

India

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Bijay leads the Solidarity for Developing Communities (SFDC) organization in Orissa, India. He works with the Dalit (untouchables) and Adivasis (indigenous) communities who are the most marginalized people in India, with the aim of human rights promotion, sustainable peace and elimination of all kinds of caste-based discrimination. Bijay completed his Masters in Applied Conflict Transformation Course from Pannasastra University, Cambodia in 2007.



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Bobichand is the Director of Change and Peacebuilding Action (CPA) based in India's North-Eastern State of Manipur. He started his career as a journalist in 1991. He is deeply committed to transform conflicts and build positive peace in Manipur and the North-East India. He was actively involved in various human rights activities and non-violent democratic movements and finally became a peace and conflict practitioner. For over 10 years now, he has conducted and facilitated a number of workshops and trainings for grassroots, youths, women and civil society leaders on Peace and Conflict Transformation and Protection and Promotion of Human Rights. He is also actively involved in conceptualizing and running a not-for-profit parents' initiative school in Manipur. He has carried out an action research on Ethnic Conflicts in Manipur.



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Dr. Seema Shekhawat holds doctoral degree in humanitarian dimension of Kashmir conflict. She has nine years of doctoral and postdoctoral research experience. Her major areas of research include conflict, displacement, gender, human rights and peace that have been published extensively in reputed journals, magazines and newspapers. Dr. Shekhawat is author of Conflict and Displacement in Jammu and Kashmir: The Gender Dimension (2006). She is also co-author of Kashmir Across LOC (2008) and Conflict in Kashmir and Chechnya: Political and Humanitarian Dimensions (2007). She is the first editor of Afro-Asian Conflicts: Costs, Consequences and Changing Contours (2008). Dr. Shekhawat is currently associated with the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, India.



Dr. Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra

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Dr. Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra holds doctoral degree on Kashmir conflict. He has nine years of research and teaching experience. His major areas of research include conflict, terrorism, and peace. Dr. Mahapatra has published more than 130 articles in reputed journals, magazines and newspapers. He has widely traveled and presented papers on a variety of issues related to conflict, terrorism, Kashmir and Central Eurasia. Dr. Mahapatra has authored two books titled Central Eurasia: Geopolitics, Compulsions and Connections (2008) and India-Russia Partnership: Kashmir, Chechnya and Issues of Convergence (2006). He is co-author of two books titled Kashmir Across LOC (2008) and Conflict in Kashmir and Chechnya: Political and Humanitarian Dimensions (2007). He has also co-edited Afro-Asian Conflicts: Costs, Consequences and Changing Contours (2008). Dr. Mahapatra was also the editor of Across LOC published from University of Jammu from 2005 to 2007. He is currently associated with the Centre for Central Eurasian Studies, University of Mumbai, India.



Pooja Chawda

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Pooja Chawda was born in Uganda and lived there until 1992. Between 1992 and 2000, she lived in Pune, India before her family migrated to Milwaukee, United States of America where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Intercultural Communication and German. She spent 2 years in Germany studying Law at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University and interning at the Plettenberg Law Association. In 2007, she completed her Master's of Arts degree at the European University Centre for Peace Studies (EPU) in Stadtschlaining, Austria. Since August 2008, she has been serving as Board of Inquiry Assistant at the United Nations Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and has been living in Kinshasa until present.



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VS Malik is a retired military colonel and is now an independent trainer, facilitator, mediator and consultant in the field of human rights, IHL, peacebuilding, human security, humanitarian logistics and security. Last associated with Indian Army as a Battalion Commander of Assam Rifles Battalion in Manipur. Malik recently attended the Rotary World Peace Fellowship Program in Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. His first hand experience working in several violent conflict situations across India (Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, Manipur) and in some other countries (Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone) as a military man deepened my understanding of various facets of conflict and peace.



Dr. Ravindra Kumar

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Dr. Ravindra Kumar [M. A. in Political Science & Philosophy, PGD in Gandhian Studies and Ph. D.] is an eminent writer, thinker, scholar, political scientist, peace-worker, humanist, and educationist with more than one hundred books and four hundred articles/ talks/ lectures on great leaders of Indian Sub-Continent, and especially Mahatma Gandhi, and on various social, religious, political, educational, cultural and academic issues to his credit. As a Peace Worker, Dr. Ravindra Kumar started 'Peace-Review'-the International Journal of Peace Studies in 1998 and worked as its Editor-in-Chief. In 2001 he has started 'Global-Peace'-another International Journal of Philosophy, Peace, Education, Culture and Civilization. Dr. Ravindra Kumar's works contribute significantly towards bringing about reconciliation among social groups, religious-communities and sects. They focus on equality, humanism, integration, international/universal brotherhood, non-violence, social change and unity.



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Jayanta is presently the Program Coordinator of Solidarity for Developing Communities (SFDC). The organization focuses on the issues of Dalits (untouchable), Adivasi (Indigenous people) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) through a program called Developing Communities. His task includes strengthening the civil society by bringing public awareness and generates sensitization for the promotion and protection of human rights on different levels with towards sustainable development and Peace. Jayanta has a Master of Arts in Social Communication.

