

SELIM MAWAD

Date of birth: March 7th, 1973

Nationality: Bearer of two nationalities: Lebanese – Australian

Current position: Independent Consultant on Dealing with the Past and Peace Building

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SUMMARY OF SKILLS

- Fifteen years of experience in managing and setting up human rights, citizenship and peace building programmes and monitoring and evaluating projects;
- Extensive experience in developing and managing programmes related to youth empowerment;
- Extensive experience in capacity building training and designing advocacy campaigns;
- Extensive experience in coordinating research related to dealing with the past and combatting impunity;
- Analytical, team builder/ supporter and decisive decision maker.
- Extensive knowledge in conflict and post conflict settings in the MENA and the Great Lakes Region

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2014 – up to date

Sustainable Democracy Center – Lebanon www.sdclebanon.org

Independent Consultant on Dealing with the Past and Peace building

More information is further down provided.

Analytical Essays

“My kingdom for a horse! Geopolitics and the challenges of transitional justice and justice in Syria”

This essay seeks to address the challenges of an impartial justice process for post-conflict Syria given the national complexities and the role of external actors with entrenched geopolitical interests and being involved in the ongoing violence.

<https://www.frient.de/nc/publikationen/dokumente/library/my-kingdom-for-a-horse-geopolitics-and-the-challenges-of-transitional-justice-and-justice-in-syria.html>

“Baudelaire in Burundi – Civil Society, a voyage into the abyss of heaven or hell?”

This essay examines the role of civil society in Burundi’s socio-political changing environment. Rather than providing answers to current dilemmas that are threatening the future of Burundi, and to which

only the Burundians might have the adequate solutions, this essay poses critical questions aimed at drawing the attention of the multiple actors involved in Burundi.

[file:///Users/selimmawad/Downloads/FriEnt_Essay03-2015_Mawad%20\(1\).pdf](file:///Users/selimmawad/Downloads/FriEnt_Essay03-2015_Mawad%20(1).pdf)

“The Challenge of Memory work on International Contemporary Crimes”

The consultancy was conducted for RCN Justice & Democratie, a Belgium-based international NGO working on the promotion of justice www.rcn-ong.be, and aimed at analysing their memorialisation program in Belgium. In addition the analytical report provided a thorough analysis on the challenges of international justice and universal jurisdiction when dealing with international contemporary crimes.

The report was meant to be of internal use and not for publication and could be presented upon request.

Series of Opinion Editorial for the Burundian Newspaper IWACU

The articles could be found on IWACU’s website www.iwacu-burundi.org

February 2011 – August 2014

**Head of Mission, Impunity Watch Great Lakes Region Africa
Bujumbura, Burundi**

- Responsible for coordinating the research on Impunity Reduction in the Great Lakes Region;
- Responsible for conceptualising and managing international and national advocacy campaigns on impunity reductions and dealing with the past;
- Responsible for conceptualising and moderation a debate on dealing with the past amongst the various political parties in Burundi and their youth representatives;
- Designed a strategy for an International Knowledge Exchange Program on transitional justice aimed at unfolding obstacles for building local strategies to deal with the past;
- Analysed the draft law for the upcoming “Truth and Reconciliation Commission – TRC” and developed advocacy strategies in support of civil society agencies for a transitional justice process in compliance with international standards and best practices and an inclusive victims’ participation process;
- Conducted a series of political dialogue amongst the youth of political parties and their adult leaders in Burundi;
- Designed a regional project with Oxfam-Novib for conflict transformation in the Great Lakes Region including Burundi, Rwanda and DRC and managing the research and the advocacy campaign on an international, regional and national levels;
- Conceptualised, illustrated and co-authored a comic book ‘La marche des Vérités’ on the truth telling process to be used with youth at schools in Burundi and on a grassroots level;
- Coordinated 3 researches, which were published on: Memorialisation, Gender and Transitional Justice, and Victims’ needs of the ongoing transitional justice process in Burundi;
- Founder of the Sustainable Democracy Centre – Burundi (SDC-B). A Burundian NGO that works in Partnership with Impunity Watch and others to promote the role of Burundian Youth in Public Decision making.

