

# GAIA Newsletter – Happy Birthday - July 18, 2008

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THE GAIA newsletter will regularly update the information about our 60 years crisis on this website. That is how a minority of the human population living today in the rich western world = our generation – you and me have managed to seriously harm our common environment and endanger the common future for coming generations and for thousands of species on our living planet – Gaia. We have now an enormous challenge – that is to drastically change our present way of living above our means. This can not be done with more of the same – as our present leaders are preaching in their globalization and consume more mantra. The same persons, the same model and the same thinking that has created this enormous problem cannot solve it. We need a complete turn around. And this is the most difficult thing to do – to change our selves.

## Who is a “tsirorret”?

Today July 18<sup>th</sup> Nelson Mandela is 90 years old. One of the most admired persons of today. A symbol for the fight for freedom. And finally USA and George W. Bush has decided to remove Mandela from the “T- list”. Read more on page 9.

## Who is Nelson Mandela?

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison for “sabotage”. He was released from prison in February 1990 and in 1993, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1994 he became the first black president in South Africa. An amazing history of an amazing man who made a difference.

Read more on page 2-4.

## Who is the real “tsirorret” ?

So the legacy of George W Bush is more than 1 million dead men, women and children and about 7 Million refugees Add to this another 7 million Palestinians without a land to ensure we can continue to burn the oil destroying our planet. So who are the real “tsirorret”? See page 16.

## Reverence for life

What did Albert Schweitzer mean with reverence for life? read more on page 8.

## People without land and People with oil

According to UN about 14.5 Million people in the world are today refugees – people without a land. Half of them come from Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan. All occupied by “good” western states. Many of the refugees are in Syria and some in Iran – the “evil axis”. But some small emirate dictators are still considered our friends – they have oil. Page 10-15

## Peace and Love

My grandson Christopher Charles was born today July 18<sup>th</sup> in the USA. The same day as Nelson Mandela turned 90. How will earth look like when my grandson turns 90 – 2098? Today we can also read the response of when another Nobel price laureate Al Gore called for actions to save our planet. We need to give birth to an old - new awakening of peace & love. Page 5-8

## What is (not) in the media

We are experiencing a “free” media crisis. We never before have had so much “news” and so little information and analysis of what really is going on. See page 17.

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## Who is Nelson Mandela?

Nelson Mandela is our symbol for freedom and dignity. He was born on July 18, 1918 in Mvezo, Eastern Cape, the son of a chieftain of the Tembu clan, part of the Xhosa nation. After his father was stripped of his chieftainship he moved with his mother to her home village of Qunu. In 1939, he enrolled at the only black university in South Africa, Fort Hare, where he met his later comrade-in-arms Oliver Tambo. The year after he was expelled. In 1943 he joined the African National Congress. A year later, Mandela, Tambo, Mandela's political mentor Walter Sisulu and Anton Lembede founded the militant ANC Youth League. In 1944, Mandela married his first wife, Evelyn Mase, a nurse and the couple had four children together.

In 1952, Mandela and Tambo opened South Africa's first black law practice. Mandela was also a key organizer of that year's mass Defiance Campaign of civil disobedience, for which he received a suspended sentence of nine months imprisonment with hard labour. In 1956, he was one of 156 people arrested and charged with treason, relating to the ANC Freedom Charter (constitution) signed at a people's congress in Kliptown, Soweto the previous year. At the end of the marathon trial in 1961, all were acquitted.

In 1958, he divorced Evelyn and married Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela. Two years later the ANC was banned and Mandela went into hiding, with the escapades of the 'Black Pimpernel' garnering much media attention. In 1961 the ANC launched its armed wing, Umkhonto weSizwe (Spear of the Nation), with Mandela as commander-in-chief and the group carried out its first act of sabotage. In 1962, on returning from military training overseas, Mandela was arrested and was sentenced to five years in prison, which he began to serve on Robben Island prison off Cape Town. In 1964, he and seven other ANC members were convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life in prison following the landmark Rivonia Trial. Mandela, the main accused, defended his struggle in a four-hour speech from the dock, famously declaring that ending white domination of blacks was an ideal 'for which I am prepared to die.' Mandela returned to Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his total 27 years in prison.

In 1985, with the Free Mandela campaign in full swing internationally, Mandela began talks with the government, first of P.W. Botha, then of F.W. de Klerk, on ending minority white rule. The talks eventually paved the way for the unbanning of the ANC and his release from prison in February 1990. In 1993, Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1994, the ANC won a resounding majority in the country's first multi-racial elections and Mandela was sworn in as president.

So was Nelson Mandela trained abroad in sabotage and then imprisoned a freedom fighter or a **“tsirorret”** ?. Who is to judge? The occupiers or the occupied. Is it right to fight for the freedom of an occupied country and its people and with what means.

