

Press release:

International Consortium for Research on Violence (ICRoV)

On December 11, 2013 the “International Consortium for Research on Violence“ was constituted in Erbil / Kurdistan Region of Northern Iraq.

The following persons and institutions participated:

- Dr Kathrin Maria Scherr, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa Projects, Max-Planck-Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law in Heidelberg/Germany
- Prof Dr Fared Jasim Hamood, College of Law, University of Kirkuk/Iraq
- Prof Dr Faisal al-Istrabadi, Founding Director, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Professor of the Practice of International Law and Diplomacy, Maurer School of Law and the School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University – Bloomington/USA
- Dr Daniel Heilmann, LL.M., Head of Middle East and North Africa Projects, Max-Planck-Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law in Heidelberg/Germany
- Prof Dr Dr h.c. Sefik Alp Bahadir, Director, Center for Iraq Studies (CIS), Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nürnberg/Germany
- Dr Magnus Treiber, Department of Anthropology, University of Bayreuth/Germany
- Prof Dr Christoph Herzog, Chair of Turkology, University of Bamberg/Germany
- Ass-Prof Dr Freddy Cante, Faculty of Political Sciences, Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá/Colombia
- Birgit Svensson, Country Director Iraq, Felsberg Institute for Education and Academic Research (FIBW)
- Nazar Jameel Abdulazeez, Country Director KRG, Felsberg Institute for Education and Academic Research (FIBW)
- Dr Hartmut Quehl, Director, Felsberg Institute for Education and Academic Research (FIBW)
- Dr Stéphane Valter, Senior lecturer, Le Havre University/France

The founding members agreed upon a “Concept Paper” which was presented as an input to the constituting session by FIBW, as a first positional statement and work guideline for the following months.

The following decisions were taken:

- The name of the newly constituted institution is “International Consortium for Research on Violence” (ICRoV)
- As spokespersons were elected: Dr. Hartmut Quehl (FIBW), Dr Fared Jasim Hamood (University of Kirkuk) and Prof Dr Faisal al-Istrabadi, (Center for the Study of the Middle East)
- Individual researchers as well as institutions can be accepted as consortium members

- For the following three years, the focus of the consortiums' activities will be laid on Iraq as a country case study, and the city of Kirkuk as a prime source for field research. The situation in the broader region with special attention to Syria will closely be followed up and taken into account.
- Action plan for the year 2014:
 - Conference in Bogotá from May 27-31, 2014 (host institution: Universidad del Rosario, resp. Prof. Dr. Freddy Cante)
 - Establishing a Field Research Group in Kirkuk (joint initiative of University of Kirkuk and FIBW, (resp. Prof Dr Fareed Jasim Hamood, Birgit Svensson, Dr. Hartmut Quehl)
 - International Symposium 2014 in Hamburg (host institution (*t.b.c.*): Hamburg Institute for Social Research, resp. Dr. Gerd Hankel)
 - Next Iraq conference 2014: either Basra or Najaf, depending on the security situation (resp. N.N.)

Dr. Kathrin Scherr and Dr. Daniel Heilmann will discuss a possible institutional membership of Max-Planck-Foundation with the rectorate of their institution.

Dr. Hartmut Quehl will contact Dr. Gerd Hankel on behalf of the organization of the Hamburg Symposium and a possible institutional membership of the Hamburg Institute for Social Studies. He will also contact PRIO in Oslo and Dr. Daniel Rezene Mekonnen and discuss their possible participation in the consortium.

Dr. Magnus Treiber and Prof. Dr. Christoph Herzog expressed their willingness to participate on the basis of individual membership.

Dr. Stéphane Valter expressed his willingness to participate as a corresponding member.

The founding members expressed their wish to contribute with their work to the establishment of Human Security, to contribute with their research to profound knowledge on violence mechanisms, and to promote activities which can be applied in practice, including policy dialogue.

Erbil, this 11th of December, 2011

Protocol: Dr. Hartmut Quehl