



crisis action

Report on Recent Activities (July-September 2006)

with Accounts 2005-2006

From the Chair

Crisis Action rises like a phoenix

This year has been overshadowed by the death of our Founder Director, Guy Hughes, in January (see Tribute to Guy on back cover). Guy died the day after our other staff member, Katy Cronin, had moved on to take up a position in Amnesty International - in a stroke Crisis Action had lost all its staff. The Board moved quickly to decide upon and ensure the future of the organisation, and recruited Brendan as our new Director, and soon afterwards, Gemma as our Analyst. Throughout this period we received support from partners, and particularly funders, keen to see the vision kept alive.

You will see here that the dream not only lives, but that within weeks our staff have ensured the organisation has evolved, and magnified its impact. Few people will know the name Crisis Action, but anyone following the news recently will know of its achievements, particularly in relation to pressurising the government over the Lebanon and Darfur crises. We look to further develop our work and impact with partners, and are opening a presence in Brussels to extend our network and coordinate our advocacy on other European states.

Crisis Action is now well set to harmonize NGO activity around transforming government action towards human security and away from conflict.

Paul Ingram, Chair

"Crisis Action plays a valuable role in facilitating joint advocacy by different organisations in the field addressing current crises. We find working with them an enormously positive experience."

– Dr James Smith, Chief Executive, Aegis Trust

"Crisis Action is fulfilling the potential it always had; catalyzing action and adding value to our work. Having been present at the birth of Crisis Action, the question I always had was 'will they add value or just be another NGO initiative?' During 2006 they have, emphatically, added value to our work. They don't do rocket science but they do take the initiative, catalyse action and help us achieve impact in a way that would require many more resources were we to seek to do this work alone".

– Tim Hancock, Campaigns Director, Amnesty International UK.

"Crisis Action's swift response in coordinating an urgent demand for a ceasefire during the recent flare-up of conflict in the Middle East drew in a wide range of actors with similar concerns in a professional and truly consultative manner. An organisation that brings organisations together around common concerns within a short timeframe is very valuable".

– Marion Birch, Executive Director, Medact

Director's Report

I started this role at both an advantage and a disadvantage.

The disadvantage was obvious; the sudden death of Guy, our previous Director, had left a vacuum at the heart of the organisation that was impossible to fill. But my major advantage was the goodwill that Guy had left behind and the strength of his vision behind Crisis Action.

The Lebanon conflict vindicated Crisis Action's approach. Our ability to lead outreach, catalyze action and support strategic campaigning- without the need or desire to promote our own brand- made a major difference to our collective impact on the crisis.

Our work on Darfur has also shown how much value we can add to our partners' work and our strategic intervention has helped push Darfur back up media and political agendas.

We have also continued our work on Iran and are poised to launch an ambitious strategy to promote diplomatic solutions and demonstrate the consequences of any recourse to military action.

Over the next twelve months we will continue to work creatively and flexibly, looking for opportunities where we can add value and help deliver impact.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our partners, funders and supporters over what has been a very difficult period for the organisation. In particular, thanks go to our board and our Chair, Paul Ingram, who kept Crisis Action going following Guy's death.

We have now rebuilt a firm base and I'm confident we can go forward to make even more of a difference.

Brendan Cox, Director

Crisis Action's partners in 2005-2006

Aegis Trust

Amnesty International UK

British American Security
Information Council (BASIC)

CAFOD

Campaign Against Arms Trade

Church of England (International
Office)

Friends of the Earth

International Action Network on
Small Arms (IANSA)

Iraq Body Count

Oxfam

Medact

Oxford Research Group

Peace Brigades International

Peaceworkers UK

People & Planet

Platform

Saferworld

Waging Peace

War on Want

Lebanon ‘Ceasefire Now’

"Aid agencies, which often remain silent on contentious political issues, have been some of the most vocal critics of Mr Blair's Middle East policy since the start of the war in Lebanon."

– Guardian, 3rd August 2006

"Crisis Action came into its own during the Lebanon war. Its light touch yet reliable, creative and professional coordination allowed Save the Children to amplify our advocacy through coalition when it was appropriate whilst at the same time not constraining us when we needed to tread our own path. In such a highly political environment, it provided a perfect vehicle for bringing disparate voices together and resonate the public mood."

