

## **SHALOM EDUCATING FOR PEACE**

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# **Report on the speaking tour 2017**

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**Held in Germany,  
From 10 to 31 May 2017**

**Prepared by**

**Jean de Dieu Basabose,**

**Executive Director**

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# Report on the speaking tour in Germany

## 1. Introduction

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May, the executive director of SEP, Jean de Dieu Basabose had a speaking tour in Germany. The activity was organized in the framework of the friend-&-fund-raising strategy of the organization. The tour included two cities, Marburg and Berlin, and interactions with various potential partners. Jean de Dieu attended meetings, conferences and speaking events. He also met with many organizations during the Kirchentag 2017 in Berlin, which was an event in Germany to commemorate 100 years of Luther. He visited some organizations and explored possibilities of partnership with SEP. The trip was a worthwhile investment as it created visibility and awareness of the work of SEP as well as the challenges the organization is facing and provided good opportunities to invite potential supporters and partners to give a hand to SEP in pursuing its mission of building and sustaining positive peace through education. As SEP is located at the interface between academics and practitioners, the trip was marked by meetings with a wide range of potential peacebuilding related University centers, NGOs, religious communities, goodwill people (such as the Rotary club) as well as developmental and political foundations.

This report provides brief information about the trip. It relates the objectives and the central theme of speaking events. It presents organizations encountered during the trip and possible venues for partnerships or collaboration in the future. The report also shares the lessons learned and way forward and projections in order to materialize the explored partnerships. It presents financial statements of the trip and ends by expressing acknowledgement and gratitude for the generous support that made the trip a reality.

## 2. Central theme and objectives of the trip

The centre theme of the tour was SEP's work on and lessons learned from SEP's reconciliation work in Rwanda. The audience at different events held in Germany was reminded of everyone's responsibility to reconcile violent conflict if we have to effectively respond to contemporary global challenges, including the forced migration crisis that Europe and other parts of the world are currently experiencing.

The trip pursued the following specific objectives:

- Presenting SEP's work and achievements;
- Receiving feedback on SEP's work from peacebuilding academics and practitioners in a different context as well as learning from their experience and current interest and investment in terms of building a just, reconciled and peaceful world;
- Encouraging university students and increasing their interest to invest in peacebuilding through SEP;
- Mobilising friends and supporters of SEP in Germany and exploring partnerships with university peacebuilding centers, the social responsibility departments in German companies, religious communities in Germany, Foundations, Rotary Clubs and German NGOs.



Suzanne, Jean de Dieu and Timothy

In addition to the information compiled in the document prepared for the tour (see appendix 1), the trip created opportunities to invite partnerships in implementing SEP's projects such as: Strengthening Community-level Reconciliation; Ubupfura project (an Anti-corruption education as a way of building positive peace in Rwanda); Radio peacebuilding (which is intended to be transformed into a distance learning programme); Reinforcing Capacities of District/Sector Forums for Reconciliation in Rwanda, and ECAPSH (Ending Corporal and Alienating Punishments in Schools and Homes).

### Events and connections made during the trip

The trip to Germany provided opportunities for developing connections with interesting people and organizations which are potential partners in developing peacebuilding projects in future.

On 11<sup>th</sup> May, the director of SEP was invited to attend a regional meeting of a network of development organisations in Hassen. The meeting was held at Giessen. The participants came from 17 organisations operating at local, regional, national and international levels, including Bildungsreferat Weltladen Gießen; Verein zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaft Gießen, Pachamama Connexión; Weltläden Hessen; Micha Lokalgruppe Marburg; TERRA TECH Förderprojekte e.V.; Atrium e.V.; Sozialer Friedensdienst Kassel e.V.; Frankfurt postcolonial und Promotionsstudentin an der JLU Gießen; ISW Marburg; Stadt Gladenbach; Institut für Transformationsstudien – Development Studies; Friedens- und Konfliktforschung Uni Marburg; Friedenspädagogik; Weltladen Alsfeld; Weltladen Gladenbach; Initiative Afghanisches Hilfswerk e.V.; ESG Gießen ; BSG Bad Nauheim (Berufliche Schulen am Gradierwerk); Promotor Innen programm Hessen. During the meeting the director of SEP presented the work done by the organization and challenges faced in its peacebuilding efforts. He invited participants to have their organizations invest in areas of peace education and engaging members of the diaspora from conflict countries (such as Rwanda) in reconciliation processes. He also invited partnerships with the organizations and their support in its fundraising efforts.

