



Soon to be published: a new book at ARC PEACE website

“Architecture and Planning under Different Political Systems”

The ARC PEACE book on architecture and planning is a contribution to the international debate on societal planning. It is focusing on the tasks and ethical responsibilities of architects and planners in the political systems in which they work.

The NL Editors interviewed Sven Thiberg, initiator of this project and member of the Editing Committee.

NL: *Could you tell the readers how came the idea of writing this book?*

S.T.: After a preparatory seminar at the ARC•PEACE GA meeting in Vienna, in April, a number of members decided that it was the right time to present a book on the subject, compiling a selection of contributions representing varied perspectives on professional roles.

NL: *What would you like to share as a release?*

S.T.: The book utilizes the international network of ARC•PEACE committed members able to highlight the challenges and potential that social planners and architects can exercise. How do they promote human rights, citizens' influence and democratic planning processes in professional work in the societies in which they participate?

NL: *Could you disclose a bit of its content?*

S.T.: Sure; an important part of the book deals with the personal responsibility of the planner; for instance, on two neglected topics by practicing professionals like “Architecture and the right action” and “Human rights and designers' responsibility”.

A number of contributions deal with planning under different national political conditions. More theoretical chapters take up “Paradigm shifts in architecture and planning” and “Planning under neo-liberalism”.

NL: *What geographic regions focus the content?*

S.T.: There are several countries mentioned; from Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Latin America.

NL: *Which are your expectations about the book?*

S.T.: Hopefully the book will function as a source of knowledge and a point of departure for debate within the professions, in basic and further planning education and in public discourse.

NL: *do you have a publishing date, already?*

S.T.: The book will be available at ARC•PEACE website at the end of November 2014.

NL: *Thank you Sven for your timely advance on this interesting publication.*

We expect that all our readers shall visit our website by then. We also invite all of them to keep updated by entering now: <http://arc-peace.a3d.se> . Your comments, queries and contributions are most welcome.

The Editor



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ARC•PEACE has special consultative status at UN ECOSOC. This Newsletter has been edited by Oscar Margenet Nadal. We expect to publish Newsletter No.43 in December 2014. All members are invited to send suggestions for articles, photos and projects! If you are interested, or have any suggestions please write to ARC•PEACE Vice-Secretary, margenetnadalriba@gmail.com. Thanks for participating!

The Global Bamboo Summit

By Ingemar Saevfors

The 'Saigon Declaration' of April 2014, is a series of recommendations to promote the multi-sector use of bamboo. Drafted in groups is a plethora of new ideas for projects and designs resulting from this worthwhile encounter.

The Vietnamese enterprise Grass Co with Hao Dang, in cooperation with international bamboo organizations, arranged this 3-4 day event for some 120 participants from all over the world.

The leading theme was - mainstreaming bamboo production, design and marketing - , meaning that the worldwide demand is now reaching a level where large scale business is just around the corner.

This wide scope was reflected by the participants: agro forestry producers, pulp and biomass industrialists, investors, researchers, government stakeholders, design practitioners, engineers and architects...



The vintage Bamboo Bicycle (onekingslane.com)

The focus was partly on high end exports to Western markets where e-commerce is increasingly important thanks to new concepts of logistics, warehousing and economy, even in small scale.



