

crisis action

Annual Report (June 2007 - May 2008)
with Accounts



Day for Darfur – Protestors in London mark five years of conflict



“Crisis Action may be small but it adds big value to our work on armed conflict, particularly by bringing together a wide range of organisations to inform the public and put concerted pressure on decision-makers.”

- Barbara Stocking, Director, Oxfam

Chair’s Report

Over the last twelve months Crisis Action has firmly established itself as the global hub for campaigning on armed conflict.

It has experienced spectacular growth during that time, and their highly dedicated team has done a wonderful job of catalyzing and driving forward campaigns on issues as diverse as the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the International Criminal Court’s arrest warrants against a Sudanese minister and a Janjaweed commander, and government repression in Burma - to name but a few.

We are now seeing a clear demonstration effect as a result of Crisis Action’s proven performance - the more that NGOs witness its successes, the more they wish to engage the organisation on issues of importance to them, or join if they are not already partners.

In fact, one of the big challenges for Crisis Action in the year ahead will be to manage and consolidate its rapid growth, and continue to respond to important conflict issues with the speed, flexibility and nous that are already its hallmarks. I’m sure it will do so with all the professionalism and aplomb it has displayed to date, and as a result will go on to play an ever more effective role in responding to armed conflicts in the future.



Nick Grono, Deputy President, International Crisis Group

Nick Grono, Chairman

Year overview

The past year has seen a stream of new crises flare up while old ones continue to fester: Kenya, Gaza, Lebanon, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Burma, Tibet, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan to mention just a few. It has been a difficult and, in many ways, a depressing year.

However, in my view there is also a positive picture emerging of a civil society better placed, more willing and increasingly able to address these crises through ambitious advocacy and campaigns designed to change the calculations of decision makers.



Brendan Cox, Executive Director, Crisis Action

Crisis Action now has over fifty partner organisations and as a result is being asked to take on more work in more conflicts. This is testament to the perceived added value that Crisis Action provides but it’s also a challenge for a small organisation and emphasises the need for us to continue to prioritise effectively.

It is often very difficult to extrapolate the nature and scale of the impact we are having on such large and complex issues as armed

conflicts. Nevertheless, our evaluations - internal and external - suggest that the work we have supported through our partners is having an impact on a range of levels. The global work we’ve led on Darfur has kept diplomatic engagement high and helped lead to the deployment of peacekeepers. Our work on Chad elevated the issue on the EU’s agenda. We helped raise the voices of international condemnation that kept the Burmese Junta from some of its worst excesses and prompted the UN Security Council to speak out on Burma for the first time. Our efforts led to increased international pressure to end the blockade of Gaza, including from the US government. We helped consolidate the UK government’s commitment to diplomacy as the means to prevent Iran possessing nuclear arms.

The reason we can claim this impact is because the work we do is not limited to our small team but is based on the work of dozens of organisations with diverse constituencies, significant collective resources and in-depth strategic analysis. This foundation means that when things come together, the impact we can have is huge.

Our offices in Berlin, Brussels, London and Paris are now working closely together across our priorities and we hope that the addition of offices in New York and Africa next year will increase our global reach and impact still further.

Brendan Cox, Executive Director

Burma

“As the world grappled with how to deal with the crisis in Myanmar, Crisis Action was able to effectively channel civil society’s efforts to bring about change. It plays a unique role.”

- Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International

Responding to the Crackdown

Following the Burmese regime’s brutal suppression of peaceful mass protests in September 2007, Crisis Action mounted an emergency campaign to support Burma campaign groups’ call for a robust international response. Working with partners and network members, Crisis Action:

- Co-ordinated a global day of action on 6 October, in dozens of countries across five continents, calling on the international community to put greater pressure on the Burmese regime to end the military crackdown. Participating countries included Australia, Canada, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the UK and the US
- Mobilised the largest ever UK coalition on Burma of over 20 organisations including NGOs, representatives from all major faiths, women’s groups, trade unions and student bodies
- Organised the largest UK demonstration on Burma to date. Led by Buddhist monks, 10,000 people marched to Trafalgar Square



By Jess Hurd/reportdigital.co.uk
Delegation on Burma: (From left to right) Ko Aung, 88 generation student leader, Burmese Democratic Movement Association, Myo Thein, former political prisoner, Dr Win Naing, Burmese community leader, Irene Khan, Secretary General, Amnesty International, U Visuta, Senior Burmese Monk, U Uttara, Head UK Burmese Monk, Glenys Kinnock, MEP, Zoya Phan, Campaign Manager, Burma Campaign UK, Brendan Barber, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress

