



A better and fairer world for all of us

Peace SOS

Annual Report 2019

July, 2020

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Bussum, January 20th 2020

Dear reader,

Peace SOS focused amongst others on the humanitarian tragedy in Yemen in 2019. In a newspaper article we mentioned the need to stop the famine in Yemen. We also visited the Iranian embassy to ask them to support a diplomatic solution in Yemen. In addition, we kept good contact with the Yemeni embassy in the Netherlands, and the Dutch embassy for Yemen which is temporarily located in the Hague as well. Unfortunately, as we write this annual report, there are still 24 million people dependent on humanitarian aid in Yemen. The cease fire in a part of Yemen, which was part of the Hodeidah agreement in Yemen, is fragile. Therefore we continued our call for peace and humanitarian aid in Yemen. A little point of light is that medical flights start from Sanaa airport, this was in the news in the beginning of February 2020.

The peace organization Minds of Peace, which organizes public peace negotiations between people from Israel and the Westbank, was also supported by Peace SOS in 2019. The project of Peace One Day Mali – to empower women mediators and peace activists in Mali - ended after two phases in 2019.

Michaël Brevet, board member of International Relations, left Peace SOS in 2019. We are grateful for what he has done for us. We will keep in touch.

Still being confronted by receiving messages from people suffering from war, as always we continue our work with dedication. 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 "May-May Meijer".

May-May Meijer
Chairperson Peace SOS

COUNTRIES

BURUNDI

Our Partner Burundian Women for Peace and Development developed a proposal for community radio in Kirundo.

MALI

As is outlined in the previous annual report, Peace One Day Mali gave trainings to women and youth peace mediators.

The project with Peace One Day Mali formally ended in March 2019. Two phases were conducted, the last phase wasn't completed. There was a lack of communication with the supervisor of Peace One Day Mali, who had to go to another part of the country to do a project for UNICEF. In addition, the quality of the reporting could be improved.

Therefore Peace SOS decided to end the project after two phases. Peace SOS find it also difficult to monitor the project from a distance, despite the fact that we had a monitor of Save the Children monitoring the project.

Nevertheless, Peace One Day Mali did her best, in trying to bring peace to Mali in very difficult circumstances.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Minds of Peace organizes public peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians from the Westbank. In 2017 the chair of Peace SOS participated in public peace negotiations organized by Minds of Peace in Tel Aviv. See the annual report of 2017 for more information. Peace SOS believes that this initiative of Dr. Sapir Handelman contributes to peace. It is important that local people support a peace initiative. Peace SOS continued her support for Minds of Peace in 2019.



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

YEMEN

The war in Yemen, one of Arab's poorest countries, is a humanitarian tragedy. Peace SOS visited several times the Iranian embassy and met the deputy ambassador and a minister. In both of our meetings we listened carefully to the arguments of our conversation partners. We mentioned that we hope to see an end to the violence in Yemen and we discussed the need for humanitarian aid to be distributed to all those in need.

In addition, Peace SOS took the initiative to send a call for peace via a letter to several parties involved in the war of Yemen. See Appendix A. Later on, Paul Dijkstra of WorldPeace.nl recorded May-May reading this letter. We got a reply of the ambassador of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in the Netherlands in which Her Excellency Ms. Ambassador Hissa Abdulla Ahmed Alotaiba expressed that the UAE is exerting all efforts to provide and facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people.

We tried via various routes to convey our call for peace to the political leader of the Houthi's, but to be honest, we didn't succeed.

SYRIA

Peace SOS didn't have partners in Idlib in 2019. Nevertheless we closely followed the news and asked to protect the citizens and for a diplomatic solution when we went to the

Iranian embassy. We also made a video with a call for peace in Syria, Let all the children play in Syria. The video was subtitled in Arabic and posted on YouTube.

VISTING EMBASSIES

Peace SOS regularly sends out requests for meetings with embassy staff to discuss the situation in war torn countries.

In 2019, Peace SOS visited the Iranian embassy twice. We talked about the need for peace in Yemen and Syria, the nuclear agreement (JCPOA), human rights and journalism in Iran. At Peace SOS we talk about the importance of respect for life, a world in which all children can play. Peace SOS also visited the Embassy of the Netherlands for Yemen, which is temporarily located in The Hague.

