

# Iraq Mission Team 2003

## MISSION STEERING COUNCIL

**Roger Michael Normand** (Coordinator) is co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), where he oversees policy, program and outreach, and directs projects in the Middle East and Central Asia. In recent years he has led human rights fact-finding missions to Iraq, Israel and Palestine, and Afghanistan. He is also an adjunct professor at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs. In 1991, he helped organize the International Study Team missions to Iraq in 1991, the first independent investigations of the impact of war and sanctions on Iraq's civilian population. In 1988-90 he worked with Catholic Relief Services and Human Rights Watch-Asia on human rights and refugee issues in Southeast Asia. A graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard Divinity School, he has written on human rights and refugee issues for a wide range of publications.

**Philip Alston** is Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, at New York University Law School, and External Professor of International Law, European University Institute, Florence. He is President of the Board of Directors of the Center for Economic and Social Rights and Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of International Law. He chaired the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 1991 to 1998, and was elected to chair the Meeting of Chairpersons of United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies in 1990, 1993, and 1997-98. He was appointed as an Independent Expert by the UN Secretary-General, at the request of the General Assembly, to report on measures to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the UN human rights treaty bodies (reports submitted in 1989, 1993, and 1997). He is currently Special Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a member of the consultative group for the (ILO-initiated) World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization.

**John Leonard McCullough** is Executive Director of Church World Service since September 2000. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, Rev. McCullough has extensive global experience in ministry, mission, and humanitarian assistance. He summarizes his personal mission as being one of "Preparing leaders for church and society, serving the needs of humanity, and working for global justice." Before assuming the CWS position, he was first Vice-Chair of CWSW and was a veteran member of CWSW Unit Committee. He has administered program of scholarships that awarded assistance to more than 700 students around the world and introduced numerous new mission initiatives for the General Board of Global Ministries including: Missioners of Hope, Volunteers for Africa and Conference Committees on Mission Personnel.

**Roelf Meyer** was intimately involved in the negotiations on the settlement of the South African problem from 1989 to 1994, first as Deputy Minister of Constitutional Affairs and thereafter as Minister in which capacity he served as the National Party (NP) Government's chief negotiator. It was in this capacity that he negotiated the end of apartheid together with Cyril Ramaphosa, who was the chief negotiator of the African National Congress (ANC). Their negotiations resulted in the first democratic election in South Africa in April 1994. After this election Meyer continued in the same portfolio of

Constitutional Affairs in the Cabinet of former President Nelson Mandela until March 1996. He then left the party to become a co-founder of the United Democratic Movement (UDM) in 1997. The UDM was elected to Parliament where Meyer served as Deputy President of the party and as Member of Parliament until his resignation at the end of January 2000. Meyer's negotiation skills and experience in the field of conflict resolution have led to several international appointments. Meyer is currently the Chairman of the Civil Society Initiative (CSI) of South Africa. The CSI is an apolitical initiative, established in January 2000 with a view to realizing the full potential of civil society in improving the lives of South Africans and with the aim of encouraging the spirit of volunteering and self-help through inspiration, participation and recognition.

**Laurance Neall Nathan** is Executive Director of the Center for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town. His special area of interest is demilitarisation in South Africa, and Africa in general. Laurie has been actively involved in the anti-apartheid struggle since attending the University of Cape Town (UCT) in the late 1970s where he completed business science and law degrees, followed by a Masters in Philosophy at Bradford University's School of Peace Studies. He was President of the Students' Representative Council at UCT and Secretary General of the non-racial National Union of South Africa Students. He was also a founding member and for two years the national organizer of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) which opposed the system of compulsory military service for white men. In 1988, the ECC was banned and Laurie spent two years evading arrest; he later learnt that he had been one of those targeted for assassination by the SADF hit-squad.

