Another very crucial benefit of citizen participation is that it ensures transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

Conclusion

There is serious need for Kenyans from all walks of life to rise up and actively take part in the devolved system of government. The period of transition is very critical and it equally calls for critical and keen monitoring. Most counties are not yet structurally organized; a possibility of funds going unaccounted for exists. In addition, there could be a problem of poor service delivery since most of the counties are starting from scratch, and as such it is only through proper and informed citizen participation that the county governments can deliver.
Dr. Kifle is a Jesuit priest; Vice Rector of Hekima College; Deputy Director of Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations.

He holds PhD in Politics focusing in the area of Conflict Resolution. He also has BA in Philosophy, BA and STL in Theology and Certificate in Politics. He currently teaches Theory of Conflict, Conflict Resolution, and Identity and Conflict. His area of research interest includes identity-based conflicts and Traditional Methods and Mechanisms of Conflict Resolution.

Jim Stormes, S.J arrived at the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations in August, 2012. This fall he is teaching International Economics as well as Religion and Peacebuilding. His current research interests include the development of employment opportunities in the informal [jua kali] sector in Nairobi, as well as the role of political economy in peace building.

Jim comes with a doctorate in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in the USA. Most recently he was teaching both Economics and Catholic Social Thought at the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit University in California. Prior to that, he taught at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

His focus within economics is on development and poverty reduction. He became interested in this area as a Jesuit novice when he worked in Guatemala City, Guatemala and saw firsthand the challenges faced in a marginalized economy. He then studied the Latin American situation at the Institute for Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and spent two years working in Santiago, Chile.

Immediately after his studies, Jim was assigned to work in coordinating the international and social work of his Jesuit Province and later of the national Jesuit Conference in Washington, D.C. He was asked to take on additional Jesuit administrative work, and after 20 years was able to return to teaching and research. By then his interest had shifted from Latin America - which remains important to him - to Africa, which is what led him to the Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations here in Nairobi. Jim is part of the Jesuit Community at Hekima College and is active in formation work there.
**Shared Waters, Shared opportunities: Hydropolitics in East Africa**

The book ‘Shared Waters, Shared opportunities: Hydropolitics in East Africa,’ edited by Bernard Calas and C. Mumma-Martinon, discusses the importance of having clean, fresh and available water for all mankind and how important managing the use of such water is. Examples are given of the many large bodies of water that are shared between countries. The Amazon Basin is shared by seven nations, the Nile and the Niger are shared by more than seven countries, the Danube by more than eight and the Rhine by seven. As populations increase and the demand for water for various economic activities like farming increases, observers have noted that by the year 2025, 48 countries in the world will be severely short of water and people across the globe will not access to supplies of clean water. Contributions made to this book are as a result of research undertaken by renowned scholars, researchers and experts from around the world and students from the Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations-Hekima College. While looking at the conflicts surrounding water in Africa, the book highlights management mechanisms in place around the region towards reducing political and natural resource tensions.

**Is the World Bank Really the Enemy?**

Dr. Stormes presents a different, but interesting view on efforts made in conflict and peacebuilding. One such area is the relationship between religion and peacebuilding. This means looking into the various values, ethics and principles that various religions contribute in efforts of peacebuilding. A major area of interest of Dr. Stormes is examining where Africa stands in the world economy, in particular the area of job creation for the employment of youth particularly those from marginalized, low income areas. There is a strong connection between economic development and poverty reduction and blame on the obvious divide experienced has been the ever increasing population size in African countries that does not coincide with the economic growth of the state. The economy either grows at a significantly slower rate or remains in somewhat of a stagnating state. However, the state is encouraged to in fact focus on policies that target the productive population that would in turn boost the economy and even trickle down to the stabilization of the population. One obvious consequence of the lack of employment opportunities for the youth is increased crime. Various recommendations have been made by various interests groups on the connection between unemployment and economic development and Dr. Stormes looks into the effectiveness of such recommendations in the Kenyan context.

