



# UNA Southern New York State Division

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Newsletter  
February 2009

Welcome to UNA-SNY YPIC's newsletter, which is jam-packed with information and articles for internationally savvy and UN policy curious professionals. Enjoy!

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2009 has been heralded as the year of hope and change. We, at UNA-SNY YPIC, have taken to heart this historic opportunity to harness the power of hope and change and each and every YPIC committee director is dedicated to bringing to you meaningful, educational and insightful programs in 2009.

We are delighted to announce our new YPIC Flagship Program: The Haiti Expedition Project. Although we live in the greater New York area, we are committed to the world beyond us, to the bigger picture, and to engaging in something greater than ourselves. It is for this reason that we are pursuing a hands-on and active path for YPIC...not only through educational and networking events in New York, but also through a direct field volunteer project in the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. The Haiti Expedition Project is our response to help alleviate some of the most pressing issues for Haiti. As some of you know, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Today, 80% of the population lives in abject poverty and more than half live on less than US \$1 a day. The onslaught of four consecutive hurricanes in 2008 devastated Haiti, and today – as you read these words – there is an immense and ongoing humanitarian and environmental crisis.

YPIC's mission is to travel to Haiti in 2009 with a crew of YPIC members and to work, in tandem with two renowned non-profits and one multilateral organization, to alleviate this crisis. We invite you to take part in this project, be it as a field volunteer in Haiti, as an attendee at our upcoming Haiti Fundraiser in spring, or as an advocate spreading the word about the Haiti Project. No matter how you contribute, we want you to consider this as your project. Visit our website's News section and click on the YPIC Flagship Program link for more information and how to participate. It is through our collective effort that we have been able to accomplish so much. Let's all take inspiration from the President's views that we are at a juncture in our history where the audacity of hope lives within each and every one of us to make a better world for the next generation.

In this newsletter, every article shares this motto. I trust the following pages will encourage you to be part of our YPIC crew in Haiti and beyond!

Patricia Sacristan  
Chair

United Nations Association | Southern NY State Division | YPIC



HELPING THE UN TO HELP THE WORLD

# UNA-SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

## Get "LinkedIn"

### Network | Join the Conversation | Participate

Join Our New YPIC Group.

Sign in to LinkedIn ([www.Linkedin.com](http://www.Linkedin.com)) > Select Groups "UNA-SNY YPIC"

- Join or start discussions on international topics and issues facing the U.N.
- Network with one other about work you are doing, a new career path, international career development, the job you have, or the job you want.
- Tap an internationally minded community of young professionals from the private and public sectors.

We know many of you are already on LinkedIn; and if you're not, it's quick to get started. So come join us. Add your comments to the discussions we've got going. Or start a new discussion on an international/UN topic you care about. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Group, send me a message on LinkedIn, or email me at [YPICmarketing@unasouthernny.org](mailto:YPICmarketing@unasouthernny.org).

Connect with you soon,  
Sharlene Ratcliff-Korenica  
Director, YPIC Marketing & Communications Committee

## New Era, New Administration, New Relationship with the United Nations

*By Ranjan Roy*

*Co-Director YPIC Economic Development Committee*

The election of President Barack Obama represents a landmark change in a number of respects, and the effect upon our nation's relationship with the United Nations cannot be understated. With his multicultural background and deep understanding of the international nature of our new challenges, President Obama has been very candid as to the necessity of engaging the United Nations in finding solutions. In a demonstration of his commitment to the organization, one of President Obama's tasks in his first week in power was a lengthy conversation with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. A corresponding White House statement said Obama "underscored his commitment to a strong U.S.-U.N. relationship and an effective UN working with us to fight climate change, poverty and terrorism."

President Obama's appointment of Dr. Susan Rice as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations was another signal of his intention to engage the United Nations. Dr. Rice brings eight years experience with the Clinton administration, including positions with the National Security Council and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. While serving as a Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy with the Brookings Institution she was a senior advisor to the Kerry-Edwards campaign in 2004. She joined the Obama campaign as a chief foreign policy advisor from its outset and was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and formally arrived at the U.N. on January 26th.

Dr. Rice shares Obama's pragmatism towards international affairs and institutions as she noted the "indispensable" nature of the U.N. The key issues she has outlined in this relationship are "Strengthening the capacity to engage in complex peace operations, advancing U.S. and 'collective' interest on climate change and nuclear proliferation, and putting the United States at the center of poverty reduction and fighting disease, cornerstones of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals."

In a major shift from the policy of the Bush administration, Rice indicated the administration would engage "vigorously" in U.N. climate change talks. The administration did not limit their commitment there; the State Department under the new leadership of Hillary Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Climate Change to work in capacities such as key U.S. negotiator to the Kyoto treaty.

# UNA-SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

Another major development in the President's first week in office was his reversal of the Bush policy that cut off funding to the United Nations Population Fund. The leading family planning assistance organization has lost nearly \$250 million in American aid since Bush cut off funding in 2002 on ideological grounds. This commitment to women's health will help signal to the world the Obama administration's willingness to resume the mantle of American leadership through multilateral organizations.

The next year will present some of the greatest challenges and opportunities of our generation. We at YPIC have a tremendous chance to increase our involvement with the current administration. The movement for change was galvanized by the young people of America, and has resulted in an administration that understands the value of the United Nations, and the importance of engaging young people in the processes of government and international relations. This is the cornerstone of UNA's YPIC.

## First Days on the Job for the Obama Administration The Critical Developments for International Relations

*By Sharlene Ratcliff-Korenica*

*Director, YPIC Marketing & Communications Committee*

- **Barack Obama signs order to close Guantánamo Bay prison camp within a year, immediate case-by-case review of the 245 detainees, suspension of all judicial proceedings**

Washington Post-ABC News poll shows that 53 percent of Americans agree on the closure; as do five former U.S. Secretaries of State (Henry Kissinger, James Baker, Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell) and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Opposition voiced, and discussions underway about where those released will go, how detainees will be tried, and national security implications. Several nations looking into accepting detainees.

