



United Nations Association of Australia, S A Division Inc.

Newsletter

Spring 2009



**The Hon. Catherine Branson QC
President of the
Australian Human
Rights Commission
and Human Rights
Commissioner**

**Time is running out for YOU to hear The Hon Catherine Branson QC
at the Annual VNAASA Dinner/Banquet.....** Page 5 for tickets

The Hon. Catherine Branson was appointed President of the Australian Human Rights Commission on 7 August 2008 and commenced her five year term on 14 October 2008.

At the time of her appointment, she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, a position she had held since 1994. Justice Branson was the inaugural convenor of the Federal Court's Equality and the Law Committee, which was created in 1997. She was also the inaugural convenor of the Court's Human Rights Panel for New South Wales.

Ms Branson is a past President of the Australian Institute for Judicial Administration and a former member of the Board of Management of IDLO (a governmental organisation based in Rome enjoying observer status at the United Nations). She is a member of the International Association of Judges and the International Association of Refugee Law Judges (and was until recently convenor of the association's Human Rights Nexus Working Party).

Prior to her appointment as a judge, she practised as a barrister at the Adelaide Bar in South Australia, principally

in the areas of administrative law, including discrimination law, and commercial law. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992.

Between 1984-89, she was Crown Solicitor of South Australia and the CEO of the South Australian Attorney-General's Department.

Ms Branson holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide.

In addition to her role as President, Ms Branson assumed responsibility as Human Rights Commissioner on Sunday 12 July 2009

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Join the First World Peace March to circle the earth calling for the end of war and nuclear weapons and the elimination of violence of all kinds (physical, economic, racial, religious, cultural, sexual, psychological) and help build a new, global, non violent consciousness!

The World March will begin in Wellington, New Zealand on October 2, 2009, the anniversary of Gandhi's birth, declared the International Day of Nonviolence by the United Nations. It will end in the Andes

Mountains (Punta de Vacas, Aconcagua, Argentina) on January 2, 2010.

The March will last 90 days, travelling through 90 countries over all six continents, celebrated by activities and events involving millions of

people along and beyond its route. It will pass through all climates and seasons, from the hot summer of the tropics and deserts, to the icy cold of Siberia and Antarctica.
[info:http://www.fusecreative.co.nz/worldmarch/index.html](http://www.fusecreative.co.nz/worldmarch/index.html)

New York, 23 September 2009

Mr. President, Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather each and every September in a solemn rite. We come to reaffirm our founding Charter - our faith in fundamental principles of peace, justice, human rights and equal opportunity for all. We assess the state of the world, engage on the key issues of the day, lay out our vision for the way ahead.

This year the opening of the General Debate of the 64th session of the General Assembly asks us to rise to an exceptional moment. Amid many crises -- food, energy, recession and pandemic flu, hitting all at once -- the world looks to us for answers.

If ever there were a time to act in a spirit of renewed multilateralism -- a moment to create a United Nations of genuine collective action -- it is now.

Now is our time. A time to put the "united" back into the United Nations. United in purpose. United in action.

First - let us make this a year that we, united nations, rise to the greatest challenge we face as a human family: the threat of catastrophic climate change. Yesterday, 100 heads of state and government set out the next steps toward Copenhagen. They recognized the need for an agreement all nations can embrace, in line with their capabilities -- consistent with what science requires -- grounded in "green jobs" and "green growth," the lifeline of the 21st century. Our road to Copenhagen requires us to bridge our differences. I firmly believe we can.

Second - let this be the year that nations united to free our world of nuclear weapons. For too long, this great cause has lain dormant. That is why, last October, I proposed a 5-point plan for putting disarmament back on the global agenda. And now, the international climate is changing. The Russian Federation and the United States have pledged to cut their nuclear arsenals. This coming May, at the United Nations Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we have an opportunity to push for real progress.

Tomorrow's historic Security Council summit - chaired by the President of the United States, with us for the first time - offers a fresh start. With action now, we can get the ratifications to

bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into force. Together, let us make this the year we agreed to ban-

ish the bomb.

Third ? in our fight against world poverty, let this be the year we focus on those left behind. Some speak of "green shoots of recovery," but we see red flags of warning. Our recent report, "Voices of the Vulnerable," highlights a new crisis. The near-poor are becoming the new poor. An estimated 100 million people could fall below the poverty line this year. Markets may be bouncing back, but incomes and jobs are not.

