

Training of Trainers in Human Rights and Interfaith Peace Awareness **Mombasa, Kenya on 24th, 25th October 2015**

*Slogan: **PEACE! PEACE FOR ALL!!***



Day 1

The Mombasa human rights training comprised participants from different faiths with the majority from Islamic community and Christians a minority.

We had 15 participants who had previously attended our first introductory meeting when we last visited Mombasa in July 2015.

The participants were young adults and leaders who included high ranking members of the society and included lecturers, teachers, college and university students, and a few from local NGO's and religious groups.

The participants represented all areas of Mombasa County.

The training methodology:

1. Oral questionnaire- this was to assess or determine the level of awareness of the participant's on human rights education.
2. Introduction-Everyone shared the expectation and the purpose goals of the training focusing on IARF main objectives, promoting human rights education and peace awareness
3. The need for human rights education programs-
 - It will help young adults and religious leaders promote peace
 - Help the facilitators able to have knowledge to dialogue in peacemaking issues.
 - To bring change in the region on human rights education.
 - It will help religious to understand each other to their faiths beliefs.

Expected outcome of the training:

1. The participants expected to facilitate more human rights trainings in their areas of jurisdiction, impart knowledge and achieve peace building capacity in conflict resolutions on a wider scale.
2. Reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among religions, families and communities
3. Bring Peace dialogue at rate of 80 % to this region.
4. Promotion and protection of human rights advocacy.
5. Good governance and religious democratic development in the region.
6. Promotion of socio-economic factors.
7. Help to identify human rights violations have peace dialogue to solutions.
8. Creation of awareness among local youth of how to build a peace process that leads to long-lasting harmonious co-existing of warring religious groups and beliefs
9. Helping young people to adopt a sense of belonging and their responsibilities to the community, and giving them a place to exercise their rights in their responsible areas.
10. Create peace awareness among the religions through initiating basic encounters, leading in time to dialogue and the combating of extremism.

Expected beneficiaries:

1. Youths
2. Women
3. Religious leaders
4. Government institutions
5. University/college students

The institutions represented in this training were: **Mombasa Technical University, Mombasa Technical Training Institute, Pwani University,** and the **Maritime Institute of Eastern Africa.**

Conclusion:

All delegates appreciated the knowledge they had received and pledged to continue with campaigns in human rights education in their areas.

To ensure continuation of what they had received, all participants pledged to convene, on a weekly basis, peace forums and human rights trainings in schools, groups and in all public forums normally organized by government agencies.

The Chapter promised to issue certificates of participation as prove of attendance.

Finally the lead facilitator Mr. Farad Mohamed from the county government department of gender and social services and his counterpart to be issued with facilitation certificates by IARF.

There was also a strong need to increase the number of TOT participants according to the demand of more trainings, a fact we promised to consider in the future.

Coast province is made up of six large counties namely Tana River, Kwale, Lamu Taita Taveta, Kilifi and Mombasa, and all these counties have unique problems. The large majority of residents are Muslims.

We agreed to organize IARF meetings and TOT's in all coastal counties similar to Mombasa.

Day 2

Host: Hamis Juma Kitenje & Senior Chief Mwachande

Presiding IARF Kenya Chapter Officials:

Rev. Lawrence Adera, Secretary; Bishop Martin Mwambu, Treasurer



There were 34 participants in this forum.

Key figures in attendance were:

1. **Assistant Chief** -Shaban Ndoro
2. **Chair Lady Maendeleo ya wanawake, Coast region-Bizane Swaleh-**
3. **Women Representative Mombasa County**
4. **Member of County Assembly Mvita Ward**
5. **MCA to Be Suleiman Mtsumi**
6. **CBO LASSCO- Rehema M. Kombe**
7. **Mabalozi (peace Ambassadors)**
8. **Sheiks**
9. **Imam**
10. **Christian leaders- Apostle Rita** – Kilifi
11. **Muslim women- Asha Mwadadi**
12. **Baha'i brothers.**
13. **Former Members of County Assembly (MCA)**

Agenda:

- Prayers from religious groups
- Introduction:- IARF Kenya Chapter officials, Host and Interfaith Delegates
- Presentation from IARF Kenya Chapter officials
- Views from the interfaith delegates
- Way forward (full participation of region)

The meeting started at 9:45 AM in chief's camp Majengo, Mombasa with a word of prayer from Sheik, Imam, representing Christians, and traditional belief.

There was an apology from Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner

Introduction and a history of IARF internationally and locally, its objectives and main focus was done with one of our members groups. He told the representatives from all the counties of Coast region of the need to embrace IARF objectives and join hands in fulfilling IARF mandate in the region and beyond.

He noted that, Mombasa being a very volatile region and notorious for inter-religious conflicts, IARF Kenya Chapter activism in the area is an ideal venture, hence a need for firm IARF representation.

Bishop Martin Mwambu highlighted on the history of Kenya chapter formation and the force that drove us to be where we are as a chapter in Kenya. He briefed the participants on the achievements of the Kenya chapter so far and the already ongoing TOT programs. He also touched on the activities that we do, and the positive feedback.