- **Decree that interrogators must follow techniques outlined in the Army Field Manual when questioning terrorism suspects**  
President Obama reverses controversial Bush policies by prohibiting the CIA from using waterboarding and other harsh techniques. Exceptions in extraordinary cases under debate.

- **Obama reverses abortion-funding policy, restores support for U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Obama's memorandum reverses the "Mexico City policy" (initiated by President Reagan in 1984, canceled by President Clinton, reinstated by President George W. Bush in 2001). The Bush administration repeatedly withheld funding authorized by Congress for the U.N. fund. "By signaling his intention to restore U.S. funding for UNFPA...President Obama is signaling his re-engagement with the international community on the critical challenge of improving reproductive health around the world," said UN Foundation President Timothy Wirth.

- **Withdrawal from Iraq**

Obama met with generals, discussing plan to speed withdrawal.

- **Government spending bill to create jobs**

Obama gathers economic advisers and drives for massive bill.

- **Obama calls UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

Talk about global economic crisis, climate change, food security, regional crises particularly in the Middle East and Africa, UN reforms, and the world body's "need for adequate political support and funding", a UN statement said.

- **Middle East outreach**

Obama called President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel, King Abdullah of Jordan, and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority. Promises "active engagement" around Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza.

- **Well Received Appointments for Critical International Posts**

Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D., Maine) announced as Middle East envoy; former U.N. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke as envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- **State Department**

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is warmly greeted on her first day at work. President Obama and VP Joe Biden visit State Department to underscore renewed emphasis on diplomacy.

*Let us know what you think of the first days of the new U.S. administration and other key policies affecting international relations: Sign in on LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)) > Search Groups > UNA-SNY YPIC*

# UNA-SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

## Some Ways You Can Make a Difference

[www.usaservice.org](http://www.usaservice.org)

Renew America together. This website is designed to help promote these events and for Americans to make their commitments, build communities, find opportunities to serve and share their results.

[www.un.org/works](http://www.un.org/works)

The UN Works, for people and the planet. What you can do.

[www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org)

Advocacy center > keep current and take action.

[www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting.

Meetup believes that people can change their personal world, or the whole world, by organizing into groups to make a difference.

[www.volunteerNYC.org](http://www.volunteerNYC.org)

VolunteerNYC will allow you to find the best volunteer opportunities based on your preferences.

## Inaugural Photo Diary

By Faith-Ann Young

I grew up in D.C. and it is still one of the most racially segregated places in the United States. Even today, you can essentially draw a line between where blacks and whites live. Thus, the symbolism was heightened when the United States ushered in its first black president on January 20th, with the Mall filled with all races, all ages, all religions, all of whom smiled, cried, and hugged as one while the President's voice echoed through the crowd. Even I bit back tears as he thundered, "For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth....America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace." Throughout his speech, the crowd seemed to absorb the words.



Members of the Young Obama Fan Club.



Child delicately holds the US flag beneath various layers of scarves.

One of the most astounding things about Inauguration day was what we

did not hear about - no major reports of disturbances or violence in D.C. -- not even an inappropriate shove in my vicinity. After eight years of rhetoric about the war against terrorism, this is incredibly reassuring. Despite what was announced in the lead-up, security overall seemed unbelievably lax on the day. I was never checked for weapons or even for bottles of water. In other words, it would have been harder for me to board a plane than stand one football throw from where the President was standing that day. Yet, despite the millions (and despite the fact we are in a supposed "war against terrorism"), the day was disarmingly peaceful. The new President omitted terms like 'terrorism' or 'axis of evil' from his speech. Instead, he clarified: "On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," I too threw my hands up and cheered. Could the era of terror and fear really be over?

Reality hit me as I scrambled like a rat in a maze to exit the Mall. The cold gnawed at me, my feet began to hurt, and my phone began to vibrate with the messages I had missed that morning. 2009 is going to be one of the hardest years our generation has endured. We are in wars on foreign soil and facing a recession, which may rapidly turn into a depression.

But that night, the new President's words and the applause echoed in my ears as I drifted to sleep.

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## Inaugural Photo Diary (cont...)



*Guesses on who she voted for?*



*Crystal clear view of the Capitol.*



*The crowd was so dense that some people decided to climb trees in order to get a better view.*



*One of the many tots who were hoisted over their parents' shoulders for a better view. This one I caught giving a thumbs up.*

# UNA-SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

## President Obama's Plans for Energy and Climate Change Making America a Global Leader on Energy and Climate Change

By Alycia Gilde

Human Rights Committee Director

What will it take to improve our economy and protect our environment? A sound and sustainable plan for energy and climate change.

Never in the history of our time has it been more critical for a United States President to lead towards a solution that prevents human activity from leading to environmental degradation. Two of America's critical challenges are global climate change and dependence on fossil fuel for energy. Our dependence on fossil fuel for energy costs our economy \$1.4 billion a day.<sup>1</sup> And our interests in foreign oil imports increasingly complicate and threaten our national security, while we continue to consume energy inefficiently and emit harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

Because of our dependence on fossil fuel for energy, the resulting greenhouse gas emissions generated from our own human consumption continues to intensify the impacts of climate change. We are experiencing these effects at exponential rates. Hurricanes are more severe, our polar ice caps continue to melt, sea levels are rising, and natural habitats are changing, resulting in early migration and species extinction. Climate change is already changing how we live. Communities in Africa are encountering more droughts, bush fires, and famine. Coastal towns and villages are enduring increasing flooding and storms. An understanding of the issues is fundamental, but action is essential, for climate change will only get worse if we do not take action - now - before the effects become irreversible.

President Obama has an arduous road ahead of him. Holding the most powerful role in America, and arguably the world, he carries the awesome responsibility to put in place energy and climate change policies which will not only promote economic and environmental sustainability, but help reverse the damage already done.

