



Peace SOS

Annual Report 2017

April 18th 2018



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Bussum, February 2018

Dear reader,

Peace SOS is founded at the notary at the Day of the Earth, April 22nd 2016. The foundation of Peace SOS was a reaction to the sad photo in the Dutch national newspaper the Volkskrant of a Syrian father with his son, they were both wounded as a result of bombardments. The photo was made in 2013 after airstrikes in the north west of Syria.

Unfortunately the situation in Syria is still saddening and shocking. Until today Syrian citizens are victims of bombardments, especially in Eastern Ghouta. In 2016 we wrote an opinion article about the need for cooperation between western countries and Russia to find a political solution for the war in Syria. In 2017 we got in contact with a representative of the local councils in Eastern Ghouta. The United Nations raised alarm in December 2017 because aid deliveries of UN convoys for the 400,000 people living in Eastern Ghouta were being blocked by the Syrian government. The people asked us to contribute to break the siege via political ways. We simply want that children like the Syrian children Noor and Alaa from East Ghouta do not have to suffer from the bombings and can go to school (see their Twitter account [@Noor_and_Alaa](#)).

In 2017 we also paid attention to stimulate peace in other countries: Burundi, Mali, Israel-Palestine and Venezuela. Please check out the individual countries in the Annual Report to see 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. We appreciate it that our voices were heard in op-eds in three national Dutch newspapers and that our ideas about new ways to achieve peace gained attention from Vice Versa - a Dutch professional online platform for Mondial cooperation- and that we were interviewed about sexual violence in war situations for the new Dutch magazine about 'Gender, Peace and Security' in 2017.



Furthermore we received funding for our partner Peace One Day Mali, to train women mediators in Mali. Our income has doubled. Nevertheless, funding is one of the challenges we see as being a relatively young peace organization.

Being interested in new ways to achieve peace, we also participated in A New Shape Prize from the Global Challenges Foundation. We organized and/or participated in three events to rethink global governance. This also strengthened our ties with partner organizations.

Still being confronted by seeing horrible images of people suffering from war, we continue our work with great passion. We want a world in which all people have fun and 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 black ink that reads "m.m. meijer".

May-May Meijer
Chair Peace SOS



COUNTRIES

BURUNDI

For the last year now, Burundi has been on the brink of war. Some 800-900 people have been killed and more than 300,000 have fled the country. The displaced are spread across Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in camps that are desperately overcrowded and short of food. Burundian Women for Peace and Development receives messages from Burundian people every day, pleading with it to prevent war breaking out. See the blog about our talk with Jean Minani, president of Burundi's CNARED. CNARED represents 22 political opposition parties in Burundi, including ex-presidents of Burundi.

In 2017, in collaboration with other international peace organizations, Peace SOS took the initiative, to write a letter to the president of the East African Community to demand the participation of women and youth in the peace negotiations about Burundi. This demand was granted. Burundian Women for Peace and Development and Peace SOS suggested to the United Nations that they organize a conference with women from all stakeholder groups: NGOs, political parties, religions. UN Women organized this conference. But the threat of a civil war still present.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict involves the struggle between Israelis and Palestinians that began in the mid-20th century. Despite a long-term peace process and the general reconciliation of Israel with Egypt and Jordan, Israelis and Palestinians have not yet reached a final peace agreement. The key issues are: mutual recognition, borders, security, water rights, control of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian freedom of movement, and Palestinian right of return.

In 2017 in Tel Aviv, Peace SOS participated in public peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. The negotiations were organized by Minds of Peace. It was wonderful



to see how different people – raised as “enemies” – did their very best to come closer and come up with solutions for peace. They pleaded for eating humus together and peace education, and discussed various political solutions, including a two-state solution.

Mahmoud Qudemat is peace ambassador for Peace SOS in Hebron, West Bank since 2017. We believe that soft powers and initiatives like Women Wage Peace deserve to be reinforced.

MALI

The Malian government and the Tuareg rebels reached a peace agreement in Algeria in which the northern Tuaregs achieved limited self-governance. The violence never ended completely, however. Half of the Malian population live below the poverty line. Access to education is restricted and 39 per cent of the adults are illiterate. A high youth unemployment rate and a lack of perspective are other causes of instability. Research by SIPRI and the “National Coalition of Civil Society for Peace and the Fight Against the Proliferation of Light Weapons” (CONASCIPAL) shows that unemployment and poverty are perceived as the most important problems of the country. The United Nations is present in Mali with the UN mission MINUSMA. This mission has been extended to June 30th, 2018.

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 monitors the project and Peace SOS supports it. We consider it important to reinforce the soft powers in Mali.

SYRIA

A humanitarian disaster is unfolding in Syria. The war started in 2011. More than 400,000 people have been killed, a million injured and ten million people have fled the country. At the end of 2017, Eastern Ghouta is still under siege. Eastern Ghouta is an area



east of Damascus with 400,000 civilians, including 95,000 children. According to WHO representative Elizabet Hoff, malnutrition rates are the highest seen so far in Syria since the beginning of the crisis. Surveys indicated that some 12 percent of the children have global acute malnutrition. In addition, the bombings continue. 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 asked us to help achieving a political solution to get access for the UN convoys and an end of the siege.

UGANDA

The cooperation with partners of Peace SOS concerning Uganda came to an hold in 2017. The reason is that for one person this was due to his personal circumstances. The person of the partner organization got a job at another organization.

