



Around Europe

Quaker Council for European Affairs

No. 295 September 2007

Knowing More to Act Better

On the occasion of its meetings with representatives of the Portuguese government, a Caritas Europa delegation was invited by Mr. Rui Marques, the Portuguese High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI) to visit his services. The institution was created in 2002 with the main aim of promoting good integration of migrants into Portuguese society. The National Plan for the Integration of Migrants, coordinated by ACIDI, involves 13 ministries. In Portuguese legislation, as well as in public opinion, migration is approached as a positive phenomenon. Integration is promoted through the constitutional principle of equality. This implies that policies for 'positive discrimination' of migrants are non-existent. ACIDI, however, is committed to helping migrants solve their problems in order to reach a genuine equality; this commitment is based on the co-responsibility of migrants, through the involvement of migrants' associations in the process. About 100 of them are recognized and financially supported by the Portuguese government. Diversity management, promoting the intercultural model of Portuguese society, is designed to 'build bridges' to reinforce cohesion in society.

ACIDI has 5 core tasks: the first is to guarantee access to migrants and provide them with information about their rights and duties, through instruments such as an information bulletin, information brochures, a call centre 'SOS imigrante' and the ACIDI website. The second task is to help migrants solve their problems: the National Immigrant Support Centres in Lisbon and Porto bring together under one roof a number of services and ministries, working together in a 'one-stop-shop' philosophy. The Centres receive 800 to 1000 migrants daily. Reception of the migrants is done by a team of intercultural mediators who refer the client with his or her particular question(s) to the right service(s). The immigration observatory of ACIDI collects and studies the statistical data collected by the Support Centres in order to conceive, carry out and evaluate public policies with more rigour

and efficacy (their third core task).

The fourth task of ACIDI is the promotion of active involvement of migrants and migrants' associations in the development of Portuguese immigration and integration policies. The composition of the advisory council (COCAI) also reflects this principle of working with migrants: one third of the members are migrants, one third representatives of civil society, one third representatives of governmental administrations.

The fifth official task of ACIDI is to raise public awareness regarding the reception and integration of migrants and the promotion of interculturality. This task is implemented through a weekly TV programme and poster campaigns.

It is interesting to note that undocumented migrants also have access to the Centres. This allows a number of them to regularize their situation because they may have become undocumented merely because they lacked the necessary information to continue their regular residence. It allows the observatory to collect information and data on the situation of undocumented migrants in Portugal that can help to develop better adapted policies. I believe that the Portuguese way of tackling the challenge of migration and integration is worth consideration by other EU Member States and could be an inspiring exercise.

Peter Verhaeghe
Caritas Europa

The Portuguese Presidency organised a conference on immigration and integration from 12-13 September 2007.

In this Issue:

Constitutional Debates - Where to Now: The Reform Treaty	Page 2
The Security Threat of Ethnic Profiling	Page 2
Book Review: Wealth - Power - Violence	Page 3
Lucas Guttenberg Joins QCEA	Page 4



Constitutional Debates - Where to Now: The Reform Treaty

After the failure of France and the Netherlands to ratify the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe in the summer of 2005, the European Union entered a phase of reflection which came to an end at the June 2007 European Summit when the detailed mandate for a text of a new Treaty for the EU was agreed. They also agreed to deal with this new Treaty (now called 'The Reform Treaty') by holding an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) during the Portuguese Presidency which began in July 2007.

Where the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe would have replaced the two current Treaties, the Reform Treaty will keep both and amend them.

The draft of the Reform Treaty was released on 23 July 2007; it is expected that it will be agreed at the Intergovernmental Conference when it meets in October 2007. Thereafter, it will have to be ratified by the Member States.

Because the Reform Treaty amends existing text, it is much more difficult to make a quick assessment of the good, the bad and the indifferent. What we **do** know is what was in the headlines at the time of the June summit: it will not be called a Constitution, there will be

no symbols of the European Union (no flag and no anthem though both exist *de facto*), the Charter of Fundamental Rights will not be included in its entirety but will be referred to, and the concept of 'free and undistorted competition' as one of the goals of the European Union will not feature.