- Led a delegation to Downing Street to meet the UK Prime Minister, including senior Burmese monks, Amnesty International, Burmese campaigners and former political prisoners and the Trades Union Congress, following which the UK Prime Minister publicly pledged his personal commitment to the crisis
- Co-ordinated a second international day of action in 12 cities in which protestors wore Aung San Suu Kyi masks to mark 12 years of her detention. Demonstrators called for the release of all prisoners of conscience
- Co-ordinated a letter by female Nobel Peace Laureates, coinciding with the UN’s 62nd birthday, calling on the UN to do more to live up to its mandate and take decisive action to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi
- Helped German NGOs working on Burma to organise a demonstration in front of the Chinese embassy in Berlin with speakers from parliament and NGOs
- Organised lobby meetings for NGO Burma experts in Germany with parliamentarians and government representatives



By Jess Hurd/reportdigital.co.uk
10,000 protestors mass in Trafalgar Square in London to call for human rights in Burma



“In a matter of hours Crisis Action pulled together the biggest grouping of UK NGOs that have ever worked on Burma. They took the lead in organising the largest demonstration on Burma that there has ever been in the UK, and they did so in just one week. Crucially, it gave new political momentum to demands for the international community to take action. None of this would have happened without Crisis Action.”

- Mark Farmaner, Director, Burma Campaign UK

As public pressure built, EU member states endorsed the imposition of additional targeted EU sanctions against the Burmese Military Junta. This was a key demand from the democratic Burmese opposition and contributed to a strong and united international response in the wake of the crackdown. At the international level, China responded to pressure by allowing the first ever UN Security Council presidential Statement on Burma to be issued.

High-Level European Advocacy

Building on the response to this crisis, Crisis Action coordinated a series of activities to improve the effectiveness of joint advocacy on Burma at the EU level and help neutralise the arguments of those EU member states that were blocking calls for further action. This included:

- Exchange of intelligence between partners on key developments. Crisis Action gathered intelligence and contributed analysis on policy and thinking of key political targets
- Co-ordination of joint positions and formulation of joint strategies for action
- Facilitation of high-level advocacy meetings at EU and Member State level; Crisis Action organised a series of meetings with EU Ambassadors as well as the first meetings to be held with the new EU Special Representative, Pierro Fassino
- Building a strong relationship with the new Slovenian presidency to ensure Burma remained on the Presidency agenda. Crisis Action arranged a meeting with the Slovenian State Minister and the Secretary General of the International Burmese Monks' Association to discuss what more the EU could do to help Burmese civil society

By Jess Hurd/reportdigital.co.uk



- Facilitated joint advocacy letters to sustain pressure on key decision-makers and respond to any weakening in the EU position
- Worked with the US to facilitate provision of technical expertise to EU member states on the implementation of banking and financial sanctions
- Worked with EU allies to build up the case for stronger EU measures ahead of key moments in EU policy cycle
- Contributed technical briefings to the EU legislative process, providing grounds and arguments for stronger EU measures against the Burmese Military Junta that do not harm the Burmese population

Crisis Action's involvement at the EU level enabled collaboration between diverse organisations, including Human Rights Watch, Open Society Institute, International Trade Union Confederation, and helped ensure that Burma remained on the EU agenda beyond the immediate aftermath of the crisis.

“Crisis Action's global mobilization work played a key role in throwing the spotlight on to China during the crackdown in Burma last year. Effective external pressure of this sort was critical to Beijing's decision to use its leverage over the junta on various issues and to support a condemnatory UN Security Council presidential statement. With China's support now so essential to addressing these crises, intelligent and targeted action of the kind that Crisis Action undertakes will be ever more important in the years ahead.”

- Andrew Small, Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Darfur

Global Co-ordination

The Darfur campaign is unprecedented in both its scale and internationalism. This international advocacy movement has helped ensure that the crisis in Sudan has not been forgotten and that it continues to receive significant diplomatic attention. Crisis Action has been at the centre of much of this global campaigning, bringing together groups from around the world at both a policy and campaigning level. As well as assembling the leaders from the global advocacy community on a regular basis to align strategy and share intelligence, Crisis Action co-ordinates the Globe for Darfur group, a coalition of activist groups from around the world. This group organises the Global Days for Darfur and has launched campaign and advocacy initiatives on a host of subjects including China's role in Darfur, the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants, United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) deployment and humanitarian access.

Days for Darfur

In order to stop Darfur dropping from decision makers' list of priorities, Crisis Action has focused significant time on mobilising global public concern. The most recent Global



By Anna Sardarew
Darfur protestors assemble at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

Days for Darfur, held in September 2007 and April 2008, were examples of this.