**Making Choices For Peace: Aid Agencies in Field Diplomacy**


In his book, ‘Making Choices For Peace: Aid Agencies in Field Diplomacy,’ Elias mentions humanitarian agencies as avenues that have long since been the only providers of aid sustaining assistance to those in conflict zones. These Humanitarian agencies work under harsh and complex situations that may include protracted political conflicts. Therefore the suggestion of having Humanitarian aid workers learn the skill of peace-building becomes a necessary advantage. This would be useful because many times Humanitarian organizations have access in conflict areas that other groups like governments and NGOs may not. Field diplomacy is therefore introduced as a term referring to ‘aid-workers as agents of change through their intervention as mediators of conflict and initiators of processes of peace’ (Opongo, 2006). Field diplomacy emphasizes the methodology and synchronization at the grassroots level with middle-range leadership and decision-makers. The books further looks into field diplomacy as a concept in responding to the rising needs that necessitate aid relief.
Since its founding in 2004, eighty-eight students have graduated with an MA in Peace Studies and International Relations. The Program is strictly two years and the institute has consistently graduated between 15 and 22 students each year, registering a completion rate of more than 90%.

HIPSIR has a reputation for excellence and academic rigour which is evidenced by high quality, and well written theses produced by students. This was commented on by the Commission of High Education in its recent supervisory visit. It has excellent library resources, partnerships and collaborations, both local and international which it has initiated, maintained and improved over the years.

The alumni of the HIPSIR program are working in different sectors, undertaking diverse activities such as consultancy in peacebuilding and conflict resolution interventions; government and academic institutions; research and social action institutions; NGOs and civil society.

The MA program is relevant and in great demand across Africa and the world. The institute has received students from diverse religious and political affiliations coming from different parts of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. These include: Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, North and South Sudan, Zambia, Eritrea, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ghana, Poland, Ireland, India, Costa Rica, Korea, Indonesia and Venezuela.
DR. PHILIP MWANIKA joined HIPSIR in the pioneer class of August 2004 and graduated in 2006. Shortly after his graduation at the Institute he was able to secure a competitive research internship with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). The Institute is a leading African think tank centre that works on human security, applied research and policy support initiatives across the continent.

After completion of his internship, Mwanika was assigned to the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes and The Horn of Africa (RECSA). In this organization he worked as a Junior Researcher on issues of arms control and environmental security projects in the 12 states in the larger Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region. He also contributed to the youngest state in Africa, South Sudan, in its post conflict reconstruction and stabilization efforts, especially in security sector transformation and reintegration components.

In 2008 Mwanika joined Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa as a Doctoral research fellow, in the department of political and Government Studies. While at this department he began his PhD studies in Conflict Management and International Relations. Early this year (2013) he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation and graduated on 17 April 2013. The topic of his research was ‘Track-One Diplomacy and Post - Conflict Reconstruction: Kenya’s Mediation of the Somali Conflict and Strategic Intervention Avenues.’

Dr. Mwanika has a considerable profile of published works in peer reviewed journals, occasional papers and monograph chapters. He is also a visiting lecturer at the United States International University (USIU) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan South Africa, at the Department of International Relations. He is currently engaged as an Armed Violence Reduction Advisor with the Danish Demining Group (DDG).

ALBINA WAMBUI is a PhD student at the Abo Akademi University in Finland. She joined HIPSIR in 2007 and graduated in 2009. While pursuing her studies at Hekima, Kenya was facing the 2007-2008 political upheaval that almost tipped the country into anarchy. While at the Institute she had developed a keen interest in understanding the potential of resources in causing armed conflict, intense political instability or acute violence.

In her Master of Arts thesis—Water Conflict Resolution in Tana River Catchment—she emphasises the need to aggressively educate communities in conflict management in order to generate mutual agreements among conflicting parties. The Tana massacres that occurred in 2012 and 2013 are indicators that her study and approach is viable in addressing the Tana Conflict.

In Finland her Doctorate thesis focuses on ‘Women in Conflict Transformation: Case study of Kenya’. Shortly after her graduation from HIPSIR she worked with the World Food Program, taught Gender and Conflict at Addis Ababa University and the school in which she is currently studying.

