

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 (FRIDAY)

11:00 - Opening

Impulse and Welcome by the Conference team

11:30 - Civilian-based Defence: an Overview of the State of the Art

1. State of the Art - Brian Martin, PhD

Emeritus professor, University of Wollongong, AUS

2. Reflecting on my personal development - Jørgen Johansen, M.A.

Activist, Publisher of Irene Publishing

3. Societal Conditions - Karen Kennedy, PhD

University of New England, AUS

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 - Two Fora

1. Recent Experiences with Civilian-Based Defense

Social Defense and Mutual Aid: Learnings from Sudan - Julia Kramer, MA

Project consultant Civil Peace Service (ZFD) at KURVE Wustrow e.V.

Ukraine - Felip Daza Sierra

Adjunct Professor at Université Science Po Paris and member of the board at International Institute for Nonviolent Action (NOVACT)

Guardias: Autonomous Community Protection Systems in Colombia - Maria Cárdenas Alfonso

PhD Candidate at Goethe Universität Frankfurt/Main

2. Integrating the Defense Debate into Broader Contexts: Prevention and Conflict Transformation

Dr. Martin Arnold

IfgK (Institute for peace work and non-violent conflict resolution)

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François Marchand

Founding member of IRNC (Institut de recherche sur la Résolution Non-violente des Conflits)

Alexandre Christoyannopoulos, PhD

Reader in Politics and International Relations at Loughborough University, UK

15:40 - Break-Out Groups

16:00 - Break

16:30 - Two Fora

1. Historical Examples

Dr. Barbara Müller

IFGK (Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution))

Kevin Kaisig

PhD Candidate at Universidad de Granada

2. Conflict Transformation and Civilian -Based Defence

Anne Dietrich, M.A.

IfgK (Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation)

Eli McCarthy, PhD

Lecturer at Georgetown University, USA

18:00 - Break-Out Groups

18:25 - Break

18.45 - Keynote Talk: Security without Weapons: Rethinking Violence, Nonviolent Action, and Civilian Protection - Lessons for Theory and Practice of Social Defence

Molly Wallace, PhD

Professor at Loughborough University Institute of Advanced Studies, UK

20:00 - End of the Day

CIVILIAN-BASED DEFENCE PUT TO THE TEST

CURRENT ISSUES AND PRACTICAL CHALLENGES

Preliminary Program

September 6, 11:00-21:00

&

September 7, 9:00-16:00



Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation

IN COOPERATION WITH:
Federation for Social Defence,
Germany
Campaign "Wehrhaft ohne Waffen"

SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 (SATURDAY)

9:00 - Welcome in the Plenary

9:15 - Two Fora

1. Reorganising and limiting Military Defence

Wilhelm Nolte

Former professional soldier, lector for peace research and former Secretary of the German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies

Prof. Dr. phil. Hans-Heinrich Nolte

Emeritus Professor at Leibnitz University of Hannover

Jan Stehn

Nonviolent activist, trainer and resource person

Lukas Mengelkamp

PhD Candidate at the University of Marburg and Researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg

2. Organising Resistance & Addressing Modern Warfare: The Relevance of CBD in the Era of Hybrid Warfare, Automated Weapons, and AI

Julia Nennstiel

PhD Candidate at Aarhus University

Dr. Kurt Jaeger

Forum Computer Scientists for Peace and Social Responsibility

Jochen Neumann

Co-Director of KURVE Wustrow e.V.

10:55 - Break-Out Groups

11:15 - Break

11:30 - Final Plenary on discussions in various Countries and Research Desiderata

United in Unity: Bridging Diverse Research Traditions and Charting the Path Forward

13:00 - End

CIVILIAN-BASED DEFENCE PUT TO THE TEST

Current Issues and Practical Challenges

"Social defence" (or civilian-based defence) is a concept of nonviolent resistance in the event of internal revolts or wars of aggression. It involves organised and trained citizens confronting organised military actors by applying nonviolent methods to force the opposing party to give up. The declared aim of social defence is to protect social institutions and infrastructures and to preserve life, democratic and self-determined ways of life and the necessities of life without surrendering to an attacker. Social defence thus stands in the tradition of the practice of revolutionary struggles, nonviolent resistance, social movements and civil campaigns.

The concept was developed in its modern version in peace research after Second World War in the face of the threat of extermination by nuclear weapons. Many of the researchers of that time are still involved today, and we hope to welcome some of them at the conference.

After the end of the Cold War, little research was continued, but at the same time, new branches of research have emerged, e.g. on civil resistance, on just and resilient societies or on the organisation of revolutions and campaigns. The results of this research have not yet been systematically translated into the framework of social defence as a practical method for action.

The Conference aims to revive the discussion around nonviolent methods for dealing with state aggression and conflict resolution. Specifically, the focus is on the concept of Civilian-Based Defence (CBD) and its potential applications to contemporary issues. The conference seeks to critically examine how non-violent methods can ensure people's agency in violent settings.

Moreover, for CBD to be taken seriously, it is crucial to engage in a critical debate about its weak points and the challenges it faces, particularly in the context of hybrid warfare tactics and authoritarian backlash.

By addressing these issues, the conference hopes to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of nonviolent resistance in modern conflict scenarios and explore the practical implications and effectiveness of CBD in maintaining peace and security.

The conference welcomes all individuals interested in the subject. However, please note that the event has an academic focus, and we strongly recommend participants register only if they are already familiar with the subject of CBD.

**To attend, please email to: conference@soziale-verteidigung.de
We will send the Zoom link shortly before the conference to all registered.**