People are angry. They believe the global economy is stacked against them. That is why we have put forward a Global Jobs Pact for balanced and sustainable growth. That is why we are creating a new Global Impact Vulnerability Alert System, giving us real-time data and analysis on the socio-economic picture around the world. We need to know who is being hurt, and where, so we can best respond.

That is also why, next year at this time, we will convene a special summit on the Millennium Development Goals. With only five years to go, we must mount a final push toward 2015. Rightly, we put women and children at the fore. UNICEF reports a 28 percent decline in child mortality over the past two decades. We can hope for similar progress on maternal health and mortality.

The prevention of sexual violence against women must be a top priority. Let us agree: these acts are an abomination. Leaders of every nation are personally accountable when such crimes are committed within their borders. When women die in childbirth, when they are raped as a weapon of war and have nowhere to turn, we of the United Nations cannot look the other way. And that is why, just recently, you agreed to create a single agency to address women's issues. We have never been more empowered to empower women.

This Assembly also reaffirmed the responsibility to protect. In our modern era, no nation, large or small, can violate the human rights of its citizens with impunity. Where conflicts arise, justice and accountability should follow.

That is why the work of the International Criminal Court is so vital. We look to the review conference in Kampala, next May, as an opportunity to strengthen its mandate.

We can achieve none of our noble goals without peace, security and justice. In Darfur, that means consolidating re-



cent progress and delivering on our mandate. We will be 90 percent deployed by year's end. Yet we still lack critical assets, particularly transport and helicopters. Meanwhile, we must continue to work, urgently, for the broader stability of Sudan and the region and shore up the comprehensive peace with South Sudan.

Somalia continues to demand attention whether to support African peacekeepers and the government or international anti-piracy efforts.

We will continue to press for resettlement, reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka. We welcome the government's commitment to allow all displaced persons to return to their homes by the end of January - as reaffirmed last week to my envoy.

We will work hard for freedom and democracy in Myanmar. The release of some political prisoners last week falls short of what is needed. We call on Myanmar's friends and neighbors to do more, much more, in the best interests of Myanmar and its people. If next year's elections are to be accepted as credible and inclusive, all political prisoners must be released -- including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

We worked to stop the bloodshed in Gaza. Yet people continue to suffer. Issues of justice and accountability need to be addressed. We must revive negotiations toward a two-state solution and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We support President Obama's efforts for a resumption of peace talks and will work with the Quartet to that end.

In Afghanistan, we face a difficult environment. Recent elections revealed serious defects. Yet we should not forget the progress made -- progress we can build on. We are committed to seeing the Afghans through their long night. We will stay with them. We pledge to stand, as well, with the people of Pakistan.

We have made significant progress in Timor Leste, Haiti, Sierra Leone and Nepal. We see quiet progress in Iraq -- and fresh opportunities in Cyprus. Now is the time to take stock and move forward. State and Government,

Let me close by inviting you to look around you. By the end of this General Assembly, our Secretariat building will be empty. Our staff will have dispersed across the city. Our United Nations will be completely renovated. Our common ambition is to make this outward renovation the symbol of our inward renewal.

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Dennis Shanahan, New York |
September 24, 2009

Article from: [The Australian](#)

KEVIN Rudd switched his main focus at the United Nations General Assembly from climate change to world financial reforms as he continued to promote the G20 as the new global body to deal with crises. A year after addressing an almost empty UN as-

sembly hall the Prime Minister faced about 200 delegates from dozens of nations as he said "our system of global governance today is in radical need of reform".

Part of Mr Rudd's platform for reform is a far greater role of the Group of 20 - which includes Australia and all the major developing nations - in world affairs.

He said the price of failure of existing world institutions during the global financial crisis was paid "by working

people and their families right across the world" who lost their jobs.

"While our global economic system failed comprehensively to prevent this crisis, the G20 governments have rallied to reduce the damage and prevent temic collapse," he said.

Mr Rudd warned that although the G20 meetings had helped stem the collapse of business confidence "the truth is our global economic recovery is far from certain and many twists and turns lie ahead".

UN chief call for unity to face challenges as UN's annual debate begins



UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 23 (Xinhua)

-- The world's most pressing challenges can only be solved when countries unite through the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told dozens of world leaders gathered today for the opening of the General Assembly's annual high-level meeting in New York.

"Now is our time. A time to put the 'united' back into the United Nations," Ban emphasized, calling for the international community to be both united in purpose and in action.