We wish for more Nelson Mandela to enter history – and to make a difference!

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## What really matters

Nelson Mandela is an admired human being. The main reason is maybe that he is human. With this I mean his respect for humanity, understanding and love. He is not a saint even if many are trying to make him one. He often jokes about this himself. How “an old man” can attract so many people and celebrities. My own conclusion is that most of us are looking for something or someone. We are lacking leadership. Instead of corrupted big business managers focusing on their own greed and political leaders focusing on their next re-election we are desperately looking for someone to admire. And Nelson Mandela is a man to admire. How could he survive half his active life in a prison and still be this healthy and forgiving person? He proved that if you strongly believe in something you may finally conquer evil. He is often compared to Martin Luther King and Gandhi – two other admired men who made a difference – but both murdered. The unique with Mandela is that he lived to experience his dream come true. He did not do this by himself. And not by force. It was a victory won by one good idea against a bad idea. It was a victory by convincing enough people not only in South Africa but around the world that it was necessary to finally change the old white supremacy and colonial suppression of the world. To change what really matters.

But we are also lacking a greater understanding. The meaning of life, maybe. I was by chance watching that old movie, Monty Python's The Meaning of Life. There is one part with an extremely fat man eating until he explodes. This seems to be an accurate picture of where we are today. Our exponential consumption is bringing us towards a disaster. We are eating until we explode. We need urgently to change a bad way of living to a good way of living. And if Mandela succeeded to do this out of his prison cell should we all be able to do this in our free and democratic world – with our free will and choice?.

Today July 18 Nelson Mandela celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and today the very same day my grandson Charles Christopher was born in the USA and to a turbulent world with global warming and increasing pollution. Yesterday another Nobel price laureate Al Gore called for urgent actions to save this endangered planet. We need a new way of living to be born. A new spirit for what is important in life. To re-discover the eternal values. So Charles and my other two grandchildren Valter and Alice and their grandchildren may have a future. So all of us and all the beautiful life forms on earth may have a common future.



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## Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, based his entire life on the principle of dialogue and the art of listening and speaking to others; it is also the art of getting others to listen and speak to each other. This is from his acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize:

*“Together, we join two distinguished South Africans, the late Chief Albert Luthuli and His Grace Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to whose seminal contributions to the peaceful struggle against the evil system of apartheid you paid well-deserved tribute by awarding them the Nobel Peace Prize. It will not be presumptuous of us if we also add, among our predecessors, the name of another outstanding Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late African-American statesman and internationalist, the Rev Martin Luther King Jr. He, too, grappled with and died in the effort to make a contribution to the just solution of the same great issues of the day which we have had to face as South Africans.*

*We speak here of the challenge of the dichotomies of war and peace, violence and non-violence, racism and human dignity, oppression and repression and liberty and human rights, poverty and freedom from want. We stand here today as nothing more than a representative of the millions of our people who dared to rise up against a social system whose very essence is war, violence, racism, oppression, repression and the impoverishment of an entire people.*

*I am also here today as a representative of the millions of people across the globe, the anti-apartheid movement, the governments and organisations that joined with us, not to fight against South Africa as a country or any of its peoples, but to oppose an inhuman system and sue for a speedy end to the apartheid crime against humanity. These countless human beings, both inside and outside our country, had the nobility of spirit to stand in the path of tyranny and injustice, without seeking selfish gain. They recognised that an injury to one is an injury to all and therefore acted together in defence of justice and a common human decency.*

*Because of their courage and persistence for many years, we can, today, even set the dates when all humanity will join together to celebrate one of the outstanding human victories of our century. When that moment comes, we shall, together, rejoice in a common victory over racism, apartheid and white minority rule. That triumph will finally bring to a close a history of five hundred years of African colonisation that began with the establishment of the Portuguese empire. Thus, it will mark a great step forward in history and also serve as a common pledge of the peoples of the world to fight racism wherever it occurs and whatever guise it assumes..... Let the strivings of us all, prove Martin Luther King Jr to have been correct, when he said that humanity can no longer be tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war. Let the efforts of us all, prove that he was not a mere dreamer when he spoke of the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace being more precious than diamonds or silver or gold - Let a new age dawn! “*

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## Peace and Love

Alfred Nobel invented dynamite. Dynamite was used for many good things. To build houses and roads. But also for many evil things. To destroy and kill. He was influenced by a woman who was active in the peace movement and also concerned about how the world would remember him – the king of death. So in his last will he created the Nobel Prize it was first awarded in Peace, Literature, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, and Physics in 1901. At that time Sweden and Norway was one union under the Swedish king. For this reason Nobel decided the Peace Prize to be awarded in Norway and the other in Sweden. When Norway a few years later wanted their independence from Sweden it could have needed in a severe conflict – but it did not. It was resolved peacefully. Nobel's concern for the use of his invention was however right demonstrated in two devastating world wars and many others. This second thought also hit another great man and Nobel laureate, Albert Einstein when he saw the result of the Nuclear Bomb. "All you need is peace and love".

The founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant was the first to receive the Peace Prize. But during periods of war, especially the world wars the prize could naturally not be awarded. "Peace" seemed to be a difficult task. Albert Schweitzer, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Desmond Tutu, Dalai Lama were naturally good choices. Gandhi was murdered the same year he was intended. But then the Prize was surprisingly given to some of the most difficult "conflicts" in the world. ("Conflict" is often used when a strong country try to bomb another country back to the stone age) The war lord Henry Kissinger was given the Peace prize together with The Vietnamese Le Duc To (Who declined). Sadat and Menachim Begin, Yasser Arafat together with Shimon Peres and Yitshak Rabin were all given the Peace Prize for an unresolved "conflict" with 7 million "displaced" Palestinians.

Now we are fighting a new war. The worst war ever. A cruel war. The war against GAIA and life itself. For this reason it was the right thing to do when IPCC and Al Gore was awarded the Peace Prize. But once again we have no peace- we are still investing more in our fossil fueled weapons of mass destruction. And we have not yet understand who are bad guys and the good guys. Who is the real enemy. So to consult another old movie Apocalypse Now –The enemy is within ourselves. We are the bad guys who has to change. To make peace with the planet we have to make peace with ourselves. Albert Schweitzer "Reverence for Life" concludes we are brothers and sisters to all living things, and owe to all of them the same care and respect, that we wish for ourselves. Peace and Love!

The same day July 18 I was reading CNN/Time reporting from a speech by Al Gore the day before. Gore called on Americans to completely abandon electricity generated by fossil fuels within 10 years, and replace them with carbon-free renewable like solar, wind and geothermal. It is a bold plan, almost to the point of folly. But at the very least, it's one that certainly matches the scale of his rhetoric. "The survival of the United States of America as we know it is at risk," he said. "The future of human civilization is at stake."

So what was the response to this speech by Gore?

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## What Gore said and what Time/CNN commented on July 18

Internet is a fantastic media. It is possible to find almost everything. That is one of the reasons I normally do not read conventional newspapers. The second reason is that to produce, print, distribute and dispose all this paper and ink pollutes. And the third reason is that they are mainly full of advertising to consume more. The embedded journalist of today has forgotten his or her most important mission –to tell the truth. Today everyone is copying everyone else. And to some extent it is the same with the Internet version of the same paper. And Internet is easy to change on-line. But I was still surprised when I read the feed back on “Gore’s Bold Plan to Save the Planet” and a couple of hours later the same head line had been modified to “Gore’s Bold Unrealistic Plan to Save the Planet”. Who made this change?????

## Gore's Bold Plan to Save the Planet

By BRYAN WALSH

Friday, Jul. 18, 2008



Al Gore gives a speech in Washington, D.C.

### TOP STORIES

- Obama's War Zone Guides
- 11 Must-Have iPhone Applications
- FEMA Gets Better Grades in Iowa
- Christopher Charles Ohlen was born

So who decided to change the headline. The text by Bryan Walsh is quite interesting (See next page) so I don't think he changed it. So who did.....?

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## What Gore said and what Time/CNN commented on July

So this is what Bryan Walsh commented on July 18: Gore is right but what he is saying is “wrong” – a mistake and it may hurt the Democrats. So who shall speak the truth? If neither politicians nor media will do it - who shall dare to speak the truth?

*“The man who has in the past called climate change a “moral and spiritual challenge” sounded more pragmatic notes. While sounding the alarm on melting Arctic ice and strange weather, Gore also emphasized the financial toll that high gasoline prices were taking on average Americans, and the security threat posed by our increased dependence on foreign oil.....*

*It remains impossible for most people to connect what comes out of our wall sockets to morality, or to believe that the nation needs to embark on a massive restructuring of its energy policy. But national security, or foreign oil dependency or high energy prices are all talking points that just might get a majority of Americans to support going green.....*

*... but doing it in 10 years? If the earlier, personal solutions to global warming — drive a hybrid, put in better insulation — were far too little, Gore's goal seems far too much.....Gore: “To those who say 10 years is not enough time, I respectfully ask them to consider what the world's scientists are telling us about the risks we face if we don't act in 10 years,” he said. He's right. A number of scientists, though not all, warn that the world has a decade at most to reverse the growth in greenhouse gas emissions, or risk catastrophic climate change. But here's the fact that keeps me up at night: **Gore and his allies could be right.** We may simply be technologically and politically incapable of doing anything about it. **Maybe we've already run out of time, and we just don't know it.***