In 2009, America will witness an important movement of policy and program development for energy and climate change. President Obama will encourage the nation to explore innovative solutions to improve efficiency through the use of alternative and renewable energy options. Along with promoting a more efficient and environmentally friendly society, President Obama plans to improve the economy with millions of green dollar jobs. With plans such as eliminating current oil imports from the Middle East and Venezuela in ten years, increasing fuel economy standards, using cleaner transportation choices, and implementing a economy-wide cap and trade program, President Obama will lead us down a path that will result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 80% by 2050.<sup>2</sup>

As President Obama leads the way to a more sustainable future, we have to do our part. He said, "I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington...I'm asking you to believe in yours." Take a stand on climate change, join the campaign to become energy independent, and act quickly with steps to reduce your own carbon footprint. For a leader cannot lead, if his people do not follow.

<sup>1</sup> Barack Obama's Plan To Make America A Global Energy Leader, [http://obama.3cdn.net/4465b108758abf7a42\\_a3jmvvfa5.pdf](http://obama.3cdn.net/4465b108758abf7a42_a3jmvvfa5.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Barack Obama's Plan To Make America A Global Energy Leader, [http://obama.3cdn.net/4465b108758abf7a42\\_a3jmvvfa5.pdf](http://obama.3cdn.net/4465b108758abf7a42_a3jmvvfa5.pdf)

### Learn More and Mobilize

- The White House Agenda: Energy & Environment  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/energy\\_and\\_environment/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/energy_and_environment/)
- Barack Obama's Plan to Make America a Global Energy Leader  
[http://obama.3cdn.net/4465b108758abf7a42\\_a3jmvvfa5.pdf](http://obama.3cdn.net/4465b108758abf7a42_a3jmvvfa5.pdf)
- AmericasPower.org  
<http://www.americaspower.org>
- United Nations: Sustainable Development, Human Settlements, and Energy  
<http://www.un.org/esa/progareas/sustdev.html>
- Official An Inconvenient Truth: Global Warming Effect (Al Gore's organization)  
<http://www.climatecrisis.net/>
- Calculate your personal impact and learn how you can take action to reduce or even eliminate your emissions of carbon dioxide  
<http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator/>
- Greenpeace Action Center  
<http://www.greenpeace.org/>

# UNA-SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

## Hot Spots

- AROUND THE GLOBE



*UN Photo/Tim McKulka  
Children Scavenge for Food and Clothing*

The International Labor Organization (ILO) annual report predicts dramatic increase in unemployment throughout the world and that 200 million workers, mostly in developing countries, could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2009.

On January 28, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised its global growth forecast to its lowest level since WW II. According to the IMF: the global economy is expected to grind to a standstill in 2009, growing by only one half of one per cent; advanced economies will experience sharp contractions, with declines of 1.5 per cent in the United States, 2 percent in the euro area, and 2.5 percent in Japan; and significant slowdowns are expected in emerging/developing economies.

- AFRICA



**Democratic Republic of Congo**  
*UN Photo  
Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*

History was made on January 26 when the Hague's International Criminal Court put on trial a Congolese warlord accused of recruiting child soldiers. The case is the first trial in the history of international law with the active participation of victims in the proceedings, including child combatants. Lubanga, leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots, is accused of war crimes including enlisting child soldiers and using them in hostilities from 2002-03. He entered a plea of not guilty.

Alan Doss, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for the DRC, has formally accepted the Congolese government's invitation to provide a planning and liaison team to a joint DRC/Rwanda military operation to target ethnic Rwandan Hutu militias based in eastern DRC.



**Somalian Refugees in Kenya**  
*UN Photo  
A refugee child looks out from one of the three overcrowded camps in Dadaab, Kenya*

A refugee child looks out from one of the three overcrowded camps in Dadaab, Kenya

The UN refugee agency called on Kenya to stop the forcible return (refoulement) of asylum-seekers from Somalia, a country that has gone 18 years without a functioning government. In the week of January 18, three people fleeing violence in Somalia were sent back. During 2008 the UN agency brought other Somalian asylum-seeker refoulement to the attention of the Kenyan Government.

### Zimbabwe

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that as of January 27, the Cholera death toll has exceeded three thousand and total cases number 58,000. WHO has helped to establish a cholera control and command center.

- AMERICAS



**Colombia**  
*UN Photo/Mark Garten  
Internally Displaced Indigenous in Colombia*

Growing violence is documented in the past few months. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says this is puts pressure on indigenous groups – including the Wayuu, Arhuaco, Kogui and Wiva – who comprise 45 per cent of the department of La Guajira's nearly 700,000 population. This month, groups of Wayuu fled attacks on their homes, seeking refuge in Venezuela. Others are believed to be in hiding in Columbia. UNHCR is calling on Columbian authorities to protect these indigenous people and is coordinating to provide food and necessities.

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United States and the UN  
*UN Photo*

*Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and then Senator Obama in Feb 2007*

In his first week on the job, President Obama spoke with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon about the importance of the US-UN partnership, the global economic crisis, food security, UN reform, political/financial support, and regional crises. Mr. Ban and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton also spoke, about cooperation in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iraq, and UN reform and budgetary issues. Ms. Susan Rice, new Permanent Representative of the U.S. to the UN, met for the first time with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on January 26. "I will listen, I will engage and I will work to advance U.S. interests, recognizing that in many, many instances, our national interests are best advanced when we are working hand in hand with that of others," said Rice.

## • ASIA

### Afghanistan

The UN reported on January 26 that despite increase in health resources, Afghanistan still has the world's second highest maternal mortality rate, after Sierra Leone. "The reality is that for every 100,000 births, 1,600 women die ... Given the large average number of pregnancies ... this translates into a one in eight chance for any Afghan woman to die of pregnancy-related complications," UN WHO Representative Peter Graaf said.

Meanwhile, Washington is working on a new strategy for Afghanistan, America's "top overseas military priority," according to U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The U.S. will reportedly leave economic development and nation-building increasingly to European allies, and focus American forces against insurgents to stabilize the country. American troops in Afghanistan are currently about 34,000; Obama is preparing to increase numbers – perhaps double – over the next two years. The Obama administration has also begun to play tougher with Afghan President Hamid, than did Bush, who sought to emphasize America's role in the country's rebuilding. Amongst widespread corruption, drug trade, and the Taliban's resurgence, Karzai is now viewed as a potential roadblock to American goals in Afghanistan and he's being pressed to do more.

