



A better and fairer world for all of us

Peace SOS

Annual Report 2018

March 18th, 2019

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Bussum, 18th March 2019

Dear reader,

The situation in Syria was in 2018 still saddening and shocking. There were bombardments and chemical attacks in Eastern Ghouta. Peace SOS provided information of NGO's about the victims of the chemical attacks to the Dutch Mission at the United Nations in New York. The government of the Netherlands joined the Security Council at the United Nations in 2018. Luckily there was also a point of hope in 2018. The Syrian children Noor and Alaa from East Ghouta and their mother who suffered from the bombings, are safe in Turkey now (see their Twitter account @Noor_and_Alaa).

In 2018 we also paid attention to stimulate peace in other countries: Mali, Israel-Palestine and Yemen. Peace One Day Mali completed two phases of the project to train women peace mediators and young peace activists. Please check out the individual countries in the Annual Report for more information about how Peace SOS tries to contribute with our partners to peace. For us, it is crucial to strengthen the voices of the local partners looking for peace. As the situation in Yemen was and is still very dramatic we joined a citizen in her call for peace and joined her and another citizen in organizing a peace demonstration for Yemen at the Plein in The Hague. It was supported by many peace organizations and faiths. Approximately 150 persons participated in the demonstration and it gained media coverage in national Dutch media. We also wrote two op-eds in Trouw a national Dutch newspaper, and a column in the Dutch magazine about 'Gender, Peace and Security' in 2018.

Elio Lazo Lopez, board member of Peace SOS took the initiative to apply for a grant of Price Waterhouse Coopers, which was awarded to us. Nevertheless, funding remains one of the challenges we see as being a relatively young peace organization.



A better and fairer world for all of us

Still being confronted by seeing horrible images of people suffering from war, as always we continue our work with great passion. We want a world in which all the children can go to school and play when they are out of school. Please feel free to reach out and join us.

Greetings from the heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M.M. Meijer".

May-May Meijer
Chairperson Peace SOS

COUNTRIES

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

In 2018 Peace SOS mentioned the activities of the organization Minds of Peace in an opinion article in Dutch national newspaper Trouw. Minds of Peace organizes public peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians from the Westbank. A year before (in 2017) the chairperson of Peace SOS participated in public peace negotiations organized by Minds of Peace in Tel Aviv. See our previous annual report for more information. Peace SOS believes that this initiative of Dr. Sapir Handelman contributes to peace. In 2018 English broadcaster BBC also paid attention to the work of Minds of Peace.



Public peace negotiations at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv (2017). Organized by Minds of Peace.

Peace SOS tried to attract attention for the work of Minds of Peace from Dutch parliamentarians. However, Kirsten van den Hul (PvdA) mentioned that she doesn't ask questions about one NGO, the secretary of Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (D66) and Joel Voordewind (ChristenUnie) mentioned they only do pay attention to projects which are sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tel Aviv and the embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Palestinian authority indicated that funds may be available in January 2019.

MALI

Peace One Day Mali is partner of Peace SOS, it is a movement led by young people, and one of their aims is to train women as mediators in conflicts. Oxfam Mali was asked to monitor the first phase of the project. However, after they agreed to monitor the project we couldn't reach them anymore when the project started. Therefore for the second period we choose a monitor of Save the Children in Mali, Maimouna Ndiaye.

Part from the monitoring report of Peace One Day Mali the first phase:



Photo: Peace One Day Mali

We have done the training sessions in: Niamakoro, Daoudabougou, Lafiabougou, Djélibougou, Hyppodrome, Medina-Coura. These municipalities are all received displaced people from the North to the south and are also the different places where there where lot of struggle and Resistances against the referendum and the France and MINUSMA intervention in Mali. There are many leaders and associations who fight for peace in these municipalities. This training session help them been reinforced in their always peace actions in the Six municipalities and anywhere in Mali.

We have learned the engagement for peace building, Promote the culture of peace, fighting against Violent Extremism among youth and women in the six municipalities of the District of Bamako by capacity building and sensitizing campaigns.



Photo: Peace One Day Mali

During the project with Peace One Day Mali we encountered some obstacles such as: the quality of reporting. In case of the first report it seemed that parts of the report were copied and in case of the second report signatures of participants were made by the same person. We raised questions about this. However, communication with Peace One Day Mali was lacking sometimes. The monitor of Save the Children helped in this respect.

SYRIA

The war in Syria started in 2011. More than 400,000 people have been killed, a million injured and ten million people have fled the country. At the beginning of 2018, Eastern Ghouta was still under siege. Eastern Ghouta is an area east of Damascus with 400,000 civilians, including 95,000 children. The bombings continued. The international community is divided about the political solution for Syria. The west supports opposition parties who strive for democracy, while Russia and Iran support president Assad and fear that Syria will fall apart if his regime falls.