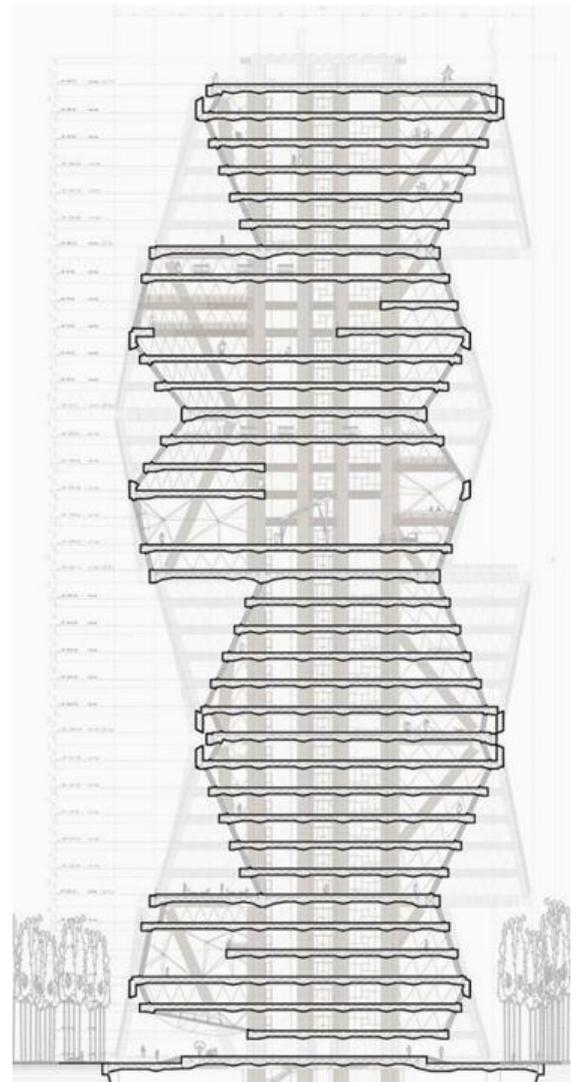
Urban sprawl in Kinshasa, now 13 million people covering an area like LA – without the freeways! Photo: Ingemar Saevfors

Also the bamboo supply chain with synergy effects and win-win business was vividly described by Gunter Pauli as the “Blue Economy”, where ecological nightmares are turned into resources for local economy. Social housing solutions and their urban context were other tracks such as Corinna Salzer’s presentation from Manila.

Project ownership by the users, participatory design and technical support are keys to solve the maintenance issues associated with bamboo based housing. Bamboo growing regions happen to coincide with the most powerful urbanization trends in the world. This could partly be the solution for producing vast quantities of construction materials.

Spectacular projects of bamboo skyscrapers as presented by Jaime Espinosa are no longer utopia, since the technology is already here. In the light of the severe urban air pollution as already manifested in China, the culpability of cement and steel industries for energy consumption and the CO2 consequences is now obvious.

Multistory bamboo housing could be instrumental to counteract the worldwide urban sprawl with its paralyzing transport problems. Both unemployed people suffer as well as the rich, sitting in bottle necks.



Bamboopolis, Hong Kong, project by Jaime Espinosa

Architects' work with poor communities in Peru

By Luz María Sánchez, Co-Chair of ARC•PEACE

The training process to improve the life conditions of the urban and rural grassroots communities intimately relates to the state of the area they occupy for living. Lack of land titles is one of the most important problems these communities have to face.

To get the water supply and sewage service the inhabitants need first to accomplish with the requirements of agencies like state COFOPRI (Commission for the Formalization of Informal Property) and INDECI (National Institute of Civil Defense). The official housing and planning regulations require that land occupants living in vulnerable areas must first register and accomplish governmental rules before qualifying to subsidies from National State Housing programs.

Mothers with their children attending training courses (right)



They learn to help others as they are helped (above)

Arc Peace Peru members have developed a strong experience working with poor families living in vulnerable mountain areas in closeness to landslide prone areas and alluvial streams. The role of the architects is to give them preventive instruction and methodically train them to learn how to achieve safer levels of life.

Our special attention goes on the grassroots women; they are our main target in community programs related to planning, housing improvement and social rights. Thus, women learn about civic life, legal framework and also how to interpret the laws. They develop their skills and become able to lobby and present firsthand requests before the local authorities.

Women celebrate the constitution of a formal group (right)

These grassroots women currently focus on:

1. Continuing the training process; also to get a law to protect women, children and elder people from eviction.
2. Increasing the number of women facilitators on Disaster Risk Management issues; and getting a larger number of communities organized and prepared to face natural and

The strengthening of social organizations and the empowering of grassroots women and men are two important issues when advocating in favor of land property and housing rights, if stakeholders will take an active participation in their habitat improvement.

