

Proposals for media exposure of DCA partner group April 2014

International Department would like to suggest that the presence of DCA's Partner Group in Denmark in the days April 22-26, 2014, be utilised, where relevant, in addition to DCA's own media, to get media exposure to the contexts in which DCA works around the world. Some of our partners are obviously more familiar with working with the media and some contexts may be more interesting to media than others. Below please find a short indication of our assessment of the partner group in this respect as well as short CVs. Short personal presentations from the last visit can be found on: <http://www.noedhjaelp.dk/om-os/globalt-og-lokalt>

The most suitable time for media contacts for the Partner Group meetings is Thursday April 24 after 16 hrs. as well as Friday April 25 in the morning. Obviously evenings e.g. for DR2 Deadline are also possible.



1. Ms. Mira Itikeeva, Kyrgyzstan

Mira is the director of a local NGO, Centre for the Protection of Children, which focuses on internal migrants and street children, child labourers, homeless and children in conflict with the law. She is a member of The Coordination Council on Social Protection under the Kyrgyz government and of a working group on social contracting, Ministry of Social Development, where she works with advocacy and lobbying activities on human rights issues and promotion of children's rights in Kyrgyzstan. Clear analysis, innovative approach: got a panel of politicians to appear on TV and comment on disadvantaged children's dreams and complaints. Her organisation was partner of Operations Dayswork in 2005 and she receives an intl. class from Rønde Efterskole every year.

CV: Mira Itikeeva holds a Bachelor's degree in Pedagogy. She has more than 20 years of working experience with children in hard life conditions in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, both at the level of research and hands-on support. As a Director she actively networks with other local and international NGOs as well as governmental entities for the promotion of children's rights in Kyrgyzstan



2. Ms. Ohnmar Khaing, Myanmar

Dr. Khaing holds a key position as widely respected chair of the Food Security Working Group in Myanmar (coordination across state, market and civil soc. actors as well as capacity building and advocacy). She can comment on the food insecurity in Myanmar, the need for agricultural reform – and how that challenges the candidates for the presidential elections in 2015 including Aung San Suu Kyi. She may also comment on the relationship between poverty and inter-ethnic/religious strife in the Rackine state and elsewhere.

CV: Dr. Ohnmar Khaing holds a PhD in agricultural science after university studies in Myanmar, Thailand and the US. She has extensive experience in agricultural research as well as a vast practical experience as agricultural extension educator in Myanmar and Thailand – among diverse groups of hill tribes and ex-poppy farmers etc. Her work experience includes ministries, INGOs and UN. She is presently a widely respected chair of the Myanmar Food Security Working Group which includes coordination across state, market and civil soc. actors as well as capacity building and advocacy.



3. Ms. Tirza del Carmen Flores Lanza, Honduras

Tirza is a lawyer with many years of experience as a judge. She was among the judges dismissed in the wake of the 2009 coup d'état in Honduras because they did not accept the legitimacy of the new government. As a person she is soft-spoken but with a clear analysis. Her key topics would likely be the overall and political situation in Honduras and Central America more broadly, and particularly the state of the rule of law and issues related to the rampant impunity of crimes.

CV: Tirza Flores, Honduran, about fifteen years of legal career, notably as a judge at the court of appeals (app. Landsretten). Since 2010 director at the Association of Judges for Democracy and a lawyer in the defence of the rights of migrants and their families.



4. Mr. Melton Luhanga, Malawi

The upcoming election in Malawi May 20 – could be of interest to some journalists with specific interest in Malawi/Africa e.g. Orienting/Kirsten Larsen could be interested – but otherwise probably limited.

CV: Melton Luhanga, Malawian, is a graduate in Rural Social Development from the University of Malawi and Univeristy of Reading, UK, with wide experience in rural development and has worked in the field of development humanitarian response and advocacy for almost 25 years. Melton Luhanga is the Executive Director for Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), that works and aims to improve the livelihood of people especially those in the resource limited setting. He has had broad exposure to other parts of the world.



5. Mr. Peter Lujana, South Sudan

Peter is the director of a small development NGO, Community Development Support Services (CDSS), working in his native area of South Eastern South Sudan (Eastern Equatoria state). He has lived through most of the South Sudanese struggle for independence as well as the time after. He can talk about South Sudan broadly from an informed grass-roots perspective, including about the current situation even though his area has not been affected so badly by the recent battles.

CV: Originally a school teacher, Peter Lujana has worked in relief and development in South Sudan for about 25 years, for a long period with the International NGO ADRA, and from 2008 with CDSS, of which he is a founding member. He holds an MA in Communication and Development from Nairobi as well as several other diplomas and certificates.