The Reform Treaty will include the establishment of a 'High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs' but he or she will not be called a 'Foreign Minister'; the number of Commissioners will be reduced from twenty-seven to fifteen by 2014; the EU will gain legal personality, allowing it to accede to international treaties and conventions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights; the role of national parliaments in European decision making will be strengthened and there will be an exit clause for Member States who want to leave.

Critical analyses of the draft text of the Reform Treaty have been undertaken by a number of think tanks and NGOs and we would recommend the analysis by UK-based 'Statewatch' at: <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2007/aug/eu-reform-treaty-texts-analyses.htm> where there are eleven different analyses of different aspects of this Treaty.

Martina Weitsch

The Security Threat of Ethnic Profiling

The threat of international terrorism is one that all European states have to deal with effectively. In the past three years alone, attacks and attempted attacks have taken place in Germany, Denmark, the UK, Belgium and Spain (to name only a few).

There are many measures which can be taken by states to mitigate this growing threat. One measure widely used in Europe enables police forces to 'stop-and-search' individuals. When I was approached by police outside King's Cross station in London, in accordance with Section 44 of the Terrorism Act, the officer frisked me thoroughly before examining every pocket in each of my three bags. Other measures taken include arresting individuals, checking identification documents, mining databases, gathering intelligence, and other techniques.

News reports and factual evidence taken from across Europe have suggested that law enforcement agencies target Muslims for these types of examination when confronting terrorism. If the targets of these measures are decided based on racial, ethnic, or religious stereotypes the police have used *ethnic* profiling. Profiles in general are compilations of identifiable characteristics believed to correlate statistically with certain behaviour (e.g. individuals over sixty years old are more likely to be
(See page 3)

In last month's edition of *Around Europe* we omitted the details of *Terrorism and the Foreigner*, reviewed by Matt Loffman. The book is edited by Anneliese Baldaccini and Elspeth Guild and published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2007, ISBN-13: 978 9004151 87-1.

(continued from page 2)

susceptible to certain illnesses). They are widely used by hospitals, businesses, government agencies etc. to focus scarce resources and predict relevant outcomes.

New evidence produced by the Open Society Institute Justice Initiative makes clear that ethnic profiling not only contravenes international law but hinders states' counter-terrorism efforts.

This kind of profiling, said James Goldston in a recent European Policy Centre (EPC) Policy Dialogue, stigmatises racial, ethnic, or religious groups. It risks members of the public 'institutionalising prejudice' as well as engendering feelings of alienation and humiliation amongst members of the targeted group. International and European regional norms make clear that racial discrimination in the field of justice is unlawful. We should not retreat from well thought-out international law and standards because of the terrorist threat.

Ethnic profiling threatens our ability to counter terrorism effectively. It engenders feelings of humiliation and fosters the bitterness that leads to violence. Specific minority groups are stigmatised by populations, leading to fractured societies where the threat from 'home-grown terrorist activities' is greater. Just when law

enforcement agencies need to communicate and work alongside minority groups, they are unable to do so due to the disenfranchisement caused by these actions. More directly, this approach fails to allow for the diversity in the ethnic backgrounds of the terrorists themselves and increases the chances of overlooking those who do not fit the ethnic profile.

Research from the Netherlands and the UK show an increasing number of terrorist suspects from groups including women, teenagers, Caucasians, and of individuals baptised as Christians. The terrorist profile is now so diverse that analysts and European counter-terrorism officials have given up work on it.

Attention is slowly being drawn to this issue. However, this subject remains under-researched and over-practised. The UK is the only European Union Member State that has explicitly banned racial discrimination by law enforcement officers.

When law enforcement agencies use ethnic profiling they are harming our counter-terrorism efforts and contravening international law. European law enforcement agencies should take note of this and change their practice accordingly.