To achieve joint cooperation, architects must participate with their knowledge and assessment. Only with qualified assistance people can live in better and safer homes. When grassroots women and men are helped by the right persons they are keen at receiving the appropriate training.

Poor communities' people become highly motivated when they realize that are part of a team with the capacity to solution real problems. Thus, they start to be part of the process that leads to the improvement of their habitat.



anthropic disasters.

Architects have here a real challenge for building long relationships with people; helping them to get the lasting benefits of sustainable improvements that diminish their vulnerability.

(Briefing by Oscar Margenet Nadal)

UIA's shameful double standards

By Oscar Margenet Nadal

The Royal Institute of British Architects' council voted to request the suspension of the Israeli Association of United Architects (IAUA) from the International Union of Architects (UIA), last March. The RIBA decision was taken on the grounds that some Israeli members were designing and building controversial settlements on "illegally-occupied" land by Israeli Armed Forces. The IAUA have unashamedly disavowed any responsibility, let alone concern, for the thousand families evicted and mistreated by the Zionist government. **Dr. Desmond Tutu's key speech closed the XXV Congress.**

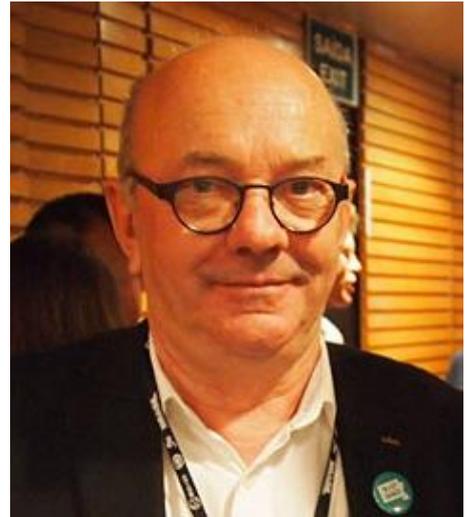


ARC•PEACE supported RIBA decision by sending out letters to the presidents of both institutions, thus taking an active part in this unavoidable debate¹.

(**Stephen Hodder**,
RIBA former President, on the left)

Albert Dubler,
UIA former President on the right)

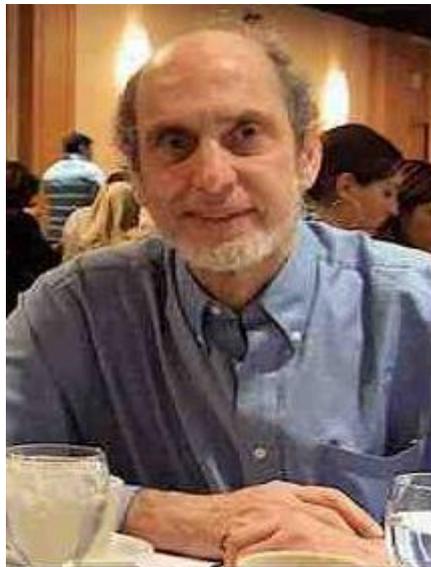
While professional individuals and institutions supported RIBA ethical motion opposing Zionist activist architects boycotted many RIBA public activities.



Abe Hayeem², a London based architect and a peace activist, founder member and Chair of 'Architects & Planners for Justice in Palestine' said:

"Since the IAUA has disassociated itself from its members' actions, and its architects seem to be detached from the social and political implications of their architectural work, it merits suspension from the UIA until it adheres to such ethics, until projects based on land theft on a massive scale from the indigenous Palestinians and human rights breaches come to an end, together with the occupation, and until justice is restored.

