

# Insider Mediators

## Exploring Their Key Role in Informal Peace Processes

### Biographical Data of Participants

#### Dekha Ibrahim Abdi (Kenya)

Dekha Ibrahim Abdi is an independent consultant with over fifteen years of experience advising and working in peace and conflict transformation and pastoralist development. Ms. Abdi's expertise in peace and conflict transformation comes from a wide range of roles, including Mediator and Facilitator for community peace processes, strategy development, peace strategist, trainer, conflict management systems designer, peace policy analyst and evaluator. In pastoralist development issues, she has experience in participatory rural appraisal, project management, monitoring and evaluation, proposal and report preparation, resource mobilization, financial management, governance, strategic planning, organisational development and teambuilding, workshop and course organization and facilitation

In the context of her current consultancies she is responsible for project management, policy advice, Peace programme design, assessment and monitoring, development of a peace education training resource guide for a variety of audiences from Kindergarten to University including community groups and policy makers and she convenes the concerned citizens for Peace in response to the post election violence in Kenya

Ms. Abdi is a recipient of several national and international awards: 1999 Government of Kenya Distinguished service medal 2005 Kenya Peace Builder of the year 2005 1000 women for the Nobel prize 2007 Right Livelihood recipient for 2007 (Alternative Nobel Prize) 2008 Rotary Award for Her contribution to Peace In Kenya for the post election violence.

#### Abbas Aroua (Algeria)

Dr. Abbas Aroua is a medical and health physicist. He graduated at the Universities of Algiers and Surrey (UK) and obtained his PhD from the Lausanne Federal Polytechnic School in 1991. He is currently private docent at the Lausanne Faculty of Medicine and head of AHEAD, Aroua Health & Education SA (aroua.com)

In 1994 he co-founded the Hoggar Institute ([www.hoggar.org](http://www.hoggar.org)), a research institute publishing works related to Algerian politics and history, particularly on human rights violations. He (co-) authored several books among which "An Inquiry into the Algerian Massacres" (1999), an extensive analysis of the Algerian massacres of the 1990s, and "What Reconciliation for Algeria?" (2005).

In 2002 he founded the Cordoba Foundation of Geneva ([www.cordoue.ch](http://www.cordoue.ch)) aiming at promoting the exchange between cultures and civilizations in the spirit of Cordoba; and fostering research and debate about peace issues in the world. The Cordoba Center for Peace Studies is actively involved in research, training and intervention in the fields of conflict prevention, conflict transformation, and political change by non-violent means. It focuses on conflicts within, or involving the, Arab world.

#### Tyrol Ferdinands (Sri Lanka)

Tyrol Ferdinands serves as Managing Trustee (2001 to date) of the initiative for political and conflict transformation (inpact) a Colombo based trust that takes a group rights approach and operates island wide on issues of political transformation engaging with and enabling political parties and groups. Mr. Ferdinands is also the founding General Secretary (1995-2000) of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka and has earlier served as Vice President of the Ceylon Bank Employees Union.

#### Miguel Alvarez Gàndara (Mexico)

Miguel Alvarez Gàndara holds a B.A. in Communication, from the Ibero-American University, México City, and studied for an M.A. in Sociology, Political Science and Education, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a Ph.D. in Social Sciences at Paris III-UCI.

His activities include

- President of Advising Services for Peace (a non-profit organization). Former Director (1996 - 2006)
- Executive Secretary of the National Mediation Commission (CONAI, 1994 - 1998)
- Member of the Diocese of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas and Secretary to Msgr. Samuel Ruiz García (1990 - 2000)
- Member of various movements, organizations and networks on Peace and Human Rights (civil, political, academic and ecclesiastical) in Mexico and Latin America
- Member of National and Latino-American Motivation Team of Ecclesiastical Base Communities (CEB's, 1984 - 1996)
- Analyst, social promoter and advisor to various social movements, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives and ecclesiastical and grassroots organizations (with nearly 40 years' experience in education, promotion, conflict transformation, negotiation and Human Rights in México and different countries).

#### Elisabeth Gilgen (Switzerland)

Elisabeth Gilgen started working at the Section for Peace Policy within the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs in May 2007. After completing an internship, she replaced the Programme Officer for the Great Lake Region and Southern Africa during her maternity leave. Currently Miss Gilgen is working as a Programme Officer for the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and is organising the Declaration's Review Summit in September 2008.

