This workshop focused analysis and debate on the dynamics and patterns of conflict, violence and displacement in Southern Philippines and Southern Thailand. Though historically diverse and dynamic areas in their own right, they also figure as the ‘Muslim South’ on the (social, political, and economic) periphery of the Philippine, Catholic or the Thai, Buddhist nation-state, respectively. In the current geo-political context, with Southeast Asia declared the second front in the ‘War on Terror,’ the heightened concern with security has also affected these areas, as evidenced by the reintroduction of joint military ‘exercises’ with U.S. forces in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago, and by the intensification of military raids by Thai government troops in Patani and neighbouring southern provinces.

The workshop, held at St Antony’s College, University of Oxford, brought together a mixture of 35 scholars, practitioners and policy makers to exchange perspectives and expertise, with an aim to explore obstacles and opportunities to human security in Southern Philippines and Thailand. Support for this workshop was generously provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CAFOD - Asia Section, and the Asian Studies Centre at St Antony’s College.

Papers from the workshop will shortly be made available through the RSC Working Paper Series.

Further Details are available from:

Dr Eva-Lotta Hedman
Refugee Studies Centre
Queen Elizabeth House
21 St. Giles
Oxford OX1 3LA
Email: eva-lotta.hedman@qeh.ox.ac.uk
Conflict, Violence and Displacement in Southern Philippines and Thailand

A Day of Analysis
Hosted by
The Refugee Studies Centre (RSC)
University of Oxford

Programme
Thursday 28th October 2004,
Dahrendorf Room, St Antony’s College, Oxford

9.30 – 9.45  Registration and Coffee
9.45 – 10.00 Welcome Address by Stephen Castles (Director, RSC)
            Workshop Introduction by Lotta Hedman (RSC)

Session I: Southern Philippines
Chair: Stephen Castles (Director, RSC)

10.00-10.20 The Cultural Impact of Conflict and Displacement in Two Northern Mindanao Provinces
RockRock Antequisa (Country Program Researcher, CAFOD)

10.30-10.50 Terrorism and the Internationalisation of the Southern Philippine Conflict
Kit Collier (Visiting Fellow, Australian National University)

11.00-11.20 An Economic and Political Agenda to Address the Conflict in Southern Philippines
Eric Gutierrez (Researcher, Institute for Popular Democracy)

11.30-12.30 Discussion

12.30-13.30 Sandwich Lunch

Session II: Southern Thailand
Chair: Lotta Hedman (Senior Research Fellow, RSC)

13.30-13.50 The Present Situation in Southern Thailand and Its Impact on Local Populations
M. Abdus Sabur (Secretary General, Asian Muslim Action Network)

14.00-14.20 Political Violence, Narratives of Separatism, and Alternative Political Tensions in Southern Thailand
Carlo Bonura (Assistant Professor, University of Puget Sound)

14.30-14.50 Electing Integration? Campaigning, Elections and Political Integration in the South
Jim Ockey (Senior Lecturer, University of Canterbury)

15.00-16.00 Discussion (Coffee and tea)
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Speakers

Cariño V. Antequisa (RockRock), Country Program Consultant, Cafod, and Consultative Group Member, VSO Mindanao Program. He is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Pakigdait, Lanao del Norte, and a Member of the Management Committee, Trainer, and Lecturer at the Mindanao Peace Institute, Davao City, and (former) Regional Coordinator of the Tri-Peoples Partnership for Peace and Development, Ozamiz City. His publications include ‘Reflections on the Mindanao War’ (2000) and ‘Historical Awareness: A Step towards Forgiveness’ (2004) in the quarterly journal Paglaum.

Carlo Bonura, Luce Assistant Professor of Islamic Societies in Southeast Asia, Department of Politics and Government, University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. His Ph.D. thesis is focused on Islamic education and the formation of political community in southern Thailand (University of Washington, 2002). His publications include essays on Southeast Asian Studies in an edited volume, Subject, Knowledge, Discipline: Southeast Asian Area Studies in 21st Century America (forthcoming).

Stephen Castles, Professor of Migration and Refugee Studies, and Director of the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. He has carried out research on migration and multicultural societies in Europe, Australia and Asia for many years. He currently chairs the UK Home Office Advisory Panel on Country Information. He is the author of numerous publications, including The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World (co-authored, 2003, 3rd ed.), Migration in the Asia Pacific: Population, Settlement and Citizenship Issues (co-edited, 2003); and States of Conflict: Causes and Patterns of Forced Migration to the EU and Policy Responses (co-authored, 2003).