In Wambui’s words, “There is no doubt that the Jesuit tradition of excellence in education was utterly poured in full measure in me. HIPSIR prepared me for this noble service. At HIPSIR, I gained skills and knowledge in international relations, human rights law, conflict theory, international humanitarian law, peacebuilding and conflict management. The vigorous research and demanding papers prepared me for independent judgement, research, analysis and writing. The diversity of students helped me to interact with cross-cultures.”
MY EXPERIENCE of working in South Sudan is interesting, demanding and challenging. Instead of saying ‘working’ I will use ‘serving’, because of its nature. While serving with African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM) as its peace building Programme Advisor for two years, I deepened my knowledge and skills in peace building and reconciliation.

I had an opportunity to interact with grassroots structures and mechanisms while paying attention to normative frameworks guiding humanitarian, peace and development practice. This, among others, strongly inspires me. The fact that I am growing a deep interest in governance together with my usual interest in peace and civil society, I am seeing the nexus of peace, development and governance several times. It is said that at the core of many, if not all, violent conflicts is ‘governance deficit’. I strongly agree to that nexus between development, peace and governance. My experiences in the field help me to appreciate ‘governance as a process’ more now than before.

There are other reasons that I see my ‘serving’ experience interesting. Happily, I am in a process of ‘adding value’ in my peace and humanitarian service in South Sudan. In addition, my experience as a Peace building Programme Adviser on peace building and reconciliation and as an International Protection Officer is helping me to horn theory and practice together.

It is hoped that South Sudan will go for census in 2014 and elections probably in 2015. As I see it, the current humanitarian situation of internally displaced people and refugees from Sudan requires additional development support. In some situations like the Jonglei State some places are inaccessible, partly sometimes because of insecurity and poor infrastructure. Given several protection issues in Jonglei State one might wonder what approaches I am using to deal with the situation.

Well, I will highlight but two approaches. With ALARM, I used to do training. I was training local government, church, traditional and grassroots opinion leaders on peace building and reconciliation issues. I was training them on peer mediation, forgiveness, negotiation, understanding conflict and peace, ethnic peace building, human rights and introduction to gender awareness. The belief here is that by building bridge-builders, the leaders will ultimately reconcile their own communities, thereby transforming them. This is because ‘everything rises and falls on leadership’, John Maxwell said. The second approach I am currently using is unarmed civilian peacekeeping. With this, we use proactive engagement with conflict actors towards reducing and preventing violence, protecting civilians and enabling secure environment for dialogue. With this approach, the strategies we use are confidence building, direct protection, capacity building and structural enhancement and engagement. In unarmed civilian peacekeeping, we are deeply rooted in nonviolence, non-partisanship, primacy of internal conflict actors, independence, coupled with human rights and international humanitarian law with emphasis on primacy of local actors.
I was looking for an institution that would help me to gain more knowledge in the area of peace studies, particularly an African institution with a focus on African issues. HIPSIR was an excellent choice for me and it fulfilled both these aspirations.

I had a great learning experience in HIPSIR. I was challenged by the subjects I studied and my thesis focused on “The Use of New Technologies in Conflict Early Warning Systems: A Case Of Ushahidi.” It was a very intensive time for me that demanded a lot of focus and discipline. I interacted with lecturers and fellow students from different parts of the world who further enriched my experience. The diverse course areas I covered in the MA degree have given me insights in my current work where I have a good background of understanding the dynamics of the region and the factors influencing conflicts.”

Ndau graduated in 2011 and her current work within Africa is to have people enlightened on the most effective ways of understanding key social, political, economic and environment issues available to the wider community in Eastern and Central Africa.

Having worked with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and having written radio news reports on internal and external conflict, I enrolled for an MA in Peace Studies and International Relations to have a deeper understanding on the root causes of conflict and peace building strategies. My focus was on theoretical and scientific analysis of the role of media in the promotion of peace.

My commitment during the program was to understand and know how to apply peace-building and conflict resolution approaches at all levels of society. Being at Hekima College was an opportunity for me to learn and grow in knowledge. I am now equipped with skills to analyze situations of conflict and collectively work towards resolving them. I am currently working for a Somalia Program under CISP - Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli (International Committee for the Development of Peoples).