– Martin Kirk, Public Affairs Advisor, Save the Children

July 2006 saw the explosion of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon.

Crisis Action became the hub for NGOs working on the crisis. We coordinated a group of aid agencies, faith groups, trade unions and human rights organisations working to pressure Tony Blair to **publicly back an immediate ceasefire**. In a three week period we:

- Set up a group of organisations working on the crisis and negotiated common policy objectives.
- Prompted, wrote and press launched a joint call for a ceasefire by all of the main aid agencies.
- Negotiated, wrote and press launched an open letter to the Prime Minister signed by fifteen organisations.
- Launched a joint petition backed by national press adverts, which secured over 35,000 names in less than a week and coordinated the handing in of the petition into Downing Street with former MP and BBC war correspondent Martin Bell.



- Set up website (www.ceasefiretoday.org) and coordinated contact of MPs to establish and publicise their position on the conflict.



www.ceasefiretoday.org

- Facilitated a joint press conference in Beirut calling for a ceasefire.
- Ran full-page adverts calling for the **recall of parliament**.

Partners engaged in opt in alliances on individual pieces of work that enabled Crisis Action to respond quickly and effectively to a rapidly changing situation.

Darfur

"Protests in 50 cities to mark Sunday's 'Day for Darfur' have pushed the crisis to the top of the agenda as world leaders gather for this week's annual UN session"

- The Times, 20th September 2006

"Crisis Action has done an outstanding job in mobilising civil society on Darfur. Its efforts have been very effective in raising and sustaining pressure on policy makers to take real action to resolve this devastating conflict."

- Nick Grono, Vice President Advocacy, International Crisis Group

"It's a cliché, but in unity, there is strength, and our day of action had much more effect than we would have had working alone. Crisis Action performed a remarkable job by getting us to agree a common policy and objectives, and then making it happen."

- Rebecca Tinsley, Director, Waging Peace

As one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, Darfur has long needed a strong campaigning presence to push it back up the media and political agenda. Crisis Action:

- Formed and coordinated a group of over **twenty UK based NGOs** working on the Darfur crisis.
- Organized **joint lobbying** by seven aid agencies around funding of the African Union force. We coordinated joint lobby letters to 24 key countries.
- Led **joint media** work by all of the aid agencies. We initiated, drafted, agreed and launched their first joint press release since the start of the conflict.
- Played a key role in supporting the **global Day for Darfur**. Crisis Action drafted both the organizational strategy and the global media strategy for the day.
- Working with the International Crisis Group and the Aegis Trust, we led significant **Arabic media** outreach placing opinion pieces from Muslim survivors of Bosnia and Darfur.
- Coordinated UK activity around the **Day for Darfur**, supporting Amnesty and the Aegis Trust in their demonstration but also playing a leading role with Waging Peace in pulling together the interfaith 'Pray for Darfur'. Crisis Action managed to secure the support of Christian Aid, World Vision, Tearfund, CAFOD, World Jewish Aid and Muslim Aid for the initiative.
- Wrote, agreed and placed an **open letter** to the Prime Minister signed by 40 public figures including Romeo Dellaire, Bob Geldof, Annie Lennox, Emma Thompson, Brian Eno and Helen Baxendale.
- Set up a **global group** of the key players shaping global advocacy.

As a result of these activities and the hard work of our partners, Darfur has been brought to public attention once again and has begun to rise up the political agenda.



"By fusing authoritative analysis with joint advocacy, Crisis Action's work on Iran has gone far beyond the usual boundaries of NGO campaigns. Crisis Action has succeeded in bringing together a diverse group of organisations - from campaign groups to foreign policy analysts - to work strategically on one of the most challenging international issues of the day."

– Robert Lowe, Middle East Programme Manager,
Chatham House



Crisis Action coordinates the Iran Action Group (IAG), an association of over 20 organisations including NGOs, thinktanks, faith groups and unions, that works to

support and promote diplomatic solutions to the Iranian nuclear issue.