She holds a Master Degree from the University of Berne, where she specialised in Political Science and International Law. As part of her studies, she concluded a semester at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. Before joining the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, she has been working at the World Trade Institute, where she assisted the Master Programme of International Law and Economics (MILE) and worked as a research fellow in the field of Trade and Human Rights. As part of her work she has published a report on the "Case of Conflict Diamonds" and the linkage between the Kimberley Process and the World Trade Organisation.

#### Albert Hani (Macedonia)

Albert Hani has been involved in re-imagining and changing civil society since he was a law student in 1995. In particular he has been involved in the fields of peace-building and Human Rights. His main interest

is currently shifting from law to Human Resources Management and he is in the final stage of his MA.

Before working for the Peace-building Office of the Embassy of Switzerland in Skopje (Political division IV), he worked for two of the most prestigious NGOs in Macedonia and the region of the Balkans: Macedonian Center for International Cooperation - MCIC, and Nansen Dialogue Center in Skopje - NDC, which he heads. Currently he holds the position of Project Coordinator in the Peace-building Office of the Embassy of Switzerland (75 %) and additionally works as Peace-building Trainer for the NGO Center for Management of Conflicts (25 %) and for many other international organizations that request his training services.

#### Julian Hottinger (Switzerland)

Julian Thomas Hottinger is attached, to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' "Expert Pool" as an expert in Mediation and Facilitation. Until the end of December 2003, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Federalism in Switzerland. After having graduated from the University of Lausanne, he obtained his PhD degree in Political Science and specialized as an International Conflict Mediator at the Canadian International Institute for Applied Negotiations (CIAN) in Ottawa, Canada.

Julian Thomas Hottinger has worked as an expert and consultant on various projects covering conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Northern Ireland, Rwanda and Sri Lanka, not to mention the Liberian Peace Process, known as the Abuja Accord of August 1996. Until September 2000, he was the Vice-President of the Second Committee on "Democracy and Good Governance" within the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, directed by H. E. Julius Kampere Nyerere (until October 1999), and by H. E. Nelson Mandela (until August 2000).

Since December 2000, Julian Thomas Hottinger has been directing a "Constitutional Think Tank Workshop for the Transitional National Government of the Republic of Somalia and the Federative Government of Puntland [North Eastern Somalia]". From October 2002 until April 2004, Julian Thomas Hottinger was one of the Resource Persons for the 1st Committee on "The Federal Charter", within the Somali National Reconciliation Conference in Eldoret & Mbagathi, Kenya.

In January 2002, Julian Thomas Hottinger took part, as an expert, in the negotiating of "The Nuba Mountains Cease-fire Agreement", which was signed in Bürgen-

stock (Switzerland) by the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the SPLA (Nuba). From January 2003 till January 2005, he was a member of the “Resource Team” working on the Machakos Peace Protocol/Naivasha Peace Negotiations - between the Government of Khartoum and the SPLM/A in Sudan, for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat.

Until July 2005, Julian Thomas Hottinger worked with the Gerakan Aceh Medeka (GAM), helping them to prepare their positions on “self-government/self-governance” for the negotiations taking place with the Government of Indonesia, in Helsinki, under the Facilitator President Martti Ahtisaari.

Up to mid-May 2006, he was attached to the African Union (AU) Facilitation Team in Abuja, working on the Inter-Sudanese Negotiations on the Darfur. Actually, Julian Thomas Hottinger is working on Somali issues, while a mediator within the Facilitation Team in Juba, is working on the negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

#### **Raya (Raisa) Kadyrova (Kyrgyzstan)**

Raya (Raisa) Kadyrova is the only woman-peacemaker and practitioner in the area of conflict prevention and resolution in the Central Asian region, and a founder and President of the Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan). FTI was established in 1998 and grew from a staff of four members to a dedicated team of 58 individuals in 4 field offices in different regions of Kyrgyzstan. Having obtained a higher education degree from Kyrgyz National University (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), she has acquired broad educational experience in different training programs on conflict studies, consensus building and interethnic relations in various parts of the world (Geneva, Hungary, Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland and Austria). Also, she took part in a 3-month program of the Institute of Peace and Justice, San-Diego University, USA.

In 2003 she received an award in the framework of the worldwide “Women for Peace” Program. Due to her leadership skills in 2005 she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize with “1000 Women for Peace”.