From 12 to 14 May, Jean de Dieu participated in a three days seminar organized by Imbuto e.v. under the theme of 'Searching for a better life'. During this seminar, Jean de Dieu delivered a presentation entitled "Reconciliation: A way to creating a better future". In addition to sharing the experiences of SEP and lessons learned from SEP's work in Rwanda, Jean de Dieu engaged participants in a discussions on the process of reconciliation in their respective societies.



The participants at the Seminar organized by Imbuto e.v.



Suzanne, Jean de Dieu and

From 15 to 19 May, a series of meetings took place. On 15 May, Jean paid a visit to the Centre for Conflict Studies, at Philipps University Marburg. He met Prof. **Susanne Buckley-Zistel**, the Director and Timothy Williams, the researcher fellow at the centre. During the meeting different possibilities of partnerships between SEP and the Centre were explored. One area of possible partnership which should be further explored in future consists of undertaking joint efforts in developing a research project looking at a comparative study on reconciliation approaches applied in the Great Lakes Region, especially in Rwanda and Burundi, and learning about their effectiveness.

On 17 May, Jean visited the International Research and Documentation Center for War Crimes Trials. At the Centre, he met Dr. Wolfgang Form and Prof. Stephanie Bock. The meeting explored the areas of possible collaboration between SEP and the centre, especially in building social cohesion and restoring relations between victims and offenders in a context of post-war and genocide. The meeting generated particular interest in making efforts to assist the perpetrators in the process of emotional healing and social re-integration, which are very important aspects of sustainable reconciliation. It was concluded that both organizations will continue the conversations on possibilities of joining efforts in this area of intervention.



Jean de Dieu and Wolfgang

On 19 May, a meeting with TERRA TECH Förderprojekte e.V. in Marburg took place. Jean met Frank Beutell, project manager at the organization. The meeting explored possible collaboration and concluded with two options: (i) SEP might apply for a small grant (up to 3000 Euro) and (2) Terra Tech could provide SEP with technical assistance and advice in submitting project proposals to donors. Jean promised to submit a small grant application soon. Also, the two organizations will keep negotiating and exploring opportunities for the second option. On the same day, a speaking event took place. It was jointly organized by the Students Association at the Centre for Conflict Studies-University of Marburg and Colloquium e.v. Jean shared about the work of reconciliation done by SEP and engaged the participants in a discussion on reconciliation as a global challenge.



Jean de Dieu and Frank

The tour brought the Director of SEP to Berlin from 22 to 31<sup>st</sup> of May. His time in Berlin was marked by meetings, participating in the Kirshentag 2017 and

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visiting historical sites. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, Jean was invited to participate in the meeting of Rotary Club Berlin- Kurfürstendamm held at the Kempinski Hotel in Berlin. He was welcomed and given a time to deliver a short presentation on SEP's peacework. He called on the Rotarians to consider providing SEP with a financial assistance to its efforts of moving Rwandan society towards sustainable reconciliation and promoting peace education. From 24 to 27<sup>th</sup> May, attending the series of events at the Kirshentag in Berlin was the main focus of the trip. Considered as the 'market of opportunities', this big event created unique occasions for finding information on different organizations. It provides opportunities for discussions on contemporary issues that the world is facing, networking and building new contacts. Jean attended lectures and panel series on refugees' matters, peace and nonviolence, and de-radicalization through religion. Jean visited exhibition stands of many organizations, built contacts with them and explored possibilities for partnerships in the future. Among the organizations, companies and projects that Jean contacted at the Kirchentag were: Eirene (Great Lakes); Aktion Selbstbesteuerung e.v.; Ecumenical Network Central Africa; Peacemaker Ministries; New 95 Theses Project; Institute Water for Africa e.v.; Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Quaker-Hilfe Stiftung; Kirchengewerkschaft; Gesellschaft Zur Forderung Der Frauenkirche Dresden e.v.; Hanns Seidel Stiftung; Christian Council of Nigeria; Salem International Gemeinnutzige Gmbh; Gesellschaft kultur des Friedens; Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt e.v.; Forum ZFD; Peace Women Across the Globe; The Conventry Cross of Nails; Heinrich Boll Stiftung; Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst fur den Frieden e.v. (AGDF); Weltfriedensdienst e.v. (wfd); Kritische Soldaten; Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung; Evangelische Partnerhilfe e.v.; Helping Hands e.v.; Religions for Peace; Brot fur die Welt; Gustav- Adolf- Werk e.v; War Resisters International; Zivile Konflikt Bearbeitung; Internationale Friedensakademie; Gesamtverband fur kindergottesdienst in der EKD e.v.; Misereor ; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; Hope Channel.