'Don't Look Away Now'

In September 2007, at the time that Khartoum agreed in principle to UNAMID deployment, Crisis Action helped rally activists in over thirty countries to call on the international community to continue to honour its commitment to work for an end to the crisis. Knowing that Khartoum has a habit of reneging on its agreements and realising that UNAMID was only a small part of the solution, the fourth Global Day for Darfur called on the UN to keep the Darfur crisis at the top of the agenda. The 'Don't Look Away Now' message resonated strongly with decision makers and was amplified by our key media targets.

To coincide with the Global Day, Crisis Action worked with partner organisations, musicians and celebrities (ranging from Elle McPherson to Desmond Tutu) to film and launch a CD single, 'Living Darfur'. This single, by the British/South Africa band Mattafix, was filmed in the refugee camps in Chad and was designed to raise awareness of the crisis. Over two million people downloaded the song and it has reached the Top Ten in several target countries.

'Childhood under attack'

In April 2008, to mark the fifth anniversary of the start of the crisis, the Globe for Darfur network focused on the impact of the crisis on children, over one million of whom have been affected by the bloodshed and displacement in the region.

The campaign was particularly big in key African countries and once again was supported by worldwide protests. To draw further attention to the messages, Crisis Action released a letter by internationally renowned children's authors, including J.K. Rowling, Cornelia Funke and Judy Blume, demanding the world protects childhood in Darfur.

“This April, many children in Darfur will be reaching their fifth birthdays without ever having known peace. The world needs to wake up. For too long it has let these children suffer.”

- Letter from children's authors, 12 April 2008

Strategic support

As well as co-ordinating this global work, Crisis Action has also facilitated ongoing action in key countries, for example:

France

Crisis Action has co-ordinated regular strategy meetings of human rights and humanitarian organisations working on or in Darfur, to facilitate the exchange of information and analysis on the different elements of the crisis. This has led to:

- Several high-level meetings with government officials
- Media work in relation to the international ministerial meeting on 25 June 2007 organised by the French government
- Joint lobby letters on topics ranging from the EU force in Chad to the ICC's work in Darfur

Crisis Action also facilitated the involvement of French NGOs in international efforts on Darfur.

- Co-ordinating public mobilisation as part of the Global Days for Darfur in Germany, including organising media work, a rally at the Brandenburg Gate and bringing together major human rights and humanitarian NGOs for a common statement demanding an end to the violence

Portugal

Crisis Action established a temporary office in Lisbon in order to support partners' efforts to influence EU policy on Darfur during the Portuguese presidency and to help catalyse domestic public campaigning. During the 6-months of the Portuguese presidency, Crisis Action:

- Supported the creation of "Platform for Africa", a coalition of Portuguese faith-based, human rights and development organisations with a focus on Darfur
- Helped mobilise Portugal's first Day for Darfur on 16 September 2007, which included a demonstration at one of Lisbon's main squares

“Crisis Action played a behind the scene but very active role in the Darfur campaign in Portugal. Crisis Action helped connect our local efforts with the global campaign, making Darfur current and relevant in Portuguese politics and society.”

- Reverent José Augusto, *Missionários do Verbo Divino, Portuguese NGO*

Germany

In Berlin, Crisis Action has worked with partners to help put Darfur back onto the agenda of policy makers and the public. By providing German NGOs with access to and information about European and global Darfur advocacy initiatives, we have helped bring about a more integrated and coherent approach to the crisis that has in turn increased the resonance of existing work.

Recent initiatives include:

- Building a coalition of leading German human rights organisations and launching a campaign to put pressure on Olympic sponsors Volkswagen and Adidas to call on China to respect human rights in China and to play a bigger role in supporting peace in Darfur
- Mobilising a wide range of German NGOs to work on the Justice for Darfur campaign, helping to ensure that Germany has taken a strong line at EU level in pushing for the hand-over of the indictees

- Engaged high profile Portuguese celebrities in the campaign, from Portuguese Fado singers to footballers

In addition, Crisis Action worked with international partners to facilitate:

- A series of high-level advocacy meetings in Lisbon for international partners with the key decision makers in the Portuguese government
- Bringing the international DAFUR/DAFUR exhibit to Lisbon to raise public awareness of the crisis, an exhibition viewed by over a hundred thousand people
- Intelligence sharing to enable partners to better influence the Portuguese policy position
- Extensive media work including press conferences, press briefings and the placing of op-eds which in six months helped Darfur become a significant foreign policy issue for the Portuguese Presidency



UK

Working with our partners, Crisis Action has succeeded in keeping Darfur at or near the top of the UK's foreign policy priorities over the last year. By co-ordinating regular strategy meetings of our Darfur partners, we have helped give birth to a range of initiatives from demonstrations of thousands to high-level roundtable meetings with the Prime Minister. The last demonstration demanding more resolute action was attended by 3,000 people and pulled together a coalition of over 50 supporting organisations.