#### **Makita-Makita Kasongo (Congo)**

Professor Kasongo obtained a Bachelor degree in Social and Political Science from Lovanium University of Kinshasa, Congo in 1967. From 1984 to 1988 he taught at the University of Lausanne in the Department of Third World Studies. Since 1988 he has been a senior lecturer at the Institute of International and Political Studies at

the University of Lausanne, in charge of the course on “State and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa”.

Aside from his academic career, Prof. Kasongo was actively involved in the Burundi Peace negotiations from 1999 to 2000 as an expert on war-torn African societies, transition from authoritarian to democratic rule and on electoral systems and constitutionalism.

In 2000 he completed an impact study of the International Documentation Network on the Great African Lakes Region and, in 2002, facilitated workshops on negotiation, conflict resolution, healing and reconciliation with political parties in Kinshasa and Congressmen/Women in Bujumbura.

#### **Simon Mason (Switzerland)**

Simon J A Mason (Dr. sc.) environmental scientist and mediator SDM is Senior researcher in the “Mediation Support Project” at the Center for Security Studies, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich). Presently he supports the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in their mediation and facilitation activities through tailor made workshops, research and process support. His latest research has focused on the nexus of religion, conflict and mediation, developing an “action mediation” approach to deal with conflicts where different “Worlds” clash. He also researches on environment and conflict prevention, and the role of the UN; Swiss mediation experiences in Sudan; Confidence building measures on the Korean Peninsula; water conflicts and cooperation, especially in the Nile Basin. Simon has co-organized a series of dialogue workshops between Egyptians, Ethiopians and Sudanese on cooperation in the Eastern Nile Basin.

#### **Murezi Michael (Switzerland)**

Murezi Michael is Program Officer on Mediation and Constitutionalism in the Political Division IV, Human Security, of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He is in charge of the Mediation Support Project and initiated the training of the Swiss ambassadors and diplomats on mediation and facilitation, namely the peace mediation course (see [www.peacemediation.ch](http://www.peacemediation.ch)). Before that he worked on the peace promotion programme of Switzerland in the Middle East (2003 - 2006), as a consultant on conflict resolution and as Head of the Project Unit within the office of the OSCE -High Commissioner on National Minorities (1999 - 2002).

### Léonidas Nijimbere (Burundi)

As senior officer in charge of military administration and management in the Burundi Head of State Office from 1996 to 2005, Colonel Nijimbere has the ability to understand governance issues and complex development situations. He worked on strategic planning and operational management matters under the pressure of war and high insecurity, developing interpersonal and supervisory skills.

As head of the military delegation in the ceasefire negotiations between the Government and the rebels from 1997 to 2003, Colonel Nijimbere increased his analytical, organizational and diplomatic skills. He was one of the key personnel who carried out the political negotiations in Arusha from 1998 to 2000. He has been in many cases a special envoy of the Government for the normalisation of relations between States in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. He has been member of several committees in charge of security sector reform from 2003 to 2008. He has experience in crisis management and in post conflict peace building and attended many workshops on conflict prevention, management and resolution, as either participant or speaker.

Colonel Nijimbere has acquired experience from high ranked mediators including the late President Nyerere, President Mandela, President Mbeki, former Deputy President Zuma, The community of San Egidio in Roma and International Alert.

### Franklin M. Quijano (Philippines)

Franklin Quijano (born in 1955 in Dansalan, now Marawi City) grew up in Lanao and fluently speaks Maranao, Ilonggo, Chavacano and Cebuano. Growing up in poverty instilled him with the desire to help the poor when he grew up.

He graduated in the elementary as Class Valedictorian, Second Honourable Mention in high school (La Salle-Iligan), and Cum Laude in A.B. Economics (San Carlos University-Cebu). All throughout, he supported himself thru scholarships and even sharing half of his stipend for the education of his brothers and sisters.

While teaching Economics at San Carlos University in Cebu, he studied law as a self-supporting student and founded the first debating team of the college. With dogged determination, he passed the BAR Exam in 1983.

He ran for the city council of Iligan in 1988 as an independent candidate and collected the most votes for the position of City Councillor. With virtually no political

machinery to back him up, Franklin M. Quijano became mayor of the city in 1998. Key achievements during his tenure include the Integrated Bus Terminal, wider roads, an overpass, an improved drainage system, urban housing schemes, all transforming the look of the city and improving the livelihoods of the urban poor.