The Kirchentag is a place for learning from other organizations and networking. Also, SEP took the opportunity to invite potential partners to support SEP in implementing two of its community-level interventions, Rwanda Reconciliation and Ubupfura programmes (see the appendix 2). After being introduced to the work done by these organizations, SEP has the responsibility to follow up the conversation and continue exploring opportunities of partnerships in their specific area of interest.



Apart from the Kirchentag, the director of SEP had meetings with other potential partners or supporters. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, Jean paid a visit to the Office of Robert Bosch Stiftung (RBS) in Berlin and met Patricia Degueudre, the Senior Project Manager. She informed the director about the current areas of interest of the RBS and advised on procedures to follow while applying for grants. SEP expects to submit letters of inquiry by September 2017 as an initial step to apply

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for grants for two or three of its projects. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, Jean met Elisabeth Hüsing , who is in charge of International Relations at the Heinz Sielmann Stiftung. The exploration of possible partnership between the two organizations looked at working together in (i) sustaining social cohesion among in Rwandan parks neighboring communities (especially the Volcano Park neighboring communities) and fostering reconciliation in Rwanda through tree planting, using the approach developed and piloted by SEP in Rwanda.

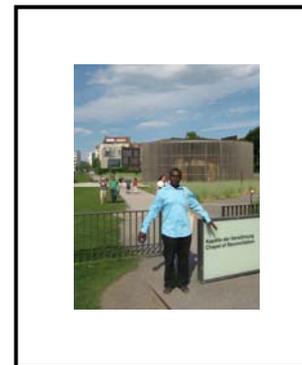
The trip also created occasion to visit some interesting places in Germany. Jean visited a Museum in Marburg, the remains of the Berlin Wall and Holocaust memorial site in Berlin, which allowed for deep learning encounters. The story about the Chapel of Reconciliation, which is located near the Berlin wall, was particularly meaningful and reflects the understanding of reconciliation as a global challenge.

### **Lessons learned**

After this 21 days visit in German, I reflected on events and discussions held during the trip and appreciated the special people of Germany I met in Marburg and Berlin. I keep remembering kind, welcoming, caring people who have a high sense of safeguarding the environment, people who learned a lot from their historical background and have become prepared to fight against destructive ideologies, and people who are consistent in what they do.

Some of the main lessons learned through the trip include the following:

- We human beings are interconnected: regardless of our different origins, religions and economic status, whatever affects my fellow human being will- in one way or another- affect others;
- Indisputably, reconciliation is a global challenge;
- Our past shapes the way we (i) live the present and (ii) envision our future;
- Consequences of colonization and other historic wrongs still need to be responded to;
- The effective response to forced migration should include addressing its roots causes in the countries of origin.



### **Way Forward**

Following up on contacts built during the trip and keep exploring possibilities of partnership fall under the responsibility of SEP. To take advantage of this friend & fund raising activity, SEP has to submit small project proposals to organizations such as Terra Tech and other potential partners connected with during the trip.

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**Acknowledgements:**

This trip could not have been effectively organised without the generous support from supporters and people of goodwill. SEP is so thankful for the support of Imbuto e.v and the Centre for Conflict Studies (CCS) at the Philipps University Marburg for their contribution to the speaking tour in Germany in May 2017. Our special thanks go to Dr. Hildegard Schurings, the director of Imbuto e.v. and Prof. Dr. Susanne Buckley-Zistel, the director the CCS for their invaluable support to the trip. We would like to express deep appreciation and gratitude to Mathias Krams for all his efforts he in making this trip become a reality. He tirelessly invested so much in order to have this trip successfully organized. We are thankful for the assistance provided by Miriam Richter and appreciate Colloquium e.v. for organizing a speaking event in Marburg. Our thanks also go to Carmen Schoening for arranging a speaking opportunity at the meeting of Rotary Club Berlin- Kurfürstendamm. SEP is grateful of all the donations from individuals and companies in different parts of the World. Without their generous support, we couldn't organise the trip.