As is mentioned in the Preface of the Annual Report, Peace SOS has contacts with the representative of the local councils of Eastern Ghouta. He send us various documents which Peace SOS send to Netherlands at the Security Council:

- a call for peace of the Head of Rif Dimashq Governorate Council and the Vice Minister of Syrian Interim government

- a letter in which is asked for stopping the bombardments on Eastern Ghouta, the letter is signed amongst others by Damascus Countryside Provincial Council, Woman Now Org, syrian child protection network
- Statement by the civilian block to stop the bloodshed, signed by amongst others Representative of the block in Eastern Ghouta, Akram Tuameh Vice President of the Interim Government, Nizar AlSamadi, President of the Engineers, Syndicate in the Eastern Ghouta
- Urgent Appeal from Syrian CSOs Douma chemical attacks. From the statement: News have arrived of an airstrike that used a gas, suspected to be sarin, leaving at least 42 civilians dead.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations pointed out that this information from the ground is very valuable to them.

During the bombings in February 2018, Peace SOS supported via Twitter the calls for peace of Noor and Alaa in Eastern Ghouta. Their Twitter account can be found at: @Noor_and_Alaa. We are grateful that they and their mother are all safe after intense bombings.



Peace SOS visited the embassy of Iran in the Hague several times in 2018, in order to call for the end of the bombings and the provision of humanitarian aid to Eastern Ghouta. We also talked about the war in Yemen, which will be elaborated upon in the next section.

Peace SOS joined the Twitter campaign in March 2018 of Syrian media activist Ahmad Hamdan. He launched a Twitter campaign, #Iamstillalive from his underground cellar in eastern Ghouta. He was smiling and posed with his cat. People, children all around eastern Ghouta and the rest of the world (actors making a photo from inside the Oscar's) followed him. Sadly, on March 14th, Ahmad Hamdan was killed by an Assad regime airstrike in Hamouriya. This tweet was our contribution to the Twitter campaign, it was a small sign of support for the Syrian people.



May-May Meijer of Peace SOS with people from Seats2Meet Amersfoort on Twitter:

“For 400,000 trapped people living in underground basements and cellars” #Iamstillalive #SaveGhouta #Syria #Peace. Cc. @Noor_and_Alaa.

YEMEN

The war in Yemen, one of Arab's poorest countries, is very dramatic as well. The estimations of the death toll vary between 10,000 civilians mentioned by an UN-official in early 2017 and 56,000 civilians and combatants between January 2016 and October 2018 according to the citation of Andrea Carboni in the Independent. Carboni researches Yemen for the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED).

Around 14 million people in Yemen, or half of the total population of the country, are facing ‘pre-famine conditions’ said the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock to the United Nations Security Council in October 2018. An aid agency estimated at the end of 2017 that 130 children were dying every day from extreme hunger and disease: nearly 50,000 during the course of a year.

In December 2018 an agreement between the Yemen government and the Houthi rebels was reached under the auspices of the United Nations, the Stockholm agreement. This is an agreement on:

- 1) the city of Hodeidah and the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa.
- 2) An executive mechanism on activating the prisoner exchange agreement.
- 3) A statement of understanding on Taïz.

Peace SOS visited several times the ambassador and a counsellor of the Yemen embassy. We also spoke several times with someone of the Iranian embassy and we spoke one time with the political analyst of the Saudi embassy in a hotel. In all of our meetings we listened carefully to the arguments of our conversation partners. We expressed our wish to see a World in Which all Children Can play. Therefore we want an end to violence and we discussed the need for humanitarian aid.

Based on our conversations Peace SOS wrote an opinion article about the need for a diplomatic solution. Together with Yemen Organizations for Women’s Policy (YOWP) we visited the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that the activities of YOWP and Peace SOS contribute to an ‘enabling environment’. Peace SOS joined two citizens in organizing a peace demonstration for Yemen which will be elaborated upon below.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION FOR YEMEN AND MEDIA 2018

Two Dutch citizens (Parwin Taj who took the initiative and Serdar Isik) felt so sorry for the war in Yemen, that they planned to organize an event, Peace SOS joined them. The peace demonstration for Yemen was organized within a week and supported by various organizations: The Hague Peace Projects, Platform Vrouwen en Duurzame Vrede, Stichting Platform Islamitische Organisaties Rijnmond, Ahlulbayt Assembly - NL namens Ahlulbayt World Assembly, Stichting Vredesburo Eindhoven, Stichting Vrouwenorganisaties Nederland Darfur, Su-Shi Intrafaith Dialogue, Su-Shi Intrafaith Dialogue. The peace demonstration was covered by the Dutch national television, Hart van Nederland. The item stressed the need for peace and humanitarian aid for the people in Yemen. In addition, a column was published by Lotfi El Hamidi in NRC Handelsblad, an interview “Let the children in Yemen Play” of Peter Breedveld at the website Frontaal Naakt.