VENEZUELA

Violence during the demonstrations against the government of Maduro led to 100 deaths and thousands of injured. The humanitarian situation is appalling and the inflation high. There is hunger and a shortage of medicines. According to the Organization of American States, between four and six people die every week as a result of malnutrition.

The Foundation Multicultural Viva Venezuela and Peace SOS wrote an op-ed in a large national Dutch newspaper "Neighbor country Netherlands should help Venezuela". Via Foundation Multicultural Viva Venezuela – which cooperates with a national organization for medical staff in Venezuela – Peace SOS donates money for supplements for children with malnutrition in Venezuela. To give you an indication. For 10 euros 1 kilo of supplements can be paid.



Peace SOS and the foundation Multicultural Viva Venezuela talked about the situation in Venezuela with the director of the Western Hemisphere of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with an employee in the field of policy making.

MEDIA 2017

Peace SOS (co)-authored in 2017 three opinion articles for national Dutch newspapers and two article for a professional online platform for Mondial journalism.

- Medium: Let the Israeli and the Palestinians lead the Peace Process
- 'Strengthen the soft powers in Mali' in Trouw, Monday December 2017
- 'Neighboring country the Netherlands should help Venezuela' in NRC Handelsblad, Friday July 28 2017
- 'Defense plan EU is worrisome' in De Volkskrant, Tuesday January 17, 2017
- 'New ways of thinking about peace' on Vice Versa, January, 2017

Peace SOS was interviewed together with Burundian Women for Peace and Development for the first edition of the magazine "Gender and sustainable peace". The headline of the interview was "Women want to prevent war in Burundi".

EVENTS

Peace SOS organized two events regarding A New Shape Prize of the Global Challenges Foundation and participated in the event of Peace & Culture Festival in Eindhoven.

- February 2017, Peace SOS organized the event 'Remodeling global cooperation: United Nations 2.0' in Seats2Meet Amersfoort with participants of the commission of frisdenkens of the Mensa High IQ Society.
- May 2017, Peace SOS organized together with World Solar Fund, Humanity House and the Dutch Association for the United Nations 'Toward World Peace: United Nations 2.0'.
- September 2017, Peace SOS presented A New Shape project for the Peace & Culture Festival in Eindhoven.



A Peace Manifesto was not presented in 2017. The invitation of Supriya Vani to present her book *Battling Injustice* was postponed as well.

SPONSORING AND FUNDING

This year, the project of Peace One Day Mali was sponsored by the Huisman Vredesfonds with 1,000 euro. In addition, four individuals made private donations to Peace SOS.

Like in the previous years, the chair of Peace SOS works approximately fulltime without a salary to boost the activities of Peace SOS. An advisor of fundraising suggested to express this in monetary units. Therefore the organizational structure needs to be changed, because board members should work voluntarily. Peace SOS also noted 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, chair 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 Rijks Universiteit 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 foundation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PEACE SOS 2017

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017		
ASSETS	2017	04-22-2016 t/m 12-31- 2016
	EUR	EUR
Material Fixed Assets	807	1.049
Bank	931	218
Total	1.738	1.267
LIABILITIES	2017	04-22-2016 t/m 12-31- 2016
	EUR	EUR
Equity	549	1.267
Provision	78	-
Accounts Payable	1.111	-
Total	1.738	1.267



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.

Provision

The provision relates to invoices to be received over the year 2017.

Accounts Payable

Accounts payable relates to costs made by the chairman to TelAviv and invoices for the hosting of the website.

Statement of Income & Expenses 2017

State of income & expenses 2017		
	2017	04-22-2016 t/m 12-31- 2016
	EUR	EUR
Income		
Grants	1.000	500
Gifts	1.244	1.397
Total	2.244	1.897
Expenses		
Organization costs	686	1.299
Depreciation	242	161
Activities	1.855	219
Total	2.783	1.679
Result	539	218
<i>Result destination:</i>		
<i>Change in equity</i>	539	218

Notes to the Statement of Income & Expenses

Grants	EUR
Huisman Vredesfonds Mali	1.000
Amount is donated for the Mali project	

Gifts	EUR
M.M.Meijer	920
Other	<u>324</u>
Total	1.244

Organization costs	EUR
IT subscription	316
Other costs	<u>370</u>
Total	686
The other costs relate mainly to the banking costs	

Activities	EUR
Travel and lodging	1.708
Participation to peace activities	<u>148</u>
	1.856

Depreciation	EUR
Website	242

Remuneration of the Board

The directors did not receive any remuneration in 2017. The chairman works an average of 0,8 FTE on Peace SOS.

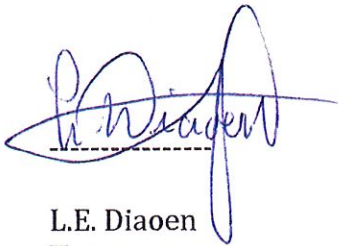
Statement of approval of the Financial Report

The board of Foundation Peace SOS has approved the annual report of 2017 in its board meeting of April 18th, 2018.

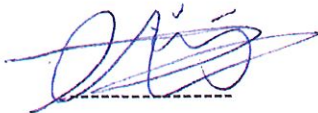
Signed by the members of the board:

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

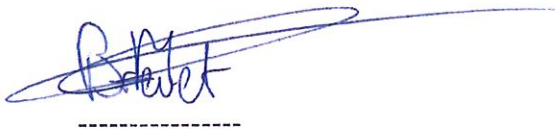
M.M. Meijer
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L.E. Diaoen".

L.E. Diaoen
Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E.J. Lazo Lopez".

E.J. Lazo Lopez
Secretary

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

M. Brevet
Board Member International Relations