CISP-Somalia works in various parts of South Central Somalia, making interventions in the areas of health and nutrition, education, livelihood, protection, water and sanitation.
I am an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. I studied law at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). During the last years of my studies at CUEA, I came to learn about Hekima College, a constituent college of CUEA. Of particular interest to me was the Masters of Arts program it offers on Peace Studies and International Relations.

I was keen to do a masters degree. Since I had a great experience at CUEA, I thought joining HIPSIR would be a great idea. I thus enrolled for the Masters program in 2012 and it is one decision I have never regretted. At HIPSIR, every student gets value for their money. From the facilities, to wealth of knowledge of the faculty staff, to the efficient services, it is an experience worth sharing with any student scouting for a Masters Program.

I hope to pursue a career in International Relations upon completion and pursue a PHD on the same.

My name is Emmanuel Mulu, a Dominican Friar from Kenya. I came to know Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) through a former friar who had studied at HIPSIR. I therefore checked the curriculum to determine if it fitted with what I wanted to do in future as a Dominican: preaching the Gospel through the preferential option for the poor, the lost, the lowly and the least in society, especially those marginalized, segregated, suffering and those affected by war and other conflicts. This I hope to achieve through practical action, advocacy, teaching and research.

The time I have spent at HIPSIR has been so valuable. The skills and knowledge I have acquired are very relevant in the organization where I am doing my internship, Usalama Forum for Reform, which is a non-profit making organization committed to the implementation of police reform in Kenya and championing for the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism (ADR) besides the formal judicial system. I have been analyzing the different types of these mechanisms and their relevance to the society where they are being used. The end result is to have the judiciary recognize and support them so as to reduce the backlog of cases in the judiciary, strengthen the police efforts in dealing with petty crimes and work towards limiting the number of inmates in state prisons.
hold a (L.L.B) from the University of Nairobi and a Post Graduate Diploma in Law from Kenya School of Law. In 2012, I enrolled at Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) to do a Master of Arts degree in Peace Studies and International Relations. With my legal background, peace studies and international relations enable me to have a deeper comprehension of international law. In future I intend to work with international organizations both in Africa and abroad. Hekima College has provided me with the opportunity to realize my interest, especially with regard to being part of an international organization connected to the development of multiple links, particularly in the field of human rights.

I have a background in philosophy and theology. I am currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Peace Studies and International Relations at HIPSIR. Since January 2013, I have been working in various projects at HIPSIR. From January to June 2013 I worked in a project on election monitoring in Kenya and currently I am working with HIPSIR's Human Rights and Good Governance office, which focuses on research, conflict analysis, human rights advocacy and peacebuilding. I have a zeal for good governance, institutional reforms, democratization processes, transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa and beyond. Africa seems to be caught up in a stagnation of the long process to democratic maturity. Many countries in the continent are either still in armed conflict or recovering from one. All these trickle down to a checkered political history of African states characterized by poor governance and lack of functioning institutions. This state of affair is simply unacceptable! Something must be done in the whole philosophy of governance in this continent. This motivates me to pursue this course, get empowered and eventually be part of the solution. My thesis project is on Transitional Justice Process in Kenya.
BERNARD NDONG

Before I registered for the MA in Peace Studies and International Relations at Hekima College, I had a short stint reporting on humanitarian issues in the conflict-prone Great Lakes Region and specifically in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I wrote articles on various issues including the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. During my work, I came to realize that it is important to find the root causes of conflicts. Otherwise the conflicts in our region will continue to be a cancer that slowly eats away the social fabric.

I therefore believe that by taking up the program in peace studies and international relations I will come to comprehend the origin of conflicts, their implications and the various ways to resolve conflicts amicably. Furthermore, I hope to gain the skills of alleviating conflicts before they occur, gain knowledge on conflict analysis, resolution and sustainable peacebuilding.

