



“The Peace Community of San José of Apartadó, together with others inspired by the same vision, is a remarkable demonstration of courage, resiliency and dedication to the high values of peace and justice, in an environment of brutality and destruction. There is no better symbol of non-violent struggle, and of hope, in a world tortured by violence and repression.”

Noam Chomsky

Global Campus Project “Mulatos Peace Village”

Deepening the cooperation between the
Peace Research Center Tamera, Portugal, and
the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Colombia

For A Future Without War

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Colombia

Background

In 1997, 1300 peasants and farmers coming from various hamlets of Apartadó established a Peace Community as a response to multiple and continued aggressions perpetrated by all actors involved in Colombian conflict. Until today and in spite of ongoing violence, threats and murders, the members of the Peace Community have stuck to their strict commitment of non-violence, showing alternatives and ways to reconciliation and forgiveness. Tamera has accompanied in brotherhood the Community on their search for peace since 2001. The aim of this cooperation is to support the Peace Community in its struggle to survive and in its important role as model and educational center for peace and non-violence in the whole region and for the world.

Despite multiple difficulties, the Peace Community keeps on going. They live in simple wooden huts between chickens and pigs. They work hard in their cocoa and banana plantations. They face the armed forces in rubber boots and with bare hands. **Their main tools are their power of vision, their**

solidarity and the strength of community. With these powers they have been able to resist the many threats and attacks until this day.

Since 16 years, the Peace Community is committed to their path of resistance and peace. The community members agreed on some basic rules which are crucial for their survival: to participate in community work, to resist injustice and impunity, to abstain from participating directly or indirectly in the armed conflict, to refrain from giving information to any parties involved in the conflict and to never carry arms. Additionally, the sale and consumption of alcohol are prohibited within the Community.

The Peace Community was awarded the Aachener Peace Prize in 2007 and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in the same year. The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó has also been nominated for the 2011 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, for their “resilience and dedication to the high values of peace and justice.”

The Healing Biotope 1 Tamera

In Southern Portugal, the "Healing Biotope 1 Tamera" is an international training and experimental site for the development of peace research villages and healing biotopes worldwide. Under the motto "Think Locally, Act Globally," approximately 200 people live, work and study in Tamera. Tamera's aim is to develop an example of a model for a nonviolent co-existence of people and between people and Nature.

In 1995, Tamera was founded by the sociologist and psychoanalyst Dieter Duham, the theologian and peace ambassador Sabine Lichtenfels and the physicist and musician Charly Rainer Ehrenpreis. Their long-term research in the fields of science, sociology and spirituality led them to formulate the “Plan of the Healing Biotopes”. This plan states the building up of replicable ecological, technological and socially sustainable model settlements in different parts of the world.

The Global Campus is a platform which focal point is Tamera in Portugal. It aims to deepen the understanding between peace workers of different cultures and continents. Intense mindful exchange created an idea of a shared global identity. It is the beginning of a planetary community of people from all over the world who wanted to leave the system of violence and work for alternatives free of violence.

The “Mulatos Peace Village” project

Deepening the cooperation between Tamera and the Peace Community San José

Since the first contact between Tamera and San José de Apartadó, the friendship and partnership of the two peace projects has continuously grown. This has manifested in many visits, peace actions and educational meetings both in Portugal and in Colombia.

“In Mulatos, we can see the emergence of a global community. Indigenous people, campesinos and internationals supporters are frequently jammed into the Kiosko (the brand-new local assembly hall). Many languages are spoken simultaneously...”

In 2010, in the first university meeting of the Global Campus in Mulatos took place and foundations for the future were laid. Now there is a growing village with the potential to become a center to address the social, ecological and technological questions of the most exploited countries in Latin America as well as in other regions of the world.

Nowadays there are almost no regional conflicts. All social and ecological crisis result from a global

system that aims to monopolize capital and not care for life. In the 'Mulatos Peace Village Project', it is important to always understand the issues within a global context where becomes clear the need to create decentralized self-sufficient systems. We realize how much this is crucial for survival as well as for the protection and preservation of the last bits of healthy Nature on this planet.

On a material level, the concept of the education is comprises of simple technologies that aim to simplify the everyday life of the *campesinos* and to help them to become self-sufficient. With this comes knowledge about independent health care, sustainable ecology and construction as well as the first forms of a new kind of technology, in cooperation with Nature.

Eduar Lancho, a historical visionary to the community, who died in 2012, described in 2010 the vision for the peace village Mulatos - **In another three years he could see a place that creates peace every day, a village in which people are filled with the power of community that unites them in a relentless commitment for peace.** He said: *“It is our challenge to become new men and women and to create real alternatives in which the future is not the future we have been taught, but one that is created by all of us.”*

Further development of the Mulatos Peace Village

Since 2011, the partnership between Tamera and the Peace Community is evolving towards a deeper and more continuous cooperation. As a result, a small group of community members from Tamera and friends (subsequently called the Mulatos group) will live and work in Mulatos for several months in order to support the development of the Mulatos Peace Village project.