This popular pressure, combined with high level lobbying, has ensured that the UK has remained one of the most active countries engaged in the crisis.

EU-Level Work on Darfur

Throughout 2007, Crisis Action in Brussels facilitated joint advocacy with a core of partners in Brussels and across the EU. This included compiling joint strategies aimed at getting a strong EU policy on Darfur adopted at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC). Specifically, a number of Crisis Action partners worked together to pressure EU foreign ministers to adopt targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for non-compliance with international demands and violations of international humanitarian law. This involved targeting policy-makers in Brussels at multiple levels of decision-making, including at the technical level (working groups) and especially the political level (PSC) simultaneously with their counterparts in key national ministries.

In Brussels, Crisis Action:

- Co-ordinated public and private lobby letters to EU leaders and policy-makers
- Helped to synthesise joint talking points for partners
- Organised rounds of meetings for partners with PSC ambassadors in Brussels
- Co-ordinated efforts to influence the agenda of meetings of EU officials with third countries, including the EU-US summit
- Facilitated media work such as op-eds and press conferences
- Provided strategic input to the activities of members of the European Parliament

In addition to working to co-ordinate advocacy among partners at the EU level, Crisis Action in Brussels has supported NGOs working on Darfur at a national level in key member states where there is not a national Crisis Action office. For example, in Italy Crisis Action supported a hearing on Darfur in front of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and facilitated meetings with key senators in May 2007. When President Bashir subsequently travelled to Rome in September 2007 to meet with the Pope as well as the President, Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister of Italy, Crisis Action co-ordinated a multi-layered response, supporting the activities of local activists who protested the visit with a public letter from 26 MEPs as well as private letters and several press releases. As a result, Prodi's meeting with Bashir received the media attention that Palazzo Chigi had clearly hoped to avoid by leaving it off the official schedule, and negative coverage – particularly regarding the criticism by MEPs – was given by all the major Italian media.

“Crisis Action's great added value is its ability to draw on the different strengths of its partner organisations and mould them into effective and strategic advocacy campaigns. Its campaigning on Darfur in Europe has been particularly impressive, and we at Crisis Group are strong supporters of its work.”

- Gareth Evans, President and CEO, International Crisis Group

European Union-Africa Summit

Following the decision to exclude the crisis in Darfur from the EU-Africa summit agenda, Crisis Action established an EU-Africa summit campaign group to push the issue back onto the agenda through lobbying, media and public pressure. Crisis Action's office in Lisbon enabled organisations to respond to the opportunity presented by the summit, and ensured our international partners could extend their reach during the Portuguese presidency of the EU.

As part of this campaign, Crisis Action:

- Put together a coalition of over 50 African and European human rights groups including Amnesty International, the International Federation of Human Rights and the Darfur Consortium. They warned Heads of State that “to ignore [Darfur] now would be to turn our backs on the people of Darfur”
- Co-ordinated a joint letter by dozens of members of African and European Parliaments stating that they were “surprised and disappointed to note that at a two-day summit of the leaders of our two continents, there will be no time allotted to discuss the continuing crisis in Darfur that has claimed over 200,000 lives”
- Facilitated a press conference attended by Salih Osman, Sudanese MP and winner of the Sakharov prize, and members of the European parliament
- Organised media stunts to draw attention to our messages and push them higher up the media's agenda

The Portuguese presidency ended up bowing to the media and public pressure and José Sócrates, the Portuguese President, agreed to set up a meeting on Darfur with Sudanese President Omar El Bashir on the fringe of the summit in an attempt to assuage critics.

Muslim Voices for Darfur

A key concern for human rights advocates has been the attempts of the Sudanese Government to cast the international concern about the killings of Muslims in Darfur as part of a broader anti-Muslim campaign. To try and combat this disinformation, Crisis Action set up a series of roundtable meetings with leading Muslim groups, Darfur experts, Darfuris themselves and prominent Muslim figures and scholars. These were designed to enable access to impartial information, challenge misconceptions and explore advocacy solutions.

Stemming from this process, Crisis Action helped facilitate and launch a new Muslim Coalition on Darfur. To launch the coalition in March 2008, more than twenty groups from across the Muslim world signed an open letter to the Arab League summit in Damascus urging Arab leaders to take a more active role in the humanitarian crisis. Media coverage of the launch was worldwide, ranging from CNN and the BBC to Al Hayat and key Sudanese newspapers. This media attention stimulated further interest from other Muslim groups and Crisis Action is currently working towards future collaborations.