WIRKWAJE EUGINE WIRBA

I am a Cameroonian. I came to Kenya in 2007 as a missionary student at Tangaza College. I worked in Shauri Moyo slums in Nairobi, Kenya and Uganda. Presently, I work at Zaidi Centre for Ignatian Spirituality, where I teach courses on the Bible to lay people. I also reach out to secondary school teachers and students to impart life skills and promote collaborative work and reconciliation. This work is very important in this context, bearing in mind the cancer of tribalism and bullying in schools. Even though my studies in theology have helped me in my work, I still felt the need of developing more skills to bring about peace. After the 2007/2008 post-election violence, I became aware of my limitation in speaking about reconciliation, despite my desire to promote peace. For this reason I wanted to acquire skills and methods to enable me to inject Christian values like justice and forgiveness at an interpersonal or international level. The MA in Peace Studies and International Relations offered by Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations is the answer to my desire! My hope is that these studies will equip me with more skills to be an instrument of peace in Africa and beyond.
AGATHA NDONGA

Having worked in the human rights field for about 8 yrs, I have encountered so many victims of human rights injustices arising from a lack of peace. I am currently working with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) which I joined in 2009 from Transparency International (TI-Kenya). These two organizations seek to ensure human rights are upheld at all times. So working for them made me resolve to undertake further studies in the field of peace and international relations. I hope that my studies will empower me to become a peace ambassador working towards seeking lasting peace solutions and the promotion of international cooperation not only in Kenya, but in the world as a whole. This quest brought me to Hekima College - Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations which is renowned for offering quality education in the field I desired.

MUNYANO PETRONILLA MUTHEU

I have been working with people who have suffered injustices due to conflicts in their areas. The experience of working in the area of conflict management and peace building with people from various backgrounds is very demanding. It calls for a combination of skills which are not only managerial but also require some academic knowledge. I therefore decided to register for the MA program in Peace studies and International Relations so that I could gain more skills in dealing with conflicts and different ways to enhance peaceful co-existence amongst diverse communities and faith groups. My expectation therefore is that I would acquire new and necessary approaches to analyzing challenging conflict issues in different situations and consequently impact on people’s lives globally.

TREDOU VABIE EMMANUEL

I worked as a missionary for 11 years in Khartoum in Sudan. My concern throughout my mission in the Sudan has been the integrity of the human person. It has always been my hope that all human beings improve their quality of life through the different stages of life even through mistakes. My faith in Jesus Christ convinces me that this is the will of God for all humanity. I therefore decided to join the MA program in Peace Studies and International Relations to acquire necessary tools in Peace and International Relations, to understand the world, to live accordingly and help others from different backgrounds to relate with each other in peace. This is precisely why I am in HIPSIR. For the few weeks I have been around, I am grateful to God for bringing me here.
INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Internship at **Usalama Reforms Forum**

I did my internship for two months at Usalama Reforms Forum. The Forum is a non-governmental organization assisting the government of Kenya in the area of police reforms to improve service delivery by the police. The forum is also working with communities to sensitize them to their responsibility in cooperating with the police for their security and safety. It encourages communities to devise alternative methods of dispute resolution, which also helps to reduce animosities among the people.

During my internship period, I attended a conference on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR) which was held in Nanyuki. This conference brought together councils of elders from the communities living in Isiolo County, members of the Judiciary Training Institute, staff from Usalama Reforms Forum and other organizations, to explore the role of councils of elders in promoting access to justice. The conference marked a milestone in Kenya’s history opening the judiciary to the idea of ADR. Most of the cases reported in police stations in Isiolo County are settled out of court. The conference participants were encouraged to support the out-of-court settlement of cases and a task force was established to follow up on this process.

My internship at Usalama helped me link the theory to practice. By listening to members of the councils of elders, I could decipher how the theories of justice learnt in our courses were being applied in real situations on the ground. I also realized that most criminal activities in the country are caused by poverty. The approach of Usalama Reforms Forum of bringing groups together for economic empowerment and security reasons has helped reduce crime in many parts of the country.