Requests for a meeting were sent to the American embassy, the Saudi embassy and the embassy of the Russian Federation. In addition several phone calls were made to ask for a meeting, but it didn't come to a meeting yet. In previous years, we had a meeting with the political advisor of the Saudi embassy. He is in another country now. The same goes for the meeting we had with the officer who was responsible for media relations from the embassy from the Russian Federation. The American embassy referred us to another department at the end of 2019.

DISCUSSIONS: SUPPORTING LOCAL NGO'S AND MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

At Peace SOS we had discussions about supporting local NGO's. For example, in case of a peace building project for Congo. We find it difficult to determine if we can adequately monitor the project, since Peace SOS is primarily based in the Netherlands. Despite the fact that we could obtain references.

In case of Minds of Peace, it is different, because we have actually visited public peace negotiations of Minds of Peace. This is the same for our contact with Burundian Women for Peace and Development. The founder of Burundian Women for Peace and Development lives in the Netherlands.

We also had a discussion about getting engaged in mental health and human rights. Stimulating peace and human rights and combating poverty is the mission of Peace SOS. In her spare time May-May asked attention from a Dutch Member of Parliament concerning the report: "Living in hell". This is a report by Human Rights Watch concerning the conditions of people in a mental health crisis in Indonesia. A Dutch member of Parliament asked questions about it to the Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs and a fund was made available to improve mental health conditions at the Dutch embassy in Indonesia. There is also a psychiatrist (René Keet) who is interested in mental health and human rights.

MEDIA AND EVENT 2019

Peace SOS wrote in 2019 two opinion articles for het Parool, a large Dutch newspaper.

- 'Famine needs to stop now' in het Parool, February 12th, 2019
- 'Choose for diplomacy in the Gulf' in het Parool, July 24th, 2019

The article 'Famine needs to stop now' covers a debate about Yemen in Pakhuis de Zwijger. It stresses the need to stop famine in Yemen. The Yemeni people are the ones who can bring peace to their country. It is up to the international community to support their efforts for peace. In addition humanitarian aid is needed desperately. Political scientist Moosa Elayah stresses the need to pay civil servants. This costs 250 to 300 million dollars a year and will reduce hunger with 80 percent. Faris Alqubati took the initiative to transport village pumps for clean water to Yemen. He wants to enforce the positive powers in Yemen and is looking for funders.

'Choose for diplomacy in the Gulf' focuses on the need for diplomacy regarding the developments in the Strait of Hormuz, close to Iran. It is important that the EU will help her ally the USA to join the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) with Iran again. The USA asked

the Netherlands to participate with a ship in the Strait of Hormuz. This may lead to a further increase of the tensions however.

In addition, two podcasts were made for Potkaars with the interviewer Rico Brouwer (see YouTube). In the first Podcast May-May explained about Peace SOS. That peace comes from the heart, trying to understand each other. Peace SOS strives towards: A World in which all Children can play. In part 2 of the English spoken interview May-May explains about the work of Peace SOS for the people in Syria, Yemen, Burundi and Mali.

May-May gave a presentation about Yemen and Peace SOS to a bible group in Heukelum. They asked her what they could do for Yemen. She mentioned the initiative of the village pumps of Faris Alqubati. The teenagers raised money for this initiative.

Together with amongst others Paul Dijkstra of WorldPeace.nl and the Pax embassy in Hilversum, Peace SOS joined the 'Vredesgroep Hilversum' for the Week of Peace around September 21st. Peace SOS attended several meetings. During the Week of Peace WorldPeace.nl and Peace SOS took up the initiative to invite Eva Roovers of the University of Amsterdam for a lecture about activism. It was a very inspiring lecture. In addition, May-May of Peace SOS hold a presentation in the municipality of Hilversum about her work.

SPONSORING AND FUNDING

Concerning the funding, Peace SOS is funded by individuals and not by any government. Therefore we can fully concentrate on our peace mission and use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as starting point.