At the National Level, Franklin was concurrent Chairperson of the GRP Peace Panel for GRP-RPMM (Government of the Republic of the Phil.-Rebolusyonyong Partidong Manggagawa ng Mindanao) as well as Chairperson for the JEMC (Joint Enforcement and Monitoring Committee) of the GRP Peace Agreement with the RPMP-RPA-ABB (Rebolusyonyong Partidong Manggagawa ng Pilipinas-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Bongcayao Brigade) in the rank of Under Secretary.

### Lukas Probst (Germany)

Lukas Probst was a Programme Associate of the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies (BFCS) Sri Lanka Office, managing projects related to power-sharing and federalism. Now based in Berlin, he continues to support the Sri Lanka Office. Before joining the Berghof Foundation, he worked on Mine Action and Disarmament at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Lukas holds a Master in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

### Norbert Ropers (Germany)

Norbert Ropers is one of the shareholders (together with Johannes Zundel, the CEO of the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies) and a director of the BFPS. He is also the director of the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies (BFCS) Sri Lanka Office, a subsidiary institute of BFCS Germany which supervises the implementation of the Resource Network for Conflict Studies and Transformation (RNCST) in Sri Lanka on behalf of the BFPS. Norbert initiated the establishment of the Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management in 1993 and served as its director till 2004. Before that he worked on peace, security, development and global issues at the Institute for Development and Peace (University of Duisburg), the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House, London) and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). As a practitioner Norbert has a background in adult education and intercultural communication, served as head of the academy of the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute in Bonn and initiated a pan-European youth exchange consulting organisation. His current practical focus is on dialogue facilitation, peace mediation and sys-

temic approaches for conflict transformation with a particular interest in South and Southeast Asia.

#### **Stella Mystica Sabiiti (Uganda)**

Stella Sabiiti has developed a comprehensive approach towards the field of conflict transformation, grounded in her deep personal experience of war and torture. Her 27 years of experience in peace-building covers all areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, specialising in political, legal, institutional, humanitarian and practical aspects of small arms and light weapons (SALW) -demand and supply -on the continent and internationally, including work on DDDR and SSR processes.

Ms. Sabiiti trains and provides capacity development to a wide set of actors including governments, military, civil society, academia and armed non-state actors. Of particular interest are negotiation and mediation processes both with armed groups, government and local or community negotiating teams, preparing them in particular for negotiations or giving advice to appointed mediators. Her work has led to groups of combatants/ex-combatants handing in their weapons, coming out of combat and joining DDDR programs with other stakeholders. She combines all this work with supporting the media to transform from traditional reporting to creative peace media.

Currently Ms. Sabiiti is with the African Union Peace and Security Department in Addis Ababa, leading a team of long-term capacity-building experts working to enhance the capacity of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) -early warning, preventive diplomacy, negotiation and mediation work, and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for the Regional Standby Brigades on the continent.

#### **Matthias Siegfried (Switzerland)**

Matthias Siegfried graduated from the University of Fribourg (social sciences). After having worked in the humanitarian field (Caucasus, Central Asia) he joined swisspeace as a Research Assistant. Early in 2003 he joined the Political Division IV of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs as a Regional Peacebuilding Advisor for South -Eastern Europe. As a member of the Embassy of Switzerland in Skopje, one of his main tasks was to help design, coordinate and support Switzerland's engagement in political dialogue initiatives and programs. He joined swisspeace again in summer 2005 as a Project Coordinator of the Mediation Support Project.

#### **Alain Sigg (Switzerland)**

Alain Jacques Sigg is currently Advisor for conflict resolution in the francophone world, Department of Foreign Affairs, Political Division IV.

He worked, inter alia, for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights monitor, Rwanda), the General Prosecutor of the UN International Tribunal (head of external relations/spokesperson), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, South Africa, (investigator/mediator), the Office of the High Representative, Bosnia-Herzegovina (head of Human Rights/ education department, the inter-Congolese peace talks (advisor to the AU Facilitator and to the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General), the Delegation of the European Union in the DR of Congo (constitutional advisor) and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (Human Security advisor, Swiss Embassy Kinshasa). He published for the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs: International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law: Geneva from early origins to the 21st century.

#### **Damiano Sguaitamatti (Switzerland)**

As officer of the Mediation Support Project - a joint venture between ETH-CSS and swisspeace, Damiano Sguaitamatti is specialized in the analysis of conflicts and peace processes in Central and Western Africa. He holds a Master of Arts from the University of Zurich, with special consideration of the European Integration and Comparative Constitutional Law. Before joining the CSS, Damiano worked as Business Analyst in the Private Sector; as Public Information Assistant for UNHCR; and as Junior Researcher and Online Editor at swisspeace. He acted as consultant for the preparatory committee of the Inclusive Political Dialogue in Central African Republic, held 2008 in Bangui.