Eric Gutierrez, Regional Research and Advocacy Adviser for Southern Africa, WaterAid and (former) Deputy Director of the Institute for Popular Democracy in the Philippines. He has written extensively on Philippine politics, and his recent related publications include The Moro Conflict: Landlessness and Misdirected Policies (co-authored, 2004), and Rebels, Warlords, and Ulama A Reader on Muslim Separatism and the War in Southern Philippines (co-edited, 2000).

Eva-Lotta E. Hedman, Senior Research Fellow, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. She has written widely on the Philippines, including Philippine Politics and Society in the 20th Century: Colonial Legacies, Post-Colonial Trajectories (co-authored, 2000). Other publications focus on the political dynamics of forced migration in the region: East Timor in

James S. Ockey, Senior Lecturer, School of Political Science and Communications, University of Canterbury at Christchurch, New Zealand. He has written extensively on Thai politics, with recent journal articles published in Asian Survey, Journal of Asian Studies, Modern Asian Studies, Political Science, and Sojourn. The author of Making Democracy: Leadership, Class, Gender and Political Participation in Thailand (2004), he is currently finishing a book on local-level politics.

M. Abdus Sabur, General Secretary and Co-founder of the Asian Resource Foundation (ARF), and Co-Director of the School of Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation in Bangkok. He is also Co-founder of the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) and the Bangladesh Consumer Association. From 1986-1996, he served as Coordinator of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD). He has edited a number of publications, including Understanding Human Rights: Perspectives from South Asia, Interfaith Conference on the Culture of Peace, Globalization and Asian Perspectives for an Alternative Development, and Towards Peace in Multi-Ethnic Asia.
Conflict, Violence and Displacement in Southern Philippines and Thailand

A Day of Analysis

Organised by
Dr Eva-Lotta E. Hedman

Hosted by the
Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House
University of Oxford

Participants

Dedhi Adhuri
Visiting Fellow, Refugee Studies Centre

Aguswandi
Researcher, TAPOL - The Indonesian Human Rights Campaign

Rubina Ahmed
Postgraduate Student, Refugee Studies Centre

RockRock Antequisa
Country Program Accompanier, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, Philippines

Carlo Bonura
Assistant Professor, University of Puget Sound, Washington

Graham Brown
Research Officer, Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity

Andy Carl
Director, Conciliation Resources

Isabelle Carton
Campaigner - South East Asia Team, Amnesty International

Stephen Castles
Director, Refugee Studies Centre

Dawn Chatty
Deputy Director, Refugee Studies Centre

Andrew Clayton
Regional Manager - South East Asia, Christian Aid

Kit Collier
Visiting Fellow, Australian National University
James Darcy  
Acting Coordinator, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

Narola Das  
Refugee Studies Centre

Rachel Disprose  
Postgraduate Student, Refugee Studies Centre

Lillianne Fan  
Researcher, Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity

Rosemary Foot  
Professor of International Relations, St Antony’s College

Emma Fraser  
Desk Officer, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department, DFID

Katherine Gerson  
International Secretariat, Amnesty International

Jennifer Griffiths  
Asian Studies Centre, St Antony’s College

Eric Gutierrez  
Contributing Researcher, Institute for Popular Democracy, Philippines

Eva-Lotta Hedman  
Senior Research Fellow, Refugee Studies Centre

Kathleen Kazer  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Gil Loescher  
Senior Research Fellow, Department for Politics and International Relations

Sean Loughna  
Joint-Deputy Director, Forced Migration Online

Sarah Meyer  
Postgraduate Student, Refugee Studies Centre

Mark Miller  
Desk Officer, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department, DFID

James Ockey  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Canterbury at Christchurch

Evangeline Ong-Jimenez  
Political Officer, Philippine Embassy

Tim Parritt  
Researcher, South East Asia Team, Amnesty International
Kate Prudden
Administrative Assistant, Refugee Studies Centre

Paul Reddicliffe
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Paul Ryder
Research Information Officer, Refugee Studies Centre

M. Abdus Sabur
Secretary General, Asian Muslim Action Network, Thailand

John T. Sidel
Reader, School of African and Oriental Studies

Frances Stewart
Director, Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity

David Turton
Former Director, Refugee Studies Centre

Marianna Volpi
Postgraduate Student, Queen Elizabeth House

Chika Watanabe
Postgraduate Student, Refugee Studies Centre