### Sri Lanka

Aid agencies and the UN are providing humanitarian aid to a couple of hundred thousand civilians trapped in northern Sri Lanka amongst fighting between the Government and separatist forces of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The UN reports transport since October of water, school supplies, clothing, and other essentials supplied by UNICEF and UNHCR, along with 8,000 tons of food from the UN World Food Programme. On January 29, the UN United will attempt for the second time in three days to help evacuate hundreds of critically wounded civilians, including at least 50 seriously injured children.



Pakistan  
*UN image*

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced in January concerns about rising numbers of attacks on schools in northwestern Pakistan, and called for increased protection efforts. More than 170 schools – particularly girls' schools – have been burned down or blown up since 2007, while others have been closed due to illegal occupation, and threats to teachers.

## • EUROPE



Balkans

*Photo courtesy of bbc.co.uk*

*Vlastimir Djordjevic is accused of trying to expel ethnic Albanians*

Serbian foreign minister Vuk Jeremic will reportedly raise issues about Kosovo with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and other UN officials. Jeremic is reportedly in New York for January 29 talks, but in the Jan 27 Noon Briefing of the Secretary-General Spokesperson no information was available about meetings. Watch the news. Jeremic reportedly wants to raise issue with the newly-formed Kosovo Security Force, and to discuss the UN Resolution asking the International Court of Justice for its opinion on the validity of Kosovo independence.

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The trial of Vlastimir Djordjevic, a former Serbian general and close aide of the late Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, has begun at the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. Djordjevic is accused of war crimes including the deportation of 800,00 from Kosovo during 1998-99 and the murders of hundreds of ethnic Albanians. The Tribunal also in January charged Vojislav Šešelj, the leader of the Serbian Radical Party, with contempt of court for disclosing the names and details of three witnesses whose identities were ordered withheld. Šešelj is facing three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of war crimes. On January 15, the Tribunal transferred Stanislav Gali, former senior Bosnian Serb army commander, to Germany to serve his life sentence for war crimes committed in Sarajevo from 1992 to 1994. The Tribunal indicted 161 persons for serious violations of humanitarian law committed on the territory of former Yugoslavia between 1991 and 2001. Proceedings against 116 persons have been concluded.

## Cypriot Leaders Negotiate

Greek Cypriot leader, Dimitris Christofias, and Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, met on January 28 to begin negotiations on the issue of property. The leaders agreed to meet again on February 4.



### Malta

*UN Photo (file photo)*

*African boat people in the Mediterranean*

On January 26, a group of independent UN human rights experts voiced concern about illegal immigrants in Malta. There appears to be increasing long periods of detention, which are not in line with international human rights law. "We must not forget that immigrants arriving without proper documentation are not criminals. What we must not forget, either, is that Malta is a small country with by far the highest population density in Europe and limited financial and human resources at hand...We are facing a truly human tragedy here, but we sense that the Government can and should do better already at this point in time," said Manuela Carmena Castrillo, Chairperson of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

## • MIDDLE EAST

### Iraq

On January 28 President Obama meets with four U.S. military service chiefs, and is expected to hear what would be required to fulfill his timetable for a 16-month withdrawal.

On January 31, Iraqis elected new councils in 14 of 18 provinces. "The stakes are considerable. Whereas the January 2005 elections helped put Iraq on the path to all-out civil war, these polls could represent another, far more peaceful turning point," according to the International Crisis Group who just published this report. The UN has provided advice and assistance on a broad range of election issues.



### Gaza

*UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

*Damaged Warehouse at UNRWA Headquarters*

Over a week after ceasefire, thousands of Gazans remain homeless, nearly 1 million are in need of food aid, and hospitals are treating a large number of intensive care patients. The 22-day Israel offensive against Hamas (with the stated aim of ending Hamas rocket attacks) launched on December 27, killed 1,300 - 412 of those children - and wounded more than 5,450 - including 1,855 children - as well as inflicting widespread destruction and suffering (according to UN reports). UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calls the ceasefire in Gaza "fragile" and has called on leaders, including Egypt and others in the regional as well as around the globe - to help ensure a durable ceasefire. Ban also demanded a thorough investigation by Israel into all attacks against UN facilities in Gaza.

UNRWA chief Karen AbuZayd noted rage amongst the Gaza population against the attackers for failing to distinguish between military targets and civilians and resentment against the international community for having allowed the siege and war to go on for so long. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes said that the people of Gaza have continued to exist in what is effectively a giant open-air prison, without normality or dignity.

# UNA–SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

## World's First Carbon Neutral Clothes Factory Opens in Sri Lanka

*By Melissa Barry*

*Co-Director, YPIC Humanitarian Affairs Committee*

What does it mean to be completely carbon neutral? A new facility in Thulhiriya, Sri Lanka, aims to be the first completely carbon neutral clothes factory in the world.

Carbon neutral – producing a net of zero carbon emissions – can be achieved in one of two ways. One, a company can use alternative renewable energy strategies that either do not release carbon dioxide or balance its release by producing more useful energies. Or alternatively, others choose to purchase 'carbon credits' from other companies that may not use their own.

The new Thulhiriya-based 'green facility' utilizes the first method. It features such energy saving items as energy efficient lighting that allows for maximum use of natural light and a low energy cooling system (eliminating the need for air conditioning), which includes green roofs (with vegetation), cool roofs (with solar reflectivity) and eco bricks that help the building to remain cool. It uses the country's largest installation of solar as well as hydro power. Its sewage facility captures bio gases to be reused.

So far, the facility seems to save both energy and money. Marks and Spencer, who provided \$400,000 towards the facility, says that through green technology, it will actually save on energy as much as it invested. The company expects to make a profit next year.

Last year, Thailand's largest apparel company, MAS Holdings and the British chain Marks and Spencer (M&S) together announced the opening of the new sustainable manufacturing facility, called MAS Intimates Thurulie. The factory is already producing lingerie for M&S that, while no more expensive than products produced by a more typical facility, has a much smaller environmental footprint.