Matt Loffman

Book Review: Wealth - Power - Violence

This book, 'Wealth - Power - Violence: Security in Times of Globalisation' published in German by Publik-Forum in cooperation with the 'Church Publishers of the Yearbook of Justice' (Kirchlicher Herausgeberkreis Jahrbuch Gerechtigkeit), is a fascinating collection of articles. It contains a number of specific examples from different countries, including the Congo, Chad, Cameroon, Indonesia and others. What grabbed me most were the collection of maps showing the distribution of poverty, life-expectancy, infant mortality, social divisions and many more. Much of this is not new but the information contained in the tables and maps about changes in these indicators in recent years make sobering reading.

Even if we know - in theory - everything in this book, the strength of this book are the facts and the hard numbers it gives us, in an easily

accessible format, to which we can refer when we need to have such facts at our fingertips.

Equally important is the first part of the book - and in particular the first chapter which deals with the indivisibility of justice and peace and reflects on the concept of human security from the perspective of the churches. It questions the assumption that 'islamist terrorism is the greatest security threat'. It reflects on the concept of the biblical word 'shalom' which refers to all levels of political, social and personal life and which implicitly connects justice and peace.

This may not be traditional bed-time reading, but it is the kind of book that invites dipping into when time permits and leaves the reader a little more thoughtful as a result.

Martina Weitsch

'Reichtum - Macht - Gewalt: Sicherheit in Zeiten der Globalisierung', Jahrbuch Gerechtigkeit II, Publik Forum, Frankfurter Rundschau, 2006, ISBN-13:978-3-88095-156-3.



Lucas Guttenberg Joins QCEA



I began as a Programme Assistant at QCEA in July 2007. I'm German, and as conscription still exists in Germany, I had to object to my military service and look for an alternative service. The Work Unit Peace and Environment of the Protestant Church in Speyer (South-West Germany) offered me the possibility of doing my alternative service at QCEA and in the office of the Protestant Youth Network for Belgium, where I work two days a week.

I'm 18 years old and finished my A-levels in June in Heidelberg, where I grew up. There, I founded the Communal Youth Council which represents the 11,000 young people who are living in and around Heidelberg. From January 2006 through March 2007, I was its chair. I loved this communal political work, and it is what has made me want to continue working in a political context. The job at QCEA gives me the possibility of getting to know how politics work at the European level. Furthermore, I hope it will open me up to a new city and cultural life.

QCEA's work is very interesting for me, because I have always been - besides local affairs - interested in international security and peace affairs. I have been a member of the German Green Party since 2004. I think that the questions of international economic justice and non-violent conflict solutions will be essential issues in the decades to come. I hope to learn a lot more about these areas during my year in Brussels.

Lucas Guttenberg

Subscriptions, Associate and Supporting Membership

Renewal date:

Please check month/year printed on address label.

Cost per year:

- **Around Europe:** post - £16/22 euros (30 euros outside Europe). e-mail - £10/15 euros (please ask for more details)
- **Associate Membership** (includes **Around Europe**, Annual Report, other publications and invitations to conferences) : £32/40 euros (50 euros outside Europe).
- **Supporting Membership:** 95 euros/£65 (please ask for more details)

Payment (receipts will only be issued if requested):

Europe (except Nederland and UK): in euros, to IBAN: BE68 0001 4998 4834, BIC: BPOTBEB1, or by credit card (quote number, name, expiry date, address; we acknowledge; you are billed in your home currency. Recommended method for those outside Europe.)

Nederland: via de Vereniging Vrienden v.d. Quakerraad voor Europese Aangelegenheden: Giro 2538685 VVQREA Helmond.

UK: by cheque payable to 'QCEA British Committee' sent to Marilyn Miles, Roseleigh, Northfield Road, Nailsworth, GL6 0NB, Glos., UK.

Rest of World: credit card (quote number, name, expiry date, address; we acknowledge; you are billed in your home currency.)



Around Europe

Quaker Council for European Affairs aisbl
Square Ambiorix 50, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Editeur responsable : Elizabeth Scurfield

www.quaker.org/qcea - info@qcea.org

Périodique mensuel. Bureau de dépôt : Bruxelles X

Belgique-België
P.P.-P.B.
Bruxelles X
BC 8843