This will provide a clear signal from the international professional body that is making an ethical stand to safeguard the dignity and importance of our role in civic society, which will provide some hope of change, at a moment of great urgency."³



Albert Dubler then replied Stephen Hodder in a typically bureaucratic way:

*"UIA's policy regarding this issue is expressed in Resolution 13⁴: 'The UIA Council **condemns development projects and the construction of buildings** on land that has been ethnically purified or illegally appropriated, and projects based on regulations that are ethnically or culturally discriminatory, **and similarly it condemns all action** contravening the fourth Geneva Convention".*

But he then quotes⁵: *'Council agreed that a response would be sent to Abe Hayeem of Architects & Planners for Justice in Palestine stating that the UIA would remind its Sections of the ethical policy adopted in Istanbul concerning occupied territories, and informing him that the **UIA will not take any further action on this issue that is beyond its political scope.**'*⁶

(Concludes on Page 5)

1. 'ARC•PEACE: suspend Israeli architect association from UIA!': NL # 41, page 8; <http://arc-peace.a3d.se/en/newsletters>
2. Abe Hayeem is of Jewish origin and is persistently attacked by Zionists because his defense on Palestinians human rights.
3. The complete interview is at: <http://arenaofspeculation.org/research/interviews/abe-hayeem/>
4. (...) 'ratified at the UIA Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey on 8th to 10th July 2005'.
5. (...) 'Resolution 42 taken by the 112th UIA Council session'.
6. From: 'Blurred lines: UIA Congress in Durban, South Africa', by Ph. Harper, AR, 26/08/2014. Bold types by the author.

(From Page 4: *UIA's shameful double standards*)

So while UIA Resolutions clear and firmly condemns all transgressions of international law, there are times when it permits affiliate members to breach the law on the grounds that those actions are out of its jurisdiction.

South African architects, once barred from the International Union of Architects (UIA) during Apartheid discrimination period, were now the host of the UIA XXV World Congress in Durban, last August, in coincidence with the 20th anniversary of South African democracy.

(Dr. Desmond Tutu on the right picture)

Dr. Desmond Tutu, the South African patriot, had been elected UIA Congress patron. The 1984 Peace Nobel Prize, holder of nine Honorary Doctorates, well known as Human Rights and peace activist delivered a strongly committed speech at Durban's final ceremony.

Following selected paragraphs from Dr. Tutu's message undress the UIA shameful double standards:

"As you have gathered in Durban this week, the world news has been dominated by the carnage in Gaza. I have condemned those Palestinians responsible for firing rockets at Israel, for violence is not the solution to human crises. The disproportionality of Israel's response, however, has been utterly horrendous.

Hundreds of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, among the more than 1800 dead, and much of Gaza's infrastructure – its roads, public facilities and buildings – lay to waste. All in the name of preserving a fundamentally divisive and undignified status quo founded on the illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

It is time for civil society to step into the void, to



persuade the people and leaders of Israel that it is in humanity's best interests to enter into dialogue aimed at negotiating a peaceful and sustainable solution for the crisis (...) that is acceptable to both Palestinians and Israelis.

I believe it would be appropriate for the UIA to send a clear message of support for justice in Palestine and Israel by suspending the Israeli Architect's Association from the world body.

I appeal to Israeli sisters and brothers present at the conference to actively disassociate themselves and their profession from the design and construction of any further infrastructure related to perpetuating injustice, including the separation wall, the security terminals and checkpoints, and the settlements built on occupied Palestinian land.

I implore you to take this message home:

*Please turn the tide against violence and hatred by joining the non-violent movement for justice for all people of the region. God bless you."*⁷

7. Black types are author's emphasis. Read complete speech at De Zeen Magazine, 7 August 2014

[The New York chapter of the AIA opposes calls for improving architectural standards](#)

American architects reminded of professional Ethics

New York based Paul Broches ARC•PEACE Board member and representative at the United Nations, wrote a letter to the AIA chapter president, Lance Jay Brown, fixing ADPSR position on Ethics; which is also ARC•PEACE's.