*Night terrors aside, **the 10-year target is a mistake for strategic reasons.** It feeds into the perception still held by a large number of Americans that Gore is an alarmist, and alarmists can be ignored. Such a wildly ambitious goal sets us up for failure, and obscures the fact that the battle against climate change won't be won in a decade, or even two — it will last for the foreseeable future and beyond. **(And if you think Gore has thoughts about returning to the political arena, forget it. His speech couldn't have come at a worse time for Democrats, who are already fighting off accusations that they're insensitive to rising gas prices.)....***

*.... decarbonizing our energy supply will require innovation, funding and sacrifice at every level of society. It will be long and arduous, and even if it works, we won't be rewarded with stirring film of a man on the moon. The spoils of this fight will be a world that will perhaps be less worse off than it would have been had nothing been done. **What we most need is time to make these changes, but that's what we've squandered. If only someone else had been President these past eight years — someone like, well, Al Gore.”***

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## Reverence of Life

Al Gore is one of many (Including myself) who has reached the conclusion that we cannot solve this crisis the same way as we created it. The change is much larger and deeper. It is spiritual, emotional, mental and physical in that order. What we are trying now is the starting and ending with the physical reality. . So what happened to us who grew up during “flower power” – peace and love, alternative and sustainable living.

Did we either become conservative multi millionaires or died from drug abuse?

Because what we are talking about is not new. This is the basis for basically all religion and philosophy and common sense since thousands of years. We have to find our way back to this essence of humanity.

*The Albert Schweitzer “Reverence for Life” is a philosophy that says that the only thing we’re really sure of is that we live, and want to go on living. And this is something that we share with everything else that lives – from elephants to blades of grass. So we are brothers and sisters to all living things, and nothing else, neither race nor color nor religion nor sex, should be more important than this one deepest, most extraordinary thing connecting us.*

*The whole world, indeed the whole universe, has evolved to give us life - you and me and the rest of the living world. But only humans are aware of all this. This is some responsibility. Because we also have the ability to neglect, to destroy, to cause suffering and death. And indeed some suffering and death is inevitable. Even vegetarians can only survive by eating some living thing. Reverence for Life is not some cranky and impossible commandment. It just says we must be aware of what we’re doing.*

*We must take responsibility for what we do when we harvest a crop of grain, when we eat the bread that’s made from it, when we grill a steak, when we kill a dangerous insect. The key is awareness. Which makes us more alive.*

*For life is extraordinary. Every scientific advance tells us this. We now know the billion to one chances ever since the Big Bang that have enabled life to develop and then to survive on this planet, and the extreme rarity of it in the universe. More than ever, we have good reason to feel reverence for it.*

Source: <http://www.albertschweitzer.info/discovery.html>

The Indian Chief Seattle said the following when he saw his land being invaded by the white man: “All things are connected like the blood, which united one family. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself”



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## Who is a “tsirorret”

We have experienced a media revolution. From one new paper, one Radio and TV channel we now have thousands. But do we have more information?

Internet with e-mails and blog is another type of “media” since it allows anyone to write and read and write. It is a free media. At least it was. Now Also Sweden has joined USA and UK where the Secret Service is allowed to monitor all the traffic. And since long they are monitoring everything on Internet. Big brother is watching you. So to make it more difficult for Big Brother I will spell certain words backwards and mark them with red color, such as “tsirorret” .

Today Nelson Mandela has his 90ies birthday. And until now he has been on the USA long list of “stsiroret”. So today on his birthday he is going to be removed from the list. But if the worlds most admired human being today is on this list who are the other 3 457 893 or probably more. During the McCarty era, Vietnam and civil right movement many were on the list as “stsinummoc” including persons like Martin Luther King. The “evil empire” of Soviet Union had such “reversed” lists and the sent quite a few of them to Gulag to die. But this we in the democratic world should not do, or.... In Sweden a similar list was presented including some priests and house wives. So what has happened with our democratic freedom. O yes I forgot. We are in war. But no longer with an evil empire since they are occupied (Except Iran and Cuba) but with “stsiroret”.

So how do we define “stsiroret” and who is a “freedom fighter”. The interesting thing is that USA was created in a freedom war against a colonial Britain. The British Empire still survived for many years to come as a colonial rule of white supremacy over black and “colored” people. And the race struggle continued in USA with Martin Luther King and Black Power. This colonialism and racism also survived in South America in the organized form of Apartheid until it finally fell in a peaceful way and Nelson Mandela stepped out of prison to be the new leader of this free country.