6. Ms. Norah Owaraga, Uganda

Norah is a Ugandan social activist, with a history of a couple of decades in mobilization of community members for development and for dialogue with government at the local levels. She is usually quite outspoken and good at hitting the nail. For all we know, she has no particular involvement with the anti-gay law issue, but that probably does not imply that she would remain silent if asked!

CV: Norah Owaraga, Ugandan, BA and MSc studies in Communication and Development in the UK. She worked for the NGO Uganda Change Agents Association for more than ten years, and is now the managing director of the development NGO CPAR Uganda. In parallel, she is the founder and proprietor of a social enterprise enabling active rural farmers to farm as a business.



7. Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel; Nepal

Subodh Raj Pyakurel can play an important role in increasing the visibility of DCAs new focus country in South Asia: Nepal. Where is the country in the political developments after last year's election? What is the status of negotiations on a new constitution with among other a strong recognition of Dalit rights? Nepal is in focus for next year's DCA Parish Collection (door-to-door fundraising day) – he can speak to issues of Food insecurity, Intl. Labor Migration and caste discrimination.

CV: Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel has a MBA in Business Administration with post graduate training in the UK. He is an acclaimed Human Rights leader with extensive experience from people's movements, HR Organizations and National Committees. He is presently Chairperson of Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), former Chairperson of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), and currently he is advisor to FORUM-ASIA, NGO Federation, Nepal and Dalit NGO Federation Nepal. During autocratic, party-less regime (1961-1990) in Nepal he was active proponent of democratic movements and he was jailed and tortured by the regime. He later served as a member of the National

Monitoring Committee on Code of Conduct for Ceasefire (NMCC) formed by an agreement between the government and CPN (Maoist) to monitor human rights situation during the cease-fire.



8. Ms. Sopheap Ros, Cambodia

Soheap Ros can analyze the newer political developments – the unrest after last year’s general elections in Cambodia and the violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrations for fair living conditions (a 160 USD salary in garment sector) in January. The shrinking space, yet increasing popular mobilization: this time it is the people – not just the NGOs – who protest. She is able to give touchy and emotional, yet very informational talks to audiences of all walks of life.

CV: Ms. Sopheap Ros – a Bachelor of Education - is the founder and Executive Director of Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), a gender-specialized NGO in Cambodia with 40 full time staff. She has previously held posts in government ministry and international and national development agencies and programs in Cambodia. Sopheap is known as an activist, organizer and advocate for gender equality and women empowerment. Her activism and advocacy are drawn on vast knowledge and real life experience of Cambodian women. Over the course of her direction, GADC has progressed as the national leader in capacity-building of organizations, including government departments on gender mainstreaming into policies, plans and programs, and engaging men and boys to end violence and discrimination against women



9. Mr. Raji Sourani, Palestine:

Raji Sourani has a strong ability to formulate himself clearly – and sharply. The ongoing very difficult humanitarian situation in Gaza is not well known by the Danish public and the Palestinian

issue in general often neglected because of its perceived complexity. Politicians have difficulties in handling the fact that Hamas is in power in Gaza. Raji is well placed as the head of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights to address such issues. He would be suitable for a programme with adequate time to explain and discuss the situation e.g. DR2 Deadline or similar programme.

CV: Raji Sourani is a Palestinian lawyer from Gaza, trained in Beirut and Alexandria and specialising in Human Rights. He is the founder and director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR). The PCHR was founded in 1995, and has received international praise and recognition for its research and advocacy role on the Israeli occupation of Palestine, as well as its direct intervention on human rights issues in the Palestinian territories. The Center has become a trusted source for those seeking information on human rights abuses within the Palestinian territories, especially within the Gaza Strip. Raji Sourani provides advice to international human rights groups, international governmental organisations and national governments on human rights in the occupied territories, and regularly presents lectures and talks on human rights protection, theory and practice, and on political and legal developments in the Middle East and Palestine.



10. Ms. Martha Nemera Woyessa, Ethiopia

Martha is a social activist, with a strong stand and long experience in the struggle for women's rights in Ethiopia, with a focus on gender and economic justice as well as gender based violence against women. She has been working with the Ethiopian NGO Women Support Association for more than ten years, the last seven of which as its directress. She is usually bold and outspoken and could probably make relevant points on almost any pertinent issues, including working conditions for civil society in Ethiopia.

CV: Martha Nemera holds three MAs from universities in Ethiopia and India and has been working for the Ethiopian NGO Women Support Association for more than ten years, seven of which as its directress. She is also a board member for the Ethiopian NGO umbrella body Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA).