

"Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?"

Bali, the Indonesian island of dreams, 2000 – 2004

Project Description

Bali, the island of dreams - paradise - its unique culture making it an international mass tourist destination, is holding on to stability.

It has been threatened, however, by the turbulences of the Indonesian economic crisis, a shaken tourist industry, and the large influx of different cultures from other parts of the island archipelago, arriving individually and in groups, seeking work, trying to escape violence and poverty. The tourist industry in Bali (The Balinese depend on it for their livelihood) is faced with a decreasing number of visitors and heavy competition for jobs. Newcomers to the island, with their different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, are threatening the fragile Balinese balance.

The integrity of the unique Balinese culture and its original values, which attracts and enchants visitors, is equally threatened by the influence of Western mass tourism.

The scene is set for the possibility of violence to erupt based on the reduced availability of work and on ethnic and religious differences.

Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?

This project is a pilot project designed to introduce new perspectives for dealing with potentially explosive national situations. It will draw upon the potential of human values and conscious choice to prevent the outbreak of violence.

Individual and collective values (inherent in the cultural environment) can be made conscious. These values determine the individual and communal choices for empowerment and self help and strengthen an inner attitude of individual and collective responsibility leading to interaction, alive cooperation and growth, which, in turn can prevent violence and destruction

The project is a "PsychoPolitical Action Project" based on the psychological principles of

- Compassion
- Empowerment to choose
- Choice
- Self help

in combination with psychological, emotional, financial, and material support and skills training. The scope, form, content and length of each component is to be decided by each community aligned with the program, based on the community's individual uniqueness and needs

The Project Consists of Two Major Components:

1. The actual hands-on project, on location -- involving and training key persons, bringing the project into the communities and engaging others to participate. The community in cooperation with the key persons chooses how violence can be prevented and the type of support desired. Psychological and skills training and financial and material support will be provided

2. In-depth psychological assessment and evaluation of survey statistics. The purpose of this component is to demonstrate how the combination of value and psychological principles with financial and material support and skills training leads to the prevention of violence.

Duration

September 1999 - December 2002 (two years), seven phases

Reach

The plan is to reach people in different types of communities.

- City
- Tourist areas
- Rural communities

Survey

An extensive survey is being developed and will be conducted prior to the beginning and after the completion of the project. It will be statistically evaluated to show the changes (human values and inner attitudes toward violence) through awareness and choice of action, by individuals and communities

We would like to see the project supported emotionally and financially by individuals and organizations resonating with its inner attitude, values and psychological principles. If this project has spoken to you, please look our Sponsor-Site for more informations about us and our projects!

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase One, Report Bali-Project

Building connections

Arrived in Denpasar (Bali's capital airport) in the evening, and melted into a hot, humid, early rainy season. Tampi, the driver I knew from my previous visit, was waiting for me with an air conditioned car. What a relief!

Driving into the city, he showed me huge trees felled to lay across main traffic roads. As I learned later that evening, just prior to my arrival, all main streets and crossings in Denpasar were blocked by these huge trees (most streets are lined with beautiful tall palm trees), all traffic lights destroyed. I saw the burned-out public buildings set off the previous night. The telephone company building was damaged as well, which explained why I was unable to call Denpasar from Switzerland.

The violent demonstration, in support of the election of Megawati, a popular female politician. Served as a warning, should she not become President. Strategically, it would have been impossible for police and army to enter the city, as roads had been blocked by huge trees (it took days to remove them) and the main telephone lines had been cut.

In Denpasar, I met with the head of the Psychology Department of Udayana, a state university, to discuss the project "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?". Supriyadi comes from Central Java and has lived in Bali for the last twelve years. He was very excited by the project and his possible cooperation. We discussed ways to cooperate, and most importantly, how I might get a legal government permit, to begin the project in Bali and what seemed most difficult, how I may receive official permission from the government to enter and work in a Balinese village. He invited me to teach in this Department of Psychology.

The next day I drove to Ubud in the Highlands, a center for Balinese arts and craft, very touristy nowadays. Actually, this time of the year is high tourist season. The rainy season had come earlier than usual and not many tourists were to be seen.

Tampi had invited me to his banjar (village unit), led by two or three leaders and a priest, which are responsible for the wellbeing of the whole community and the intricate, complex and innumerable Balinese rituals and temple ceremonies. I met with his family. His daughter Indrawati, whose studies are sponsored by PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation, is fulfilling her deep wish to become a medical doctor (which the family cannot afford).

I also learned that Tampi had been elected third leader of his banjar and is responsible with two others for the wellbeing of his community.

Supriyadi had told me that one of the most difficult things I faced was gaining permission enter a banjar and win the cooperation of the village leaders to do a project.

Therefore, I suggested to Tampi that he might present to his village and his leaders the possibility of my coming into the village and developing, in cooperation and consensus with the villagers, a project the village might need. This would be preceded by an extensive survey and followed up by one as well.

If they would invite me and welcome me, we could try and work to empower the people to choose and develop a project eventually leading to self help.

The family invited me to join them for a big temple celebration held were only once every five years, joining ten villages together. They dressed me according to ceremonial requirements with Sarong, hip belt, sash and blouse (all of which of course here meant for Balinese bodies, which are far more slender and less tall than I am). I understood this invitation to be a special honor.

Back in Denpasar I met with the Dean and lecturers of Warmadewa University, a private institution, to discuss possible cooperation on the project "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?".

We agreed at this meeting, that Supriyadi and his colleagues would do the field work of the surveys Phase I, working on the actual implementation, beginning in February 2000 during my next trip in Tampi's village.

The next trip will be in February 2000

- First step of Survey Phase I to begin in a village
- Field work for Survey to be done by Supriyadi
- Survey team training by Margret Rueffler
- Project development in village by Margret Rueffler
- Choosing an area of Denpasar (with its refugees from Timor and influx of other cultures) for second part of Survey Phase I
- Financial support is needed for survey Phase I

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Two, Report Bali-Project, February 2000

Grounding the Project

Due to a big storm in Bali, I finally arrived four hours late in Denpasar. My co-worker Heidi, who had arrived earlier, and Tampi, the driver were waiting for me. The same day, Denpasar had experienced some earthquakes and earlier on during the week some rioting that set the parliament building aflame.

A visit to the rector was set the first thing the next morning, before I was to give a seminar at Warmadewa University to the staff of the social politics department.

I had brought with me all the necessary documents to fulfill the bureaucratic requirements for a legal permit from Jakarta. After some lengthy, delicate negotiations, the rector wrote the missing sponsor letter. Supriyadi from Udayana University and the colleagues from Warmadewa University were very happy with the presentation. After some discussions, it was decided that Supriyadi would travel within the next few days to the authorities in Jakarta to present the application in person.

The days which followed were a whirlwind of intense networking, meetings and negotiations.

While we were visiting Indrawati (PPPF is sponsoring her studies in medicine) in her banjar (village) the village leaders come to see us. Most interesting, they were very young, Leader One, thirty-one years old, Leader Two, thirty-five years old. They invited us to come and begin an empowerment project. Deeply impressed by their openness, we decided to initiate the first project here in this village, with young people. The one hundred and twenty young people here between fourteen and twenty years of age, most without work, were keen to begin.