Simultaneous crises on multiple fronts -- food, energy, recession and pandemic flu -- have shown the importance of renewed multilateralism, he said in his address to the 192-member Assembly's General Debate at UN Headquarters.

"The world looks to us for answers," the secretary-general stressed, adding that the moment is now to "create a United Nations of genuine collective action. We are the best hope for human kind. And now is our time." Meanwhile, the secretary-general spotlighted the

need for joint efforts on issues ranging from climate change and disarmament to ensuring that the world's poorest people are not left behind by efforts to deal with the economic crisis.

The threat posed by climate change is the greatest challenge faced by humanity, he said, appealing for united global efforts to tackle the problem ahead of this December's conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, where negotiations on an ambitious new agreement on curbing greenhouse gas emissions is set to wrap up.

The secretary-general convened the largest-ever summit on the issue, with some 100 heads of state and government taking part and affirming their commitment to "sealing a deal" in the Danish capital.

He voiced optimism that negotiations towards an agreement in Copenhagen are on the "right track," but also warned that momentum must be maintained in the run-up to the December conference.

In his address to the General Assembly on Wednesday, Ban also called for this year to be the one in which the world takes advantage of growing momentum and finally agrees to rid itself of nuclear weapons.

"For too long, this great cause has lain dormant," he said, but expressed optimism that the international climate is changing thanks to recent developments, including the agreement between Russia

and the United States to cut their nuclear arsenals.

"Together, let us make this the year we agreed to banish the bomb," the secretary-general said.

On the fight against poverty, Ban also called for this year to focus on "those left behind" and help the "near-poor" who are on the verge of falling below the poverty line.

"People are angry. They believe the global economy is stacked against them," he said.

In a wide-ranging speech, the secretary-general's address also touched on the situation in the war-torn Sudanese region of Darfur, the Middle East and Afghanistan.

"So much is possible if we act together," he said. "We are the best hope for human kind.

And now is our time!"

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

**"a time to put the 'united' back into the United Nations"
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to announce that Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder and chief of Grameen Bank, has been awarded USA's highest civilian honour, the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**. Dr. Yunus will receive this award from President Barack Obama at a special White House ceremony on 12 August 2009.


I had the privilege of working with Dr. Yunus during my numerous visits to Bangladesh and during his three visits (so far) to Australia. We are delighted that he is being honoured for his wonderful work on behalf of poor people worldwide. In Bangladesh I saw Professor Yunus' humble leadership and pathbreaking ideas changing lives and motivating people at all levels of society to envision and work towards a poverty-free Bangladesh. Today, it is a completely different country than when I first went there in 1993, and his work has been at the centre of those positive changes.

Ultimately, it is his unwavering belief in the power of even the poorest person in a society — whether they live in a rural Asian village or an urban slum in Africa, Latin America or even in a developed country such as the USA — to help themselves, that inspires all of us here at Grameen Foundation each and every day.

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President Obama captured these sentiments wonderfully in his announcement of the awards, saying, "Each [recipient] saw an imperfect world and set about improving it, often overcoming great obstacles along the way."

**Professor
Muhammad
Yunus**



President Obama captured these sentiments wonderfully in his announcement of the awards, saying, "Each [recipient] saw an imperfect world and set about improving it, often overcoming great obstacles along the way."

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is USA's highest civilian honour and recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the United States, the world, peace and culture. When Dr. Yunus receives his award, he will be joining a distinguished group of individuals that includes Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely,
Shan.

Shan Ali
Grameen Foundation Australia
August 2009

Psychologists for Peace?????

**The Graham F. Smith
Peace Trust**

**Report re
National Indigenous Eye Health Survey :
'National disgrace'**

is an interest group of the Australian Psychological Society working to promote peace in the world and preventing conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy, concerned about war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying these professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war.

While we may feel relatively helpless as individuals, as a profession, psychologists have much to offer.

Edmund Burke reminds us:

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he/she who did nothing because he/she could only do a little".

Further information in helping to make a difference:
helen.winefield@adelaide.edu.au

Quotable Quote:
"The inspiration for my life, my dreams, has always been made up of peace, socialism, of solidarity, of liberation, of loving and caring"

Graham F. Smith 1924-1989

Lifelong activist and educator whose passionate commitment to peace and freedom took him around the world and into the classroom.

For membership forms and information about the Peace Trust events, fundraising products and services see their website:
www.artspeacetrust.org or email:
info@artspeacetrust.org
Telephone: 08 8267 3915.

The co-author of the survey, Professor Hugh Taylor, says the results are a national disgrace.

