

## CAN COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE BE PREVENTED?

August 2007 report from Indonesia.

**Blitar , East Java, Youth Prison:** this was our last training **session** of wardens, security, rehabilitation **personnel** and **youthful prisoners** in a series of five **sessions**. It **has now been** nearly four years since my colleagues from Ubaya University in Surabaya, Java and I began this project. **Once again, the agenda for** the two day workshop **dealt with** managing emotions and working with the fear and anger of both staff and inmates. Participation was voluntary.

**Our** work with the **youngsters** also **included** expanding the existing anti-violence team. At this point, the prison, with a capacity of 100 youths, was filled with 230 youngsters, **lying** like sardines ,mattress to mattress, **without any** space to spare. The anti-violence team asked to have additional members, **as they weren't** able to handle the increased number of **prisoners**. We trained and role played various techniques on how to stop violent outbreaks by physical interference as well as **by** verbal calming techniques. The role playing caused **much** hearty laughter (in the prison no loud laughing is allowed). **A new round of our program in** motorcycle mechanic training is being implemented. After **completing it**, each participant **will receive** a neutral diploma stating his skills, which in turn will support **his job-hunting efforts** after release. We are in the process now **of writing** a manual for the staff, as well as preparing a book for publication in Indonesian, describing the transpersonal approach **and** the many surveys conducted, **including** the manual. **By the end of this year, this four year project will be concluded..** The most prominent aspect **of the project has been its** focus on how to prevent physical violence by the wardens and the security to the prisoners and among the young prisoners themselves. In the workshop this very explosive and quickly escalating tendency to violence was the main focus.

**Malang, East Java, Women's Prison:** Compared to the male tendency toward physical violence, our visit here revealed a much more **subtle** emotional violence and abuse, much more difficult to address and expose. Even though this prison, with a capacity for 100 women **and presently populated by nearly 260 female prisoners**, seems in much better shape **and** better cared for, the female staff and security seem to exert a different kind of violence. My **colleague** and I are evaluating a possible project here once **the Blitar project** is concluded, with the goal **of juxtaposing** the male physical violence and the female emotional abuse and more subtle violence.

**Surabaya, East Java, Male Prison:** A request to interview the incarcerated terrorists was refused on the grounds **that the prisoners were** in **solitary** confinement under high security, **with** no **visitors** permitted

**Lagu Damai, Bali:** Three of our high school students **have passed their exams and** entered university. Agung will study Japanese, Wayan English and Ngurah **will enter** the medical faculty. A strange phenomenon takes place when **students enter** a university. Each university demands a so-called building and entrance fee. The figure seems **arbitrary.. To enter a good medical facility that offers training, a building and entrance fee of 10,000 Euros or US\$13,500 is required. The amount increases** every year and **students who** don't have very rich parents **cannot afford it. This means that only very rich people can afford to have their children study.** The system does not permit poor people to enter academe. Indrawati **is completing** her basic medical training and would like to specialize as a pediatrician.. **We are sponsoring** three new students **for** senior high school. Three more are still undergoing our screening process to be sponsored for university **study.**

**Jiwa Damai, Bali, retreat and seminar center in process:** A great deal of activity is **going on** here. A new approach to keep the water in the pond clean is **proving successful**. We began to use EM (effective microorganisms) in the water **and** in the garden and are trying to change the pool into a natural pool without chlorine, **a major challenge**. In this tropical climate, algae **multiply** quite quickly. Some areas of the pond have **already been** cleared, and the water is see-through quality. A new parking lot is in the making, **which will keep** the cars and motorcycles out of the area.

An invitation to present Transpersonal Psychology at the Islamic University in Jogjakarta, Java proved very interesting. The lecturers and teaching staff are very excited about a psychology which includes the heart and the development of consciousness.

Presently , upon **request**, a one year series of four seminars in applied psychology (counseling), to be held both in Java and in Bali, **is being planned** .

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