

As our globalised world gets smaller, so the burning issues we are confronted with seem to overlap to a greater and greater extent. How to solve the challenge of poverty without re-allocating some of the huge sums devoted to militarism? How to ensure a stable future for our economies and our societies without taking into account the massive impacts of climate

change and resource depletion? How to redeem the promise of a new democratic order in the Middle East and North Africa without ensuring true gender justice? And how can we achieve any of these things without a full, inclusive, transparent democracy? These are some of the issues we will tackle in the Dublin Dialogue.

On Friday 16th November the Sean MacBride Peace Prize will be presented to two women, heroes of the Arab Spring uprising, by President Michael D. Higgins.

BIOGRAPHIES OF LAUREATES

Lina Ben Mhenni, Tunisia: Lina is a Tunisian Internet activist, blogger and assistant lecturer in linguistics at Tunis University. Mhenni has been awarded the Deutsche Welle International Blog Award and El Mundo's International Journalism Prize. During the rule of former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Mhenni was one of the few bloggers to blog using her real name rather than adopting a pseudonym to protect her identity. Mhenni was the only blogger present in the interior cities of Kasserine and Regueb when government forces massacred and suppressed protesters in the region. Her reports and posts provided uncensored information to other Tunisian activists and the international media. Since the Tunisian Revolution began, Mhenni has continued to play a prominent role amongst Tunisia's bloggers and democracy activists, speaking out against continuing corruption in the Tunisian regime, against the "double discourse" of Ennahda, and demanding the release of Alaa Abdel-Fatah upon his arrest in October 2011.

Nawal El Sadaawi, Egypt: is an Egyptian feminist writer, activist, physician and psychiatrist. She has written many books on the subject of women in Islam, paying particular attention to the practice of female genital mutilation in her society. She is founder and president of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association and co-founder of the Arab Association for Human Rights. She has been awarded honorary degrees on three continents. In 2004, she won the North-South prize from the Council of Europe. In 2005, the Inana International Prize in Belgium. Nawal el Saadawi has held positions of Author for the Supreme Council for Arts and Social Sciences, Cairo; Director General of the Health Education Department, Ministry of Health, Cairo, Secretary General of Medical Association, Cairo, Egypt, and Medical Doctor, University Hospital and Ministry of Health. She is the founder of Health Education Association and the Egyptian Women Writer's Association; she was Chief Editor of Health Magazine in Cairo, Egypt and Editor of Medical Association Magazine.

The Hedge School will also include contributions from **Colin Archer** (General Secretary of the IPB), **Iain Atack** (Assistant Professor in the International Peace Studies programme, Trinity College), **Ingeborg Breines** (Co-President of the IPB), **Fionnuala Gill** (Harpist and Vocalist), **Rose Kelly** (primary school teacher and Afri Education for Liberation Coordinator), **Tomas Magnusson** (Co-President of the IPB), **Ruairi McKiernan** (founder of Spunout.ie and Social Innovator), **Joe Murray** (Afri Co-ordinator), **Paddy Reilly** (Executive Director of Kimmage Development Studies Centre), and **Andy Storey** (Chairperson of Afri).



Hedge School 2012
Scoil Chois Claí

disarmament
development
democracy

JOINING
THE DOTS

THE DUBLIN DIALOGUE
SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2012

Woodlock Hall,
All Hallows College, Dublin 9

INTRODUCTION

Afri's 2012 Hedge School will be organised in partnership with the International Peace Bureau and will coincide with the first ever IPB Council meeting to be held in Ireland.

Afri is proud to work in partnership with the IPB, given its distinguished record in promoting peace over many years. The IPB is the longest established international peace organisation with member organisations around the globe, and is the winner of the 1910 Nobel Peace Prize. Sean MacBride, a longstanding friend and advisor to Afri, was IPB President for more than ten years. And during this year's Hedge School week-end the IPB sponsored Sean MacBride Peace Prize will be presented by its first ever recipient, President Michael D. Higgins.

The IPB's peace promoting influence has already been felt on this island. Adi Roche of the Chernobyl Children's Project was an IPB Board member in the early 1990s, and during her term an IPB tour of Ireland North and South was organised, in association with Afri, which was extremely successful. This tour led to the establishment of Peacewatch Ireland, an organisation that made a very positive contribution to promoting peace during critical years in Ireland's recent history.

One of IPB's main themes is 'Disarmament for Development' which connects with Afri's work and this year's Hedge School will explore related themes such as 'Climate, resources and war', 'Non-violent struggles for democracy' and 'The role of women in the Arab Spring'. As usual, there will also be music, theatre and good conversation. Come along and join us. *Céad míle fáilte romhaibh!*

Afri gratefully acknowledges the support of Irish Aid and Trócaire.

A NOTE ON THE 'HEDGE SCHOOL'

Afri has chosen to re-visit the concept of the 'hedge school' because it evokes memories from a period in our history when basic freedoms and rights were denied. The original Hedge Schools (in Gaelige 'Scoil chois Cláí – school beside the hedge) emerged from a time of colonial oppression and prohibition and were places of learning and resistance. They grew out of the harshness of what was known as 'the Penal Laws' under which education was denied or restricted for the native population. In response, hedge schools were set up where brehons, storytellers and musicians secretly taught Irish history and traditions and where musical knowledge was learned, passed on and preserved. Hedge schools took place wherever a safe place could be found: under ruined walls, in dry ditches by the roadside, by the side of a hedge or in a barn. One person acted as lookout and if a 'red-coat' was spotted the hedge school would disband and melt away into the countryside.

John O' Hagan's poem captures the atmosphere of the hedge school:

*'...crouching 'neath the sheltering hedge
Or stretching on ferns*

***The teacher and his pupils met
felonishly to learn'***

*Joe Murray
(Afri Co-ordinator)*

PROGRAMME / CLÁR

**disarmament
development
democracy**

JOINING THE DOTS

- 10am:** Registration and tea/coffee
- 10:30am:** Music by Fionnuala Gill, introductory remarks by Joe Murray and tree planting
- 11am:** Climate, Resources and War (with Rose Kelly, Paddy Reilly and Andy Storey)
- 1pm:** Lunch
- 2pm:** Non Violent struggles for Democracy (with Lina Ben Mhenni, Ruairi McKiernan and Tomas Magnusson)
- 3:30pm:** Tea/coffee
- 3:45pm:** Role of Women in the Arab Spring (with Nawal El Sadaawi, Ingeborg Breines and Iain Atack)
- 5:30pm:** Music
Concluding remarks by Colin Archer

7pm – 8.30pm: Special performance of "The Cambria" with Donal O'Kelly and Sorcha Fox. The Cambria is the story of freed slave Frederick Douglas' journey to, and through, Ireland. "A powerful theatrical experience ... a stirring production" (Irish Examiner). A small admission fee will be charged at the door.

Followed by Irish music, dancing, conversation agus craic!