Meeting with business women, visiting a center for refugees from the neighbouring island of Lombok (Christians whose houses were burned down a few weeks ago), several NGOs, an AIDS prevention center, CARE, Bali Hati projects, the Rotary Club, connecting with a local radio station, - it went on and on through incredibly strong downpours (rainy season) followed by high humidity and intensive heat.

For three mornings straight, we worked on the survey with Andrew, who had joined us from Australia, to ready it to be implemented in May as the project's first step in the village.

The greatest challenge on this trip seemed to be to find an appropriate translator/interpreter, speaking Balinese, Indonesian and English or German and having experienced Western culture, who would be open to our approaches and work. So far, after interviewing six different people, no success yet. One of the subprojects which evolved on location, was to provide some computers for Warmadewa University.

Another subproject is the development of a curriculum with Supriyadi for the psychology Department of Udayana University, to teach about drug addiction, AIDS prevention, co-dependency, alcoholism, sexual abuse and post-trauma stress interventions for refugees.

The next visit will take place in May 2000.

Supriyadi and the Warmadewa team will be then implement the survey in the first village.

Margret Rueffler will begin the project work with young people (provided the legal authorization has been given).

The plan is to choose the next area for the survey in Kuta, a tourist area.

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Three, Report Bali-Project, May 2000

Jakarta, city of twelve million, was hot, humid, noisy and incredibly polluted. It is also the seat of the Governmental Scientific Research Institute (LIPI) where I had to go through a complex legal procedure to officially receive my research authorisation.

I felt privileged and deeply grateful to be staying at the outskirts of the city with family members of Supriyadi (the head of the Psychological Department of Udayana University and my co-worker). Each trip I took into the city was literally breath taking. The amount of fumes of cars and motorcycles due to the low quality of gasoline and the traffic jams seemed endless.

LIPI, as I understand, it is the official governmental agency responsible for allowing researchers, after a thorough examination of their proposed projects, to enter the country.

With a lot of support I was able to navigate this paper jungle. After filling out innumerable papers, registrations, taking photos, paying fees, getting stamps, I received the papers to continue on to Bali.

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Arriving in Bali the process continued for another few days: Immigration, registration, re-entry permit, tax payments, finger prints at the intelligence police. I felt it would never end - office after office. This process, which was exasperating is normal I was told. Yet, I began to have deeper insights into the workings of the bureaucracy and authorities of this seventeen thousand Island Republic.

Finally, on the sixth day after my arrival in Indonesia, the legalities were complete and I was able to focus on the real purpose of my trip to Bali, the PsychoPolitical Action Project.

I was looking forward to meeting with Supriyadi, the head of the Psychology Department of Udayana University. The previous week, I had e-mailed the Indonesian translation of the survey I had developed. We discussed again the survey and the budget for the actual field work and many other details. The survey would be conducted by the team of the Department of Social Politics of Warmadewa University.

The next day, an official visit to my sponsor, the rector of Warmadewa University, followed. He seemed rather pleasantly surprised that I had already navigated the seemingly endless waters of the local bureaucracy in what he felt was an extremely short time.

During the meeting with the Dean from the Social Politics Department of Warmadewa, the survey, length and complexity and the translation were again reviewed in detail.

The team outlined the actual field work, how to organise transportation, for five interviewers, each taking 45 minutes to question the participants. The actual field work was estimated to take one month.

The first survey was to take place in the village of Tenggayuda. The village hat invited me to do the survey and begin the actual project work with its one hundred and fifty young people between fourteen and twenty years of age.

The next day was filled with an official visit to the village, meeting with the leaders and informing them about project details, and inviting some fringe groups of Lombok people living outside the village to participate in survey and project. The village people were waiting to receive me. According to local protocol I paid a visit and my respects to the older, retired leader, and the local priest. The meeting was held in an open attitude, and I was welcomed to begin the survey and the project.

At Warmadewa University, I invited the team to enter the village as facilitators, empowering the people to share their views. To the question as to how to compensate the respondents of the survey for their time, a wonderful Balinese solution, according to local custom was found. After completion of the survey all the participants (in this case 180) will be invited to a meal of rice and chicken in the village as a token of appreciation.

I left the village feeling the welcome and openness to start the project.

Next time:

Working with one hundred and fifty youth in the village Developing projects, determined by the needs of youth Finding the area in Kuta where to implement the next survey.

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Four, Report Bali-Project, August 2000

From the airport of Denpasar I went directly to Warmadewa University to meet with the survey team at the Social Politics Department and Supriyadi from Udayana University. They recounted key information for my project work within the village, including details about their visit and survey, which was conducted during my absence with one hundred and eighty people at Tenggayuda. Supriyadi, who has the responsibility of computerizing the collected data, invited me to his house following this meeting.

Actually, my arrival was quite comfortable. August is the coolest month in Bali with Denpasar about 28°C. August is also called the windy month, and that's when people like to fly kites. Driving on the same day to the village of Tenggayuda I observed a multitude of beautiful, huge, multicolored kites floating high in the skies. They possess long tails that make all kinds of clacking noises late into the night.

In Tenggayuda, Indrawati was readying herself to leave her family for a long time. She had passed the entrance exam at the medical school in Surabaya and was receiving the blessings of the local priests and visiting the three village temples. It was the first time in her twenty years that she would be leaving the Island of Bali. We made a written agreement that, upon conclusion of her studies, she would develop a community project in the village in return for the sponsorship.

A meeting with the local youth leader of the village followed. Everyone in the village was engaged in elaborate preparations for the upcoming festival, a very important Balinese holiday. After some lengthy discussions we agreed that he would arrange the meeting with the village youth for the following evening.

When I arrived the next evening, approximately seventy young people were awaiting me. Via interpreter I extended an invitation to participate in a group process to develop individual projects, based on compassion, empowerment to choose and self-help. I was very pleased to find such interest in the plan. The first group process, brainstorming and collecting ideas took place the following evening in a very beautiful spot away from the village which had been placed at my disposal by Bali Hati Foundation especially for this purpose. That evening we got to know each other and began with basic trust building. At first there was a shyness which later gave way to lots of laughter.

In the following days I met with the Warmadewa team and Dean Nyoman. We finalized the financial aspect of the survey and I provided support for the team applying for funds for their planned democratisation program. The work together was a great pleasure.

A second meeting with the elder of Tenggayuda village to keep him updated on the group process the previous night was very much appreciated.

I presented him with four sponsored stipends and invited him to suggest young people, based on the following criteria - family must be below poverty level, the young person has to be gifted and intelligent, family members are excluded. He will present his suggestions on my next trip.