Like in the previous years, the chair 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. However, for us it is more important that our calls for peace are heard.

May-May works regularly at Seats2Meet Amersfoort. At Seats2Meet you don't have to pay to hire a workspace, but have to be open to meet other people working there. This concept of helping each other, fits with Peace SOS. As can be seen in the financial statement, the operating costs of Peace SOS are low.

A vacancy for 'fundraiser' was posted on a website for volunteers. This didn't result in finding a fundraiser however. Most fundraisers want to get paid for their job.

The Postcode Loterij has a threshold which Peace SOS didn't meet.

BOARD AND ADVISORS PEACE SOS

The legal form of 'Stichting Peace SOS' is a foundation. In the year 2019, the board consisted of the following persons:

May-May Meijer, chairperson and founder of Peace SOS. She has a PhD in communication science.

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. Michaël left the board of Peace SOS in the beginning of 2019.

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. He is founder of "Language Matters".

Lorraine Diaoen leaves Peace SOS as a board member in 2020, but is willing to make the financial statement of 2019. She will become a financial advisor of Peace SOS.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

ASSETS		2019	2018
		EUR	EUR
Material Fixed Assets		323	565
Cash & Bank		2,184	1,242
Total		2,507	1,806
LIABILITIES		2019	2018
		EUR	EUR
Equity		2,475	1,710
Provision		-	78
Accounts Payable		32	19
Total		2,507	1,806

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.

Accounts Payable

Accounts payable relates to invoices to be received for IT services.

Statement of Income & Expenses 2019

State of income & expenses 2019			
Income		2019 EUR	2018 EUR
Grants		-	750
Gifts		2,133	1,342
Total income		2,133	2,092
Expenses		2019 EUR	2018 EUR
Organization costs		494	400
Depreciation		242	242
Activities		619	559
Total expenses		1,355	1,201
Result		778	892
<i>Result destination:</i>			
<i>Change in equity</i>		<i>778</i>	<i>892</i>

Notes to the Statement of Income & Expenses

Gifts (from individuals)	EUR
Various	2.133

Organization costs	EUR
IT costs	67
Other costs	<u>427</u>
Total	494

The other costs relate mainly to the banking charges.

Projects	EUR
Minds of Peace	619

Depreciation	EUR
Website	242

Gifts

The chair has donated in 2019 an amount of 325 to Peace SOS.

Remuneration of the Board

The directors did not receive any remuneration in 2019. The chair works an average of 0,8 FTE on Peace SOS.

Statement of approval of the Annual Report 2019

The board of Foundation Peace SOS has discussed the annual report in one of her board meetings and approved the finalized annual report of 2019 in July 2020.

Signed by the members of the board:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.M. Meijer'.

M.M. Meijer
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L.E. Diaoen'.

L.E. Diaoen
Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E.J. Lazo Lopez'.

E.J. Lazo Lopez
Secretary

APPENDIX A: LETTER FOR PEACE IN YEMEN, LET ALL THE CHILDREN PLAY

To:

President Republic of Yemen Mr. Abdrabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi and
Leader of Ansar Allah Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi

Cc:

His Highness Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al
Saud

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif
Khonsari

His Highness Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen Mr. Martin Griffiths

Bussum, the Netherlands, May 2nd, 2019

Open letter

Subject: Let All Children Play in Yemen, the Need for Peace

Your Excellencies,

As citizens, our hearts cry for all the children in the world suffering from violence, starvation and illness due to war. This applies especially for the children in Yemen. As you know, in Yemen one child dies every ten minutes. We recommend you to watch the children's version of the song "O World, Enough" from UNICEF on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htSVHQHJH_E

As adults, it is our responsibility to create a world in which all children can play. We urge you to do whatever you can to create a peaceful Yemen.

We kindly ask you to:

- Help to stop the fighting of all parties in the whole of Yemen
- Let humanitarian aid pass through
- Release all child soldiers from their ranks
- Work together with the United Nations to fulfill the Stockholm agreement soon.
- Establish the urgently needed peaceful agreement for Yemen as a whole country
- To include Yemeni women and NGOs in the peace negotiations.