Additionally, through its 'Plan A' company-wide 'eco-plan,' M&S aims to reduce by nine per cent the CO2 emissions of its British operations and to support the development of 'green' factories with its suppliers. Already, in addition to this factory, it opened another, run by casual clothing producer Brandix, which has resulted in 75% reduction of carbon emissions. Furthermore, M&S's Thailand-based partner, MAS has also committed itself to green principles.

While this facility may be the first of its kind, corporate commitments signal it may not stand alone for too long.

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Efforts to Eradicate Violence in El Salvador

*By Catherine Addona-Peña*

*Co-Director Latin American Affairs Committee*

In 1992, El Salvador's civil war ended with a peace agreement between the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and right-wing military. More than 15 years later, this small country continues to be plagued with violence. According to the most recent census released in May 2007, El Salvador's homicide rate of 64 deaths per every 100,000 people renders it the most violent country in Latin America and ranks it among the most violent in the world. The government's "mano dura" (Iron Fist) policies, which support zero-tolerance for violent acts, have proven to be largely unsuccessful; yet, hope remains. With the aid of the UNDP, the government has instituted comprehensive anti-violence pilot programs in some of the country's most violent cities that have yielded promising results, which may serve as the catalyst for the reform that El Salvador seeks.

The prevalence of youth gangs, a surplus of small arms and the country's history of internal and external conflict have yielded disastrous results. El Salvador has become an urban battleground. According to the Ritla, a Brazilian think tank, murder rates attributed to gang violence among youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are estimated to be as high as 92.3 deaths per every 100,000 people (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7750054.stm>).

Mara Salvatrucha and Pandilla 18 (18 Street Gang) are El Salvador's main gangs or maras. The gangs' originated in the 1980s when approximately 1 million El Salvadorians fled to the United States to take refuge from the civil war in the tough neighborhoods of cities like Los Angeles. These gang members were later deported back to El Salvador where they quickly organized themselves (<http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/El-Salvador-Hard-line-policies-vs,3353>).

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Easy access to at-risk youth and firearms, remaining from the civil war and imported through the country's weak borders, have allowed the gangs to flourish. In fact, "...authorities estimate that there are 450,000 firearms in private hands in [El Salvador], although only 170,000 are legally registered" (<http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/El-Salvador-Hard-line-policies-vs,3353>).

According to the UNDP's Bureau of Crises Prevention and Recovery's (BCPR) Small Arms Survey published in 2006 by Ryan Nichols, gang members remain largely undeterred by the government's "mano dura" approach, because of the difficulty for the government to enforce the laws and consequences that have been established. Many criminal cases never make it to court. In 1998, in an effort to foment positive change in the region, the UNDP's country office allied itself with El Salvador's government, civil society and academia to launch the Society without Violence Programme. The objective of the program is to analyze and address the conditions that encourage youth to join gangs and resort to bloodshed rather than solely reacting to the violence itself. The Small Arms Survey confirms that a lack of a formal, conflict-resolution infrastructure, domestic abuse, a poor economy and a vastly uneven distribution of wealth are among the largest contributors to El Salvador's violent environment. According to the survey, based on the project partners' assessment, it introduced programs designed to promote "civilian arms control, ...legislative reform to restrict access to firearms, ...and a public awareness and a political advocacy campaign ...[that would]... combat the traditional idea that firearms are an effective means of protection against violent crime".

As part of the Society without Violence Programme, the National Council of Public Safety (PNC) and the UNDP launched a pilot project called 'Guns Free Towns'. According to the Salvadorian Foundation for the Economic and Social Development (Fusades), the project took a prescriptive approach to fighting violence. It promoted a culture of non-violence by (1) engaging the cities' youth with activities and skills that would keep them off the streets and allow them to avoid the temptation to join gangs, (2) forbidding arms in public spaces like city parks, and (3) by promoting citizenship. The results were impressive; murder rates plummeted in some of El Salvador's most dangerous cities. "...[For] example, [as of February 2007] in San Jose las Flores, no homicides have been reported since 1994, in Cinquera, the last homicide occurred 11 years ago and in San Martin, there was a 29% decrease in gun related crime and a 47% drop in homicides <http://www.comunidadessegura.org/?q=en/node/32039>".

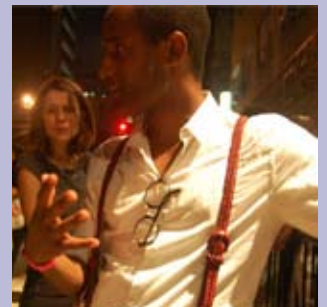
The anti-violence pilot programs supported by the UNDP together with civil and government agencies have proven to be effective. Such programs need to be implemented on a broad scale in order to foment real and sustainable change in El Salvador. Most importantly, El Salvador must invest in its youth so that young people are provided with opportunities that are more rewarding and attractive than those that a gang can offer. The "Guns Free Town" initiative confirms that treating the root causes of violence, not just the symptoms, is the only way to begin healing El Salvador.

## SFOTE: ENGAGING MANHATTAN'S CREATIVE COMMUNITY TO PROBLEM-SOLVE AND TAKE ACTION

*By Faith-Ann Young*

*YPIC Marketing & Communications Committee*

On October 11th 2007, The Tribeca Grand Hotel hosted an event, in which skinny-jeaned hipsters, scientists, philanthropists, artists, and music lovers packed into the sleek New York hotel to see up-and-coming rapper-singer Santogold and critically acclaimed Brooklyn musicians Kyp Malone and Tunde Adebimpe of TV On The Radio perform. Prior to the concert, the co-hosts - downtown art guru Neville Wakefield, Brana Wolf and Brooklyn man-around-town Everard Findlay - invited guests such as fashion designer Benjamin Cho, DJ Leigh Lezark, model Agyness Deyn, and artist Stella Schnabel, to watch a screening of *Mind the Gap: A Day in the Life of Laventille Youth*. From a birds-eye view, it looked like another 'buzz-worthy' party where the drinks flowed freely and downtown elite air-kissed one another. But beneath the light-hearted social façade, a bigger, nobler cause was being feted. The film provided a heart-breaking yet hopeful portrait of daily life of children in Laventille, Trinidad. True, before watching the film, some of the attendees probably wouldn't have been able to locate the Caribbean's Southernmost Island on the map. A few may have stereotyped Trinidad as another Caribbean tropical, palm-treed paradise, an easy jet-ride away. Some attendees came solely because they read on the music blog Brooklyn Vegan that there was an uber-cool concert that night. But it didn't matter.