Actors playing Merkel, Mugabe, Sarkozy and Bashir in bed together at the Lisbon EU-Africa summit

“For too long Muslims have left the crisis in Darfur to others to address, but it is Muslims - over 200,000 of our brothers and sisters - who have been killed...Today we urge the Arab League to act urgently to address the crisis by contributing more aid, demanding an end to the obstruction of peacekeepers, supporting a real ceasefire and promoting the peace process.”

- Arzu Merali, Head of Research at the Islamic Human Rights Commission speaking at the coalition's launch

“Recent initiatives of civil society, including the Justice for Darfur Campaign, comprising thousands of NGOs operating in more than 150 countries, highlight the link between bringing justice and dignity for Darfur victims. The role of civil society, having helped to lay the foundations for the creation of a permanent, independent and impartial ICC, remains as vital as ever.”

- ICC Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, 5 June 2008

Justice for Darfur

This year, Crisis Action supported the launch of “Justice for Darfur,” a collaborative campaign backed by human rights organisations worldwide in support of the International Criminal Court’s (ICC) work in Darfur.

The campaign was launched on 27 April 2008, the first anniversary of the issuance of the arrest warrants by the ICC against former State Minister of the Interior Ahmad Harun and Janjaweed leader Ali Kushayb for 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.



www.justice4darfur.org

government and all parties to the conflict to co-operate fully with the Court, two unprecedented steps. European Union heads of state and foreign ministers have expressed readiness to consider measures against Sudan in case of continued non-co-operation with the ICC.

Influencing China

As part of our international efforts, Crisis Action worked to highlight China’s economic, military and political support of the Government of Sudan and to encourage

China to play a more active role in addressing the crisis.

Our tactics varied widely and included:

Working with partners, Crisis Action:

- Facilitated global calls to discuss campaign strategies and activities, thereby improving information sharing and coordination between participating NGOs
- Co-ordinated letters calling on the European Union to adopt targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for the lack of co-operation with the ICC. “Justice for Darfur” also called on the Security Council to take immediate steps to ensure the prompt arrest and surrender to the ICC of the two suspects
- Co-ordinated advocacy meetings and letters at the national level in Berlin, London and Paris
- Developed and implemented media strategies around key events

- Organising lobby meetings with Chinese Ambassadors
- Arranging protests during the Olympic torch relay
- Urging the corporate sponsors of the Beijing Olympics to demonstrate leadership on the ongoing conflict in Darfur
- Supporting a letter from Nobel Peace Laureates and MPs worldwide to the Chinese President

As a result of this campaign, UN Security Council ambassadors on mission to Sudan in June 2008 raised the issue of ICC co-operation directly with Sudanese authorities and later adopted a presidential statement urging the Sudanese



By Norman Craig
Protestors target China at the Olympic torch relay

Chad

“Crisis Action helped us to give a voice to messages from Chadian civil society in Brussels and to promote a greater EU involvement in the crisis in Chad. Its flexible model allowed it to adjust to our needs and to bring real added value to our work in France by echoing it in Brussels, where our capacity was limited.”

- Bruno Angsthelm, Head of Africa Programme, Comité Catholique Contre la Faim et pour le Développement

High-Level Delegation Lobby Tour

The plight of women in Chad has been largely overlooked by the international community. Crisis Action helped to highlight the violence and sexual abuse they are suffering by bringing together a group of high profile international women to travel to Chad in early September 2007 to speak out about the crisis. The delegation, including Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the former Finance Minister of Nigeria, visited refugee and IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps in Eastern Chad. On the return of the delegation to Europe, Crisis Action worked with partners to set up lobby meetings with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and Secretary of State for Human Rights Rama Yade, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung. In addition, we set up press conferences for the delegation in London, Paris and Berlin.

EU Force in Chad and Central African Republic

Starting in summer 2007, France led negotiations in the EU to send a force to Eastern Chad to provide protection to internally displaced persons and refugees from Darfur. Crisis Action co-ordinated a series of advocacy letters and meetings with the French government and military planners to emphasise the need for neutrality of this force and for a clear distinction between humanitarian work and EUFOR

activities, as well as to highlight the need for internal political dialogue in Chad. The EU deployed a European Union Force to Eastern Chad and the North of the Central African Republic in early 2008.

In March 2008, Crisis Action facilitated advocacy meetings in Brussels for Chadian civil society leaders, who emphasised the need for the EU to become more involved in the promotion of a genuine political process in Chad. In April 2008, Crisis Action helped organise a public roundtable debate on the EU's role in Chad, facilitating again the presence of Chadian civil society representatives.