In the meantime, I made the first connections in Kuta (sixty thousand inhabitants, primarily budget style tourist resort, several ethnic minorities, high crime rate, prostitution and drugs). The project "Preventing Collective Violence" was warmly welcomed by the elder of the town, a priest who is responsible for the many ceremonies and rituals of the Balinese, and is advisor to the government administrator. A very open discussion took place, focussing on the tense local situation. An additional two hour meeting followed the next day where he introduced me to the leader of young people of all Kuta. Here I was reassured that we would have the needed support to begin work with multi-ethnic groups.

Meetings with NGOs in Denpasar, founded and run by young men and women engaged in AIDS prevention and data collection on children's prostitution, child trafficking impressed me deeply.

The last day of my stay was spent meeting with Supriyadi (Udayana University) in intense discussion about the completed survey as well as about possible changes and adaptations for the survey planned in Kuta.

I left Bali knowing that the project is unfolding organically and grateful for the support the local people are providing.

Activities planned in October - November 2000:

- Youth of Tenggayuda: four evenings of group processes
- Kuta: Exploring the area for a multi-ethnic survey
- Kuta: Building a multi-ethnic group for project developments.

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Five, Report Bali-Project, October-November 2000

Roaring rain and thunderstorms, followed by high temperature and high humidity (rainy season) were our greeting in Denpasar after an exhausting twenty hour airplane trip.

We went straight from the airport to Supriyadi's (Udayana University) house to discuss the meetings with Warmadewa University and its survey team, which were to follow. We were especially concerned with the time consuming challenge of translating the survey information into data in such a way that both the English and Indonesian version would match exactly.

The following day was focused on a visit in Tenggayuda village, where a meeting with the first leader was scheduled. He received us in front of his compound and led us to his house. During our previous visit in August we had asked him to choose four bright intelligent girls and boys from among the poorest in his village to be sponsored for their studies. Eight young bright faces anxious and yet shy were waiting for us. It was impossible for us not to fulfill the hope in these bright eyes, so we decided to accept all eight to be sponsored. We introduced each to his or her respective sponsor from Switzerland and Germany by handing over their photos. We explained the process whereby each would be responsible for his or her own bank account and would have the responsibility of paying his or her own school fees on a monthly basis. Very proud youngsters received their first savings account booklets and ATM cards at the bank the next day. In the evening, we visited each house to meet the parents as well and invite them to participate in our surveys.

The youth group we started in August in Tenggayuda had been quite busy brainstorming about ideas for self-empowering project work which were presented to us during the group meeting by eighteen youths. Several projects are in process: A Western music band is being created, the badminton court is getting a new surface, a room where English classes can be taught is being prepared, as teacher is being sought, as is a method for getting electricity into the old school building. It was a great pleasure and joy to see the enthusiasm of the five project groups which had developed out of the larger initial one.

A visit to Kuta to its youth leader (who also is very active in environmental protection) led to visiting the slums of Banjar Anja and the beach. I invited several youths to meet at a Hotel the next evening. The room had been put at my disposal by the religious leader of Kuta. The following evening I was surprised to see sixteen persons from seven different ethnic backgrounds turn up for the meeting.

I explained the multi-ethnic program, "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?" and the empowerment through project work to them. We invited them to attend another group meeting at Ruma Hati (about one hour from Kuta), and we arranged for transport. The group process which followed in that beautiful environment at Ruma Hati was remarkable. The young people already had ideas about what would be empowering to translate into a project. We agreed to meet again on the next trip and to continue the project work.

We spent quite some time trying to engage local Western business people to support our project in the Kuta area. It was quite difficult to reach the key people to whom we might present our project. We did find one businessman who is willing to support us.

In a personal meeting with the rector of Warmadewa University I updated him on the progress of the survey data entry and informed him about the overall project.

I also evaluated the possible next steps of the survey and how to proceed further with it in the slum areas with the Udayana University dean and the survey team of the Social Politics Department and with Supriyadi.

Next steps:

- Implementation and financing of the various projects in Tenggayuda (Music, English, concrete, renovation, etc.)
- Implementation and financing of projects in the Kuta slum area (language classes, sewing machines, small business finance, etc.)

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Six, Report Bali-Project, February 2001

We were met by a tropical rainstorm on our arrival at Denpasar. This year the island received an unusual large quantity of rain, causing several power outages and other damage. Already a ritual, the drive from the airport led to the Warmadewa University to meet with the survey team of the faculty of social politics and Supriyadi. There we received an update on their work with the extended survey of the Tenggayuda youth (our project participants). This was followed by a visit to the rector of Warmadewa University to update him on the survey progress and project work.

A cross sectional analysis of the first survey of 180 people in Tenggayuda had been prepared. The Dean, Supriyadi and I discussed the possibility of presenting the findings to the University students and public officials. We paid particular attention to the topic of preventing violence and drew up a list of people in various administrative positions related to the subject to invite to the presentation. A date was set for the 16th of April. The Dean will present the survey results and I will discuss the prevention of violence as a new inner attitude.

A visit to the head of the doctoral program of Udayana University was followed by an invitation to speak on the same topic, "Prevention of Collective Violence," to their students and teachers in April.

The PsychoPolitical Action Project youth group from the village of Tenggayuda met the next evening at Ruma Hati. The participants had gathered all the information needed to proceed with their respective projects. We turned over to them the money needed to purchase the cement and sand for reconstructing the badminton field (due to the heavy rains, a cement floor is a necessity). Early the following early morning we watched fifty young people energetically working to clear the site of debris and to cement the new badminton court. We agreed to play a game on our next visit. The second Tenggayuda project group, the youth music group, had explored many avenues to find a teacher, a place for the band and used instruments. We decided to purchase the instruments together the next morning in Denpasar. It was a most exciting experience to see the youth choose the electric guitars, bass, battery and amplifiers. When they returned with the instruments to the villages, people - young and old alike - came out in droves to see the new instruments. Many had never seen a guitar or a set of drums before. The band will meet regularly to play. They found a teacher and the village leader will provide electricity to the elementary school building, where they can make a lot of noise.

The third project, finding an English teacher for the village is still open and various possibilities are being explored. The Kuta PsychoPolitical Action group lost some of its members. The remaining multi-ethnic group was forging ahead with the business project of opening a small sewing factory. It was clear that the participants had contributed a great deal and they received their first grant to purchase

the equipment necessary to begin a small scale enterprise. The next steps are: to search for a space and to acquire the fabric and materials needed to begin production. This group lives at the heart of the Kuta slums and their joy at being offered a chance to improve their economic situation was very visible. Each member will participate in an extended survey. The survey is planned to begin in May, once several project groups have been initiated in the slum area.

A meeting with the eight youth in Tenggayuda sponsored for high school was great fun and a delight. The students were all writing letters to their respective sponsors as their quarterly contribution.

Indrawati, our sponsored medicine student in Surabaya, just passed her first exams and will return to Bali to visit her family for a holiday.

