

# THE FOUNDATION FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY

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CAROLYN SEELY WIENER,  
CHAIRMAN  
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January 11, 2008

WENDY W. LUERS,  
PRESIDENT  
THE FOUNDATION FOR A  
CIVIL SOCIETY

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year from the Project on Justice in Times of Transition, a program of the Foundation for a Civil Society (FCS).

M. BERNARD AIDINOFF  
SULLIVAN & CROMWELL

It has been an exciting and busy year for both FCS and the Project. The Project is celebrating its 15 year anniversary and is preparing to do a major event in April of 2008 to mark the occasion. Due to the significant demand for our involvement in recent years and our anniversary celebration, we are writing for the first time to ask for your support.

ADRIAN A. BASORA  
EISENHOWER EXCHANGE  
FELLOWSHIPS

GEORGE BIDDLE  
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE  
COMMITTEE

## Project on Justice in Times of Transition

LLOYD N. CUTLER \*  
WILMER, CUTLER &  
PICKERING

As you are aware, the **Project on Justice in Times of Transition** has played a pioneering role in helping leaders around the world address the challenges of transitional justice, conflict negotiation and transformation, and the building of trust among often deeply divided communities by identifying and bringing leaders from other countries to describe their own often difficult transitions. Using this methodology of shared experience, the Project often breaks down the barriers that leaders face as they confront complex tasks such as preparing for negotiations, implementing disarmament agreements and cease-fire arrangements, creating accountability, and other tasks involved in the creation of sustainable democratic societies. The Project's accomplishments include launching the field of transitional justice, helping introduce the concept of a Truth Commission in South Africa, nurturing peaceful negotiations and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and Central America, and, most recently, helping broker and maintain delicate negotiations between the Colombian government and the ELN.

ROBERT P. DEVECCHI  
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE  
COMMITTEE

MILOS FORMAN  
FILM DIRECTOR

JAMES GREENFIELD  
INDEPENDENT  
JOURNALISM  
FOUNDATION

JEANNE L. HILSINGER  
THE ACCEL GROUP, SRO,  
MAVEL A.S.

JAMES F. HOGE  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Over the past 15 years we have conducted 52 initiatives, each designed to facilitate problem solving opportunities for those who are addressing delicate and cutting edge problems in their countries. In the past year alone the Project's work has included:

ROBERT HUTCHINGS  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

KATARINA MATHERNOVA  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TIMOTHY PHILLIPS  
CLUB DE MADRID

- Holding a major conference for members of the **Kosovar Unity Team** designed to assist the Kosvar leadership in preparations relating to the first 120 days of independence and implementation of the Ahtisaari plan. The meeting, conducted in partnership with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the East West Management Institute and held at the request of the Kosovar leadership, has led to our involvement in facilitating improved public outreach by the leaders during these critical past few months, plans for a public consultation of the constitution,

ANTRANIG SARKISSIAN  
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and an assessment of needs in preparation for a post independence donor conference. Leaders we have sent to Kosovo to share their relevant experience have included Roelf Meyer (former South African Minister of Constitutional Affairs), John Podesta (former Chief of Staff in the Clinton administration), and Ashraf Ghani (former Afghan Minister of Finance).

- Conducting several workshops designed to assist the **government of Colombia and the Colombian ELN guerilla movement** gain a broader and comparative perspective on verification/ceasefire arrangements, demobilization, and entry into the political system during a key period of their negotiations with the Colombian Government. These issues have repeatedly led to a breakdown of talks, and our workshops, conducted in collaboration with the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Colombia University, successfully restarted talks this past summer. Among the experts and leaders we brought to the Casa de Paz in Medellin to share advice with ELN guerilla leaders and their supporters were: the late David Ervine (a former paramilitary leader and PUP member of the Northern Ireland Assembly), Alex Reid (a catholic priest who was intimately involved in bringing about an IRA ceasefire), and Tom Roberts (a former paramilitary leader who now runs a major NGO on reintegrating former fighters in Northern Ireland).

We also did a second series of meetings in Colombia on Peace Commissioning in partnership with *El Tiempo* in Bogota and *El Colombiano* in Medellin to which we brought Andrew Sens (U.S. Commissioner to the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning in Northern Ireland), Timothy Dalton (former Secretary-General of the Department of Justice of the Republic of Ireland), and Secretary Jesus Dureza (Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process in the Philippines).

- Facilitating a seminal meeting at the request of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the **United Nations** between United Nations officials responsible for staffing UN **peacekeeping operations** and relevant international NGO/Roster Representatives in order to encourage better coordination among them on future hiring. The event was held in partnership with the International Crisis Group, DLA Piper, and the German Mission to the UN and produced a set of practical and actionable recommendations that are designed to improve the way UN peacekeeping is conducted in the future.

The Project is also developing a new set of programs, the first focused on youth engagement in Central America with the Spanish foundation FRIDE, and the second with the Amsterdam Center for Conflict Studies at the University of Amsterdam on the dual challenges of identity and security being confronted by European cities and their Muslim populations.

In order to enhance our capacity to be responsive to a growing list of requests, the Project has been building a web of strategic partnerships. Thus far a strategic partnership has been created with the **Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University** and the **Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University**. The latter will facilitate a solid working relationship with one of today's leading conflict resolution centers and the partnership with Tufts gives us access to a world class university and its talented students and faculty.

We are also working to create opportunities for the leaders with whom we work to share their experiences, not just through our programming, but through other forums such as university classrooms and the media. As the world becomes more interwoven and complex, and the effects of wars in Afghanistan, Colombia, and elsewhere are increasingly felt by all people, we feel it is vital for students and the general public to better understand the challenges faced by societies in transition. Our network of practitioners and leaders is a tremendous resource in this regard, and we will be working to disseminate their wealth of experience and insights to new settings in the US and Europe.

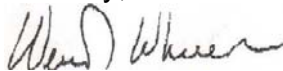
### The Foundation for a Civil Society

The Foundation for a Civil Society (FCS) continues to focus its energies on its Young Visual Artists Program. This unique initiative was established with President Havel and a group of artists in Czechoslovakia in 1990. Since then, the annual program has been highly successful, offering national exhibitions and awards, and travel fellowships to the United States for artists under the age of 35 who have won a national juried competition. Since the early 1990s, it has been expanded from the Czech Republic to nine countries: Slovakia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Albania, and negotiations are currently underway to include Romania. FCS just launched the Young Visual Artist award website ([www.yvaa.net](http://www.yvaa.net)). A joint exhibition and gathering is planned for the Spring of 2008 in Belgrade, following ones held in Prague and Pristina, Kosovo.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the past fifteen years and more. We will keep you posted on our plans for 2008 and in particular regarding plans for the celebration of the Project's 15 year anniversary event in April 2008.

As the Foundation for a Civil Society and the Project on Justice in Times of Transition build on our successes and expand, your donation is particularly important to us. Donations can be made online at [<http://www.fcsny.org/>] or by sending a check made out to *the Foundation for a Civil Society* to the FCS address: 419 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 14A, New York, New York, 10022. We hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,



Wendy Luers  
Co-Chair

Project on Justice in Times of Transition  
President, Foundation for a Civil Society



Timothy Phillips  
Co-Chair,

Project on Justice in Times of Transition  
Board member, Foundation for a Civil Society