In France and at the EU level, Crisis Action has encouraged its partners to integrate the crisis in Chad in their analysis and work on Darfur.



By Brigitte Lancombe
Women's delegation attending a community meeting in Djabel refugee camp, Goz Beida. (From left to right) Dr Musimbi Kanyoro, Dr Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Angélique Kidjo, Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, Jane Wales, Mary Robinson, Bineta Diop, Mariella Frostrup.

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

“Crisis Action played a critical role in bringing together a range of NGOs and helping us find a common voice. In addition to advising us on strategy, they were integral in enabling the coalition to arrive at a strong joint position. As a result, our report had much greater impact and much greater force.”

- Susan Wright, Director, Medecins du Monde

High-Level Advocacy

In February 2008, Israel tightened its blockade of Hamas-controlled Gaza in response to ongoing rocket attacks. UK partners requested that Crisis Action co-ordinate a joint response; calling for an end to the blockade and supporting a political solution as the only way to protect civilians on both sides. Crisis Action became the hub for civil society groups working on the crisis. In a six week period, we:

- Set up a group of organisations working on the crisis and negotiated common policy objectives and messaging
- Organised a series of lobby letters, including one to the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary from 30 humanitarian agencies, human rights organisations, churches, faith groups, and trade unions
- Gained high-level political access for our partners to senior political targets, including Quartet Representative Tony Blair, government ministers and senior Israeli embassy officials
- Co-ordinated a series of briefings for opposition parties and parliamentarians on Gaza
- Conducted outreach to key Jewish groups



“Crisis Action plays a vital role in focusing political attention on conflicts and crises around the world, pulling together coalitions of NGOs to maximise their collective influence and impact. Its recent report on Gaza was an excellent example of this: helping to highlight the desperate humanitarian situation there.”

- David Mepham, Director of Policy, Save the Children UK



“Aid groups said in a report released on Thursday that the blockade of the Gaza Strip has created the worst humanitarian crisis since the Israeli occupation began in 1967, a charge Israel dismissed as exaggerated. A senior U.S. official in the region, speaking on condition of anonymity, said of the aid groups: “I don’t really challenge their conclusion that it’s worse than they’ve seen it before ... But it’s important that we move beyond that as well, and begin to look at issues like the crossing points.””

- ‘U.S. seeking Gaza calm,’ Reuters, 6 March 2008

Public Campaigning

Working with a group of humanitarian and human rights agencies, Crisis Action facilitated EU-wide publication of the joint report, ‘Gaza: A humanitarian implosion’. The report provided a statistical assessment of the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, concluding that it was at its worst since 1967. It urged the international community to adopt a new strategy on Gaza that would engage all parties in the conflict and provide security for both Israelis and Palestinians. Crisis Action worked with partners to:

- Build a coalition of humanitarian agencies to provide research and analysis on the humanitarian situation in Gaza
- Develop joint messages and recommendations for the report
- Agree joint political and media strategies around the launch of the report in key EU countries and across the Middle East
- Ensure dissemination to key political targets within EU institutions and Israel
- Secure credible independent spokespeople, including Alvaro de Soto (former UN Special Envoy to the Middle East), Israeli civil society organisations and faith leaders

- Co-ordinate a public letter by senior UK bishops in response to the report
- Deliver thorough follow-up with key political targets

Crisis Action led the launch of the report and co-ordinated media work around it. The report generated global headlines, including dense media coverage across the EU, US and Israel.

The report prompted a rare official response from the Israeli government and a briefing within the Knesset. The report was read at the highest political level across EU targets and was used by government and EU officials in ministerial level briefings. It also stoked vigorous parliamentary discussion in the UK.

In the run up to the meeting of the Middle East Quartet in London in May 2008, Crisis Action worked with partners to ensure that Gaza remained on the political agenda. A series of background briefings to journalists and targeted advocacy meetings helped ensure that both media and political agendas reflected calls for a new strategy on Gaza. Crisis Action continues to work on the crisis.

“I just cannot see how any long-term settlement will be possible between Israel and Palestinians if Gaza remains in its current state or anything like it. I met representatives from major non-governmental organisations active in providing relief within Gaza and they told me about the humanitarian catastrophe they are witnessing.”