The event was to launch SFOTE, a new non-profit organization. SFOTE's mission is to work with communities around the world, forming partnerships with global professionals and local leaders to create site-specific, sustainable programs with clear goals that provide lasting change. The event itself was a fund-raiser for SFOTE's Laventille Bus Initiative, to provide buses for impoverished school children in crime-filled Laventille. Thus, as Kyp Malone from TV On The Radio twanged his guitar, critical funds were raised for the cause.

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## SFOTE continued...

I first sat down with SFOTE's founder Everard Findlay in January 2008 to unearth more specifics about the non-profit organization. Since UNA-USA's Young Professionals For International Cooperation is devoted to educating and motivating young citizens about global initiatives, SFOTE seemed right up our alley. As we sipped coffee on a wooden bench in a small Brooklyn café, Findlay explained SFOTE's intent.

"Those in our generation- even the ones that want to help – sometimes feel at a loss as to what we can do. The SFOTE idea was to create a dialogue with that age group – that gap; it was for us to be able to talk about the things we care about and to show and express the ways that we care; to help figure out sustainable solutions for the problems and fund them using the skills we have, instead of grabbing money from here and putting it there. We wanted to make SFOTE more about grassroots change."

Even the name SFOTE exemplifies this idea: S stands for 'See a problem'; F is 'Find Solutions'; O for Organize; T for Take action and finally E for Empower the Community. "That concept really includes everyone into the conversation regardless of what background you come from," Findlay emphasized.

The Laventille Bus project is a prime example of how SFOTE pinpoints a problem and uses creative yet pragmatic means to combat it. Though the Trinidadian city's name sounds romantic, derived from the French word "La vent" (the wind) in reference to the North East Trade winds that blow through the area before reaching Port of Spain, daily life in Laventille is grizzly. Crime is rampant, with manifold shoot-outs and robberies each year, while a majority of citizens live in severely impoverished conditions without enough money for food, healthcare, or even the most basic amenities.



Consistent with its mission, SFOTE chose to focus on a simple goal: though there are public schools in Laventille, there is no public bus system. Since the cost of transportation is high for those that live there (6TTD, which is about US \$1 per day per child), many children in the area are eventually forced to drop out of school because their parents are simply unable to afford bus fare. "The government did a great job of making schooling free. But when you really get down to the nitty-gritty, some of the people can't afford to get the kids to schools in the outskirts. And then the kids don't go to school and become involved with gangs," Findlay explained. SFOTE found a direct correlation between high school drop out rates, drug use, gang involvement, teen pregnancy, and area based crime. SFOTE set about to fund the much-needed buses for Laventille's school kids to give them the opportunity to stay in school. Findlay's eyes glistened; "It is physics. You drop that stone in the pond and there's a ripple affect."

Thus, making frequent trips to Laventille, Findlay gained support from the government ministers and various local government dignitaries to fund the school bus program. He convinced one of the men who runs all the ships from Trinidad to allow the waste oil from the ships to be used to fuel the buses. He worked with engineers to create separating units that will separate the oil into biodiesel fuel for the buses. He traveled back and forth between NY and Trinidad regularly, intent on finding a logical, realistic solution to get the kids to school.

In the meantime, back in New York, SFOTE organized additional fund-raising events in New York City, relying on grass-roots press campaigns as well as the support of Findlay's close friends in the arts, media, science and legal circles to spread the word of SFOTE's plight.

In May of 2008, SFOTE hosted CUT/BREAK at the Soho Grand, hosted by Stella Schnabel, daughter of esteemed artist Julian Schnabel, which showcased the surf-themed artwork by artists Martyn Thompson, Chris Gentile, and Joe Curren, as well as short films by directors Richard Kenvin, Britton Caillouette and Jakob Daschek. (Like many Trinidadian youth, Findlay grew up surfing in the islands and finds it a constant inspiration). As fashion designer Zac Posen and other celebrities mingled in the crowd, the works were auctioned off for the charity. In August 2008, TV On The Radio and Gang Gang Dance performed to a jam-packed, diverse crowd at the downtown concert spot, Santo's Party House, again with all proceeds going to the Laventille Bus Initiative.

When I first met Mr. Findlay, I wondered what would prompt this always impeccably attired, creative director and brand consultant, who has the social prowess to trump Kevin Bacon in a Manhattan-based who's-connected-to-who-game, to use his intense professional and personal liaisons so selflessly and devotedly towards this good cause.

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## SFOTE continued...

But his good will traces all the way back to his childhood in Port of Spain, Trinidad. "Since I was a boy, my mom would go out and feed people in a square in Port of Spain, giving out box lunches... As a young boy growing up on the islands, I was really fortunate to have been around my mother."

"For her, it's not really a campaign, she's more just a doer. My mother was a poor woman and married my dad who was well off. She had grown up in hardships and my father hadn't. So she kind of understood the feelings and the situations that people were in. At that time, I didn't want to do it; I wanted to go surfing. But my brothers and I were very fortunate because my mom really shared with us by taking us with her when she was giving back.

I remember one moment with my mom in Port of Spain, maybe I was 15. She looked at me, and she said, "Hey take these lunches..." I took four or five lunch boxes and if I saw anyone lying around on the street, I would touch them and give them a lunch. I remember I was trying to hurry up so I could finish, get in the car, and go to the beach. And then I looked at my mom in the distance, walking through a crowd of people to touch a woman and her daughter. I didn't understand what she was doing; but the woman looked up at her, so grateful for the donation...And then it hit me, my mother could see people who were striving, who were wanting opportunity. Whereas for me, I was just going through the motions. I wasn't really trying to find a solution; I was just trying to get things off of my hands.

"At that moment I stood there in the middle of the street and started to cry. My mom said, 'What's wrong?' and I said, 'well, I just kind of understood what you are doing....and it made me sad.'" And she just said, "OK," paused and then said, "now go back and get more boxes." Findlay laughed heartily and shrugged. "So I got back to it."