September 2002 – 2011

Founder and Executive Director, Sustainable Democracy Centre – Lebanon (SDC-L)

Beirut, Lebanon

(Founder of the Sustainable Democracy Center - Burundi (SDC-B) in 2013)

- Responsible for the overall design and managements of projects related to the culture of peace, dialogue for better coexistence and human rights advocacy campaigns;
- Designing income-generating projects for the financial sustainability of the centre and independence;
- Establishing the first Board of Children for a Lebanese NGO;
- Established 20 autonomous Citizenship and Peace Youth Clubs with more than 120 members coming from remote, underdeveloped areas and Palestinians refugees camps;
- Drafted the National Strategy for Child Participation in Public Decision Making for the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Higher Council for Childhood;
- Proposed and contributed to the creation of a Child Permanent Seat at the Higher Council for Childhood for better child representation in public decision making;
- Organised and managed an Emergency Campaign: Saving Tomorrow's Humanity Today – July war 2006 which aimed at mending the physiological trauma of more than 2000 displaced kids on daily basis and for a period of a month;
- Contributed to the drafting of recommendations presented to the government and civil society agencies on Post Conflict Reconciliation and Transitional Justice in Lebanon through the organisation of an international seminar in cooperation with the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS);
- Contributed to the National Advocacy Campaign that resulted in removing the mentioning of one's religion from the civil register and the identity card.

2002 – ongoing

Founder & Lead Trainer, Education, Training and Research Centre (ERTC)

Beirut, Lebanon

- Responsible for the creation and the management of the Education, Training and Research Centre (ERTC-affiliated to SDC) specialised in training NGOs, CBOs and Individuals on Capacity Building, Project Monitoring & Evaluation, Advocacy, Human Rights Mechanisms and Leadership;
- Trained many individuals who are acting as trainers on the above mentioned subjects;
- Designed and implemented the national campaign to empower women in local governance election for the National Commission for Lebanese Women;
- Assigned by the International French Association CORAIL to develop the communication strategy for the governmental Water Establishment of North Lebanon;
- Designed and Trained, upon a sub-contract with MERCYCORPS, a group of 50 youths from the liberated areas of south Lebanon on capacity building (creating and managing youth clubs), community service and advocacy;

- Trained a group of young activists on advocacy skills and followed up on the implementation of their advocacy campaign for a period of two years (Under the supervision of the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies).

2003 – 2006

Consultant on freelance basis, Institute of World Affairs (IWA)

Washington, D.C.

- Designed and managed a dialogue project on the Shariaa and Rule of Law among Iranian, American and European scholars;
- Participated in the development of an on-line distance learning program focused on inter-agencies processes in conjunction with the Inter-American Defence College Curriculum;
- Designed and implemented a series of roundtables on the democratic situation in post-war Iraq;
- Country representative of IWA in Lebanon between 2000 and 2002 – managed the implementation of a two-year reconciliation programme in post-war Lebanon.

2000 – 2003

Consultant on freelance basis with various national and international agencies

- Programme designer and manager for the project “Political Empowerment of Lebanese Women” with the Lebanese Council of Women and the European Union (2001-2003);
- Local Consultant for the Swiss International Foundation Terres des Hommes on proposal writing and communication with 3 local associations (2000-2002);
- Consultant for El-Arad environmental organisation and the European Union on communication skills and community service (2000-2002).

1992 – 2000

Assistant to Director General, René Mouawad Foundation (RMF)

Beirut, Lebanon

- My experience at the RMF remains an important learning phase in the course of my professional career. I joined the association in 1992 as a volunteer where I acquired most of my knowledge about NGOs (learning by doing) and evolved until I became in 1997 the assistant to the director general until 2000;
- Through the years my responsibilities evolved from the organisation of events to designing programmes and managing projects related to citizenry and human rights and fundraising for the foundation.
- Representative of the René Mouawad Foundation at the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network-EMHRN. 1998 – 2000.

PUBLICATIONS AND OPINION EDITORIAL (OP-ED)

Published several articles in English, French and Arabic on civil society and citizenship accountability that could be presented upon request.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- Concept Creator and Developer of the Educational and Entertaining Board Game: “CORRUPTION” aimed at raising the awareness of children on transparency, accountability and citizenship.
- Concept Creator, illustrator and co-author of the comic book: “la marche des vérités”. This comic book aims at raising the awareness of the Burundian YOUTH on the truth telling process and its challenges. <http://selim-mawad.wix.com/selim-mawad#!marche-des-v-rit-s/b0nw7>

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

First ASHOKA Fellow in Lebanon as a Social Entrepreneur working on Socio-Political Change in Post-Conflict Lebanon and the Middle East for 2005-2008 www.ashoka.org.

EDUCATION

Pre-Doctoral and Master’s Degree in Interior Architecture

Final Project: “Designing an International Academy for Leadership and Human Rights”

1999 – 2000

Lebanese Academy for Fine Arts (ALBA), Beirut, Lebanon

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Languages Arabic (fluent), French (fluent), English (fluent)

Computer skills Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Photoshop