

2009

# NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES SUMMIT



## IPPNW Delegation

Left to right:

**Lauren Zajac (National Student Representative, Physicians for Social Responsibility - USA), Katharina Bergmann (Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project Coordinator - Germany), Suheir Khajuria (India via USA), Misha Byrne (Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project - Australia), Tova Fuller (National Student Representative, Physicians for Social Responsibility - USA), Ehasz Agyeno (International Student Representative - Nigeria), Henk Wassmann (Germany), Elena Bezsmertna (Regional Student Representative - Ukraine), Xanthe Hall (Disarmament Expert at IPPNW - Germany), Laura Grell (Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project - Germany)**

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Nuclear Disarmament  
Panel including laureates  
USSR President Mikhail  
Gorbachev (3rd from the left)  
and South African President  
Frederik Willem De Klerk (5th  
from the left)

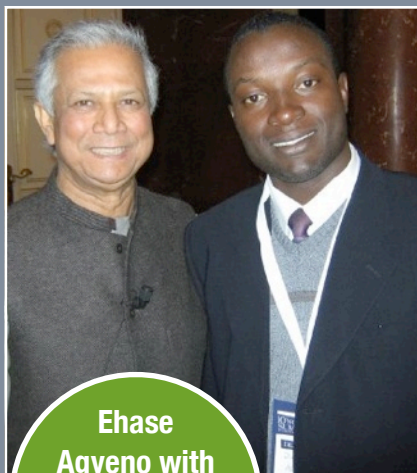
## BREAKING DOWN WALLS FOR A WORLD WITH PEACE AND JUSTICE

The 2009 Nobel Peace Laureates Summit took place November 9th - 11th in Berlin, Germany coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.



**Student spokespeople:** Tova Fuller (4th from the left) and Ehasz Agyeno (1st from the right)

## EHASE AGYENO



Ehashe  
Agyeno with  
laureate  
Muhammed  
Yunus

International  
Student  
Representative

### Elena Bezsmertna, Ukraine

On 10-11th of November, in Berlin took place a very important event 10th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates “ Breaking down the walls for a world without violence”.

There were invited many great people and world organizations, some of them are listed below: Mikhail Gorbachev, Frederic Willem De Klerk, Lech Walesa, Muhammad Yunus, Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Betty Williams, United Nations ( UN), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ( IPCC ), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War ( IPPNW), International Peace Bureau( IPB), American Friends Service Committee (ICRC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ( UNHCR), Amnesty International ( AI ), International Labour Organization (ILO).

Main problems discussed on the summit were “20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall”, “ Walls between rich and poor”, “Walls of menace of the environment”, “Walls of Intolerance”. And one of the most hot discussed topics was “Walls of Nuclear Weapons and Armament:

building up a world free from Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of mass destruction “.

On the panel during this discussion were present Mikhail Gorbachov, Frederik Wilhelm De Klerk, Paolo Cotta-Ramusino (Secretary General of Pugwash conferences on Science and World Affairs), Alexander Liebeskind ( Secretary of the Committee ans Personal Advisor to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross), Ehashe Agyeno ( IPPNW), Jonathan Granoff ( President of Global Security Institute).

Mikhail Gorbachov mentioned that NATO and USA should definitely think first weather they want peace with Russia or not, because all these American bases built in Europe, which are exactly situated around Russia, make Russia protect yourself. The dialogue about nuclear weapon disarmament between Russia and USA should start from this point.

Jonathan Granoff said that we can't talk about reducing the amount of Nuclear Weapons, we should go for ZERO.

And the last conference statement says:

The walls that stand in the way of a nuclear weapons free world can be broken by

1) achieving a paradigm shift from counter-productive and excessive militarization to collective security based on cooperative initiatives to address global threats,

2) fully implementing the non-proliferation and disarmament obligations under the NPT, and all other international agreements on nuclear weapons by all members of the international community,

3) negotiating a new convention for the universal and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons,

4) supporting the successful conclusion of the initiative of President



Obama and President Medvedev of adopting a new agreement on nuclear disarmament and it's successful implementation,

5) supporting the UN Secretary – General five point plan on Nuclear Disarmament,

6) addressing the root causes of regional and global conflicts to assure that the security of all states can be safeguarded without nuclear weapons.

### **Tova Fuller, USA**

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to visit the Nobel Peace Laureates Summit. I participated as a representative to the youth delegation and had the opportunity to meet student leaders from around the globe. While there was perhaps one contentious moment and an array of opinions represented, the entire room during the summit was a vehicle for peace led by real innovators. For example, Muhammad Yunus (see photo below), a Bangladeshi economist and professor of economics, was awarded the Peace Prize for his work on microfinancing to help economically develop the developing world; his speech was amongst the most inspiring I have ever heard.

Particularly interesting and germane to my work in PSR were the sessions on climate change and disarmament. The climate change panel acknowledged that poor countries would be affected the most, and panel members talked about rebuilding the concept of political will in order to get support from the corporate sector. During the nuclear disarmament session, laureate Frederik Willem de Klerk, the last President of apartheid-era South Africa, talked about the history of South Africa, the only country to dismantle their nuclear weapons. Mikhail Gorbachev spoke more broadly about creating a movement for peace.

My favorite quote from the entire summit came from Alexandre Liebeskind of the laureate organization International Committee of the Red Cross: "Let us be reasonable; we must demand the impossible."

### **Suheir Khajuria, USA/India**

History was made with the fall of the Berlin wall in Germany, twenty years ago. And what an example it is for the rest of the world! The whole country rejoicing in freedom, to prove one more time - if we look through humanity, we all desire peace in our hearts.

It was indeed an experience to listen to the inspiring words of peace makers from across the world. The Nobel Peace Laureates, who had the courage to envision and act beyond the dimensions of self-interest, made a difference to our world of today. As part of IPPNW youth, I can visualize what a huge responsibility I have, to guarantee a nuclear free world. The Nobel Peace Laureates Summit in Berlin, 2009 made me believe that we are not alone in our quest for disarmament. Our dream is possible and one day we will have the good fortune to be proud of what we are leaving behind for our generations.

### **Lauren Zajac, USA**

For the past several long, hard years of medical school, my involvement with Physicians for Social Responsibility has been my outlet to pursue my passion of advocating for a cleaner, healthier, safer world. The culmination of this rewarding experience was the invitation to represent PSR and IPPNW at the Annual Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in November 2009. The Summit was organized in Berlin, Germany to correspond with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Despite the difficulty with traveling abroad

in the middle of clinical rotations, I knew that this experience would be memorable and rewarding, and definitely worth the logistic hassle of re-working my medical school schedule.

The theme of the conference "Breaking Down Walls and Building Bridges" focused on achieving a world without violence and human rights violations- two issues intricately intertwined with public health, and therefore important for the work of the future physicians of IPPNW. Over the two days of the Summit, we listened to the inspiring words of great Nobel Laureates such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Frederik Willem De Klerk, Muhammad Yunus, and Mairead Corrigan Maguire. We met representatives of other Nobel Laureate organizations and discussed the challenges and opportunities of the current peace movement in our countries. Our IPPNW student delegation had the great fortune of exploring the city of Berlin together and attending the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The trip also provided an opportunity for the IPPNW delegation to further develop our partnerships on nuclear abolition work. Although I returned from the trip exhausted and jet lagged, I also felt renewed and energized to bring back the messages from the Summit to my American colleagues. As a future physician, I will continue to work for peace and justice for my patients and communities. The experience at the Summit and the relationships with my amazing IPPNW colleagues will serve as source of strength and inspiration to carry on my own work to break down the walls of an unjust world.