"I think it is scandalous that in 2009, in a rich, developed country now in the G20, that we have Third World conditions that many of our Australian people live in," he said.

Professor Taylor worked with the late Fred Hollows in the 1970s, who restored eyesight to thousands of people in Australia and Africa.

"I'm still shocked and aghast that after 30 years so little has changed, because so much of it is easily preventable or treatable," Professor Taylor said.

"The rate of blindness in the Aboriginal people is six times higher than it is in white Australians, or mainstream Australia, and 94 per cent of this is preventable or treatable.

Invitation

Sunday, 25th October 2009

United Nations Day Dinner



Guest Speaker:

The Hon. Catherine Branson QC
President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

6:30pm for 7pm
Ming's Palace 157 Gouger St. Adelaide
This is a major UNAA Fundraiser for 2009 -
so if you are unable to attend
a donation would be most welcome

RSVP Friday 16th October 2009
All tickets to be pre-paid
Bookings Essential - Ticket \$40 per person (banquet)
drinks extra or BYO (\$5 corkage)



Ticket Reservation for United Nations Day Dinner

Name _____ Contact phone number _____

Address _____

I would like _____ tickets for the Dinner Tickets: _____ Donation: _____

Please pay cash or cheque made out to UNAA (SA) Total amount enclosed

Send to: Mrs Heather Southcott
2 Taylors Rd, Mitcham, 5062
Ph/Fax: 8271 4433
Email: hjs@internode.on.net
\$ _____

UNAA (SA Division) is a member of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations which has consultative status on the U.N. It supports the objectives of the UN and provides the community with information about the UN and its agencies

Dinner Dinner Silent Auction

- ✓ *A Korean Hand Embroidered cloth and six matching serviettes. Sold in Australia in about 1963 to support widows and children in South Korea following the Korean War* ✓
- ✓ *Travel House Group Two days / one night Package to Kangaroo Island for 2 adults. Including accommodation and ferry transfers Valid to 31/3/2010!* ✓
- ✓ *The Producers McLaren Vale Retreat Package 1 night; one couple \$350* ✓
- ✓ *Mode Fashions: North Adelaide : \$100 Gift Voucher* ✓
- ✓ *Assagio: Dinner for Six valued at \$700* ✓
- ✓ *Frank Scutari Ducale Basket: \$400* ✓

“Balibo” – the story that had to be told!

“It was the most surreal experience. There were no coffins, no bodies and no official word they were actually dead. I felt I was completely losing it. And just to have that single coffin in Jakarta....”

Shirley Shackleton wife of on learning that her husband Greg Shackleton was dead and that a funeral had been hastily held in a Jakarta cemetery for the “Balibo Five” and what was said to be their remains thrown together in a single coffin.

“The Balibo Five died...from wounds sustained when (they) were shot and/or stabbed deliberately, and not in the heat of battle, by members of the Indonesian special forces.”

Ruled Deputy NSW Coroner Dorelle Pinch. She said the soldiers were acting under orders from on high, there was evidence of a war crime and that a brief would be send to the Australian Federal Government.

“The side of Shirley I found so inspiring was her ability to take personal tragedy in her own life and turn it into a very significant and valuable work helping East Timor. She kept alive the story of East Timor over many years. She’s quite amazing.”

Robert Connolly, writer and director of the movie Balibo which tells the story of the Balibo five as well as of Darwin newsman Roger East who was killed trying to find out what happened to them.

“She never wanted me to glorify or sanitise or sentimentalise him in any way. She told me to make him a real person, a human being who was very driven, a bit difficult to work with, rubbed people up the wrong way and very ambitious – a real guy, rather than a hero. I think we share a bond now that I will have the rest of my life.”

Actor Damon Gameau who plays Greg Shackleton is also grateful to Shirley for the help she gave him .. even when he phoned her from East Timor and asked how her husband would have behaved in the face of his imminent execution.

ww.September 2009.

Congratulations are in order to “Balibo” which has been selected alongside seven other Australian films to screen at the 14th Pusan International Film Festival, which runs from 8–16 October

International Day of Peace

The Combined Peace Group of Adelaide

Medical Association for the Prevention of War,

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (SA),

Graham F Smith Peace Trust,

Psychologists for Peace,

Australian Peace Committee (SA),and

The United Nations Association of Australia (SA Div)

celebrated

The International Day of Peace, 2009

Sunday 20 September 1-5 pm

at the Estonian Hall in Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide.