- David Lidington MP, Shadow Foreign Office Minister, Parliamentary Debate, 1 May 2008

Somalia

Following a serious escalation in violence in Somalia, Crisis Action responded to partners' concerns by coordinating a targeted and time-limited period of high-level advocacy. Crisis Action:

- Brought together a broad coalition of UK humanitarian and human rights agencies to share intelligence and develop key messaging
- Secured a ministerial meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID) for NGO Directors
- Facilitated a joint agency letter on behalf of NGO Directors, following up on the ministerial meeting and reinforcing key demands
- Liaised with the FCO and DFID to ensure commitments made by UK government to partners were pursued
- Initiated regular meetings between partners and the FCO/DFID, the first of which was chaired by Crisis Action before handing over to partners to establish a sustainable, long-term process
- Organised briefing for the British Conservative Party's Foreign Affairs team on Somalia



Supplied by Muslim Aid.
Healthcare and drought relief in Southern Somalia, near Baidoa.

This period of concerted effort behind the scenes led to a series of important commitments by the British Government with regard to both key humanitarian and human rights concerns and contributed to securing greater due consideration of Somalia at the UN Security Council.

“Crisis Action really adds value to Muslim Aid work by enabling us to understand the views of other agencies working in areas of conflict such as Somalia and Darfur. Our approach to conflicts may not always be the same but we can certainly be a stronger voice for peace if better informed.”

- Saif Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, Muslim Aid

Zimbabwe

EU Summit

Together with Crisis Action's efforts to promote the inclusion of the conflict in Darfur on the EU-Africa summit agenda, we also worked to raise awareness at the summit of the crisis in Zimbabwe. This included:

- Organising a partnership of writers from Africa and Europe - including Václav Havel, Wole Soyinka, Nadine Gordimer, Günter Grass, Jürgen Habermas and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - to write to world leaders expressing anger at their 'political cowardice'. "We expect our leaders to lead, and lead with moral courage. When they fail to do so they leave all of us morally impoverished."
- Facilitating a media stunt with actors dressed as Merkel, Sarkozy and Mugabe sleeping in a oversized bed while human rights activists surrounded them and demanded that they "wake up to human rights"

Electoral Violence

Since the contested 29 March parliamentary and presidential elections, in which President Robert Mugabe and his ruling party ZANU-PF failed to win for the first time since independence in 1980, a campaign of harassment and violence has been orchestrated against the opposition and independent public. Crisis Action helped co-ordinate a civil society response to prevent an escalation of violence and ensure a fair resolution to the crisis, bringing together international organisations including Amnesty International and Oxfam with local and regional organisations such as the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition.

Examples of our involvement include:

- Supporting efforts to stop a delivery of 77 tons of weapons to Zimbabwe by the Chinese vessel An Yue Jiang. The pressure from this united action succeeded in preventing the ship from unloading its cargo at any African port.
- Coordinating a coalition of organisations involving Amnesty International, Avaaz, the International Action



Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Oxfam and many others calling for a general moratorium on any arms sales to Zimbabwe during the crisis.

- Supporting 'Stand up (for) Zimbabwe Day' on 25 May 2008 (AU Africa Day), when African NGOs in more than 15 countries showed solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe and demanded African governments act to end the violence. To help to make this day a success, we:
 - Shared experience with, and gave strategic advice to, local and regional organisations on how to organise a large-scale Action Day
 - Reached out through Crisis Action's partners' networks to help to get activities started in countries all across Africa
 - Gave strategic and practical support on media work around the Action Day
 - Supplied supportive statements from international NGOs for the activities in Africa

“I join the worldwide calls to stop the supply of weapons to the country - by land, sea or air - until the political crisis is resolved. It is obvious that supplying large quantities of arms at this stage would risk escalating the violence, perhaps resulting in the large-scale loss of life.”

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Thursday 24 April 2008



Roundtables

“By bringing together like minded NGOs in well targeted and co-ordinated joint advocacy campaigns, Crisis Action does a big service to the cause of human rights and humanitarianism. Crisis Action works behind the scenes, out of the media spotlight. But once again in 2007/8, Crisis Action has helped us to increase the clout and impact of our UK and European advocacy work on some of the most serious human rights crises in Africa and Asia.”

- Tom Porteous, London Director, Human Rights Watch

As part of our ongoing commitment to assist partners' analysis of conflicts, Crisis Action has held a series of national, as well as European-wide, roundtable discussions on specific conflicts. Over the course of this year, we have held roundtables to share intelligence and discuss advocacy strategies on:

- Afghanistan
- Kosovo
- Chad
- Pakistan

Crisis Action has also developed an alert system whereby we respond rapidly to partners' concerns over potential or escalating conflict situations and enable prompt discussion and initial coordination of an NGO response.

Iran

Informing Partner Analysis

In the second half of 2007 with the publication of the new US National Intelligence Estimate, Crisis Action pulled back from public campaign work and focused on supporting intelligence-sharing and analysis between a broad group of experts including NGOs, commercial risk analysts, nuclear experts and think-tanks.