Our next step is to find support for:

- high school/university students
- the sewing business
- other small businesses
- English classes
- a volleyball court
- a kindergarten in the slum area
- the repair of the primary school in Tenggayuda
- the second survey

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Seven, Report Bali-Project, April 2001

The Dean of the Social Politics Department of Warmadewa University presented a cross sectional analyses of the survey findings in Tenggayuda village, after which I spoke on the multi-ethnic challenge: violence or cooperation, to an invited public from various disciplines. The presentation was well received and the Warmadewa team, Supriyadi from Udayana University and I, decided to present the topic again, this time to a broader public, to stimulate interest and support for our project, "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?".

The presentation was followed by my regular visit to the Rector of Warmadewa and a detailed discussion about my official LIPI permit, which had not been received at the Indonesian embassy in Berlin in time for my visit.

The following day a small group of my co-workers from Germany and Switzerland arrived, responding to my invitation to experience the present stage of the project work in person on location, in order to better support "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?" in Europe.

All seven of us visited the newly cemented badminton field in Tenggayuda, where we played with the local youth and presented the youth leader several badminton rackets and balls for community use.

We met with the eight young people whose high school studies are being sponsored by PPPFoundation and PPPInternational and gave a letter translated into Indonesian from their respective Swiss and German sponsors, as well as the photos we took last time, to each of them. Their joy touched us deeply. We continued with a visit at one of the houses, where the music band (whose equipment we had sponsored previously), which we were told had trained hard for the past two months, was quartered in a small shed. The band played for us with such great enthusiasm that we just had to dance to the gentle rhythm, a mixture of Balinese and Western music.

The schedule for using the musical instruments was attached to the door of the shed and we realized that many different groups of youth were scheduled to play and learn the instruments.

One of the participants of the Kuta (tourist area) group, a seasoned guitar player and part of a professional group, had agreed to teach the Tenggayuda band on a regular basis as a part of his project work.

A visit to the Kuta group in the slum area was a great surprise. The sewing shop was already established, the machines we had financed on my previous visit stood in a small shed, the button hole machine and their other machines ready to go. The sewing business group proudly told us about having already received some orders.

Within the group of five, some conflict about leadership had surfaced which needed to be resolved. Empowered, the participants themselves suggested various resolutions.

The days were filled with networking with various ecological groups and discussions with people in the Kuta slum area about inviting all inhabitants (about two hundred) to find out how this small multi-ethnic community could be empowered, and determining what their needs are. This meetings will take place during our next visit, in July.

A group meeting with the Tenggayuda youth (twenty eight young people) the evening before my departure, to evaluate the project work in the village, was a delight. Many alert and happy participants agreed on the value of raising self-esteem through this type of empowering work. They began offering their views on how violence could be prevented.

In July, we will be able to invite the survey team into the slum area in Kuta.

Needs for July:

Kuta

- 1 sewing machine
- financial support for supplying water
- 1 classical guitar
- financial support for nine month of classical guitar study at the conservatorium
- financial support for language classes
- sponsorships for school and university
- survey expenses for Warmadewa team

Tenggayuda

- 1 amplifier and two microphones for lead singer
- 2 sponsorships for high school

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Eight, Report Bali-Project, October 2001

Talking to my colleague at the University in Bali, a Muslim from Java, I learned that he and many others believe the US is waging a war against Islam. I tried to explain that this was not the case even though the US President, very unfortunately, made several public statements suggesting that it was so.

For some time already I had carefully prepared the ground to begin working on a larger scale on our project, "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?" in the Anjar slum which is located in the very heart of Kuta, a well visited tourist area on the island of Bali, the land of gods and demons. The preparations included delicate negotiations with the local Balinese government and the religious representative. The slum, an enclave of various ethnic groups was a home to mostly Muslims plus some Christians coming from other Indonesian islands hoping for a better life.

Life in the slum was tightly organized. Its inhabitants paid rent for a small piece of land where they built their huts and in turn rented space to newcomers. Most people were organized by so-called "employers" or gangleaders. In this area there were six "bosses". One of the bosses, the boss of the beggars, "employed" a gang of approximately twenty children from five to fourteen years old. They slept in a small room like tightly canned sardines.

Two hundred fifty to three hundred people lived in this small area. Over half were illegal. To reach the largest number of youth possible to participate in our project, "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?", the agreement of the gang leaders was needed. I needed their names, as well as the names and age of the members of each group.

For several months already, the PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation had been supporting Sumaryono, who had come from the south of Java to develop a small sewing shop. The people from the south of Java are known for their hot temper. It had taken this entire period of time to allow trust to grow organically. After a lengthy discussion, I knew the names of most of the "bosses" and sizes of their gangs. Now I could approach each one individually to invite him and his group to a meeting. Until late into the night I visited many ill-lit huts behind garbage piles that smelled powerfully.

It was hot and humid, the fleas were happy I had come again and bit me ferociously when I returned late at night to the slum. The first miracle took place. The garbage boss and the leader of the beggar gang appeared at the agreed upon time. The small place where I waited was filled with curious people. I invited the fifteen "employees" of the beggar boss to join me the following day in a different, beautiful place. They agreed to come. After a lengthy discussion I suggested the possibility of allowing some of the five to nine year olds to go to school. We would support the financial side if the boss allowed the free time for them to go to school and time to study after school. He seemed deeply touched and promised to give some of the children permission.

The next evening over twenty-five people accepted my invitation, mostly young people and some women with children peeled themselves out of a fifteen seat bus I had arranged for.

During the previous few weeks I had developed several program outlines. Maybe it would be possible to initiate a cultural exchange program between the underprivileged young Muslims and Christians in the slum with the Hindu youth in a traditional Balinese village - This could possibly lead to a deeper understanding of each other's culture as well as of each other and serve to prevent violence, especially to prevent the ideas of radical Muslim powers to root in the poor slum areas.

I invited all to take a seat on cushions in a circle. The faces were mistrusting yet at the same time curious. After some silence laughter began to spread hesitantly, after which I invited the group to join in an exercise to get in touch with one's own heart to allow creative ideas that would eventually lead to concrete projects to come forth. They did not ask questions and spoke little, not used to being asked for thoughts and ideas. I looked into the face of the gang leader of the garbage pickers, a twenty years old man, with one leg missing below the knee. His eyes mirrored bitterness and the potential for aggression. And yet, in this relaxed atmosphere, surrounded by a pond with open flowering waterlilies, he, too, relaxed and smiled. A package of food had been prepared for each and was gladly accepted. They ate with great appetite, having to fight for their daily food and survival.

The most important process began to unfold now, how to touch each heart and its potential to allow a process as a group which could lead to realizing various projects in the slum. The psychological principles which are at the base of each project of the PsychoPolitical peace Foundation are: Consciousness of Joy, Empowerment to Choose, Choice and Self Help. None of these processes is

present in a slum - a slum is full of garbage, dirty, depressing. Poverty and drugs determine daily survival. It is ideal breeding ground for hatred and a fertile soil for recruiting young Muslims into the Jihad, the holy war of the fundamentalists (Its original meaning, inner cleansing has been distorted).

For several weeks now bearded Afghan men, with their head scarves have been visiting the Islamic population in Bali. They preach in the mosques to recruit young men for the war in Afghanistan. They seem quite successful, especially where the poorest live. Our projects, based on the above named values, especially on learning about consciousness of joy, invite people to translate their inner potential into action to become life-giving, whereas the terrorist uses people's creativity to take lives, is destructive and death-oriented.