Most courageously and with great commitment, the Peace Community set up a peace training center in 2009 to accommodate the Global Campus. Today, we want to join forces and provide this initiative with a deeper anchor for long-term effectiveness. Through this process, the peace vision of the Peace Community will be given a visible expression and a place for study and work, where it can grow and attract support from all over the world.

This continuous presence of the Mulatos group will start on March 23rd, the Commemoration Day, which marks the 16th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Laure Luciani, the Mulatos project focalizer, Vera Kleinhannes, the coordinator of the Global Campus, and Patrick Rudolph, doctor and medicinal plants specialist, will be the first ones to join the Community for two weeks.

Later on this year, a team of 3-4 young international peace workers, accompanied by Irma Knittel, a mature woman, longtime coworker of Tamera and very skilled craftsperson, will join Laure Luciani and stay for two months. The purpose of the Mulatos group is to create a field of trust, and global embedding which should find material expression in many areas of life. In such a field, fear can disappear, and trust and the power of Grace can grow. Each one of us will be able to open their heart in the middle of the war and encounter the pain, and the opportunity to transform it into hope. This is only possible when we can go back to the group and find support that can hold this opening.

The main task of the Mulatos group is to support the Peace Community's vision for peace and to help this vision manifest in the Mulatos Peace Village, at the heart of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. From a direct and heartfelt contact, the group members build trustful relationships with the *campesinos* that allow them to express and deal with their dreams, hopes, and fears in order to enhance their personal and communal growth. The group members will organize sharing circles and workshops for the Community of the Mulatos Peace Village.

Apart from offering themselves as carriers of hope and as servants of the Community's vision, the Mulatos group imparts peace knowledge concerning every key area of life. In this task, they are assisted by local teachers, teachers from Tamera, and teachers from the worldwide network. Jointly a realistic plan of a self-sufficient village is developed which has the potential to grow into an

autonomous and sustainable model of good living. The focus of the teaching will include water management; permaculture; information technology; community building; childhood, youth, and adult education; cultivation and use of medicinal plants, and renewable energy (solar and biogas). Also included are crafts, such as carpentry, cooking, bakery, construction of alternative housing and compost toilets, as well as the arts of music, painting and theatre.

To ensure water autonomy the purchase of a strategic and symbolic piece of land of 60 hectares is planned for Mulatos. This land includes a forest which harbors the main source of clean water that supplies the entire Mulatos Peace Village. Furthermore, the Peace Community would be able to naturally avoid flooding and drought.

The Mulatos group is also available to cover special needs, like personal protection (accompaniments of leaders when leaving their home); keeping project schedules and deadlines; arranging logistics and funding, etc.

Educational material, in Spanish language, about the key values and basic ideas of peace work will be prepared and continuously developed.

Only a few weeks ago, the internal council of the Peace Village of San José wrote to Tamera: *“We want to turn hope into reality through having alternative technical education in our community.”*

The Global Campus and Tamera are also aware that the time has come to deepen the cooperation with the Peace Community and to prepare the ground for more transfer in the areas of technical and social know-how. This project is meant to continue for several years.

The Peace Community, in the midst of the ongoing war, is seeking to acquire practical peace knowledge. The Mulatos group, representatives of the Peace Research Centre Tamera, can support them in their search. It is an extraordinary situation on Earth, where there is such readiness to quickly and easily receive this kind of information, than the situation prevailing in Colombia.

The members of the Mulatos Group will also greatly benefit from this experience in the “Peace Village project of Mulatos”. The young peace workers in training are concerned with such questions as:

- How do I bridge the gap between the vision of peace and the apparent violent reality, between spiritual reconnection and mere survival? Where are points of cooperation between these two realities?
- What happens when I invite Grace into high-tension situations in a crisis area where life and death are so close?
- What do I need to turn my points of fear into trust?
- What is the picture of a new peace worker in a crisis area?
- What kind of education is able to deal with the heartfelt questions of young people and is able to offer answers to their longing for a meaningful life?

Each one of them will move to a new level of perception and broaden his or her peace knowledge. The experience will empower them in all areas of their lives. The potential for growth is enormous.

Budget for the Mulatos Peace Village project

The budget for the project, including transport; food and lodging; communications and material for the team and for the teachers, amounts to around EUR 15.000. The cost of the purchase of 60ha of land is EUR 35.000.

Special Thanks

We, the Mulatos Group, wish to express many thanks in advance to all those who financially contribute to this project and thus to the education of international peace workers and to the growth of a new enterprise to create a realistic peace model. Thank you again for your investment in Peace!

Added support

In addition to the wonderful private support and in order to ease financial pressure, the Mulatos group has extended a fundraising mandate to New Era Invest, a fundraising firm run by friends of Tamera out of Switzerland. New Era Invest is dedicated to raise funds for projects that contribute to worldwide sustainable change and a shift in paradigm.

Vera Kleinhammes, Phoebe Andrea Regelmann and Laure Luciani

Global Campus

Tamera, March 5th, 2013

To make a donation

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