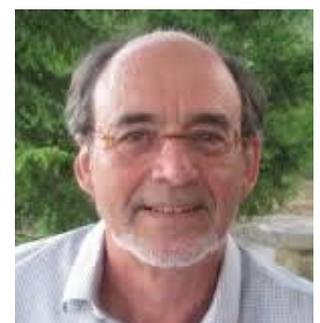
The head of the most powerful branch of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), with 5.200 registered architects, not only opposed the RIBA motion to expel the IAUA from the UIA, but also opposed the ADPSR proposal to change the AIA Code of Ethics.

"Both issues touch not only on the foundation of ethical practice, but even more fundamentally, on basic human values. At stake here is whether our international community of architecture will actively speak out in support of promoting and acting in accordance with those basic

human values using the voice of our professional associations, or whether we will be complicit by our silence." says Paul Broches.

NL Editors decided to publish the entire letter and encourage readers to reflect on its timely definitions.

(Continues on Page 6)



(From Page 5)

4 June 2014

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
President
AIA New York Chapter
536 LaGuardia Place
New York, New York 10012

Dear Lance:

I have been stewing for some time over the article published in the *eOculus Newsletter, From the Desk of the President*, that appeared in the 4/30/14 issue regarding the New York Chapter's opposition to the RIBA proposal to expel the IAUA from the Union of International Architects and opposition to the ADPSR proposal to amend the AIA Code of Ethics. I was frustrated by the discourse and disappointed in the conclusions. I do appreciate the fact that you have brought these issues up for the public discussion and I agree with you that both issues will not blow up over and should not be ignored; however, I take issue with each of the objections raised in your place.

Both issues touch not only on the foundation of ethical practice, but even more fundamentally, on basic human values. At stake here is whether our international community of architecture will actively speak out in support of promoting and acting in accordance with those basic human values using the voice of our professional associations, or whether we will be complicit by our silence. I believe that it is our responsibility to society to explain how and why architecture can be, and is used as a tool for unethical and destructive practices. Constructing settlements in disputed territories and building spaces for prolonged solitary confinement and other forms of torture, both specifically prohibited by the UN Council on Human Rights, are but two examples.

1. Regarding the RIBA process of arriving at their proposal, you write that some RIBA council members objected to their association's focus on Israel, pointing to human rights violations in other parts of the world, such as North Korea, asking why they should not be held to similar standards. Of course they should be held to similar standards; however, to object to singling out one country's violations of human rights when the same or worst travesties are occurring in other places is absurd. This is not a reason to stand silent relative to the Israeli IAUA situation. In fact, I would see this as an argument for taking other national associations to task, as well.

2. The RIBA proposal regarding the expulsion of the Israeli Association of United Architects (IAUA) does not "exclude an entire country's architects" as you state. On the contrary, it seeks to sanction the Israeli Association for not fairly representing its constituency, all Palestinian and Israeli architects. Their code of ethics should ask all members to follow the ethical standards of the UN Council on Human Rights and to protect them from complicity in work that violates international law. It is the professional association that is being taken to task by the RIBA, not individual architects.

3. I also take exception to your critique of the ADPSR proposal to amend the AIA Code of Ethics which asks our peers to consider seriously the ethical dimension of the design of facilities whose purpose, prolonged solitary confinement and other forms of torture, are specifically prohibited by the UN Human Rights Council and international law. In your argument, you conflate ethical and legal issues. To support your objection, you bring into discussion the issues of abortion and assisted suicide. Why? These are an ethical dilemma about which there is indeed no consensus; however, that is not the case with prolonged solitary confinement and torture.

There is broad consensus duly recorded in The Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified by the US with some reservations) and other international charters that prohibit "torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" (ICCPR Article 7). ACCPR also requires that "all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person" (Article 10). This convention bears careful reading.

The ADPSAR proposal to amend the AIA Code of Ethics is intended to raise our commitment to social justice simply to a level equal to a broad range of international charters, including the US Constitution, ICCPR, and the universal position of the International Commission on Human Rights, among many others.