## Annex: Financial report

	Income			Expenditures		
Supporter <sup>1</sup> /source	Country	Amount	Amount in USD	items	Cost	Cost in USD
H	SA	USD 330	330	Airticket (Kigali-Fra)	USD 797.30	797.30
M	Costa Rica	USD 150	150	Local transport in Rwanda	Rwf 42,600	51.01
C	Germany	Euro 150	166.50	Schengen Visa application fee	Rwf 51,600	61.79
J	Germany	Euro 30	33.3	Insurance	Rwf 48,360	57.91
MT	Rwanda	Rwf 50,000	59.88	Small Gifts brought to Germany	Rwf 6,900	8.26
V	Rwanda	USD 100	100	Printing of booklets	Rwf 13,200	15.80
T	Canada	USD 50	50	Communication/cre dit card	Euro 9.99	11.08
TBV	Netherlands	USD 95	95	Local transport in Germany	71.7 Euro	79.58
Colloquium e.v	Germany	Euro 200	222	Kirchentag Pass	Euro 31	34.41
Imbuto e.v.	Germany	Euro 300	333	Meals (from 15 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May)	17 days* Euro 12 per day = 204 Euro	226.44
				Stipend (21 days*10USD per day)	USD 210	210
Total Income			USD <b>1,539.68</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>USD 1,553.58</b>
Donations in Kind						
V		Germany/ Marburg	Accommo dation for 8 nights			
H		Germany/Ber lin	Accommo dation for 8 nights			

Exchange Rate as of May 2017):

- 1 Euro = USD 1.11
- 1USD = Rwf 835

The financial report shows that total income collected from the friends of SEP as a generous support for the Germany tour is USD 1539.68, whereas the total expenditure is USD 1,553.58 .The extra amount (USD 13.90) came from the SEP account.

<sup>1</sup> To keep anonymous the name of our supporters, we prefer using the first letter of their first names.

## Shalom educating for peace (SEP)

### What does SEP bring to the Kirchentag 2017?

God sees every one of us! In April-July 1994, the majority of Christians in Rwanda were not aware of this Biblical truth and central theme of the Kirchentag 2017. During this period, the 1994 Genocide against Tutsis was happening in Rwanda. This has been a big shame to contemporary human society, and, especially to the Church. It is paradoxical that genocide occurred in a country where more than 90% of the population professes to be Christian. If the Rwandan Church had played its role and disassociated itself from divisive politics and destructive ideology, and stood for human dignity, unity, life and peace, the genocide might have been prevented.

The post-genocide context has been very challenging: engaging friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters in Christ whose relationships were completely broken in reconciliation process has been a difficult task to do, even though reconciliation is one aspect of the Church mission. Reconciliation processes require long, sustained investment. SEP is one of the organizations working in the area of reconciliation in Rwanda.

In May 2017, the director of SEP is on a speaking tour in Germany. He is reminding the world about our responsibility to reconcile violent conflicts, sharing about the work of SEP and mobilizing for partners in reconciliation and peace education work. It is a pleasure and honor for SEP to have him participate in the Protestant Church Day 2017 and take advantage of the opportunities for discussions, sharing experiences, and networking provided by the Church's great event to celebrate 500 years of the reformation of the church by Martin Luther. For its active participation in the discussions, SEP will share its grassroots experience in moving a divided society towards genuine reconciliation and positive peace. In addition, SEP would like to invite partners and supporters for two of its community-level interventions:

- *Rwanda Reconciliation Programme*: this has the aim of (i) reinforcing community-level infrastructures for trauma healing and reconciliation and (ii) engaging members of the diaspora and refugees in reconciliation processes. In the past, SEP piloted PREST (Peace and Reconciliation Education through Songs and Theatres) in partnership with a church in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. The organization would like to continue and extend the activity throughout the country and keep partnering with churches in Rwanda in this project. As the Church, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- *Ubupfura Programme*: it has the aim of promoting anti-corruption education as a way of building positive peace in Rwanda. The programme is based on the results of a four year research conducted in Rwanda from 2011 to 2015 and involves community members, especially children, in fighting against corruption. The programme has a component that engages church leaders to distance themselves with corruption and invest in cultivating an understanding that resists corruption among the Church members. SEP considers that corruption undermines all efforts of building peace and the church has to play an important role in fighting against it. One of the guiding teachings of the Ubupfura programme is the following: "You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds those who have sight and perverts the words of the righteous (Exodus 23:8)".

If you are interested in one of the programmes and would like to participate, support and/or partner with SEP in implementing them in Rwanda, please contact us at the following address:

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