I have worked with and been several times to South Africa both before and after Apartheid. A lot has improved and other has become worse. Violence and crime is a bigger problem today since it was easier to keep control in a police state or a colonial ruled country with a white army. So nothing is black or white. Most of Africa seem to be in a mess. Poor, starving and terrorized by civil war between tribes. Now we want to prosecute these cruel black men, Because they are all men. In the same way the old white colonial rulers from Europe were men. They created most of the borders in Africa. And they were responsible for much terror. But never prosecuted. Whether black or white a cruel man is still a cruel man. The victims are always the same – innocent children and women.

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## People without land

Our white supremacy history is ugly. The European invasion of America and Australia with the genocide of the native people, the slave trade and the colonization of large part of Asia and Africa. And when oil was discovered in the Middle East the western interest soon started a new colonization after the first world war. Most of the borders in Africa and the Middle East has been drawn by Europe and USA.

The Jews have for thousands of years been a people without a land. They were chased from country to country in Europe and this hunt culminated with the Nazi genocide under Hitler. The dream of a new home coming started by another Austrian was realized when the state of Israel was declared 1948 on a land inhabited to a majority with Arabs. This was a new state that to a great extent was created using the T-word. Jewish "tsiorret" gangs were murdering Arab men, women and children and later taking their land. So here we now have two people stating it is their land. The Arabs who had lived here during the last 1500 years and Survivors from European oppression plus some Americans returning to their promised land after a couple of thousands of years. So who is right and who is wrong. Who is a freedom fighter and who is a "tsiorret". The European suppression of the Jews, the Palestinian fight to get back their land and independence, the Jewish settlers on their promised land? This has now been going on for 60 years and no solution in sight!

Since I worked in Iraq during the end of the 1980s I have traveled through and worked in most parts of this region from Egypt and Saudi Arabia to Dubai and Iran. And neither here it is white or black. These countries represent another culture and another religion very alien to us. In the western media we have the focus on women dressed in black. But in these countries they do not see prostitution, drug abuse, whisky and naked girls as "freedom". As a western man I would naturally prefer to live in a western country. But interacting with these societies I experience a very different reality compared to what is presented by our media. I have for example met more female managers in Iran than in most other western countries.

So now of the real issue. Israel is with western support occupying large part of Palestine. USA and some other western states are occupying Iraq and Afghanistan and supporting other "Friendly" Arab states with various forms of dictatorship - and oil. The tiny emirates like Kuwait and Dubai got their independence by US and UK oil interest. Today they are "westernized" with large free-ways, luxury hotels, slave workers and "maids" from Asia. Ruled by extremely rich royalties and admired by the free media of the west. These countries including Saudi Arabia are supported by US as "free".. Iran and Syria are the horrible and evil states with all sorts of crimes.....Whenever people in a democratic election will select another government like in Palestine they are punished by west. So what are we supporting. Freedom? For who?

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## People with oil

Both Dubai and Iran has oil. One is a dear friend (Dubai) and one is evil (Iran). This is at least what our embedded media is telling us as “voice of America”.



Teheran



Teheran



Dubai



Dubai



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## Who is a refugee? (Palestine)

UNRWA's operational definition, Palestine refugees are persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. UNRWA's services are available to all those living in its area of operations who meet this definition, who are registered with the Agency and who need assistance. UNRWA's definition of a refugee also covers the descendants of persons who became refugees in 1948. The number of registered Palestine refugees has subsequently grown from 914,000 in 1950 to more than 4.4 million in 2005, and continues to rise due to natural population growth.

When Israel was created 1948 this also created the Palestine refugees without a land. When Israel occupied more of Palestine this created more refugees. This are now spread around the world. Of the 9.6 million Palestinians worldwide (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2004): about 7.2 million are refugees. 4.4 million are UNRWA registered Palestinian refugees and descendants from the 1948 displacement and 33% of these refugees live in UNRWA's 59 refugee camps inside the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the neighbouring Arab countries.

1.7 million are not registered with UNRWA (BADIL, 2005). 834,000 are Palestinian refugees and their descendants from the 1967 displacement (BADIL, 2005) 355,000 Palestinians and their descendants are internally displaced inside Israel (BADIL, 2005) • 57,000 Palestinians have become internally displaced in the occupied Palestinian West Bank as a result of home demolitions, revocation of residency rights and construction of illegal settlements on confiscated Palestinian-owned land. Of these, 15,000 have been displaced by Israel's Annexation/Apartheid Wall. (BADIL, 2005) 6,000 Palestinians have been deported from the Occupied Territories between 1967 and the early 1990s (BADIL, 2005) • 100,000 have had their residency rights revoked by Israel (BADIL, 2005).