I take some heart in the fact that *Architectural Record* (June 2014) features a special report on ethics and architecture. In her editorial, Editor in Chief Cathleen McGuignan speaks to the need to look at the AIA Code of Ethics for Professional Conduct in a broader context, "from the problems of migrant construction workers to the design of affordable housing; from refusing commissions to build prisons or execution chambers to engaging in socially activist and sustainable architecture".

In his uniquely provocative way, in the same issue Michael Sorkin urges us to go beyond the NY Chapter's notion of developing *Best Practice Guidelines* to the more challenging topic "*The Architect's Dilemma: 'When to say No'*".

I deeply regret that the AIA New York Chapter has not joined with the AIA chapters in San Francisco, Portland (OR) and the Boston Society of Architects to endorse the proposed Amendment or even some variant thereof. Instead it has waffled on these critically important issues.

Sincerely,



Paul Broches, FAIA

Oscar Margenet Nadal

Work is the best way to fundraise

By Oscar Margenet Nadal, Fundraising Committee Coordinator

Now and then aphorisms give shape to utopias. This is kind of a parallelism between utopia and fundraising.

When Englishman explorer Captain John Smith settled in Powhatan's land in 1609 he knew not that Jamestown would be the founding stone of the USA¹.

A Russian former Siberia prisoner wrote "The Estate and the Revolution" in 1917. He dissolved an Empire, started the proletariat revolution and founded the former Soviet Union; he was Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Smith and Lenin had but one dictum in common:

"He who does not work shall not eat."²

With these words Smith scathed a number of dawdling settlers that profited from other's hard work; whereas Lenin, encouraged workers to build socialism on the same concept like a strong alternative to capitalism.

Knowingly or not, Smith and Lenin drew the phrase from a letter³ sent by Paul, Silas and Timothy to Thessalonica's early Christian community, today Salonika city, the second largest urban center in Macedonia.

We live in a state of chaos nurtured by economic inequality. Almost 2/3 of world's population lives in state of poverty; a crucial issue that apparently has no foreseeable solution.

Facts that help understand the best way to fundraise

AG 2014 emphasized the need for fundraising; the re-elected ARC•PEACE Fundraising Committee produced a Practical Handbook by 2012. Two main objectives for fundraising are suggested in it: funding already *planned activities*, and also designing specific *fundraising events*.

I. Planned activities (listed in the Action Plan).

They require a budget and a person in charge. The AP 2012-2014 failed by neither estimating a budget nor finding voluntary members to accept responsibilities, two essentials in all activity. So no funds were raised through this effort.

The above mentioned error was partially corrected prior to GA Vienna 2014, when all ARC•PEACE members were invited to accept one or more responsibilities from a number of proposed tasks listed on a practical table.

Anyone can help achieve these activities by simply offering to volunteer and becoming the member in charge of a planned activity of his/her choice.

The FRC shall immediately begin to assess him/her to comply with the chosen task in an orderly manner, as stated in the Handbook on pages 1 and 2. It recommends to:

1. Ensure a specific fundraising target within a given time frame commensurate to the planned activities.

The majority of African and Latin American nations show the worst income distribution in the world⁴.

Normally affluent colleagues make a reductionist comment about this: 'there must be something wrong with them', they say.

However, those with a wallet in place of heart are the poorest people for they are moved by greed, not love.

Are we able to fundraise in a world like this?

ARC•PEACE was not founded to compete, criticize or simply indulge a set of benefits but to cooperate.

However, we also struggle from lack of funds. If we still go on after 27 years is thanks to a handful of committed generous members.



2. Ensure how much funding might be raised from different types of resources;
3. Identify specific, potential sources of funds from a diverse mix of sources;
4. Develop an action plan about who is going to approach what source, how and by when;
5. Compile the results of items 1, 2, 3 and 4 into a Fundraising Plan that has been approved by the Board;
6. Ensure effective administrative systems to track grants and donations.

All tasks included in ARC•PEACE 2014-2016 AP has to comply with required Fundraising conditions and Board approval before being implemented.

II. Fundraising events

We can also try eventual one-time activities, but they must be achieved following the Handbook tips.