There was:

ringing of peace bells
music and singing
children’s activities
community artist in residence
inspirational exhibition of student contributions and poetry reading
afternoon tea

The International Day of Peace was declared by the United Nations in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly each year. The date for this day was subsequently fixed to fall annually on 21 September. (It was decided to celebrate it this year on Sunday 20 September for family convenience.) Students from a number of schools who had been making a study of “Peace in my Life” represented it in art, poetry and prose.



GREAT DAY

“It will be a great day when schools get the money they need, and the army has to hold a cake stall to buy a bomber.”

Status of Women Committee United Nations Association of Australia (SA Division) Inc.

This Committee acts as a forum for the discussion of issues that impact on the quality of women’s lives in South Australia./ Issues are referred to and from member organizations. Meetings are held monthly at NCW House, 95 South Terrace, Adelaide.

Aims:

To examine and where necessary to take action with regard to all factors – political, educational, economic, legal and social – which affect the equality and status of women in South Australia;

To work for the adoption and ratification of UN conventions and protocols relevant to women, especially the Optional Protocol to CEDAW;

To work for the adoption of the world Millennium Development Goals in general and specifically those aimed to advance the status of women

The UNAA Status of Women Network (SOWN) – is a member of the national WomenSpeak Coalition. Recent work of the SOW Committee has included consideration of how policies and programs impact on women with disabilities; legislation on human rights;

changing criteria for Australian citizenship; elder abuse; violence against women and safety in the workplace; safe, affordable and appropriate housing for women and children and gender/development issues.

Would you like to know more?

Contact:

Status of Women Committee (South Australia)

Heather Southcott

Telephone: 82714433.

**Does Australia Need
A Federal Bill of Rights?**

Leaders speak out P.7

You are invited to attend

Julian Burnside AO QC

-and-

Jeremy Moore

discuss and debate that
"Australia Needs a Federal Bill of Rights",
followed by open discussion.

To be held on
Sunday 11 October
2pm at Elder Hall
North Terrace,
The University of Adelaide.

Introduced and moderated by
Gabrielle Appleby
of The University of Adelaide.

While specialising in commercial litigation, Julian Burnside AO QC has acted pro bono in many human rights cases, particularly concerning the treatment of refugees. He was senior counsel for Liberty Victoria in the Tampa litigation. He shall take the affirmative.

Jeremy Moore, President of the Guardianship Board, is also very active in the field of human rights, in particular his involvement in *Al-Kateb v Godwin* (2004). He was the co-founder of the Woomera Lawyers Group and was awarded the Centenary Medal for his work with refugees in 2002. He is not convinced that there is a need for a Bill of Rights.

FINLAYSONS

This is a free event
generously sponsored
by Finlaysons.

Please direct all enquiries to
Emma Riggs on 0400518670
or emma.riggs@gmail.com

A recent opinion piece published in "The Age" and the Sydney Morning Herald saw prominent Australians from across the political and professional spectrum come together to call for an end to nuclear weapons.

Signatories were:

Malcolm Fraser (former Prime Minister)

Sir Gustav Nossal (Research Scientist)

Dr Barry Jones (former Labor government minister)

General Peter Gration (former Defence Force chief)

Lieutenant-General John Sanderson (former chief of the army and former governor of Western Australia) and

Associate Professor Tilman Ruff, Chair of ICAN in Australia and Vice President, Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)

National Newsletter



NEW YORK: Kevin Rudd turned 52 yesterday and for the Prime Minister it was surely a birthday made in heaven. The little section of New York that houses the United Nations contains no small-time caucus members carping about trimmed allowances. F-bombs are not part of the usual discourse. On the contrary, it is packed with government leaders, diplomats and advisers who smile, shake hands, make small talk and prepare to negotiate. After posing for pictures, they meet in private and discuss shared interests.

This is what Mr Rudd, the acronym-loving, process-addicted former diplomat who is drawn to international affairs like a moth to a flame, might, under the effects of truth serum, describe as his perfect society.

Sydney Morning Herald

September 23, 2009

What is the United Nations?

Quotable Quote:

The UNAA is a nonprofit organization concerned to promote the aims and ideals of the United Nations throughout the Australian community. Australia, as a founding member of the UN, is also a founding Member of the World Federation of United Nations Association which has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. In Australia, UNAA is organized on a Federal and State basis with Divisions located in all capital cities!