Over the past year Crisis Action has:

- Facilitated advocacy meetings for representatives of the IAG; providing partners with a joint platform on which to raise their concerns and offer decision makers a diversity of perspectives.
- Coordinated joint lobby letters to the Foreign Secretary and the Iranian Ambassador.
- Organised briefings with IAG experts for journalists and columnists with an interest in Iran.
- Coordinated joint media work to ensure an informed debate on the issues.
- Built up a network of experts on Iran and the nuclear issue.
- Led outreach on Iran to diverse groups within the UK.
- Established joint ventures with US partners.

The Iran Action Group is currently organising the publication of a series of expert reports on the consequences of military action against Iran. These will be released over the coming months. A series of events will be organised around the launch of these reports.

Organisations that have been involved in part or all of this work include: Amnesty International, BASIC, Chatham House, Church of England, Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, Foreign Policy Centre, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace International, Human Rights Watch, IANSA, Islamic Relief, MEDACT, Muslim Council of Britain, Oxford Research Group, Unison, VERTIC and War on Want.

Financial statements 2005-06

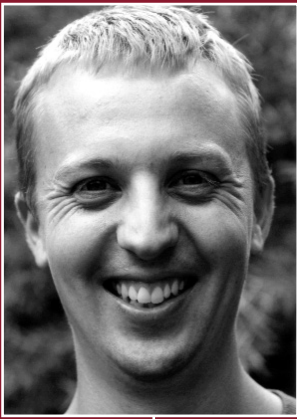
Statement of Activities for the year ended 31 May 2006

INCOME	2006	2005
	£	£
Trust funding	49,720	37,165
Partnership fees	5,450	8,400
Donations	3,179	4,750
Bank interest	98	138
Total	58,447	50,453
EXPENDITURE		
Staff, consultants fees & training	38,126	40,223
Office & expenses	6,109	5,457
Information technology	1,289	3,124
Miscellaneous	655	1,036
Donations	0	4,750
Total	46,179	54,590
Excess of income over expenditure	12,268	(4,137)
Accumulated fund at beginning of year	3,563	7,700
Accumulated Fund 31 May	15,831	3,563

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2006

Current assests - cash at bank	17596	6,624
Total assets	17696	6,624
General creditors	(1,765)	(3,061)
Total net assets	15,831	3,563
Represented by:		
Accumulated fund at beginning of year	3,563	7,700
Excess of income over expenditure	12,268	-4,137
Total funds at 31 May	15,831	3,563

Crisis Action would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support in 2005-06: Funding Network; Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust; Nesta Ferguson; Network for Social Change; Poldham Puckham Charitable Foundation; Tinsley Foundation; WF Southall..



Guy Hughes, Founder Director of Crisis Action, died in a climbing accident in Scotland, on January 28th, 2006. Guy was no demure diplomat. He applied a deep sense of anger at the injustice and structural violence of the world to the task of improving the effectiveness of those movements seeking to challenge it. He combined a grasp of many skills, guts and vision, good humour, stamina and attention to the process of political change.

In setting up Crisis Action Guy did an extraordinary thing. He recognised the desperate need for a group to raise the game in putting pressure on the UK government to raise theirs... to stop resorting to war simply to impose UK interests upon far away lands, and to get them to take greater responsibility in stopping atrocities where that interest was not so direct.

Crisis Action is made in Guy's image - an organisation that in its short life has achieved so much. It has been a big but honourable challenge for those of us on the Board to ensure that his vision and energy continues.

Paul Ingram

Chair of the Board of Crisis Action

More tributes to Guy can be found at www.tributestoguyhughes.net

crisis action

Board of Directors

Paul Ingram (Chair)
Sarah Mulley
Nicola Reindorp
Mike Rowson
Dominic Scholfield

Patrons

Sam Clarke
Lord Garden
Lord Joffe

Staff

Brendan Cox - Director
Gemma Mortensen - Political Analyst

Interns

Matthew Hann, Michelle Hubert,
Marcus Skinner, Farbod Talaei

Crisis Action, The Grayston Centre,
28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT

Tel: +44 (0)207 324 4747

Email: mail@crisisaction.org.uk

Web: www.crisisaction.org.uk

We welcome enquires from organisations and individuals who share our objectives and who may wish to become Crisis Action partners. Please contact us for more information.

Printing on recycled paper (75% postconsumer waste) by Seacourt Press, a printer operating to the ISO 14001 environmental standard and registered to EMAS (Eco-Management Audit Scheme).