Peace SOS wrote in 2018 two opinion articles for national Dutch newspapers and one column in Gender and Sustainable Peace.

- ‘Peace benefits from support United Nations to civilians’ in Trouw, Tuesday January 16th, 2018
- ‘Not a war, but dialogue should make Yemen a better place to live’ in Trouw, November 6th, 2018

SPONSORING AND FUNDING

This year Elio Lazo Lopez, board member of Peace SOS took the initiative to apply for a 750 euro Standard Award of Price Waterhouse Coopers, which was awarded to us. In addition, individuals made private donations to Peace SOS.

Like in the previous years, the chairperson of Peace SOS works approximately 0,8 FTE without a salary to boost the activities of Peace SOS. Peace SOS also notes that some NGO’s express opinion articles in paid publicity value.

As is mentioned in our previous annual report, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires track-records of 500,000 a threshold which Peace SOS cannot meet yet. The same goes for the Postcode Loterij.

BOARD AND ADVISORS PEACE SOS

May-May Meijer, chairperson of Peace SOS. She has a PhD in communication science and has been assistant professor at the working group on Philanthropy at the Vrije Universiteit.

Elio Lazo Lopez, secretary of Peace SOS. Elio Lazo Lopez works as senior consultant at Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Michaël Brevet, board member International Relations. He studied International Relations at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Lorraine Diaoen, is treasurer of Peace SOS and register accountant

Martijn Müller is webmaster at Peace SOS

Kumar Jamdagni is translator English at Peace SOS

The legal form of 'Stichting Peace SOS' is a foundation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018			
ASSETS	2018 EUR	Revised 2017 EUR	Revised 2016 EUR
Material Fixed Assets	565	807	1.049
Bank	1.242	1.023	193
Total	1.806	1.830	1.242
LIABILITIES	2018 EUR	Revised 2017 EUR	Revised 2016 EUR
Equity	1.710	818	1.242
Provision	78	78	
Accounts Payable	19	933	
Total	1.806	1.830	1.242

NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

Material Fixed Assets

The tangible fixed assets include the costs of developing the website of Peace SOS Foundation. These assets are depreciated equally in 5 years

Cash & Banks

Cash and cash equivalents are recognized at nominal value.

Equity

See special note on page 14.

Provision

The provision relates to invoices to be received over the year ending 2018.

Accounts Payable

The mayor part of the accounts payable in 2017 (total amount of 848 eur) which were costs paid directly by the Chairperson, have been converted into a gift of the chairpersonman to Peace SOS in 2018.

State of income & expenses 2018			
Income	2018 EUR	Revised 2017 EUR	Revised 2016 EUR
Grants	750	1.000	500
Gifts	1.342	1.359	1.397
Total income	2.092	2.359	1.897
Expenses	2018 EUR	Revised 2017 EUR	Revised 2016 EUR
Organization costs	400	686	275
Depreciation	242	242	161
Activities	559	1.855	219
Total expenses	1.201	2.783	655
Result	892	-424	1.242
<i>Result destination:</i>			
<i>Change in equity</i>	892	-424	1.242

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES

Grants	EUR
Standard award PWC	750

Gifts	EUR
Van Leeuwen	295
Meijer/Yotova	150
Other	50
Chairperson	848
Total	1.342

Organization costs	EUR
IT subscription	245
Other costs	155
Total	400

The other costs relate mainly to the banking costs

Depreciation	EUR
Website	242

Activities	EUR
Peace One day Mali	559

Remuneration of the Board

The directors did not receive any remuneration in 2018. The chairperson works an average of 0,8 FTE on Peace SOS.

Special note:

The figures of 2016 and 2017 have been revised due to (additional) information that was initially not correctly processed. Adjustments regard the capitalization and depreciation of the costs of the website (instead of taking costs into the P&L) and increase in the gifts to Peace SOS in 2017. These adjustments have lead to a positive effect on the equity of the foundation.



Statement of approval of the Annual Report

The board of Foundation Peace SOS has approved the annual report of 2018 in its board meeting of March 18th, 2019.

Signed by the members of the board:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M.M. Meijer", written over a dashed horizontal line.

M.M. Meijer
Chairperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L.E. Diaoen", written over a dashed horizontal line.

L.E. Diaoen
Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E.J. Lazo Lopez", written over a dashed horizontal line.

E.J. Lazo Lopez
Secretary