"There will be no true partnership between the developed countries and developing countries, and consequently the progress of the whole village will be compromised and undermined until and unless there is true respect of the cultures and traditions of the latter. Developing countries must insist on a respectful place within the village and one place to start is a re-claiming of the right to define their issues." Unity Dow


Former High Court Judge of Botswana,
Human rights legal consultant and novelist.
Second UniSA Nelson Mandela Lecture
The Hawke Centre 16 September, 2009

Special Invitation:	Did you know?	Quotable Quotes!
<p><i>The Romero Company Incorporated</i></p> <p>Presents</p> <p>The Madwoman of Chailot</p> <p>Directed by Sister Janet Mead</p> <p>7.30 pm</p> <p>Thursday 8 October 2009 and Friday 9 October, 2009</p> <p>Adelaide High School Hall, West Terrace, Adelaide</p> <p>Full Price: \$20; Concession: \$12;</p> <p>For Tickets Telephone: 82235959</p>	<p>60%-75% of the World's population is at least bilingual;</p> <p>More people in the world speak English as a second language than first language;</p> <p>English monolinguals are the minority;</p> <p>6% of the World's population speaks English as a first language</p> <p>75% of the World's population speaks no English</p> <p>Source: Multicultural Life, Winter 2009</p>	<p>“Australia is a colonial country that has mastered the art of deceiving the eye. The words and actions of government appear on the surface to be honourable but scratch the surface and you will see institutional racism personified. Michale Anderson, Indigenous leader from NSW</p> <p>“We have been waiting with patience to see where this intervention was heading, hoping there may be some humanity and compassion towards our indigenous people. Instead we are treated with contempt, shown no respect, treated as lower class outsiders. It hasn't brought us any new houses, we are living in tin sheds with leaking sewerage. It's like the same old days of flour, tea, sugar and some clothing.”</p> <p>Richard Downs, spokesperson for Alyawarr people of the Northern Territory</p>

A Working Refugee Camp in Victoria Square??????

After an overwhelmingly successful inaugural 2008 tour of **REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY** in which more than 9,000 Australians experienced the camp in Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra, Médecins Sans Frontières Australia staged the event in Adelaide! A recreation of a refugee camp and its facilities, **REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY** aims to create a better understanding of the vulnerability of life for displaced people and refugees who have fled their homes. There are forty two million people throughout the world who are either [refugees](#) or [internally displaced persons \(IDPs\)](#) and have fled in search of safety from armed conflict. At **REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY**, their experiences and everyday life are interpreted in free, guided tours led by MSF Australian experienced field workers who have witnessed life in a refugee camp first-hand.

Medecins Sans Frontieres is an independent organisation for medical-humanitarian aid which provides victims of disease, natural or manmade disasters, or armed conflict, access to urgently needed medical care. It also speaks out on the plight of the people it helps. Things have come a long way already but never forget – there is still so much work to be done and so many who remain in need.

 **Did YOU know?** Thailand has **not** ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees or its 1967 Protocol, and as a result does not recognise the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Thai government has prevented the UNHCR's representatives from accessing the camp to determine the protection status of these refugees. In late 2007, the Thai and Lao governments announced that they would return the Hmong refugees back to Laos. They remain firm in their commitment to complete this repatriation process by the end of 2009.