The contribution voucher in support of WUF6 participants in Naples, Italy, September 2012 (NL #34, pages 6 and 4 respectively) was a successful attempt, considering the short time available. Some events are now being planned; e.g. ARC•PEACE Sudan Seminar, January 2015; GA 2016 (India and Tunisia are the alternative venues, so far). *(Concludes on Page 7)*

1. According to archeologist William Kelso, Jamestown "is where the British Empire began", the first colony of it.
2. This phrase is used by both according to Thompson's 'The Journals of Captain John Smith: A Jamestown Biography', ISBN 1426200552, 2007, p.139; and in 'The Estate and the Revolution', Chapter 5, Section 3, 'The First Phase of Communist Society'.
3. New Testament, 2nd Thessalonians 3:10-12, from ancient Greek εἴ τις οὐ θέλει ἐργάζεσθαι μηδὲ ἐσθιέτω
4. Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the XXI Century", 2014, it did sold half a million copies in four months.

Conclusions

We're a kind of individuals qualified to create better living conditions for people. ARC•PEACE wasn't born from dawdlers or pretenders but from hard working visionary people.

Best work is the effort that leads to common good. Every member has to pay its annual fee, promote ARC•PEACE's mission and vision, participate in discussion groups, and fund the Activity Plan.

Unless getting together as a teamwork ARC•PEACE shall continue depending on one or two individuals; like it has happened over latter years. By the opposite, working together we can overcome current situation. The FC is ready to help fundraisers to keep ARC•PEACE alive and expanding. There is room for many volunteers!



Logotype adopted by ARC•PEACE Fundraising Committee

Let's join to appeal freedom for Mucella Yapici!

Prof. Tom Woolley shared with ARC•PEACE membership an urgent appeal. It's the case of an activist architect facing trial for protesting. **Mucella Yapici** (right picture) is Secretary of the Turkey Chamber of Architects Istanbul branch. She and other 25 people were prosecuted for organising last year's Gezi Park protests.

A worldwide campaign is going on to build solidarity and support for our brave colleague from the architectural and planning professions.

Please, read, reflect and comment on this typical case against human rights. Architecture is can be a strong tool when used in a humane way. Press release: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/turkey-must-abandon-show-trial-against-gezi-park-protest-organizers-2014-06> ; more: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR44/010/2014/en>

There is a link to a report on Gezi Park civic protests published in June, highlighting the case against a coalition of over 100 organisations: *Taksim Solidarity*.



29th August 2014 International Day against Nuclear Tests

"Together, let us demand an end to all nuclear tests and get on with the unfinished business of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons." - Said Ban Ki-moon UN General Secretary on July 2014. There is still much to do on this field.

Since nuclear weapons testing began in the mid-twentieth century, with the first test on 16 July 1945, nearly 2,000 have taken place. There has been little consideration of the devastating effects of testing on human life, let alone the understanding of nuclear fallout from atmospheric tests.

Early on, having nuclear weapons was a measure of scientific sophistication or military might.

History has shown us the terrifying and tragic effects of nuclear weapons testing, especially when controlled conditions go awry, and in the light of today's nuclear weapons which are far more powerful and destructive, and the greed of men who are tempted by sudden power.

Subsequent incidents worldwide have provided compelling reasons for putting an end to nuclear race. 2010 marked the inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests a day in which educational events, activities and messages aim to capture the world's attention and underscore the need for a unified attempt in preventing further nuclear weapons testing.

Many challenges still lay ahead. ARC•PEACE holds the hope that more members will join us to pursue towards the final goal: a world free from military nuclear weaponry.

Oscar Margenet Nadal

The NL Editor apologizes for involuntary delays in publishing this issue. ARC•PEACE's membership is aware of our Secretary temporary absence due to health problems. Dick is grateful to all of you for sending letters of support and encouragement. NL N° 43 is due on December 2014. Until then keep informed visiting our website: <http://arc-peace.a3d.se/>
The NL Editors may not agree with articles signed by their authors. Feel free to print and circulate these Newsletters.