Reflecting on his mother's lesson, he said "You know, when you are helping people in a hard situation, something happens to you; you feel like you are getting more than you are even giving. Then you know it is really important and you don't really turn back." Now as a grown, self-made man happily living in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter, Findlay is following in his mother's footsteps. "I found myself falling more and more in love with finding solutions to problems. SFOTE started that way; I felt that if you could bring artists and scientists together, you could create real change."

It is no easy feat to motivate a diverse group of New Yorkers, many who were dealt fate's upper hand, to disengage from their frenetic lives, be it in fashion, arts, science, or public service, in order to aid impoverished youth on the other side of the world. But SFOTE has been able to do just that. "I have a lot of friends who don't understand what it is like to not be able to afford to take their kids to school or get a cup of coffee. But communication is beautiful. If you can create communication in a non-threatening manner, people become wise to what is true." Findlay nods his head wistfully. "Our generation can design and create power using what we know, to try to create a more positive union and to make the world more sustainable."

Due to SFOTE's extensive fundraising and Findlay's persistent negotiation with the Trinidadian government, as of January 2009, the government of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to supply seven school buses and drivers to Laventille, along with supporting maintenance, gasoline and parking terminals. While the overall goal is to provide buses for all Laventille youth, SFOTE is fast on their way to reaching their aim.

This year, SFOTE plans to organize more New York-based events to bring this goal to fruition. Some time this year, Whitney Biennia, artist Lizzi Bougatsos and Brian Degraw of Gang Gang Dance, Christian Holstad, Spencer Sweeny, and Trinidadian artist Che Lovelace will travel to Laventille to paint the seven donated buses, along with area school children. In "7 Drums, 7 Artists", artists such as Rita Ackermann, Olaf Breuning, Peter Doig, and Chris Ofili, will use seven steel drums to create works that will be auctioned off for SFOTE initiatives. In their upcoming initiative "5 kids/ 5 Farmers," SFOTE plans to join with educational advisor Dr. Jason Mendez and sustainable farmer Greg Sandor to teach inner-city kids about sustainable farming, nutrition, and the origins of their food. Five inner-city children from The International Center of Photography's Hunts Point Program will visit five organic farms in Upstate New York to photograph and interview farmers, while learning about sustainable methods of farming. After a guided tour of Cornell University's agricultural facilities, the children will return to the city and prepare an exhibition of their work in Manhattan.

Each initiative remains true to SFOTE's mission: finding realistic ways to help those in need, using creative, pragmatic methods. All puns intended, SFOTE has caused the wheels of change to turn...

To watch SFOTE's film of Laventille school children, *MIND THE GAP*, go to: [http://www.sfote.org/Media\\_Video.htm](http://www.sfote.org/Media_Video.htm)

# UNA-SNY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

## A REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF DITH PRAN May His Struggles Never Be in Vain

*By Antoinette Miller*

*Co-Director, YPIC Humanitarian Affairs Committee*

My generation is aware of a great many of history's political struggles. We learn about such struggles in different ways – from school, books, films, or through another person's personal experiences – but usually once we've reached a certain age and have discovered the fundamentals of forming our own ideas and thoughts. My parents, like countless others, attempted to hide the ugliness of the world from us as young children, for example sharing fictional classics such as *Mary Poppins* and *My Fair Lady* rather than some of the real current dark maladies. Growing up in the Philippines, our dinner table conversations did not explore the value of objective dissent (as opposed to blind obedience), even though at that time in our country we lived with authoritarian government rule under the blanket of democracy. Yet somehow one film made it into our household that had an impact on my political naiveté, the film based on the struggles of Cambodian journalist Dith Pran, who suffered four years of abusive treatment after the take-over of his country by the Communist Khmer Rouge forces in April of 1975. After watching the Oscar-nominated film, *The Killing Fields*, I could never again look at the world through the youthful eyes of innocence, nor ever again discount the value of opposition.

Dith Pran was born on September 27, 1942, in the town of Siem Reap, Cambodia. He was raised in a middle-class family near the ruins of ancient temples called Angkor Wat with his two sisters and three brothers. Pran attended local schools, where he learned French and taught himself English. After finishing high school in 1960, he found a job as an interpreter for the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Cambodia.

In 1965, Cambodia's government ended its relations with the United States, charging that U.S. troops had entered the country's borders to pursue their enemies in next-door Vietnam. After the U.S. withdrawal, Pran found work with a British film crew and at a hotel near Angkor Wat. In 1970, a U.S. backed leader, Lon Nol, seized power in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. War broke out between Lon Nol's forces and those of the Khmer Rouge – or "Red Cambodians" – another Communist group. Pran moved his family to Phnom Penh and was hired as a guide and interpreter for New York Times reporters in the area, including the renowned Sydney Schanberg, who had come to Phnom Penh in 1972. Pran and Schanberg immediately formed a lasting friendship based on their close work association.

As the war continued, the Khmer Rouge seemed to become stronger. Meanwhile the United States had pulled its troops out of Vietnam, which was then overtaken by Communist forces. Along with thousands of Cambodians who managed to escape, Pran helped his wife and their four children escape on a U.S. military truck, but stayed on to help Schanberg report the story of the Khmer Rouge takeover. Both men hoped that with the takeover complete, things would eventually calm down. They were, however, sadly mistaken.

What followed were attacks, looting, and mass killings. Soldiers opened fire on people in the streets. Many innocent people were slaughtered in these first attacks, as almost three million Cambodians were forced out of the city. In one incident, Pran, Schanberg, and two other reporters went to a hospital to see how many were dead or injured and were met by a group of armed Khmer Rouge soldiers. Pran talked the soldiers out of killing Schanberg and the others, saving their lives. Schanberg soon returned to the United States, where he looked after Pran's wife and children in New York City.

