SpeakOut! 2008
International Human Rights Training Programme

21st – 22nd of August 2008
Clingendael Institute, The Hague

UNPO Report
September 2008
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contents Page</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNPO Overview</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpeakOut! Overview</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops, Topics and Activities</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Format – Train the Trainer</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Selection</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporters</td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and Future Training</td>
<td>xvii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of Photographs</td>
<td>xix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNPO Overview

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organization. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognized or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.

Founded in 1991 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, UNPO is unique as an international organization in that it is built entirely by its Members. Through this strong connection to those suffering the consequences of the exclusion the organization seeks to address, UNPO has since grown into a prominent and respected international forum.

UNPO has continued its mission to bring representatives of nations and people together to find nonviolent solutions to the conflicts affecting their communities through projects such as SpeakOut! International Human Rights Training Program, with the hope of achieving international solidarity. Working with its Members, UNPO has facilitated their increased involvement in mechanisms and institutions that allow their opinions and concerns to be voiced, also helping these mechanisms and institutions to fulfill their mandates.

While human rights violations often require context-specific action, a wide range of Members have gained important knowledge of the options for action through training programs provided by UNPO. Trainings take place upon request by Members. Continuity and the transfer of knowledge and skills to a younger generation is considered fundamental to the work of UNPO. These trainings utilize the train-the-trainer technique, which has the benefit of significant multiplier effects. UNPO’s initiatives focus on interactive training methods and problem based learning, providing space for interactive dialogue.

UNPO’s membership has also grown steadily from its original fifteen founders, representing now over 50 Members worldwide. UNPO’s Members consist of minority groups, indigenous groups and unrecognised or occupied territories. UNPO works to address the consequences of marginalisation, working with its Members to promote their democratic causes, to provide information, and to articulate creative and nonviolent strategies for progress. Above all, UNPO works to ensure their voices are heard. Although the work of UNPO adapts continually to meet the challenges of its Members and the nature of the international political climate, each Member remains committed to respecting the five principles enshrined in the UNPO Covenant: nonviolence, human rights, democracy and self-determination, environmental protection, and tolerance.

UNPO remains committed to offering an increasing number of nations and peoples an entry point into the international community, enabling its Members also to learn from one another; lending their support where there are setbacks and sharing their experiences in success.
**SpeakOut! Overview**

Since 1991 the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) has represented the issues and concerns of all its members across the globe. Though different human rights situations ask for tailor-made action, a wide range of members has endeavoured to educate themselves through training programmes provided by UNPO. These have taken place upon request by different Members, parallel to high-level meetings at the United Nations and the European Parliament and in a variety of other ways and forms. However, continuity and transfer of knowledge and skills to a younger generation often seemed problematic due to a variety of reasons.

Given these facts, UNPO identified the need amongst its Members to have training programmes developed specifically to bridge this gap in knowledge transfer. Taking its experience in offering trainings on a variety of topics relating to human rights, UNPO developed a programme that was based on the training-of-trainer technique with a focus on keeping the training interactive and adding elements of problem based learning. UNPO felt that if youths could be trained to educate their peers, a multiplier effect would make a valuable addition to this training. In addition, providing room for interactive dialogue and problem based learning modules added to the practical understanding of the theory behind human rights law and the mechanisms called into life in order to protect human rights.

It was after identifying this need and after deciding upon a format for a training in which youths would feel comfortable to participate, that UNPO decided to host its first of, what is hoped to become, a long series of trainings in The Hague, international city of peace and justice and city where UNPO was founded nearly 20 years ago. SpeakOut! 2008 was aimed at training a new generation of human rights defenders, especially focused on youth of Asian indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.
Programme

Day 1 - 21 August 2008

9:00 – 9:15 Arrival / Registration
9:15 – 10:00 Welcome Session - Welcome from UNPO!
   Guests of Honour
   - Senator Marco Perduca, Italy – UNPO Treasurer
   - Ambassador Larry Wang – Ambassador of Taiwan to the Netherlands
10:00 – 11:30 Workshop 1: Human Rights and the United Nations
   – Ms. Judy Fu: Introduction to Human Rights Instruments
   – Ms. Agnes Venema, UNPO: Effective Lobbying at the United Nations
13.00 – 14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 18:00 Workshop 3: Creative Activism
   – Mr. Kevan Berthou Introduction to Innovative Nonviolent Activism
18.00 – 18:30 Dinner
18:30 Networking Evening - Clingendael

Day 2 - 22 August 2008

9:30 All Participants meet at The Hague Central Station
10:15 Visit to International Criminal Court
12:30 Visit to the Special Court for Sierra Leone
14:15 – 15:15 Lunch
16.15 – 18:15 Workshop 5: Mr. Andrew Swan, UNPO
   – Using the Media to Raise Human Rights Awareness
18.15 – 19:00 Establishing Goals and Evaluation
19.00 Closing Ceremony
Workshops, Topics and Activities

Workshop 1: Ms. Judy Fu – Introduction to Human Rights Instruments

Due to time constraints the program was cut shorter than initially planned. This also meant that certain elements UNPO had planned for the training had to be cancelled. Nonetheless, it was deemed important that the training would be as holistic as possible, providing participants not only with theoretical knowledge, but also with tools that they can effectively make use of when they have returned to their respective communities.

To this end, it was decided that in order for the training to have the most effect, a common basis of knowledge in law had to be established, focusing on human rights law. Thus the first session focussed on providing participants with a crash course in the history of law and how certain treaties and institutions came into being. This section also saw a special focus on Asia and the development of regional human rights instruments and the establishment of special courts.

Born in Hong Kong, Ms. Judy Fu was able to provide the insights on the history of law and developments of human rights mechanism in Asia. Ms. Fu currently studies law at the London School of Economic and was therefore considered to be an excellent candidate for this lecture. She combined personal experience with academic knowledge and thus managed to engage participants into debate on some seemingly controversial topics, such as women’s rights and the concept of universality.
Workshop 2: Ms. Agnes Venema, UNPO – Effective Lobbying at the United Nations

In addition to this legal background, UNPO required it necessary to provide participants insight into the international institutions – most notably the United Nations – and to provide them with skills and information on how to best interact with such institutions and their representatives. Thus, a session on Effective Lobbying at the UN was included, mostly focusing on those bodies of the UN which have an interactive relationship with civil society and to which civil society can effectively contribute. Combining factual knowledge about the United Nations with practical experience, the participants were challenged to step into the shoes of an NGO representative at the UN and they were asked to prepare a short intervention to the UN Human Rights Council, based upon a scenario provided by UNPO. To this end they had to make use of both knowledge on the workings of the United Nations, as well as skills learned on effective lobbying and the use of language.

The session was given by Ms. Agnes Venema, who is the programme coordinator United Nations at UNPO. Having attended several sessions of the UN Human Rights Council as the main coordinator and representative for UNPO, Ms. Venema is well equipped to explain the complex system of human rights bodies within the United Nations.
Workshop 3: Mr. Kevan Berthou – Introduction to Innovative Nonviolent Activism

Turning the focus more towards outreach and raising public awareness, the training continued with a session on creative nonviolent activism. However, before moving towards the more creative element of the session, a discussion was held on the meaning of ‘nonviolence’, providing participants with several examples of ‘creative activism’ and opening up the floor for debate on whether or not these examples are deemed nonviolent. Following this debate, the session continued with outlining different modes of activism and their impact on the general public.