If we can help you and contribute to peace via peaceful means in Yemen, please let us know. We hope to see All the Children in Yemen Play Soon.

Kind regards,

Lisanne Boersma, The Hague Peace Projects

Paul Dijkstra, Worldpeace.nl

Hans Feddema, cultural anthropologist, publicist

Chris Geerse, Peace movement Pais

Tiny Hannink, Women for Peace Enschede

Wim Koetsier, Universal Peace Federation Netherlands

May-May Meijer, Peace SOS

Johanna Oranje, women peace activist

Rita Salaris-Lichtenberg, Women's Federation for World Peace, Netherlands

Frank Slijper, PAX

Ted Strop von Meijenfeldt, Women for Sustainable Peace (an umbrella organization)

Marlies Tjallingii, clerk of Quakers in The Netherlands (Religious Society of Friends)

Please address correspondence via e-mail to:

Peace SOS, May-May Meijer, E: info@peacesos.nl

إلى:

السيد رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية عبدربه منصور الهادي؛
قائد أنصار الله السيد عبد الملك الحوثي؛

نسخة إلى:

صاحب السمو ولي عهد المملكة العربية السعودية محمد بن سلمان بن عبد العزيز آل سعود؛
وزير خارجية جمهورية إيران الإسلامية السيد محمد جواد ظريف خنساري؛
صاحب السمو ولي عهد أبوظبي محمد بن زايد آل نهيان؛
المبعوث الخاص للأمين العام لليمن السيد مارتن غريفيث.

بوسوم، هولندا، 2 أيار/مايو 2019

رسالة مفتوحة

الموضوع: لندع جميع الأطفال يلعبون في اليمن، نحن بحاجة إلى تحقيق السلام

أصحاب السعادة،

تتفطر قلوبنا كمواطنين على جميع الأطفال الذين يعانون من العنف والجوع والمرض في العالم بسبب الحروب. هذا ينطبق بشكل خاص على الأطفال في اليمن. كما تعلمون، يموت طفل في اليمن كل عشر دقائق. نوصيكم بمشاهدة إصدار الأطفال لأغنية "O World, Enough" من اليوتيوب.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htSVHQHJH E>

تقع على عاتقنا، كبالغين، مسؤولية إيجاد عالم يستطيع جميع الأطفال اللعب فيه. ندعوكم للقيام بكل ما تستطيعون لتحقيق السلام في اليمن.

نرجو منكم:

- المساعدة في وقف قتال جميع الأطراف في كل اليمن

- السماح بمرور المساعدات الإنسانية
- الافراج عن جميع الأطفال الذين يحاربون
- العمل مع الأمم المتحدة للوفاء باتفاقية استكهولم قريباً.
- إرساء الاتفاق السلمي في جميع أنحاء اليمن ككل.
- إشراك النساء اليمنيات والمنظمات غير الحكومية في مفاوضات السلام.

إذا كان بإمكاننا مساعدتكم والمساهمة في السلام بالوسائل السلمية في اليمن، الرجاء إخبارنا بذلك. نأمل أن نرى جميع الأطفال في اليمن يلعبون قريباً.

مع الاحترام،
ليزان بورسما، (The Hague Peace Projects)
بول ديكسترا، (Worldpeace.nl)
هانز فديما، عالم أنثروبولوجيا ثقافية، وكيل دعاية
كريس جيرس، (Peace movement Pais)
تيني هانيك، نساء من أجل السلام
ويم كوتسيبر، الاتحاد العالمي للسلام في هولندا
ماي-ماي ماير، (Peace SOS)
جوانا أورانجي، ناشطة نسوية في مجال السلام
ريتا سالاريس ليشتنبرغ، الاتحاد النسوي للسلام العالمي، هولندا
فرانك سليجبر، (PAX)
تيد ستروب فون ماينفيلدت، منظمة نساء من أجل السلام المستدام (منظمة شاملة)
مارليس تجالنجي، موظفة لدى (Quakers in The Netherlands) (Religious Society of Friends)

الرجاء توجيه المراسلات عبر البريد الإلكتروني إلى:

ماي-ماي ماير، (Peace SOS) info@peacesos.nl