#### **Padma Ratna Tuladhar (Nepal)**

Known in Nepal as a Human Rights Activist, Civil Society Leader and Independent Left Politician, Mr. Tuladhar has been a facilitator and mediator of Nepal's democratic, peace and negotiations processes since the inception of the country's transition to democracy for more than two decades.

Elected to the House of Representatives from Kathmandu in 1991 and 1995 as independent member, backed and supported by the CPN (UML), Mr Tuladhar became the Minister for Health and Labour in the first Communist government in Nepal.

When the communist party of Nepal (Maoist) declared its long-term People's War in 1996, he played the role

of a contact person and “messenger” between the Nepal Government and the Maoist rebels. In 2000 he facilitated secret talks between a Government Cabinet Minister and the Maoist leader in Kathmandu. These initial talks set a precedent for the on-going talks that followed. Mr. Tuladhar was appointed as one of the official facilitators in the subsequent peace talks between the Nepal Government and the Maoist Party in 2001 and 2003.

He continued his role as informal facilitator during most of the turbulent political times that eventually led to the Peaceful People’s Movement of April, 2006. From jail he and several civil society and political leaders helped set the conditions for the king to hand-over power to the “people” and restore parliament. After the unbanning of the Maoist Party and the start of formal talks, Mr. Tuladhar was appointed as one of the observers and advisers to the recent peace talks. He was instrumental in assisting the parties and negotiations process, which produced a ceasefire agreement, arms management agreement and led to the signing of a comprehensive Peace Accord and several other agreements. These agreements prepared the way for the recently successful election of a Constituent Assembly.

Mr. Tuladhar is currently working as one of the members of the Consultative Committee in the Peace Ministry and one of the co-conveners of the Peace and Conflict Management Committee formed by the government.

#### Oliver Wils (Germany)

Oliver has been the Executive Director of Berghof Peace Support since its beginning in 2004. A practice-based organisation, BPS seeks to implement innovative concepts and approaches to respond in effective and sustainable ways to the global challenges presented by violent political conflict. While BPS believes in the necessity to engage with ALL relevant actors in a conflict, a focus is put on assisting peace support structures and improving the interfaces between state and non-state actors.

Oliver takes a special interest in the Peace Envoy Programme and project development in the Middle East (Lebanon and Sudan). He also oversees work in Asia (Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia), Latin America (Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia) and the Caucasus (Georgia/Abkhazia/South-Ossetia). He also co-manages (together with the director of the Berghof Research Center) a project engaging a number of resistance and liberation movements reflecting on the challenges of transitions to politics - and formulating experience-based policy advice on how to overcome them.

Previously, Oliver worked as a consultant in development cooperation. He is a political scientist with a specialization in the Middle East, where he lived for some time. Oliver has a PhD from the Freie Universität Berlin.

#### Oliver Wolleh (Germany)

Oliver Wolleh has been appointed as Berghof’s envoy in the newly established Peace Envoy Programme for the Caucasus. He has been coordinating and facilitating the Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue project since 2002 on behalf of the Berghof Research Center and the Berghof Foundation for Peace Support. His current practical focus is on approaches for conflict transformation in asymmetric conflicts, strategies of confidence building, dialogue facilitation and power-sharing models.

Oliver is an associated researcher at the Berghof Center for Constructive Conflict Management, which he joined back in 1994. He has a M.Sc. degree in political science from the London School of Economics and Political Science and completed his PhD at the Freie Universität, Berlin on peace-building strategies in Cyprus in 2000. Since 2000 he has been lecturing “Conflict Management” and “Mediation and Negotiation Skills” at the Alice-Salomon University of Applied Science for the English language masters programme “Intercultural Conflict Management”. His areas of academic interest are practice and transformation processes in deep-rooted asymmetric conflict, power-sharing models, methods and structures of dialogue processes (track 1.5 to track 3).

#### Ibrahim ag Youssouf (Mali)

Ibrahim ag Youssouf has co-authored “A Peace of Timbuktu”, UNIDIR 1998. He has participated in missions to Rwanda and Somalia and presently works with the African Union in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation unit.