What took place next seemed incredible. This rag tag bunch of people began to relax, was able to turn to their hearts and listen to their inner voice to allow the experience of creativity. Miracles took place that evening. People relaxed, felt well, began to talk. They treated the beautiful environment with the same care as I modelled, It was deeply touching to see many eyes come alive and awaken to see that they felt able to do something, given a chance.

Several interesting ideas were presented which the group will develop further. We will assess each idea to determine how much each can do and where our support is truly needed. What will be done depends on the strength of their motivation and action. This process allows us, in turn, to feel motivated and find the needed resources to support the unfolding activities. The project CAN COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE BE PREVENTED is unfolding organically.

The following day I had a long, slow, deep conversation with Tampi, one of the religious leaders in his Balinese village, where for the last two years we worked with a group of Balinese youth on CAN COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE BE PREVENTED. We discussed the ins and outs of the Balinese religion, a very special brand of Hinduism, which involves the sacrifice of animals and innumerable offerings to the gods, including legal cock fights in the temple forecourt, where the Balinese man bring their dearly loved, long cared-for cock for its glorious moments of battle. With razors attached to their spurs, it takes the defeated cock only a few minutes to die. It is a man's affair and the betting is most exciting. Sometimes the cock escaped, which shamed its owner. I mentioned to Tampi that actually he should be proud to possess such an intelligent cock that did not want to get killed. Our talks were mostly concerned with the innumerable animal sacrifices which are needed for the many religious ceremonies and offerings. The offerings and sacrifices were also meant to keep a balance of power to feed the demons to protect the people from them. Bali is a magical island and also an island where white and black magic are part of daily life.

During my last visit I had explained to Tampi that the blood of the dying animals fed and nourished the demons. Should the people truly want protection, they needed to stop sacrificing the animals to the demons. Not receiving any blood would weaken them. Tampi knew this to be true and visited a high Brahman teacher to find answers to his emerging questions. He received the following answer: Each animal, since it was sacrificed for ceremonial purposes, would achieve a better life, that is, incarnation into a higher life form in its next life. So was it taught in Balinese Hinduism. I asked him how they could incarnate into a higher form of life when they were being killed while screaming in fear of death. They will be caught in the field of fear after their death. We agreed to continue our discussion during my next visit.

The Balinese culture, a very special branch of Hinduism, was brought to Bali from neighboring Java, when the ruling Javanese elite tried to escape from Islam. It brought its structures and rigid system with it, overlaying the original Balinese culture which had been influenced by Buddhism as well. Indonesia has developed its own moderate form of Islam, integrating many pre-Islamic customs which are unique to its many multi-ethnic groups living on its seventeen thousand islands.

I left the following day to return to an emotionally shaken Switzerland, where the dream of a safe inner and outer environment had been broken due to the local events.

Margret Rueffler is a transpersonal psychologist, the founder of the Psychopolitical Peace Institute in New York and Staefa, Switzerland.

Bali, 1999 - 2002 » Phase Nine, Report Bali-Project, December 2001

It was a challenge to try to get fifteen children from the different ethnic backgrounds, between six and nine years old, into the public school system. The children, most without the legal documents it takes to attend public school, live in one of the slums in Kuta, an international tourist destination, and most are part of different gangs, "employed" by a boss for various activities. I had received permission from the gang bosses to register them for school. This was, however, just the beginning...

The meeting with the local Balinese government leader of the area made it very clear that the Banjars (local district) priorities were different. We finally settled to admitting two children into the public school system. The others who, of course, do not have the required documents and papers, we are looking to accommodate in private elementary schools so that they can receive a basic education.

Several projects are emerging from the group process that took place during my last visit in the same area. Sumaryono's little sewing shop has had a profound renewal - white paint, electrical wiring and a tile floor replacing the dirt floor. It looks very beautiful, like a flower opening in this depressing array of shacks and huts. We spent some time shopping for colorful fabrics and materials to produce a beautiful simple line of children's clothing, the patterns of which had been carefully chosen and lovingly prepared by a sponsor.

A barbershop is now being started in this area as well. The first steps are to get a lease on the piece of land in the slum area and then to build a simple shed. It will be another flower, clean and brightly painted.

A vendor of household articles was given a small grant to expand his stock which he sells from his bicycle loaded high with plastic pots, pans etc.

Krishna, a gentle, little nineteen year old young man, from Jakarta, lost half of his teeth in a motorcycle accident left and therefore is embarrassed to smile. Due to financial problems he left high school before completing it. Here, in this slum area of Kuta, he is trying to survive. His deepest wish is to learn English. PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation is sponsoring his English classes now and has found a sponsor for a set of teeth. His joy at hearing this news was overwhelming. He beamed, tears in his eyes.

Again, I realized how little it takes to allow people to feel joy and a stronger self esteem.

I met Welli, twenty-two, about a year ago at the Kuta beach when I approached young people to invite them to join our program "Can Collective Violence be prevented?". He was ready now to talk about letting go of the drugs he has been taking since he was fourteen. "My brain is not working anymore," he said. Now he wanted me to give him a job or money. I suggested the following: I would supply him with a series of detox, minerals and vitamin to allow his body and brain to recover from the drugs. I gave him a choice - either he will receive some money or the herbal, mineral and vitamin treatment which, maybe will help restore his brain function so that, hopefully, he will be able to go back to school to study and learn.

The second group of multi-ethnic participants of the Kuta slum area is now ready to work on their projects.

Since trust with the inhabitants of this area has been established now, we discussed the next steps of the survey with Supriyadi and the team of the department of Social Politics from Warmadewa University.

I received an invitation from the University to be a guest lecturer and train some of the students in their action research program. I am honored and pleased to do so and to facilitate the exchange between youth from the slum and students.

At Present, we are evaluating possibilities for providing a place where youth from the slum may meet and receive education in various fields.

This time I also had to renew my re-entry permit, which meant tackling the bureaucratic system, with the multitude of stamps and signatures and forms it requires, for a few days. Coming face to face with this complex bureaucracy and its systemic expectation of bribes gave me a good understanding of

why each Indonesian must depend on relatives or connections in this jungle to get the papers they need. It makes you truly feel like Sisyphus.

It takes so little to support joy and self esteem and see the radiant faces and deeply touched eyes - conscious of joy, empowerment and choice.

Margret Rueffler
Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 2000 - 2004 » Phase Ten, Report Bali-Project, April 2002

April, the beginning of the hottest season in Bali and the preparation for the Balinese New Year were taking place in all colours that is - huge papermache figures were placed in each village to be set on fire the evening before the New Year.

I passed innumerable Balinese on trucks, motorcycles, in impeccable ceremonial dress on their way to the beaches to clean and bless the statues of their gods on that occasion.

Indrawati, now a medical student sponsored by PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation in adjacent Java had returned home for this occasion to her village.