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**Working at PeaceNet-Kenya**

I joined PeaceNet at the end of April and undertook my internship for the next three months. I worked with an ongoing project called Kenya Tuna Uwezo (KTU). The project focused on four informal settlements in Nairobi, namely Kibera, Mathare, Kiambiu and Korogocho. Nairobi’s informal settlements are vulnerable to political and ethnic manipulation by politicians seeking to establish political strongholds.
Furthermore, these settlements are the homes of the populations at greatest risk due to unemployment and marginalization from society. The people in these areas are largely divided along ethnic lines, which is exacerbated by the manipulation by political leaders. Unemployment, marginalization and ethnic divisions are a threat to peace.

The project therefore seeks to work with peace organizations already existing on the ground, to promote peace in the community. The project focuses first on building relationships with women’s groups, youth groups and religious leaders as these allow them access to and acceptance by the community.

During the internship with the PeaceNet project, I did office work and worked with the community. I realized that close partnership with the involved organization and the community representatives, as well as clear and precise communication, is key in the success of any project. It was very rewarding to see the impact of the project on the lives of the common community members. Most of those engaged from the community had really struggled with a life of crime. They had lost hope and seemed comfortable with living an uncertain lifestyle. Once felt included in the peace campaigns, gained knowledge and were entrusted to lead, their confidence was built and their lives were changed. However, the change still needed some time and strong determination for complete transformation.

Finally, I am grateful to the Hekima College team that made it possible for me to get the opportunity to undertake this internship and the warm welcome I received from the PeaceNet team. I was able to gain knowledge and develop a clearer perspective on the importance of peace work and the empowerment of the community.

Recent Publications

Book Chapters:


On the 3rd and 4th of June 2013, a collaborative workshop on the Kenyan Elections of 2013 was held between the Nairobi University’s Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Oxford, Durham and Warwick Universities of the UK.

This extremely well organized and well co-ordinated workshop achieved very high standards in highlighting several insightful and important aspects of the recently concluded elections in Kenya. Of a total of sixteen presentations made some of the angles included: The position of Donors in the post election era, ethnicity, ethnic divisions, the politics of the Kenyan Coast and Western Kenya, The ICC cases against the president and the vice president, the impact and dynamics of the televised debates in an attempt to stage Democratic Maturity. Other important papers attempted to analyse the use and failure of technology, the impact and reactions from the Supreme Court decision to rule in favor of Kenyatta and Ruto, the credibility and confidence in institutions, institutional and structural reforms, while yet another presentation was made to demonstrate the choice of peace over justice, interests over ethics and the trade-offs involved.

Presentations were made by professors from all universities and this resulted in a very fair and balanced representation of local and etic perspectives on poignant issues that have so far not been discussed in any depth or to any degree of professionalism in most general media forums, post election. While the presentations lent themselves to credibility of research, they provided highly important possible and probable standpoints in the economic, political and social sectors of Kenyan society for the future.

Hence, AU apparent decision to pull out of the International Criminal Court’s Rome Statute is retrogressive, sanctioning impunity as an accepted norm. Creativity in conflict intervention ought to involve application of preventive diplomacy through establishment of early warning mechanisms, engaging with major protagonists while creating a strong peace building structure at the grassroots. Efforts towards conflict preventions however ought to be informed by in-depth conflict analysis process that takes into account the complexities of the conflict and historical factors that have sustained these situations.

The HIPSIR students and Alumni are part and parcel of the solution towards peace in Africa. At HIPSIR we engage our students in courses that broaden their perspectives and enhance their skills through MA degree and accredited certificate courses in: conflict analysis, ethics of war and peace building, international relations, foreign policy analysis, international peacekeeping, regional peace and globalization, regional integration, international political economics and development, transitional justice, international environmental diplomacy, disaster preparedness and management, good governance, religion and conflict among many others. Through Hekima Research, Publication and Social Action Centre (HRPSAC), HIPSIR hopes to engage students, faculty, Alumni, and a consortium of organizations and academic institutions involved in peace and international relations.

