



### Sudan - a Call to Action

Randy Butler, CEO of The Institute, recently led a team to Sudan in response to a request by a group of Sudanese participants at this year's ISP's Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) for the ISP to train individuals in Sudan to conduct a series of workshops in Sudan beginning in 2010. During his 10-day stay in Sudan, Butler met with more than 75 people, including journalists, leaders of political parties, national government ministers, religious leaders and grass roots leaders.

Everyone Butler met with expressed the need for conflict transformation and capacity building in their country. What also came across loud and clear was the urgency of the need. Sudan faces its first elections in more than 25 years this April, and a referendum on the separation of Southern Sudan by the end of 2010. Both these elections have the potential to plunge the country into a renewed civil war.

In response to the urgent need for conflict transformation, the ISP is planning to conduct a series of workshops in Sudan in 2010, as well as training sessions that will enable Sudanese leaders to conduct additional workshops. A grant proposal is being submitted for this project.

To read more about Butler's trip to Sudan and about how The Institute plans to respond, click [here](#). You can also view a video of Butler's live report [here](#).

### Real Peace-Building

One of the last people that Butler met with on his trip to Sudan was Al Sadig Al Mahdi, the last democratically-elected Prime Minister of Sudan.

Al Mahdi echoed the urgent need for conflict transformation in Sudan, indicating that he knows of no other organization in Sudan doing peace-building. He said that many westerners confuse security and humanitarian aid with peace-building. While the former are helpful and even necessary, they cannot take the place of peace-building.



## Strengthening Coalitions of Sudanese NGOs

In November, Butler and ISP's Sudanese Diaspora Project Manager Makki Makki attended the organizational and training meeting of The Sudanese Advocacy Network (SAN), a conference in Washington, DC. During the conference, leaders of the Sudanese Diaspora in the U.S. were trained in advocacy, communication and team-building. Randy spoke to the group about the importance of the work that they are doing and encouraged them to persevere through the difficult work that lies ahead. More than 50 organizations were represented at the conference, each pledging to meet again to build an umbrella network that will foster communication and cooperation across organizations.

## ISP Achieves Matching Challenge Grant Goal

In our last issue of PeaceNotes, we announced that John and Ann Montgomery, long time supporters of The Institute, made a challenge matching grant. For every dollar given in response to the challenge, John and Ann would donate a dollar up to \$10,000. The purpose of the challenge grant was to raise funds to enhance our ability to communicate our mission and message to a much wider audience throughout the United States and much of the rest of the world. We are pleased to announce that we rose to the challenge and met our goal! Thank you all for your generous support and a special thank you to John and Ann for their continuing generosity and leadership!

## ISP Welcomes Development Director

We are pleased to announce that Anne Whitlock has joined The ISP as our Development Director. Anne received her master's degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and her B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has over fifteen years experience working for foundations and non-profits in the areas of program management and fundraising. Her experience in the private sector experience includes running her own computer importing business in Costa Rica and work with several internet startups in Dallas. She serves on numerous local boards in Houston. She has lived and worked in Costa Rica, Mexico and Mali, West Africa. She is fluent in Spanish and has a working knowledge of French. Welcome Anne!

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