The English classes in Tanggayuda for the young high school students (sponsored by PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation), were going well. Gusri was proving to be a good teacher.

PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation was offered a piece of land as a gift to build a youth centre for the village. It is planned to engage most of the village youth in the process of determining the building and events needed there. The project will begin next June.

The visit to the Kuta slum area and Sumaryono's sewing shop brought new ideas and changes on how to use the newly built and renovated place. The brainstorming was useful and it was agreed to turn the sewing shop with its freshly tiled floor and newly painted walls into the a play pen for young children up to four year old. Various toys were carefully evaluated. The needs were for easy to clean, stimulating and solid toys.

The playroom will be run by the woman with children living in the slum and is structured in such a way, to accommodate several groups of multi-ethnic children during the week. The women will be responsible for it.

A Volleyball field in the slum area is being built by PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation and a youth centre is planned next October here as well. Presently the participation of various gang leaders in the slum is sought, to engage their support and skills in its construction.

The little barbershop in the slum began to operate and it seems that it is well frequented.

Weli was given his detox, minerals and vitamins to clean and rebuild his body and brain, damaged through many years of drug use.

A local NGO (non governmental organization) was founded. Its name, Lagu Damai, Song of peace, represents its Balinese source. It is quite a challenging undertaking to brave the Indonesian bureaucratic process to do this.

Warmadewa University offered a job as a guest lecturer.

A second group of ethnic backgrounds from Sumba, Flores, Timor met to begin group project work together.

The overall project "**Can Collective Violence be Prevented?**" unfolds at an organic pace. It is planned to begin the survey in the Kuta slum area in June 2002.

Support is sought for

- more children to go to primary school
- University scholarships
- Youth center building
- maintenance etc.....

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 2000 - 2004 » Phase Eleven, Report Bali-Project, July 2002

At seven the next morning we left from Bali for a twelve hour drive to the port of Surabaya, on the neighbouring island of Java. The crossing via ferry was a true adventure - cars, loaded in a very complex procedure, filled the belly of a vintage ferry, life boats nowhere in sight. The winds were heavy, and more than once the boat slowed to a standstill to avoid being bounced by the strong waves. Somehow, miraculously, we reached the other shore. The long drive that followed passed through desolate villages with heaps of plastic debris on the side of the road.

At the invitation of the Surabaya University Faculty of Psychology, I held a two hour presentation on Psychology of Nations and prevention of collective violence. The reception was warm and open. (Here in Surabaya, the Chinese Christian minority was attacked violently in 1998). An agreement was reached to teach a four day workshop to the faculty beginning in October to introduce the Bali Project and the principles of consciousness of joy, empowerment and selfhelp, leading to prevention of collective violence, to be applied here with the local population. A visit to Indrawati, who is studying medicine at a private university in Surabaya (sponsored by PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation PPPF), concluded the day. The return to Bali took many hours of strenuous driving in heavy traffic. What a relief to see colourful flowers lining the streets again upon our return to Bali.

The month of July is the Balinese winter and windy season. At a temperature of 23° Celsius (80F), in woolen hats and sweaters, the Balinese were freezing. It is also the season to fly beautiful kites in the skies which produce crackling noises day and night.

In the Kuta slum we invited about ten women from different ethnic groups, mothers of children up to five years of age, to a meeting. The children's playroom, with its clean white tile floor sported some additional toys -- two beautifully painted rocking horses, several games, plush animals and one wall covered with paper and crayons on the floor. The children played, rocked and drew with great enthusiasm. We supported the mothers' effort to organize themselves into taking daily turns watching the children as they used the playroom.

The multi-ethnic men's group in the slum area interested in building the volleyball court gathered the following day. Plans for building a sand court (most of the players do not possess shoes) were discussed with excitement. They already had formed a club. The net and balls have already been purchased and the men have begun to clean the area, a 200 m² piece of land behind shacks and piles of garbage and plastic refuse that PPPF has rented . Since most of the male slum inhabitants are volleyball fanatics, this seems the ideal way to release the pent-up aggressions leading to frequent outbreaks of violence in this area.

We also worked with a group of men from the islands of Sumba, Flores, Lombok and Timor over several meetings to help them build small businesses at a grass roots level.

As of July, two children from the slum area are enrolled in primary school. We plan to support fifteen more children in primary school.

Artawa from the village of Tanggayuda, just out of senior high school is being sponsored by PPPF to continue his studies and go to computer school. The next steps were finding a dormitory, buying furniture (mattress and table), and, of course, a computer to set him up for his studies.

The whole group of high school youngsters in Tanggayuda were making nice progress in their English class (sponsored by PPPF). They now expressed the desire to join the music band (a PPPF project for

the youth group from Tanggayuda), since some of the previous members had left to go to the university in the capital.

We met with the village leader to discuss at length the idea of building a youth center in order to engage the potential of young people into various activities to prevent violence and inviting them to a meeting to build support among them and find out what we might do to assist in fulfilling their needs.

The happy faces of the many children in the playroom and going to primary school and of the young people going to high school and the university are our motivation to continue "Can Collective Violence Be Prevented?"

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 2000 - 2004 » Phase Twelve, Report Bali-Project, October 2002

The Kuta Slum

The **volleyball field** behind the shacks was only partially built. Dust clouds lift up when one steps on it. What happened to the heavy lava sand that was supposed to be there? The players wanted a sand field since they do not have shoes to play on cement.

Little by little, the story emerges, told by the young people who are quite embarrassed about it. One of the young people who was administering the money for the construction of the field decided that some of his friends needed to be paid for building the volleyball court. The original agreement with the group was that PPPF would provide the money and they would do the labour free of charge.

The young men I was speaking to told me that they had been powerless to prevent the others from doing this and then leaving for Java, the neighbouring island. We explored how they might build the field without being hassled by the older and more powerful inhabitants. One idea was that they needed protection. In the meantime, some of the gang bosses had also joined the discussion and described how angry they were that this could have happened. It was clear that the best protection in the slum could be given by the gang bosses. The best solution would be for them to supervise the project. We asked all three of them to do so and they agreed. The young men seemed very relieved. They chose the boss of the beggars to hold the money and the other two to supervise the construction of the field. It was a glorious idea to involve the bosses toward community building in this place.

When I returned a few days later to have a meeting with the women's group about the use of the playroom I was received by two bosses who accompanied me to the field where the other one was supervising the young workers. The field was nearly finished --the cement poured, poles planted. All it needed was for the lines to be painted. Everyone seemed very proud of the achievement. -If the enthusiasm continues, we shall eventually provide lighting to allow them to play in the evening as well. (Since we are close to the equator here, dark sets in at 6 P.M.)

Children's playroom: About 16 women with children, all freshly washed, appeared at the 5 P.M. meeting. We requested that people be allowed access to the playroom only when they are clean and explained that this was necessary in order to prevent any infections. It was important to explain this since some of the children had stayed away after being told to go and wash first.

It was a lively and noisy meeting, with all the children crawling and exploring the toys.