Crisis Action has retained a commitment to undertake further public work on Iran when appropriate and strategic. In follow-up to the series of expert papers already published, Crisis Action secured additional advice, including from within the legal and economic fields, on which to draw in further public work. Crisis Action continues to monitor the situation, host regular meetings for partners on Iran and engage government, parliamentarians and media as appropriate.



Core Partners

Aegis Trust
Amnesty International
British American Security Information Council
CAFOD
CARE International
Christian Aid
Concern
HART
Human Rights Watch
International Crisis Group
International Rescue Committee
Mercy Corps
Muslim Aid
Oxfam
Oxford Research Group
Saferworld
Save the Children
Tearfund
World Vision

Network Members

Amicus/Unite section
Anti-Slavery International
Baptist Union
British Humanist Association
British Muslim Forum
Burma Campaign UK
Chatham House
Church of England International Office
Council for Arab British Understanding (CAABU)
Foreign Policy Centre
Friends of the Earth
GMB
Greenpeace
Hindu Council UK
International Action Network for Small Arms (IANSA)
IPPR
Iraq Body Count

Methodist Church
Mothers Union
Muslim Council of Britain
New Israel Fund
PeaceDirect
People & Planet
Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW)
Rene Cassin
Sudanese Organisation Against Torture (SOAT)
UNISON
United Nations Association - UK
United Reform Church
VERTIC
War on Want
Welfare Association
World Jewish Relief

Financial Statements 2007-08

Statement of activities for the years ended on 31st May 2007 and 2008

INCOME	31 May 2008	31 May 2007
Projects	£77,877	£0
Donations	£402,131	£74,074
Brussels	£0	£65,853
Partners	£67,000	£27,340
Miscellaneous	£301	£56
Interest	£6,513	£1,235
Sale of Equipment	£800	£0
Total	£554,622	£168,558
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and National Insurance	£120,494	£62,230
Consultants	£176	£11,658
Pension	£7,578	£1,760
Rent, Rates & Insurance	£12,810	£7,987
Telephone & Office Expenses	£8,377	£2,220
Events	£75,594	£9,138
Reports & Publishing	£1,082	£3,501
Staff, Training & Recruitment	£8,327	£5,368
IT Fees	£4,115	£1,098
IT Equipment	£0	£1,754
Other Equipment	£0	£50
General Expenses	£10,350	£54
Travel & Subsistence	£13,717	£7,999
Audit	£2,730	£1,600
Bank Charges	£43	£0
Paris	£66,240	£0
Brussels	£62,263	£0
Germany	£65,059	£0
Portugal	£18,837	£0
Total	£477,792	£116,397
Surplus for the year	£76,830	£52,161
Taxation	£1,348	£277
Excess of income over expenditure	£75,482	£51,884
Accumulated fund at the beginning of the year	£67,715	£15,831
Accumulate fund	£143,197	£67,718
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2008		
Debtors	£15,173	£5,578
Current assets - cash in bank	£253,303	£194,674
Total assets	£268,476	£200,252
General creditors	£-125,276	£-132,534
Net Current Assets	£143,197	£67,718
Represented by:		
Share capital	£3	£3
Accumulated fund at the beginning of the year	£67,715	£15,831
Excess of income over expenditure	£75,482	£51,884
Total funds at 31 May	£143,197	£67,718

Crisis Action would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their generous support in 2007-2008: Cordaid, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, Lynda and David Hughes, Lee and Gund Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Network for Social Change, Open Society Foundation, Pears Foundation, Poldham Puckham Charitable Foundation, Roddick Foundation, The Save Darfur Coalition, Sigrid Rausing, Tinsley Foundation.



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We are pleased to thank the following for their contribution to Crisis Action's work over the course of this year: Adam Backhouse, Louise Christiansen, Massimo Fabbri, Swantje Kahlert, Alex Kennedy, Ian Matthews, Majid Raja, Molly Stevenson, Samuel Wood.

BOARD

Nick Grono (Chair) is Deputy President at the International Crisis Group, based in Brussels. He is a lawyer by background and previously worked for the Australian government as chief of staff to the Attorney-General.

Lotte Leicht is EU Director of Human Rights Watch. She has worked extensively on conflict crises including Bosnia and Darfur.

Sarah Mulley is the Coordinator of the UK Aid Network, working with UK NGOs to make their research, policy, and advocacy work on aid more effective. She previously spent several years researching decision-making in international institutions and conducting policy work for a range of NGOs, think tanks and government bodies.

Nicola Reindorp was the head of Oxfam International in New York between 2002 and 2007. She is currently working with the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, in New York.

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www.crisisaction.org

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.

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