About 2 Million lives on the Westbank and 1.5 Million in the small Gaza strip – the largest concentration camp in history. Jordan has 1.9 million, Libanon and Syria around 400 000 each, the rets in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Field of Operations	Official Camps	Registered families in camps	Registered Refugees in Camps	Registered Refugees
		<b>update these figures</b>		
<a href="#">Jordan</a>	10	63,591	332,948	1,903,490
<a href="#">Lebanon</a>	12	50,806	219,201	413,962
<a href="#">Syria</a>	9	26,645	121,898	451,467
<a href="#">West Bank</a>	19	39,895	189,787	745,776
<a href="#">Gaza Strip</a>	8	93,074	491,636	1,048,125
<b>Agency total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>274,011</b>	<b>1,355,470</b>	<b>4,562,820</b>

Figures as of 31 December 2007

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## People without any hope

On one of my visit to Amman I had a free day and decided to take a taxi down to the dead sea and the Jordan river to the place where John is said to have baptized Jesus. A story I have heard so many times in school and in Church. So when I saw this desert and this little creek with hardly any water (after walking down a long fence under the hot sun just to face the high Israeli wall and fortress on the other side I started to understand the frustration of these people without a land – but also without a hope. My taxi driver was a Palestinian and his family had been “displaced” three times. And when I wanted to step into the noly creek my driver just said – watch out for the mines.



After a long walk I reached the Jordan river at the very location where it is said John baptized Jesus. Now it is the wall separating Jordan from the occupied West bank.



Above the Dead Sea with Jerusalem and Jericho in the back

Below the fence along the way to one of Christianities holiest places



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## Who is a refugee? (Iraq)

The UNHRC 2007 global report recently published. UNWRA handles Palestine and UNHRC the other countries. UNWRA say in their report that besides Palestine the main refugee countries today is Iraq and Afghanistan.

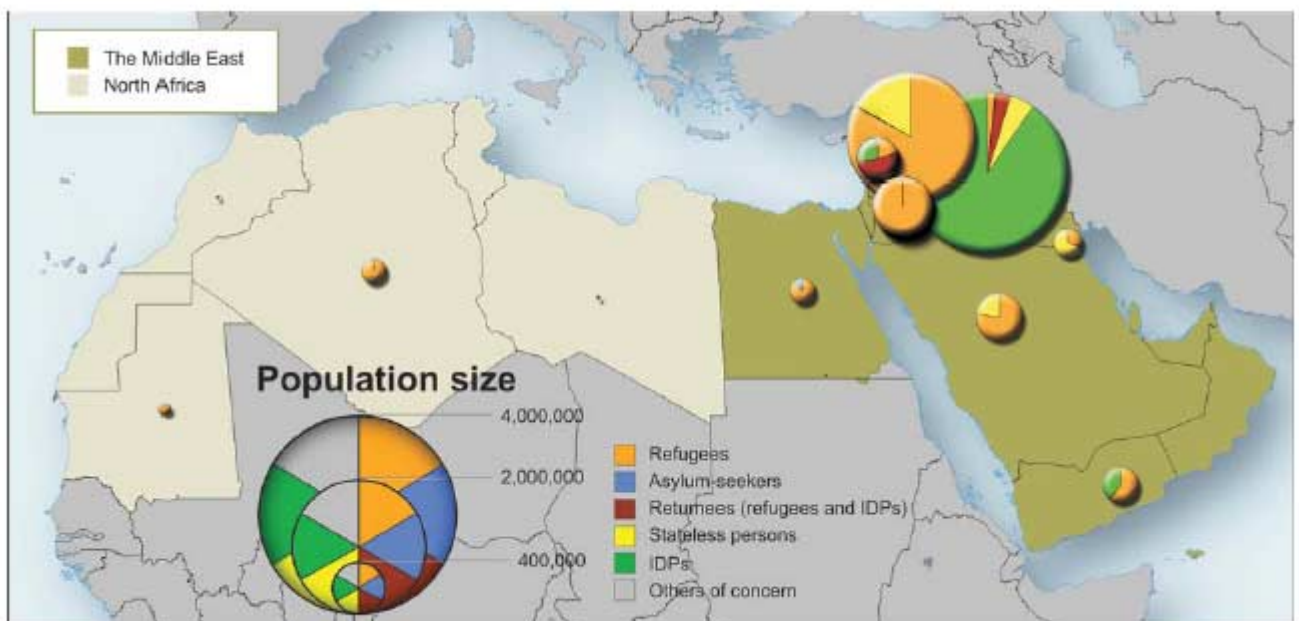
The UNHRC 2007 global report: *“The Middle East sub region continued to deal with the complex displacement of millions of Iraqis, including 2.2 million people inside Iraq and up to two million refugees.....*

*.....Despite the generosity of countries hosting Iraqi refugees – especially the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan – the situation of over two million Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and a similar number of Iraqi refugees is dire. Women and children, both inside Iraq and in neighboring countries, continue to be affected by various forms of gender-based violence and exploitation, including trafficking, survival sex and child labour.....*

*.....However, the presence of some two million Iraqi refugees, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, put an excessive burden on the economies and infrastructure of these countries. Syria and Jordan also host a large number of Palestinian refugees.”*

So the “bad” country of Syria take care of more than 2 Million refugees from Iraq and Palestine. So how many refugees from Iraq does USA receives. Less than what the city of Södertälje in Sweden receives. Less than 7000 people.