<p>Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon - Remarks at Peace Bell Ceremony</p> <p>This annual observance is a global call for ceasefire and non-violence. It is a time to reflect on the horror and cost of war, and on our duty to resolve disputes peacefully.</p> <p>On this International Day of Peace, I have one simple message: We Must Disarm.</p> <p>For the past one hundred days, we have been campaigning for this goal. The actor Rainn Wilson, who could not join us because he is filming, has been supporting this drive. Almost, every day, he sent another reason to disarm to his thousands of followers on Twitter. People around the world responded to our campaign. I want to share their messages. This is just some of what they are saying about why</p> <p>We Must Disarm:</p>	<p>because these weapons are impractical, unacceptably risky and unworthy of civilization, because we have to focus on our future, not [nuclear] warfare, because more people prosper in times of peace than in fearful and deadly times of war, because young people deserve a fresh start in a safer world without nukes, because nukes don't differentiate between military targets and hospitals or playgrounds, because billions are spent on a tool of self-destruction while many die of hunger, because security is not achieved by force but by justice, law and respecting others.</p> <p>For three mornings next week, as world leaders gather for the UN's annual debate, we will scroll these and other powerful messages we received</p>	<p>on the big screens in the General Assembly Hall.</p> <p>We want the world's leaders to not only read them, but to understand that this is a deep yearning of people everywhere.</p> <p>Citizen activists have a proven track record on disarmament. Thanks to them -- and thanks to all of you -- we have international bans on landmines and cluster munitions.</p> <p>Now we need to eliminate nuclear weapons. I am counting on people everywhere to keep pushing governments to make this happen. That is the best way to give meaning to this International Day of Peace. We must disarm. We must have peace.</p> <p>United Nations Headquarters 18 September, 2009</p>
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Aung San Sui Kyi		What is the Australian Peace Committee??
<p>“I pressed as hard as I could. I had hoped that he (Senior General Than Shwe) would agree to my request but it is regrettable that he did not. I am deeply disappointed.”</p> <p><i>United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who was refused permission to speak to Aung San Sui Kyi, July 2009</i></p> <p>Show Your Support:</p> <p>Join the global campaign in support of Aung San Sui Kyi by posting a message at www.64forsuu.org.</p>	<p>The campaign aims to put pressure on Burma’s military regime to release the Nobel Peace Prize winner before the Burmese elections, schedules for next year. Many well-known people, including Jordan’s Queen Rania , Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono have posted their 64 words of support for the imprisoned leader.</p>	<p>It is an organization aimed at promoting disarmament, human rights, justice, development and peace.</p> <p>It believe that the enormous resources wasted on weapons of war should be diverted to end hunger and disease, to remove the threat to our survival posed by the damage we have done to the environment and to make the world a better place. It works for the establishment of an Australian foreign policy based on friendship and mutually beneficial trade, together with the removal of all foreign bases from Australia.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Email: gilbeysue@hotmail.com</p> <p>Website: www.peacecourier.com Telephone: 08 8293 2935 Radio program “A Peace of the Action”</p>

Well done Sue Gilbey !!!		
<p>Sue Gilbey is the Winner of the International Bremen Peace Award 2009</p> <p>Crossing Boundaries/Breaking Vicious Circles</p> <p>The Threshold Foundation has announced the winners of the Fourth International Bremen Peace Award – Sue wins in the category “Unknown Peace Worker” for her tireless efforts advocating for the rights and concerns of asylum seekers. Susan has helped numerous refugees of war and political refugees to lead a more secure and peaceful life. After a serious</p>	<p>accident, which caused her to suffer disability and from severe chronic pain, Susan took on a new life-task: she became a determined and successful advocate – without being a lawyer by profession – for the rights of asylum seekers threatened by deportation under the restrictive Australian immigration laws.</p> <p>The Australia Peace Committee, who nominated Sue for this Award is delighted that she has received such recognition for the endless work she does in so many peace and human rights fields.</p>	 <p>“So, if the money is lousy, what motivates our politicians?”</p> <p>No surprise there. The answer is power.</p> <p>Laurie Oakes Political Analyst Commentator,</p>

Cuban Five		
<p>MIAMI – The U.S. is resisting a judge's order that could force disclosure of classified documents and other material sought by three men who are seeking reduced prison sentences for their 2001 convictions in a politically charged spying case.</p> <p>Federal prosecutors have asked for an emergency stay and appealed a magistrate judge's disclosure order in the so-called Cuban Five case, contending it is far too broad and could produce sensitive material not required in a criminal case. The order requires U.S. officials to search for any national security damage assessments of the Cubans' actions, which could bear on whether three of the five get a more lenient sentence.</p> <p>The three Cubans — Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labanino and Fernando Gonzalez — are to be resentenced by a Miami federal judge Oct. 13. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions of all five Cubans in 2008, but vacated the life sentences for Guerrero and Labanino because there was no evidence they had obtained or transmitted top secret material.</p> <p>Gonzalez, also known as Ruben Campa, had his 19-year sentence vacated because he was wrongly labeled a manager or</p>	<p>supervisor of the spy ring known as the "Wasp Network." The five men are hailed as heroes in Cuba, where government officials regularly claim they are victims of political persecution.</p> <p>Even before the magistrate judge's Sept. 23 order, prosecutors said they searched for any national security damage assessments that might have an impact on the new sentences and found nothing.</p> <p>"Accordingly, there is nothing to disclose to the defense," wrote Assistant U.S. Attorney Caroline Heck Miller.</p> <p>If no damage assessment exists, defense attorneys say, the U.S. cannot justify seeking long prison terms for the three." They claim a severe sentence, a sentence consistent with serious harm, is appropriate, but at the same time claim that the responsible officials in the U.S. government never bothered to do a damage assessment," wrote Labanino attorney William Morris. "This is not a credible position."</p> <p>The magistrate's order would require the U.S. to turn over any damage assessments by Saturday, or if none exists describe in detail which agencies were searched. Prosecutors say that timeframe is far too short — particularly if classified material is involved — and would likely result in a delay of the sentencing hearing.</p>	<p>In addition, Miller said the emphasis on the damage assessments is misplaced because the case involved an espionage conspiracy, which doesn't require evidence that the men succeeded in their goals of penetrating U.S. military installations and reporting defense-related U.S. information to Cuba.</p> <p>According to court documents, the men attempted to infiltrate the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, the Naval Air Station in Key West, congressional campaigns of politicians opposed to the Cuban government and Cuban exile groups. Guerrero, for example, got a public works job at the Key West installation and for years delivered encrypted diskettes to Cuba's intelligence service detailing military assets, troop exercises, names and addresses of commanders and other sensitive information, the documents say.</p> <p>A decision on the damage assessment issue will be made by U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard, who presided over the Cuban Five trial and will impose the new sentences. It's unclear when she will rule, but defense attorneys were ordered to file papers by Thursday afternoon stating their positions.</p> <p><i>By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer Curt Anderson, Ap Legal Affairs Writer – Thu Oct 1, 4:10 pm ET</i></p>

