

Call for Donations for the Campaign

Vacation from War

Steps toward the Concrete Utopia of a Peaceful World
2006 Vacation Sponsorships for Refugee Children and Youth
from the War Zones in the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East

Frankfurt, Germany

29th of April 2006

Dear Benefactors and Friends of the project 'Vacation from War',

The children and teens come from Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia, all states with a very bitter and fresh memory of civil wars. Local peace committees cooperate with the Committee in order to give the kids a good time. For all of them it is the first time to meet the 'others' who in their home countries are still regarded as enemies.

The life-conditions in **Bosnia and Serbia** become worse and worse since the NGO-caravan moved on to the new battlefields. The UN Administration wasn't able to establish mutual schools or any kind of peace education.

The situation in **Kosovo** is like the top of a volcano. It is very exceptional when Albanian or Serbian parents agree to let their children go for holidays together.

It is remarkable how fast these youngsters play, dance and sing together but also talk about their fate and mourn together, ignoring borders and prejudices. These encounters still are unique. **For the summer of 2006 we invite another 800 youngsters from the former war zones in the Balkans to spend their vacations together** on a Mediterranean beach.

Since summer 2002 the 'Committee' also organized and financed joint seminars for more than 500 young people from **Israel and Palestine** (Westbank). **Another 180 students are invited to Germany for summer 2006--such encounters still being completely unthinkable in the Middle East.**

Young people from Israel, who took an oath to themselves never to make a step into Germany came in order to meet the 'Arab terrorists', from whom they feel threatened every day. Young people from Palestine came with enormous difficulties under the conditions of curfew and bombing in order to meet their 'occupiers'.

Beyond that, vacation games for children are once more planned in Palestinian cities and refugee camps.

The humanitarian care and the peace dialogue have invaluable significance for the participants. To come to know one other in an atmosphere full of empathy and joy may help to heal the deep psychological and physical wounds and to overcome prejudices. Young people who are moved by this experience will tell their families and friends what happened to them.

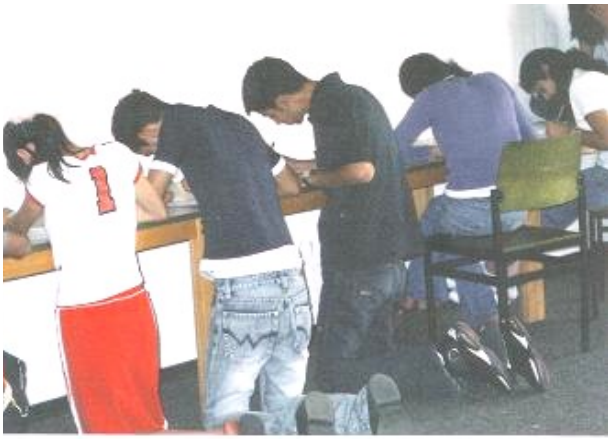
Up to now this enormous project is exclusively financed by private donors, collections at celebrations or social events. The German team works voluntarily. Thanks to Katha Pollitt, who asked for support in her column in the 'Nation' for many years, the project got very many grants from peace friends in the US.

Please support this exemplary project in the politics of peace. Urge your friends to participate.

Thank you for your efforts



If you want to support the campaign 'Vacation from War' please see next page.



The last day young people from Israel and Palestine write down their impressions



The last day young people from all parts of the former Yugoslavia write down their impressions

We also want to document some short quotations from the letters that some Bosnian youngsters wrote to donors:

No matter how positive we think and how hard we try to make our future better, there is always a local region which makes limits and holds us back. Then we are in the situation that we don't trust our neighbours, and there are always misjudgements of people by their names, nationalities and religion. I want to sleep in peace, to dream in peace, I want to go to school in peace and live my life in peace. Being and learning together in the camp we realise now: We are all different but the same.
Anida

You helped us to discover a better side of life. So thank you. This summer I have managed to understand that we, children and young people, have to start building our personalities with solidarity. We have to put it inside of us and never let it get out. I'm sure that my new friends have also realized this, so we could continue all together with what we started here, breaking those walls that stupid people have built between us.
Inela

When we heard about the project, we were shocked. The donors are 'normal' people, who just happened to have a little more money than they really need or even make sacrifices for us. Unbelievable! I admire those people and just want to say a big THANK YOU! Your money wasn't wasted and if you could only imagine what a great time we had here, you would be more than pleased with what you have done for us.
Alisa

**Please support this unique peace-making and humanitarian grassroots project
Please donate a sponsorship of \$ 150 or collect shares in schools, celebrations, etc.
We can send you more information (www.vacation-from-war.com).**

Please make out a check to "Vacation from War" and either send it to

- Helga Dieter, Flussgasse 8, D- 60489 Frankfurt / Germany or to
- Katha Pollitt, c/o The Nation, 33 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003
- You can transmit your grant to the account "Ferien vom Krieg" Nr. 8013055
- Volksbank Odenwald, International Zip: Iban De 34508635130008013055, BIC-Code Genode 51 MIC
- Most donors succeeded to get tax deductions for charitable giving with the German certificate which we will send in January 2007.
- There is also the possibility to send a grant to an official US-ID CAFAmerica, King Street Station, 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 150, Alexandria, VA 22314, www.allaboutgiving.org/america, "Courage gegen Rassismus" is proved and accepted by "CAF" for the campaign "Vacation from War". (CAF charges an administrative fee; therefore we prefer the direct way.)

Contact: Helga Dieter, Flussgasse 8, 60489 Frankfurt, Fax: 0049-69-78803666, ubihedi@t-online.de
www.ferien-vom-krieg.de, www.vacation-from-war.com