Mr. Kevan Berthou has ample experience in creative nonviolent activism. UNPO was acquainted with his skills when organizing a demonstration in the heart of Geneva in September 2007. His involvement in several NGOs and the imaginative actions he has undertaken, always adhering to the principle of nonviolence made Mr. Berthou an excellent leader of the Introduction to Innovative Nonviolent Activism. In addition to his vast knowledge on the topic at hand, his multicultural background, and contagious enthusiasm were well received by the participants in general. As such, he sparked debate amongst participants on the meaning and practical implications of nonviolence and on the pros and cons of nonviolent activism.
Networking Evening – Clingendael

Furthermore, as an integral part of the training encouraging the participants to develop and practise their skills in an information setting, a networking lounge was hosted by Clingendael. Apart from representatives of the institute itself and of the organizing NGOs, we were able to welcome delegates from KREDDHA, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Global Human Rights Defense.
Fieldtrip to the International Criminal Court and the Special Court for Sierra Leone

UNPO believed that in addition to having topical interactive sessions, a visit to one of the institutes that were discussed would aid in better conceptualizing the provided information. Thus, as an integral part of the training, the participants visited the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, where they were offered an insight in the workings of the Court and informed over the relation between the Court and civil society and civilians. Following this visit, the participants were offered the opportunity to sit in on the trial of Mr. Charles Tailor as part of the visit to the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.
Workshop 4: Senator Marco Perduca – Financing Human Rights Initiatives

Adding to the practical application of skills learned, the training involved a session on financing human rights activities. Because of the average age of the target group and considering the fact that all participants have developed themselves in different manners, this session extended over a broad range of fundraising activities: from calls of the European Commission for project proposals to singing on the streets for your cause and everything in between.

The importance of having a solid plan to finance human rights activities was introduced by Senator Marco Perduca; Member of the Italian Senate, but far most present in the capacity of UNPO treasurer. As such, he guided the session on Financing Human Rights Initiatives, providing practical tips, in addition to anecdotes of his young life as human rights activist on the streets of Italy. Senator Perduca’s experience with financing human rights initiatives is resourceful, both from the activism side, as from the side of the government or institute allocating funds. Thus, the focus of this session was both on funding projects through calls for proposals, as well as financing the daily activities of human rights activists, such as raising money in order to print flyers.
Another area essential to touch upon during the training is the use of media. UNPO’s experience is that press releases, letters to the editor, website texts and flyers for general distribution are generally badly written and lack important information. Therefore, a session on the use of the media was included, outlining the different types of media and the various approaches that one can use. Issues that were discussed included: the use of language, timing, content of a press release and giving a press conference. The main message of the workshop was that a well written press release attracts attention and persuades the media to be involved in your activity.

This workshop was given by Mr. Andrew Swan, who was in charge of UNPO’s media relations during the last UNPO General Assembly in Brussels. Regularly enjoying interaction with the media community in Brussels where he is based, Mr. Swan has become an insider with regards to media relations. As such, he did not only outline the pros and cons of several media sources and the different techniques that can be applied, but also identified possible pitfalls and provided the participants with the opportunity to identify those during an interactive debate on writing press releases.
Evaluation

The last day of the training saw a closing exercise which focussed on the creation of personal action plans of each participant, thereby encouraging them to actively make use of their acquired knowledge and skills in order to do something for their peoples, or to raise awareness about human rights in general.
Training Format – Train the Trainer

From the onset it was deemed important that youths participating to this training would get the opportunity and the means to become the teacher themselves by way of teaching their peers what knowledge they had gained and what skills they had acquired at the training.

Even though the original concept of the project entailed a 5 day training programme, this turned out to be both financially out of reach, as did it seem a rather time-consuming activity for this specific target group, limiting the possibilities for participants to attend. Thus it was decided to cover a general overview of international and human rights law, including some of its main mechanisms and practical information on how to interact with these mechanisms. Furthermore, it was decided to include training sessions on both creative nonviolent activism and financing human rights initiatives, in order to stimulate participants to the most to use the acquired knowledge and give them the tools to practically implement them within the specifics of their relevant struggles.

Due to the interactive nature of the training and the average age of the participants, UNPO decided that debates and interactive exercises would benefit from an informal atmosphere. Therefore, considering the capacities and various areas of expertise of staff members of UNPO and its partner organizations, it was decided to keep the training as informal as possible. In effect this meant that trainings were given by activists from the field that work with the systems, theories and concepts that they are explaining on a daily basis.