We established a schedule. Since there were so many children, we agreed that five children could use the playroom at one time and organized the mothers into four groups. Each day a different group could play. We emphasized that it was the mothers' responsibility to watch the children.

There is a large fluctuation of the population in this area, a continuous coming and going. I discussed this with the women and suggested that they introduce each newcomer with a child below four to the playroom. This would allow a certain continuity and self- regulation.

One of the families in the slum had taken their child to the hospital in an emergency after the toddler swallowed a peanut that got stuck in the air tube. Since the family was unable to pay for the x-ray, the identity card, so very important to the family, was being retained by the hospital. PPPF decided to pay for the bill so that the card could be released and returned to its owner and he could look for work.

The women's meeting was followed by a meeting with the **multi-ethnic** group of men from the Islands of Sumba, Flores and Lombok working on starting their own small businesses. After fulfilling the written requirements, which teach them how to run a grassroots business, they were each given their start-up grants. The businesses included, making bricks, selling hot food from a bicycle, and opening a food stall. If their businesses are successful during the next three months, they will be given an additional grant to expand them.

I then visited the government leader of Banjar Anjar to keep him updated about our activities in the slum area.

Tanggayuda Village

The **girls and boys** PPPF is sponsoring to go to **high school** were waiting at the leader's house to hand over the accounts for the last three months of school fees. **Artawa**, who is being sponsored to go to computer school, had problems with continuing breakdowns of his computer. I promised to visit him the next day in his dormitory in Denpasar to check it out.

A **youth center** in the village is in its planning stages and the village leader had arranged for me to meet all the eleven and twelve year olds in order to find out about their needs. A lovely, eager and curious group of thirty boys and girls greeted me expectantly. They were quite clear about voicing their needs, which included a table tennis set-up, Karate and dance classes, and a badminton field. We left each other with the promise that we would think about, what it would take to establish such a center. I plan to meet with the 12 - 18 year olds on my next visit.

I also began to negotiate with T who would like to donate the land for the youth center. The next step is to seek out a lawyer to get more information on this process.

Java

A workshop to the lecturers of the psychological faculty of Udayana University in Surabaya, Java, was followed by the creation of a team to prevent collective violence and learn to treat trauma of large groups.

Margret Rueffler

Project Conceptualizer

Bali, 2000 - 2004 » Phase Thirteen, Report Bali-Project, January 2003

It is already December and the rainy season, which usually starts in October, has not come. Bali is embedded in a blanket of heat. Once in a while enough towering clouds gather to shed a very welcome cooling rain.

Many things have changed on the island since the explosion of the terrorist bomb in October. The **Kuta multiethnic slum area**, where PsychoPolitical Peace Foundation has been active for the past two years, during which it built a volleyball field and opened a children's playroom, among other things, has several new shacks. The police check frequently now to find people without legal resident permits. Many of its previous residents have not been able to return since the Muslim holiday, Eid il Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, the annual month of fasting, ended. They were held up at the various ferries on coming back from visiting their families, and were denied re-entry. Quite a few new faces greeted me on a recent visit. People without jobs trying to find work, waiting all day, trying to provide for a daily meal. We supported community building, which has increased. An election for a leader took place. The candidates were three of the gang leaders and a food stall owner. The food stall owner won most of the votes. This provides the community an kind of semi-official status. The slum can no longer be ignored.

The volleyball field is used very often and the volleyballs we supplied on our last visit are already in need of repair. Sweatshirts for the team sponsored by PPPF are being made. We actually do have a quite competitive team here - they have already played several other teams. Their sweatshirts have the name of our local NGO, "Lagu Damai," on the chest, and its translation, "Song of Peace," on the back. Eighteen T-shirts were given to the players.

In the Balinese **village of Tanggayuda**, most of the people who were employed in the tourist industry are out of work. At this point the hotels have a 10% occupancy rate. The leader of the Banjar was very

concerned. It seems, however, that most of the people will not starve, as their families still own some rice fields. The religious leader observed that the quantity of the usual offerings of food to the gods in the village temples has been reduced drastically. A definite sign of lack of finances.

PPPF and its local NGO "Song of Peace" are planning to build a **space in the village where young men and women, boys and girls can meet**. Out of the 150 young people between twelve and twenty-two, very few are presently working. A meeting with the various youth groups was called at the leader's house to do some brainstorming about the future center: the type of activities that would be welcome and the amount of time that could be contributed to the construction. The center will be built on a piece of land which is a gift to our organization. The legal contracts are in the making and we should be able to begin building in June 2003, provided the funds are forthcoming.

We visited our twice-weekly **English class** and were touched by the progress of the participants since our last visit. PPPF is sponsoring several students from the poorest families. Two are already studying: Indrawati -- medicine in Surabaya, on the island of Java, and Artawa -- computer programming in Bali's capital, Denpasar. This summer four girls and two boys wishing to continue their studies will complete senior high school. We discussed the possibilities at length and asked the students to detail their learning programs, including curriculum, budget and financing, for our next visit. **We do want to sponsor each one**. They are very aware of the chance they are being given, they excel in school and they are so eager to learn.

During my third visit to **Ubaya University in the city of Surabaya**, the largest port in **Java**, the heat, one hundred degrees with high humidity, was nearly unbearable. Air conditioned rooms are few and far apart. The meeting of the team on a **preventative approach to post trauma and violence** of the psychology faculty took place at the university. The possibilities of how to integrate the values of **CONSCIOUSNESS OF JOY, EMPOWERMENT TO CHOOSE and CHOICE** in the various teaching modules were discussed. Each teacher questioned how she/he could be a role model and teach these values to the students, as well. The group also decided to send two psychologists to Bali to show the support of the university for the victims of the bomb. I was asked to support the psychotherapeutic counseling in expanding its curriculum as well as to assist in the development of a training program of post trauma stress counselors.

Project conceptualizer

Margret Rueffler

PsychoPolitical Peace Institute and Foundation

Bali, 2000 - 2004 » Phase Fourteen, Report Bali-Project, September 2004

Java

The Java projects are unfolding organically. Again, a long drive through tense traffic on small roads to the **children's prison in East Java**. After the usual time spent on formalities with the various officers in charge, we met with our already existing, and now well established group of youths to discuss the motorcycle repair training, which we organised during our previous visit. A climate of trust seemed to prevail as we invited the youths to voice their needs and wants. The cakes we brought along disappeared quickly during the process. Several of the young inmates wanted to be able to pass their high school exams on the outside, which would allow them to get an official high school diploma. We promised to discuss their request with the head of the prison school as well as with the director of the local junior high school.

I then took a walk through the facility, distributing toothpaste (a donation from Switzerland) and writing pens (also a donation, from a student of the PsychoPolitical Peace Institute) to each of the seventy-six inmates.

After a lengthy discussion with the wardens and the organization providing the motorcycle spare parts, we finally left the prison.

The "**Peace Education Project**" (Prevention of collective violence project), in which our foundation in Bali - Lagu Damai, a university in Surabaya, Java and the Savy Amira women's crisis center in Surabaya, Java are joining forces, is well on its way. We completed a most complicated application to the European Community for funding. If approved for a grant, this project will include the training of prison personnel, law makers, and religious groups. A manual and DVD will be developed to introduce peace making as a part of a regular curriculum at various governmental and other institutions.