The Good, The Bad and the Ugly.



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## The cost of oil

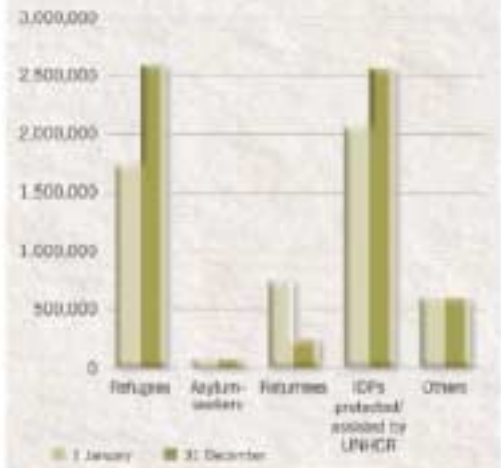
The US invasion in Iraq has resulted in the death of between 700 000 and 1 Million Iraqi men, women and children. In addition there are 2.1 Million refugees outside Iraq, mainly in Syria and Jordan. In addition 2.6 Million refugees inside Iraq. And besides for the risk of being killed every day continue to be affected by various forms of gender-based violence and exploitation, including trafficking, survival sex and child labour.

A very high price for oil. A very high price for “freedom”. And a very high price or your conscious. The very strange thing is that this our embedded media is NOT reporting.

Persons of concern Iraq

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Turkey	15,600	15,600	51	49
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	14,900	14,900	50	24
	Islamic Republic of Iran	11,100	11,100	48	41
	Syrian Arab Republic	600	600	52	37
	Various	100	100	17	20
Asylum-seekers	Islamic Republic of Iran	1,000	1,000	43	-
	Syrian Arab Republic	1,000	1,000	43	-
	Turkey	400	400	43	-
Returnees (refugees)	From Syrian Arab Republic	45,000	-	-	-
	Various	400	400	49	-
IDPs		2,385,900	292,600	49	-
Returnees (IDPs)		36,000	-	49	-
Stateless		130,000	-	49	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,642,000</b>	<b>339,700</b>		

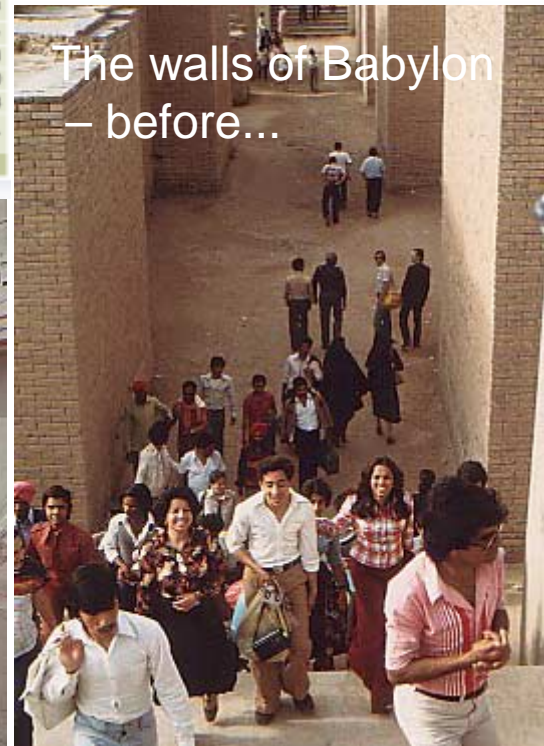
Persons of concern to UNHCR The Middle East



Outside Iraq

Type of population	Country	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries	Syria	1,500,000 <sup>1</sup>	153,700	48 <sup>1</sup>	39 <sup>1</sup>
	Jordan	500,000 <sup>2</sup>	51,000	49 <sup>2</sup>	30 <sup>2</sup>
	Lebanon	50,000	9,800	-	-
	Islamic Republic of Iran	57,400	57,400	40	40
	Egypt	10,300	10,300	48	40
	Turkey	3,700	3,700	43	34
	Gulf States (Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar)	34,200	4,700	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,155,600</b>	<b>286,900</b>		

The walls of Babylon – before...



University of Baghdad – before...