Since UNPO valued a relaxed atmosphere in which interactive dialogue and interventions are encouraged, we deemed it important for the lecturers to be professionals from the field, working with the mechanisms that they explain on a daily basis. Combining the resources and expertise of UNPO and its partner organization No Peace Without Justice, we were able to attract a young team of human rights defenders capable of training the participants. A gender balance was also taken into account when approaching various experts.

All lecturers were asked to prepare materials and an interactive presentation on their respective topics, discussions were stimulated amongst the participants and as such an open atmosphere was created. This also gave the opportunity for the lecturers to complement each other with experiences and tips or in answering questions.

In order to aid participants in engaging in human rights advocacy, every topical session was not only presented by one of the experts from the team, but written background material was also handed out in booklet form. UNPO adopted this strategy because it believes that these materials will not only aid the participants in recollecting the information they received during the training, but it will also encourage the participants to share the information with their interested peers, leading to a multiplier effect. In order to facilitate this transfer of knowledge and skills, we decided to provide all participants with a hardcopy of the information in booklet form and with a softcopy, on CD-Rom.

Furthermore, seen in the broader context of organizing a range of trainings in different locations, it was decided to give each training a specific theme or regional application. Considering the historical background of the Netherlands, the expertise within the training team, as well as the unique partners to be found in The Hague, it was decided to focus this first SpeakOut! training on Asia.
Participant Selection

Due to the fact that the call for participants was released on a quite short notice before the training and during the summer months when most of the target group is either on holiday or working a summer job, recruiting participants seemed to be difficult at first. However, when the deadline was nearing, applications streamed in and some potential participants enquired after the possibility of participating after the closing date for applications.

Applicants were selected on the basis of their CV and their motivation letter, with the latter being most important. UNPO feels that if someone is sincerely dedicated to a certain cause but has for one reason or another not been in the position to gain any meaningful experience in the field of human rights, that should not automatically lead to declining the applicant. In addition to this selection on the basis of merit, so to speak, UNPO endeavoured to attracting participants representing and having a genuine interest in different parts of Asia. As such, a wide array of different participants was accepted, including Dutch students with a general interest in human rights in Asia.

Another key element UNPO did not want to loose sight of was to foster a gender balance in the participants of the training. Whereas women individually applied and delegations existing of two persons in general applied an equal gender division, larger delegations unfortunately only send men. Nonetheless, in the end we had fourteen male and eight female participants, but the women present at the training were vocal in presenting their opinions and were at times more involved in the heated debate, making up for their slight underrepresentation.

Lastly, UNPO required all participants to have good command of English in order to participate in the training as this would be the common language. In general, such a requirement is difficult to check, especially when applications are made by e-mail and not by personal interview. However, the level of English of almost all of the participants was more then sufficient in order to follow the training. In addition there seemed to be a relative large group that had either French or German command, making it easy for participants and staff to help each other out when the wording of a technical term in English seemed complicated.

Considering the origins of the participants, there was a very wide geographical distribution. One was from India, five from East Turkestan, two from West Papua, one from Indonesia, one Ahwazi, one Tamil, four Khmer Krom and six Dutch.
Supporters

The generous support from the City of The Hague, thanks to the efforts of Wethouder Huffnagel and the International (Expat) Desk, the Haëlla Foundation, The Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael), No Peace without Justice and Van Der Stroom Computers for the first edition of SpeakOut! Training a new generation human rights defenders’ has made possible an important contribution to the knowledge and skills of a young generation of human rights defenders, eager to address the injustices of this world. Their contribution to the protection of human rights benefits all, UNPO Members and citizens around the world alike. None of this could have been realized without the support of this training’s sponsors and it is a testament of the importance that should be attached the training that we were able to make possible.

UNPO is very grateful for the ongoing support it gets from her partner organization No Peace without Justice. Furthermore, we want to say thank you to the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, who was generous enough to host the training for this event in The Hague, and the City of The Hague who has contributed tremendously to the training, as have the donations of the Haëlla Foundation and Van der Stroom Computers.