I look forward to your contributions to the Peace Dialogue with the hope that this will be a great opportunity for you to contribute towards the social transformation of our African continent.
EVENTS

**THEME:**  Practice of Peacebuilding, International Relations and Transitional Justice

HIPSIR just held its first student led conference at the Riara campus. The two-day conference 11–12 October 2013 brought together more than 100 students as well as experts, diplomats and government officials, practitioners, researchers, lecturers and students from various institutions who discussed contemporary and pertinent issues facing Africa.

Students at both undergraduate and MA levels made presentations on the outlined themes below:

1. Challenges of peacebuilding in Africa today
2. Institutional reforms and political change in Africa today
3. The place of preventive diplomacy in Africa today
4. International Criminal Court (ICC) and political accountability in Africa today
5. Justice, Reconciliation and post conflict reconstruction in Africa

HIPSIR is grateful to all the participants and and in a very special way the presenters in this conference. We also thank, Prof. Amb. Phillip Mwanzia, Mr. George Kegoro, Prof. Omoka Wanakayi and all who graced this event. We look forward to more of such conferences in the future.

**CALL FOR CONFERENCE PROPOSAL – OCTOBER 2014**

HIPSIR will in October 2014 host an international conference on Translational Justice and Post-conflict Reconstruction in Africa. Send in a 250 word abstract on any of the topics below:

1. Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in Africa
2. Transitional Justice and Reconciliation
3. The African Union (AU) position on the International Criminal Court (ICC)
4. The ICC, Political Accountability and Transitions in Africa
5. Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commissions in Africa
6. Terrorism, Religion and Post-conflict Reconstruction
7. International Political Economy and Post-conflict Reconstruction
8. Grass-roots peacebuilding in the post-conflict societies
9. The role of the religious institutions in the post-conflict reconstruction
Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations [HIPSIR] offers Certificate courses in Peace Studies and International Relations.

**Certificate Course (36 hrs per one-week course)**
Each course runs from Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm.

**Session I - November 2013**
1. Conflict Analysis: 4th - 8th November
2. Preventive Diplomacy: 11th - 15th November
3. Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: 18th - 22nd November
4. Peacebuilding: 11th - 22nd November

**Session II - February 2014**
1. National Healing and Reconciliation in Kenya
2. Conflict Resolution in Work Places (for Human Resource Managers, Administrators, Managers or any other interested person)
3. Human Rights and Governance
4. Catholic Social Teaching
5. Leadership and Management

NB: This is a two-week course offered in collaboration with the international YMCA University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

**Tuition fee only:** KSh 14,200 per one-week course
**Tuition fee + Meals:** KSh 18,400 (includes 10:00 o’clock tea and lunch)
**DISCOUNT: For the three weeks:** KSh 39,000 (tuition only) or KSh 52,200 (with meals)

Registration now being accepted.
Apply for November 2013 and/or February 2014
Accredited Certificates will be offered at the end of each course.

For application or further information please contact us:
P.O BOX 21215-00505, Nairobi. Cell: (+254)729-755 905 or (+254) 733-616 865
or website: [www.ipsir.hekima.ac.ke](http://www.ipsir.hekima.ac.ke) email: secretary.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke
HEKIMA INSTITUTE OF PEACE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (HIPSIR)

The Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) is now accepting applications for MA degree in peace studies and international relations. HIPSIR is part of Hekima College, which is a constituent college of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). HIPSIR is run by Jesuit Fathers (an international Catholic religious order), and is therefore founded on centuries of Jesuit educational tradition which puts emphasis on academic excellence and full human formation. Jesuits run 189 universities and institutions of higher learning all over the world.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION BY 30 JUNE 2013.

Applicants should have attained an overall 2nd Class Upper Division in their BA Degree.

Applicants with Second Class Lower Division could be considered if they have a two year work experience in the relevant field or a post graduate diploma in the social sciences.

TO APPLY WRITE TO:
Admissions Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations
P.O. Box 21215 – 00505 Nairobi-Kenya
Cell: +254 729 755905 or +254 733 616865
Website: www.hekimacollege.ac.ke
Email: admin.hipsir@hekimacollege.ac.ke

FEE STRUCTURE

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Kindly download your application, course program and other material from
www.hekimacollege.ac.ke

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