**Hans von Sponeck** is a 36-year veteran of the United Nations and former Assistant Secretary General. He joined the UN Development Program in 1968, and worked in Ghana, Turkey, Botswana, Pakistan and India, before becoming Director of European Affairs. He was appointed the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq in October 1998, overseeing roughly 500 international staff, as well as 1,000 Iraqi workers. His responsibilities included directing all UN operations in country, managing the distribution of goods under the "Oil-for-Food" program, and verifying Iraqi compliance with that program. Mr. von Sponeck resigned this position in February 2000 in protest of current international policy toward Iraq, including sanctions. Since that time he has made numerous visits around the world, especially in Europe, to brief governments and parliaments about resolving the Iraq crisis. He has degrees from the University of Tübingen and the University of Bonn in modern European history and from the Louisiana State University and Washington State University in anthropology and sociology.

## **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TEAM**

**Peter Pellet** (Coordinator) is an Emeritus Professor of Nutrition at University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He has conducted numerous health assessments throughout the Middle East, and was team leader of four FAO missions to Iraq. He has also done research in Iraq on behalf of WHO and UNICEF.

**Elisabeth Ryden Benjamin** is founder and supervising attorney of the New York Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit and serves on the Board of Directors of the Center for Economic and Social Rights. She has conducted health and human rights assessments to

Iraq for the Harvard Study Team and International Study Team missions, and is interested in international human rights from the perspective of US accountability.

**Charles Clements**, a public health physician, is CEO and President of WaterWorks, an American NGO that assists communities resolve problems with potable water and sanitation in Mexico and the U.S. He has extensive experience dealing with conflict and humanitarian issues and is former President of Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and prior to that was Director of Human Rights Education of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

**Ramzi Raymond Kysia** is an activist and writer whose essays have appeared in numerous publications, including the Houston Chronicle, San Diego Union-Tribune, and Counterpunch Magazine. Ramzi has worked with EPIC, Voices in the Wilderness and the National Network to End the War against Iraq.

**Michael McCally** is a public health physician and Professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at the Oregon Health and Sciences University, Portland, Oregon where he is director of the Center on Environmental Health Policy. Dr. McCally is President-elect of Physicians for Social Responsibility and was Treasurer of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War when it won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

**Michael Van Rooyen**, is Associate Professor and Vice Chairman of Department of Emergency Medicine and Director of Center for International Emergency, Disaster & Refugee Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

**Ronald Jay Waldman** is a Professor of Clinical Public Health at the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University. He has extensive experience working in complex emergencies in Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Albania, Congo, and Afghanistan. Dr. Waldman is the immediate past Chairman of the International Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

**Sarah Leah Sally Whitson** is a corporate lawyer and chair of the Government Affairs Committee of the New York Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. She participated in the Harvard Study Team and International Study Team assessment missions to Iraq.

## **MEDIA TEAM**

**Terry Allen** is a journalist whose articles and photography have been published by the Boston Globe, The Nation, Salon.com, New Scientist, and In These Times. She is currently editor of Amnesty Now, which reaches 300,000 Americans and features some of the world's best reporters and photographers.

**Jason Rodger Florio** is a New York-based photographer working with Sigma Agency. His work focuses on capturing the humanity of people in war, including most recently Afghanistan. His work has been widely published in the US and Europe.

**Robert Jean Huber** is a New York-based photographer working with Lookat Agency since 1996. His social-documentary medium and large format color work focuses on

aspects of leisure culture and group behavior. He has recently been focusing on the rise of Christian groups in the USA. His work has been widely published in the US and in Europe.

***Tia Lessin and Carl Deal.*** Tia Lessin has produced social-issue documentary television and film for over thirteen years. Her expose of abuses in the garment industry on US Saipan, "Behind the Labels," won her the Sidney Hillman Prize. She is a two time Emmy nominee, and was the supervising producer of Michael Moore's "Bowling for Columbine," a film about the US culture of fear and violence. Her collaborator, Carl Deal, is a journalist who has produced news and documentary programming around the world, and works as a media consultant to NGOs on civil rights, human rights and environmental issues.