Quotable Quote!

The fifth anniversary of the International Court of Justice's landmark Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory occurred on 9th July 2009. This Advisory Opinion marked the first time that the ICJ turned its attention to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

In its Advisory Opinion, which represents an authoritative interpretation of international law, the ICVJ held Significant findings of the International Court of Justice include the following:

The Wall and the associated administrative regime violate Palestinian's fundamental right to self-determination

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, remain applicable to Israel's actions in the occupied Palestinian territory

The Wall must be dismantled, and reparation made to its victims;

The State of Israel is not entitled to invoke Article 51 of the UN Charter (the right to self defence) with respect to the occupied Palestinian territory.

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Adelaide Voices Sep-Nov '09

2010 People and Planet Diary Now Available
At \$17.50 each! Orders to Heather Southcott
82714433. (Delivery mid October.)

Secretary-General's Report to the United Nations - contd.

Let me close by inviting you to look around you. By the end of this General Assembly, our Secretariat building will be empty. Our staff will have dispersed across the city. Our United Nations will be completely renovated. Our common ambition is to make this outward renovation the symbol of our inward renewal.

That is why we have placed such emphasis on building a stronger United Nations for a better world. We have made progress in Delivering as One UN. We have made strides in getting "peace-building" right, so that societies emerging from war do not slide back into conflict. We have sharpened our tools of mediation and diplomacy so that we can stop crises from escalating into broader and more costly tragedies. We created the Department of Field Support, and we are developing the "New Horizons" strategy to make peacekeeping more agile and effective.

In this, we need the strong support of Member States, just as we do to secure the safety of our brave staff serving in dangerous places, too many of whom

have lost their lives in the causes we all serve.

This year, I have travelled from the ice rim of the Arctic to the steppes of Mongolia. I have seen, first-hand, the effects of climate change on our planet and its people.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I met an 18-year-old girl raped by soldiers. Her hope for a new life is the United Nations.

At summits from Trinidad and Tobago, London to L'Aquila, I have spoken out on one point above all others.

We of the United Nations are the voice of the voiceless, the defenders of the defenseless.

If we are to offer genuine hope to the hopeless, if we are to truly turn the corner to economic recovery, then we must do so for all nations and for all people. So much is possible if we work together. Together, we are here to take risks, to assume the burden of responsibility, to rise to an exceptional moment, to make history. This year, of all

years, asks no less.

Because we are the United Nations. We are the best hope for humankind. And now is our time.

Thank you very much for your leadership and commitment. Thank you.

Governments are relying more on NGOs to deliver essential services to the most marginalized

If we want to end chronic homelessness we must end an indifference towards powerless people. We must end greed and avarice. We must construct our world in a way that protects and nurtures those that we currently castigate for not 'pulling themselves up by their bootstraps'. Sadly as always, there do not appear to be many votes in assisting that group of people who seem more and more to roam around our streets like the 'living dead'. They are often quite physically ill, they sometimes act in 'strange' and frightening ways, are clearly mentally ill, non-medicated, unmonitored (medically) and mostly - 'unloved'.