Views / Opinion From Participants

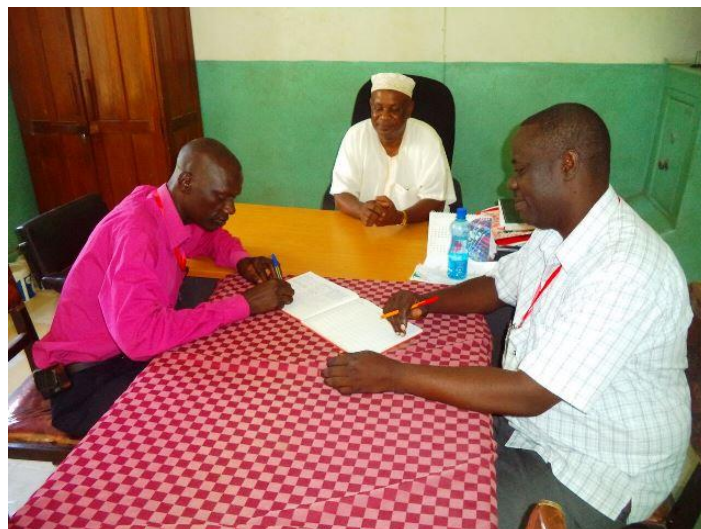
- All participants were happy and appreciated IARF presence in Kenya and in particular our visit which they described as long overdue. They desired such introductory meetings to be held across all the counties of Coast region in the shortest time possible.
- Government organs and civil society should be informed and also be involved or send representation in all IARF activities. e.g Office of the County commissioners, Governors, Senators, Muslim caucus and inter-religious society leaders, civil society and other interested organizations with similar vision and objectives.
- There was also a need for the involvement of youths /students of universities, colleges, and Secondary Schools because they are the most affected, easily influenced, and easy targets of agents of doom.
- A youth delegate, Mr. Hamad, requested for a close working relationship with IARF Kenya chapter because of the organization's good repute. He believes IARF Kenya chapter will bring about the required change and transform youths into responsible, educated and cautious citizens on human rights issues, and earn everlasting peace.



We were assured by youths to work hand in hand as IARF Kenya chapter to realize the much desired peace and co-existence of all humanity regardless of race, tribe, religion, or color, and therefore to organize or participate in all human rights education and peace forums.

- There was much need for women representation for such activities, as they are also potential instruments of peace and quick avenues in reaching the affected women in the region.
- We noted that there was urgent need for peace sensitization meetings and training on human rights in the following hotspots of inter-religious conflict:

1. Kwale; 2. Kilifi; 3. Tana River; 4. Taita Tavet; 5. Malindi; 6. Lamu



Summary

1. There is an urgent need for sensitization on peace programs in the region mostly in the identified inter-religious conflict hot spots.
2. The leaders proposed that IARF Kenya chapter hold a coast region interfaith peace caravan.
3. There is need for involving women leaders in all IARF Kenya chapter activities in the region as they are more instrumental organs for peace. Because mostly the causers of peace conflict are children(youths) whom are very much in touch with their mothers at every time.(**women are at the center to correct their children than men/fathers**)
4. Security has been very elusive due to rampant religious youth radicalization and countless war like groupings making security a major challenge for the government.

Hence proper IARF Kenya chapter introduction and objectives is very clearly known to have been understood by this members region, and they are fully supporting to work together.

We were notified by the Chief in his speech that the Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner have also understood the mandates of IARF and the Kenya chapter and are ready to work in close relationship, as we are the only interfaith religious group that has come openly to help them to restore peace to 80%.

4. Much efforts and energies should be directed towards this region of Mombasa to enhance a quicker co-existence between Muslims who are the majority and other minority religions to avoid future conflicts which can easily degenerate into fully fledged war, like what Kenya almost experienced years back that has left many displaced in Mombasa and has not been fully resettled to date.
5. There was evident passion in the participants and in them we saw strong, energized people who exhibited seriousness peace ambassadors (Balonzi) that will help IARF Kenya chapter to realize its goal and objectives in our advocacy for peace and human rights education, and elimination of inter-faith disharmony. Because of that we are happy IARF officials now.
6. Finally the senior chief promised and reminded us that very soon we shall have courtesy call to the county Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner, Governor and senator and encourage that IARF activities should carry on without further.
7. In the corridors of justice it is said justice delayed is justice denied and in IARF Kenya chapter corridors we say Peace, sensitization and human rights education delayed in Mombasa is peace denied in Mombasa.
8. Vote of thanks from Sheik
9. The meeting, which was punctuated with applause, drinks and lunch, was very vibrant and ended on a positive note after about 5 hours..

The participants enjoyed a group photo at the end.
At exactly 2.30 pm the meeting was closed with a prayer from Sheik.



This report was compiled & prepared by:
Rev. Lawrence Adera, IARF Kenya Chapter Secretary

With the approval of the treasurer as the actual and factual true representation of what transpired