Pran, meanwhile, was stuck in the new Cambodia, or "Democratic Kampuchéa" as the Khmer Rouge had renamed it. Once in power, the Khmer Rouge's leader, Saloth Sar, who later took the name "Pol Pot" began a radical experiment to create an agrarian utopia inspired in part by Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, which he had witnessed, first-hand during a visit to Communist China. He began by declaring, "This is Year Zero," and that society was about to be "purified." Capitalism, Western culture, city life, religion, and all foreign influences were to be extinguished in favor of an extreme form of peasant Communism.

Pran soon became victim of a monstrous social experiment that involved the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of people from cities, and the suppression of the educated classes, with the goal of recreating Cambodia as an agricultural nation. The Khmer Rouge had orders to execute anyone who wore eyeglasses, perfume, makeup, watches, or other evidence of Western influence. To avoid execution, Pran pretended that he was uneducated and that he knew no Americans. Over the next years, he worked in the fields and at menial jobs. For sustenance, he and other Cambodians ate insects and rats and even the exhumed corpses of the recently executed. In November 1978, Vietnam, by then a unified Communist nation after the end of the Vietnam War, invaded Cambodia and overthrew the Khmer Rouge. Pran went home to Siem Reap, where he learned that 50 members of his family had been killed. Wells were filled with skulls and bones and the land was covered with graves, prompting the name "the killing fields".

Soon after, Pran and several others set out on a sixty-mile journey past land mines and Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge forces. They

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finally arrived at the Thai border and entered a refugee camp there in October, where he managed to get word of his whereabouts to Schanberg, who met him a week later. Schanberg helped Pran move to the United States, where he was reunited with his family. The New York Times gave him a job as a reporter, and he received his U.S. citizenship in 1986.

Pran began to devote his spare time to helping fellow Cambodians who had suffered under the Khmer Rouge. He took several trips back to Cambodia and attempted to bring the Khmer Rouge to justice before the World Court. He and his wife founded the Dith Pran Holocaust Awareness Project ([www.dithpran.org](http://www.dithpran.org)), which maintains a photographic record on the Internet to assist Cambodians in finding missing family members.

*Click here to read the complete article: <http://www.unasouthernny.org/ypic/extras/pran.doc>*

## WHY? FROM SOMEONE YOUNG AT HEART AND STILL SEEKING ANSWERS

*By Barbara Ratcliff*

I grew up with my Dad's recollections of WWI and hearing his pride in having served in "the war to end all wars," as it was called. Why did my Dad have to fight in the trenches of a foreign country? We watched as President Wilson worked to establish the League of Nations. My childish question: Why did we need this League if that war had ended all wars?

In school, assemblies were called asking us students to accept new and "different" registrants; I remember particularly a girl from Germany and a black girl. Why did we need an assembly directing us to acceptance? With the openness of mind and innocence of youth, I did not understand that.

World leaders assembled in San Francisco to form the United Nations. It was with pride that we watched President Truman drive support and navigate complicated relationships with the Soviet Union and others to help make the United Nations possible. Why were there so many protestations to the formation of the United Nations and criticism of this President who believed in its concept?

World news became distressing and America entered World War II. My brothers and other family members fought abroad...and many contributed from home. A united America built a strong military force, and manufactured and constructed armaments and supplies. These efforts brought victory and catapulted America as a world leader. Why, then, do we find ourselves where we are today with short-sighted arrogant policies having turned many in the world against us?

There was a lot of hope and goodwill for the United Nations. Living in New York as the United Nations building went up, I met many aspirants urgently preparing and studying languages so as to find a place in this organization. Why would we decide to discount this institution and its work, even in the face of looming global issues? Why has America failed to support the UN, seemingly content to point out its problems rather than instituting solutions – throwing out the baby with the bath water, as the saying goes?

Ten years after WWII, I worked in Germany in the period of reconstruction and the Marshall Plan. I recall the frustration of locals I met, and cannot forget looks of sheer hatred from some young German and Russian soldiers. Why had we suffered so badly through a war, and put so much into reconstruction, to see hatred still in people's eyes?

Today, we honor our veterans lost with monuments and ceremonies and over the past eight years have effectively increased reliance upon military and force in international relations. Why, at the same time, do we tolerate inadequate planning for military missions, greatly lacking resources in the field, insufficient support for military families at home, and abysmal services for troops returning home?

I have not yet found answers to all my "whys", and probably will not in my lifetime. But one thing is for sure: when President Obama spoke these words at his Inauguration, they spoke to my questions – and the world was listening. "To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." I thought of what my Dad fought for, and all our veterans, and of the little German girl in my grade school, and the war to end all wars, and the Cold War, and today's wars, and the hate I saw in a Russian's soldier's eyes, and I think that answers will only come when people realize that peace and security are everyone's responsibility. Individually we need to understand that we are citizens of the world, and speak out and take action.

And when Obama said: "To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West – know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy." We built the United Nations, and even where it's imperfect, it is a global forum for dealing with conflict and ills. If there is any chance to use leverage and diplomacy before exercising force and risking lives, we must take it.

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### FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Face to Face with Dr. Marshall Goldman, Discussing his latest book "The Petrostate: Putin Power and the New Russia"

Presentation 7:00 p.m.

The Cosmopolitan Club

122 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10065

Details:

[http://www.unanyc.org/events/current/20090210\\_goldman.html](http://www.unanyc.org/events/current/20090210_goldman.html)

### FEBRUARY 19, 2009

An Evening with Ambassador Gabriela Shalev,  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations  
Reception 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.; Presentation 7:00 p.m.

Columbia University Club of New York

15 W 43rd St, New York, NY 10036

Details:

[http://www.unanyc.org/events/current/20090219\\_shalev.html](http://www.unanyc.org/events/current/20090219_shalev.html)

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*The United Nations Association's Young Professionals for International Cooperation (UNA YPIC) is a national nonpartisan network of young professionals that engages in discussions about international affairs, the importance of multilateral cooperation, and the United Nations. Southern New York YPIC is affiliated with the Southern New York Division of UNA-USA, and serves young professionals and students in the greater New York metropolitan area. We offer exceptional access to experts, diplomats and officials from United Nations headquarters and many international organizations. YPIC runs a year-round calendar of events and in-person and online programs that encourage professional development, networking, political participation, cultural enrichment, community service, and real ways for each of us to make a difference.*

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