

Consortium of Civil Peace Service on the Corona Pandemic:

Escalation threat in fragile states - peace work must continue

International partnership, human solidarity and flexible scope for action are needed

Bonn/Berlin, 04/09/2020. The Consortium of Civil Peace Services warns of new hotspots of conflict and outbreaks of violence in the Corona Pandemic. Especially in crisis and conflict regions, there is a risk that conflicts will intensify and violence will break out. Fragile societies now need international support and human solidarity to maintain peace. The CPS/ZFD and its partners are therefore continuing their work and responding to the new challenges.

The Corona pandemic hits fragile societies particularly hard. The often precarious health care system is on the verge of collapse. Difficult living conditions and poverty promote the spread of the Corona virus and lead to a drastic increase in social tensions and domestic violence. Conflicts are exacerbated by scarcity of resources, insecurity and fears. There is evidence that authoritarian governments are using preventive measures against the virus to further limit the scope of civil society. "We fear that conflicts in crisis and conflict regions will increase and escalate more quickly as a result of the consequences of the Corona pandemic," said Alexander Mauz, spokesman for the Civil Peace Service Consortium. "We have to keep going as best we can. Fragile societies now urgently need our support in preventing violence and promoting peace."

The peace work of the CPS/ZFD is therefore continued, mostly in the home office and with virtual communication tools. Health is a top priority. In Kenya, CPS/ZFD professionals support the UMOJA-Radio for peace network, which protects the population from fake news that could trigger unrest with daily fact checks. UMOJA also produces its own material for 42 radio stations of the network and other stations. In Rwanda, CPS/ZFD partner Never Again Rwanda (NAR) relies on youth: "We use imagery and video clips to raise awareness among the young people on social networks of their role in the fight against the virus," says Director Dr. Nkurunziza.

The serious economic, social and political consequences of the pandemic threaten peace in many countries in the long term. "The Civil Peace Service is now and in the future firmly at the side of its partners," Mauz said. "Currently, we need the best possible flexibility in the CPS/ZFD program to meet acute needs and to support confidence-building measures of the partners. Together, we will also find answers to the long-term challenges of peace work."

More about peace work in the time of Corona: www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org

About the CPS/ZFD: The Civil Peace Service (ZFD) is a program for violence prevention and peace promotion in crisis and conflict regions. It advocates a world in which conflicts are settled without violence. Nine German peace and development organizations run the CPS/ZFD together with local partner organizations. The CPS/ZFD is funded by the Federal Government. CPS/ZFD professionals support local people in their long-term commitment to dialogue, human rights and peace. Currently, 350 international CPS/ZFD specialists work in 45 countries.

Contact: Public Relations Consortium ZFD, Martina Rieken: Tel: 0228-24 999 18; Mail: rieken@ziviler-friedensdienst.org

Consortium of Civil Peace
Service
www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org

Press and Public Relations
Martina Rieken
Phone 0228 24999-18
Fax 0228 24999-20
rieken@ziviler-friedensdienst.org

Consortium of Civil Peace
Service:
Spokesperson:
Jürgen Deile
Alexander Mauz
Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den
Frieden (AGDF)
AGIAMONDO
Brot für die Welt
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
EIRENE Internationaler Christlicher
Friedensdienst
Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst
(forumZFD)
KURVE Wustrow - Bildungs- und
Begegnungsstätte für gewaltfreie
Aktion
peace brigades international
Weltfriedensdienst (WFD)