In addition, the attendance of Mr. Larry Wang, Ambassador of Taiwan to the Netherlands to officially open the first edition of SpeakOut! was much valued. Furthermore, all institutions and NGOs who accepted our invitation to partake in the Networking Lounge have made this interactive exercise a success. Therefore, UNPO would like to express her gratitude, in addition to the persons and institutes mentioned before, to the delegations from KREDDHA, the Coalition of the International Criminal Court, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Global Human Rights Defense.
Evaluation and Future Training

Comments received during and subsequent to the training have made it clear that there is an appetite among youths to increase their knowledge in the field of human rights, debate seemingly conflicting rights and analyse how to best make use of the means available to them within the international system that can aid in bringing about change in areas where human rights violations are currently a daily reality.

UNPO is already working to develop and improve the training programme, adapting it to the wishes and needs of the groups that have invited UNPO to hold similar trainings, as well as to provide specific training on different regional human rights systems. In order to best evaluate the effectiveness of the training and its ability of fulfilling the needs of the participants, UNPO has asked all participants to fill in an evaluation form at the end of the training. Using this feedback, UNPO was able to evaluate the first edition of SpeakOut! and identify areas in which improvement is necessary. Some of those key findings are presented below:

Overall, the topics of the different sessions were much valued by the individual participants. From the evaluation forms, all sessions are about equally assessed by the participants and are generally deemed equally useful.

With regards to the different events organized (networking lounge, visit to the ICC and the visit to the Special Court for Sierra Leone) opinions were more divided. Some had little interest in visiting either court; others deemed the visit to the Special Court for Sierra Leone irrelevant given the training’s focus on Asia. As such, the training should look for excursions more relevant to the overarching theme of the training. The networking lounge was perceived by many as useful, though some participants had difficulty engaging into conversation with people they had never met before which indicated the exact challenge for which this event was organized. However, this has led to the networking lounge also receiving a mixed evaluation.

With regards to the length of the event and of some sessions, some participants had difficulties staying focussed for so long. Thus, more interactive exercises would be a welcome change in the program. Albeit this critique, only 2 out of 22 participants would not recommend this training to peers or colleagues, which can be seen as an overall positive evaluation of the training at large. In addition, almost all participants felt comfortable after the training to teach some of the skills and knowledge acquired during the training to their peers. As the training-of-trainer approach was one of the major strategies of this edition of SpeakOut! the feedback provided leads UNPO to conclude that the training in this aspect was very successful.

We are hoping to hear back soon from out participants to see if they have been able to put any of their acquired skills into practise or whether or not they have been able to convey some of the knowledge to their peers. To this effect, UNPO will e-mail all participants their ‘personal action plans’ that they have created at the end of the last day of the training, which outlines the prospects of the individual participants. By reminding all participants of their voluntary commitment they made on the last day of the training, UNPO wants to renew the spark of enthusiasm amongst the participants and to so assist them into making their plans reality.
As stated before, *SpeakOut!* is a project that UNPO envisages to carry out on an ongoing basis. Feedback from participants and requests from various member organizations of UNPO have indicated that there is indeed a need for such a training focusing on equipping a new generation of human rights defenders.

Given the interest in this project from participants living abroad and in particular outside of Europe, it is envisaged that this project will eventually also be taught on location – i.e. on the continent or in the region on which it focuses. Whether this will be feasible within the near future will have to depend on the financial support that UNPO can get from its various partners.

Currently, the situation does not allow for UNPO to organize trainings outside of Europe. The Netherlands is, for now, the preferred location for the *SpeakOut!* trainings, due to the expertise that is to be found in and around The Netherlands and the extraordinary partners that UNPO has managed to find in the area. Nevertheless, options of holding the training in the United Kingdom and Belgium are being discussed with various partners.
Selection of Photographs
The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organization founded in 1991. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.