It is of great concern to my colleagues at the Department of Psychology in Surabaya, Java that terrorism is on the increase in Indonesia and that being Muslim is often regarded in the West as being a terrorist. We are now in the preliminary process of developing ways to psychologically examine the topic of terrorist in order to eventually approach it from a different perspective.

Bali

Progress is being made in the **Lagu Damai (Song of Peace) youth center**. Funds are urgently needed to build the roof for the large meeting hall. Floor tiles have been purchased as well as the obligatory Balinese altar, whose position and date of placement will be determined by the local village priest. Without the altar and the priest's blessing, Balinese will refuse to work on the construction site.

The **English classes** in Tanggayuda, held by Dewa twice weekly, are in full swing and very popular with the youth in the village.

Our university students, Indrawati - medicine, Artawa - computer, Andika - computer, Siwi - accounting, Agus - car mechanics, Martini - administration assistance apprenticeship and Suartini, teacher assistant apprenticeship, are all excelling at their work. It is such a joy to see their willingness and keenness to study and learn.

Ngura and Agung, two of the next group of six youths the **Psychopolitical Peace Foundation sponsors for high school, have entered senior high school**. Everyone here is hoping that the new Indonesian President will do what he promised, that is, decrease the outrageous high school fees. If not, many people will not be able to afford to send their children to school.

The Tanggayuda group trained as **electricians** is now opening its own business, with our support and their newly acquired know-how.

Bangli: The Bangli women's - small business group is now creating a self-supported loan project. Each woman will pay a certain amount into the common account, which will be matched by us. The total sum will be given to a woman with a very good business idea and she will repay the loan with interest. Then, another woman will use the loan.

The following is needed: - More guitars for the prison project

- Shampoo for the prison project
- Funding for the youth center
- Money to pay school fees

Would you like to experience the Balinese culture, attend a seminar and view our local projects from Monday, December 20 - Sunday, December 26, 2004? » www.pppi.net to the project sites for information about this upcoming event.

Thank you for your continued support of our activities and projects.

Project conceptualizer

Margret Rueffler

PsychoPolitical Peace Institute and Foundation

Bali, Phase Fifteen, Report Bali-Project, June - August 2005

MEULABOH - BANDA ACEH, SUMATRA, INDONESIA

"Women empowering women"

The journey by car to Meulaboh, from Medan on the East coast of Sumatra took over fourteen hours. It is a beautiful scenic drive through rubber plantations past gorgeous untouched beaches to Meulaboh, where the tsunami created havoc, reaching many miles inland and along the beaches.

Every small village I passed had its wooden shacks with military personnel and further down the road the police station. Each house as a sign of its faithfulness to the Indonesian government has to hoist the flag. Cars are stopped many times by each post at gunpoint and have to pay their toll, to be able to continue on their way.

Meulaboh was initially not accessible, due to the destruction of its only access road by the tsunami. After its repair, the latest earthquake made the Northern access impassable.

The project "Women empowering women" led to the IWAPI, an Indonesian business women association in Meulaboh, Aceh. Its president, Ibu Rosni, was twice elected as a member of the local parliament and decided she could be more effective outside of politics. I was welcomed warmly by her and her co-workers. The need for small grassroots business financing is immense. So many people who died took their skills of making handicrafts with them. The aim now is to support those who are left to rebuild their lives. A midwife training center, Bumi Sehat, and its makeshift clinic, run by a Philippine-Canadian woman, is very popular. People were lining up to get acupuncture treatments. We met with various women who produce marvellous Acehnese gold and silver embroidery and other products.

Two main interests crystallized: Information about health care and small business training and financing. Our contribution is a two day workshop on health issues for women, to be held next month by Tiwi - my colleague, a lecturer at Ubaya University, Java - in Meulaboh, with the members of the women's organisation and the tsunami survivors. I will train a group of women to run small businesses based on the values of Consciousness of joy, empowerment, choice and self reliance, during my next visit in October.

Banda Aceh, smoldering in 40 degree heat, was dusty and noisy. Our visits to the camps were well received. In **Lamseunong and Lambateung**, we gave our group relaxation and breathing exercises to reduce the post trauma stress they experience when hearing sudden noises and when being in strong winds, which bring about flashbacks and memories of the tsunami.

The brick factory, very much needed, is in its beginning stages and will eventually employ ten to fifteen women, who will share the profits.

Sanitary and water conditions are abominable. Tiwi presented the group with simple methods for making drinking water out of the unclean water that is not fit for consumption. The need for a water purifying system is of highest priority.

In **Lamseunong, Miotia**, a ten year old girl had severely twisted her arm. The camp women had made a compress of ingredients, which upon our arrival had hardened and could not be removed. It took over one hour to gently water and release the hardened compress. The child needed urgently to be treated. I searched for a doctor, but none was to be found. We arranged for Insari, our field coordinator, to get a doctor from the city the following day. The girl was in great pain whenever she was moved.

The women had requested a volleyball court where they could release some of their tension. I promised to provide volleyballs and a net. The men were charged with flattening the earth to provide a dusty court.

Finally we had some time to visit our small business projects. The four girls had purchased a sewing machine and a buttonhole machine and presented proudly their products and clothes. One goat had already had a baby and another one is pregnant. The other twelve goats seem healthy and growing nicely.

In the camp Lambateung (Katju) the women were waiting for us. They gave us a generous gift of duck eggs on a bed of salt. The ducks had several ducklings, the goats were pregnant, and the kiosk was stocked with what was needed.

The women received an additional sum of money. They asked if we could provide mattresses for them. We promised to do our best. They will enjoy going shopping together next time. The women were joyful and laughed heartily with us.

We left with a deep feeling of appreciation for one another.

JAVA, INDONESIA

Somehow, the **children's prison** seemed much more fully alive than during our previous visits. A new director, who, on first impression seemed to be truly touched by the many sad stories of the children, was very interested in any support he could receive from outside organisations to improve the situation in prison.

My colleague and I met with eight participants of our longterm group - three had left on probation. The group was very attentive and alert, able to articulate their immediate needs and wants. Their wishes were simple, and easy to fulfill. Their requests were chicken lunches (the prison food being mainly rice), new pants, shampoo and a guitar for the next youth who will be released in six months.

Official certificates will be issued to each one who participated in the motorcycle repair training we organised previously. Thus, they can demonstrate a usable skill once released.

We networked with several local organisations that were unaware that a children's prison is in their town. They will introduce other skills and programs into the prison.

Our next contribution will be a two day training program for the wardens and rehabilitation social wardens in September in the prison. The director welcomed this project warmly.

BALI, INDONESIA

By the end of July, the **youth center** will have two computers and one printer for public use, to allow youth access to computers.

Thank you for your continued emotional and financial support.

We need financial support for the brick factory and for mattresses, volleyballs and a net.

Margret Rueffler

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