# GAIA Newsletter – Happy Birthday - July 18, 2008

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## Who are the real terrorists

Right now we are looking for him in a cave between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The UNHRC 2007 global report:

*“Seven years after the replacement of the Taliban by an internationally supported administration, Afghanistan’s transition to political, economic and social stability remains uncertain. Making progress towards the goals set by the Afghanistan Compact in January 2006 has proved problematic for both the Government and the international community.*

*Internal political tensions, weak public administration and lack of coordination between international actors have compromised the effectiveness of the aid process. As a consequence, most of the benchmarks established under the Compact have not been met. The process of cooperating on the National Development Strategy has also highlighted the differing priorities of the international community.*

*The year 2007 saw the highest number of security incidents since the fall of the Taliban in 2002. The danger of attacks increased sharply in the southern, south-eastern and eastern regions and spread to the northern and central regions. The capital, Kabul, replaced Kandahar as the primary target of anti-Government activities. The insurgency relied increasingly on suicide bombings, improvised explosive devices and kidnapping against “soft” targets.*

*International development and humanitarian actors could reach barely half the country; as a result, they had to rely to an increasing extent on national partners for programme delivery and monitoring. The combination of deteriorating security and slow progress in reconstruction and development made it difficult for a large part of the population to meet essential needs. Needs assessments conducted by the Office and partners confirmed that shelter remains the greatest.”*

And the export of opium has quadrupled! The free market is back. And there are not so many happy birthdays.

So the legacy of George W Bush is more than 1 million dead men, women and children and about 7 Million refugees Add to this another 7 million Palestinians without a land and you get a very high moral price to pay for the western oil supply. The same oil we have been burning so much of that we are now endangering our planet. So who are the real terrorists? Could it be those who in order to still our endless appetite for oil are willing to perform this elaborate genocide. Is it us who are using the worst weapon of mass destruction ever – fossil fuel – together with other types of chemical and biological weapons in the was against GAIA and our common future.



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## What is (not) in the media

Internet is a fantastic media. It is possible to find almost everything. So I do not any longer read conventional newspapers or magazines for reasons summarized with one word – garbage. To produce, print, distribute and dispose all this paper and ink pollutes. And what they print is mainly full of advertising to consume more.

But I do occasionally read newspapers and magazines, I do watch TV including CNN and BBC and I surf the Internet. What is bothering me is the total collapse of any journalism that concerns what is important. The embedded stories of today glorifies the establishment and want us to consume even more. Less than 0.5 – I would guess less than 0.1 % of what is written is discussing the most important crisis ever – our environmental crisis. So how do I prove this. The easiest thing is that you prove it. read a couple of newspapers for a week or just review what is on the different TV channels you will come to the same conclusion.

I did a check for the main morning newspaper in Sweden – Dagens Nyheter = "The Daily News". The new that was presented was basically the same you could watch on any of the Swedish TV channels. There were nothing about environment or global warming. The 0.5 and 0.1 pages I included was an editorial of the G8 meeting and a comment that Ethanol cars have better second hand value than normal cars to come up to 0.2 % - but it could have been set to zero. The same lack of interest for the victims in Iraq and Palestine. What has happened to the media. Are we already in a George Orwell society when the concentration of media ownership and the effective lobbying and planting of news is working 100%. Or is this conspiracy theory not at all right. In the latter case we must have had a total break down of journalism. Or the third even more scare is that this is what we want to consume, Don't worry be happy!

DN	Sunday July 6	Thursday July 10	Saturday July 12	Total	Percent
News	17	15,5	17,9	50,4	13%
Sport	12	7	6	25	6%
Economy	12	11	11	34	9%
"Culture"	15	16	18	49	12%
Family ads	7	1	5	13	3%
Restaurant, travel, etc.	34	52	2	88	22%
Ads	42	57	36	135	34%
Environment	0	0,5	0,1	0,6	0,2%
Total	139	160	96	395	100%

Do you ever think about how fortunate you, your children and grandchildren are to grow up with health, peace and love? Free to buy anything or go anywhere. Do you ever think of the children now growing up in Gaza, the West bank, Iraq, Afghanistan or as refugees in other countries – do we also wish them a "Happy Birthday". Those without legs from an exploding land mine - without food and shelter. Without hope. Do we have any responsibility for those children now paying for our oil & wealth with their lives?

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## Don't forget!

Don't forget to read the full "Internet book " about the crisis. You can down load it from our Gaia Internet site. There you can find a lot about the background, history, facts and personal experience. Because it is not up to Al Gore or anyone else to save GAIA – It is up to you and me. To all of us!

## *The sixty years crisis*

### **A short history of a huge problem**



Compiled by Carl Ohlen

When you have gone through this history  
please send your feedback to:  
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