NIGERIA 2018 PROGRAM REPORT/
21 - 26 MAY/
MOLAREX HOTELS, WUSE ZONE II ABUJA/
Prologue

The world has experienced many cases of violence, but nothing compared to what we have seen in recent times especially with the subtle crises that go on for many years without any international attention until they spiral into massive scales that take other parts of the world by surprise. Such was the case in the Rwandan genocide and recently, the Boko Haram insurgency largely affecting the North East of Nigeria and neighbouring countries in West Africa.

Added to these are other violent conflicts across the African continent be they ethnic, political, religious, demographic and the likes, which because of the often violent approaches to the resolution, lead to insurrections, wars, loss of lives, refugee crises and other humanitarian disasters.

Therefore, there is a significant need in Africa to train leaders in nonviolence. Satyagraha Institute’s first African program in 2017 was indeed a milestone as it opened the door to training more persons from the continent.

In 2018, the Nigerian Institute was hosted in Abuja bringing participants from across the country as well as from other African countries like Senegal, Cameroon and Ghana with the location being Molarex Hotels located in the heart of Nigeria’s capital city.

The recruitment drive saw us receive close to two thousand applications around the continent largely due to massive penetration of different media platforms and referrals. Twenty-four participants were chosen with 12 from Nigeria and the remaining 12 from other African countries.
Location

The Abuja Institute took place at Molarex Hotels, Wuse Zone II, Abuja.
Our Goals

Goal 1

To increase the number of leaders trained in the traditions of nonviolence in Africa.

Our world suffers for lack of leaders rooted in the traditions of nonviolence. When conflicts arise, many leaders teach us to wield threats, coercion, and harm. When unfamiliar perspectives disturb, many leaders rally us to certainty and defensiveness. When decisions must be made, many leaders encourage us to value self-interest, immediacy, and possession. As we follow these guides, the fabric of our community weakens, and life becomes more difficult for ourselves and others. Our goal is to create a different future by training leaders in the traditions of nonviolence.

Goal 2

To strengthen the community of practitioners, teachers and future leaders in the continent who are committed to experimenting with Satyagraha in their work.

Existing and upcoming leaders in our various communities have little opportunity to spend quality time with mentors in nonviolence. Our goal is to create a place where leaders can build relationships with mentors who are familiar with the knowledge, skills, and inner life associated with nonviolent social change.
Goal 3

To produce the premiere training opportunity in Africa for exploring how to create social change using the principles and tools of Satyagraha.

Training in nonviolence typically follows one of three valuable traditions:

In the **academic tradition**, many colleges and universities offer programs in peace and justice studies. These programs are essential to educating our future leaders about the theory, history, and application of nonviolent social change.

In the **activist tradition**, a variety of organizations offer programs to train community organizers how to implement successful campaigns. If we want nonviolent social change to be more than just a dream, we need to invest in developing the skills, techniques, and strategies which these programs set forth.

In **religious traditions** around the globe, adherents are taught that by observing certain principles and values, we build a peaceful world. Even with our best theory and skills, we cannot create nonviolent social change without tending to matters such as respect, forgiveness, patience, and sensitivity to the well-being of our adversaries.

These three traditions are all necessary. Taken independently, however, they each have their weaknesses. Without academic rigor, activists and religious adherents miss the benefits of critical analysis and historical insight. Without activist skill, academics and religious adherents lack the competence to convert understanding and vision into reality. And without attention to the inner life, academics and activists risk leaving behind our most potent catalysts for transforming relationships and communities.

Our goal is to provide a unique training opportunity by integrating the best of these three traditions, rooting our program in attention to scholarship, attention to strategy, and attention to the inner life.

In addition to the above, the training also aimed to: ensure we create a link between leaders trained and others already involved in teaching nonviolence to foster unity and a support base, clearly explain that the teachings of Satyagraha are not the introduction of a foreign religion, but a better way of life and provide a continuous support base for those trained so they can replicate the knowledge and skills learnt in their communities.
Program Overview

The Abuja Institute was held from 21 - 26 May 2018 and saw the arrivals of some early birds with the first being Gnagna Thioye from Senegal on 18th. Others followed suit with the last arrivals on 21st ahead of the Institute opening session.

The opening and first session took place combined with dinner during the evening of 21st May where we had introductions and familiarization from both participants and faculty, a welcome address from the program coordinator and a brief session with Fernando Ferrara. Goals for the Institute and rules of engagement were communicated after which the session closed.

The next four days (Tuesday to Friday) saw a marathon of trainings, morning, afternoon and evening. A sample of the training schedule is reflected below.

Sample Daily Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6a - 8a</td>
<td>Rise &amp; Personal Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>8a - 9a</td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Interactions</td>
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<tr>
<td>9a - 12p</td>
<td>Morning Training Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>12p - 2p</td>
<td>Break &amp; Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2p - 5p</td>
<td>Afternoon Training Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>5p - 7p</td>
<td>Break &amp; Iftar</td>
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<tr>
<td>7p - 7.30p</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30p - 9.30p</td>
<td>Evening Training Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30p - 10p</td>
<td>Interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10p - 6a</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Courses

- Visions of nonviolence
- Good living
- Satyagraha
- Inner life
- Gandhi’s fundamentals of nonviolent change
- Features of Gandhian nonviolence
- Application of Gandhian nonviolence
- Community life
- Methods of nonviolent protests and persuasions
- Conflict resolution
- Nonviolent spirituality
- Role of media in peace building, nonviolence and conflict
- Use of nonviolence in unionism and labour movements in Africa

Participants were notified ahead of time of the need to prepare a PowerPoint presentation of the work they are doing to create social change and many of them were able to present it during the institute which added more variety to the courses and created more platform for discussion and exchange of ideas and strategies.
Elizabeth James Rike  
Women’s Rights Lawyer, Nigeria

Satyagraha Institute gave me a clearer concept of handling tough, complex and hostile issues without the use of violence. Yes, it is possible!

Fortunatus Obichere  
Sound Engineer & Network Marketer, Nigeria

Amazing how one week of learning can change a person’s perspective and view of life. The way I treat people with love and compassion amazes me and with every passing day the spirit of Satyagraha in my lifestyle and conduct.

Saratu Wakawa  
Oxfam Protection Team Lead, North East Nigeria

Violence has no religion! We can tap from the wisdom of religion and apply it to nonviolence; Peace from Islam, love from Christianity and compassion from Buddhism. Nonviolence is not inaction nor for the timid or weak but a good thing-choice.
Personnel

The line-up for our faculty originally included Professor M.P. Mathai, who due to visa restraints, could not travel to Nigeria upon the conclusion of the Institute in Ghana. Thus, Senyo Kudzo Adeti, the Ghana coordinator, was mandated to liaise with M.P. Mathai and deliver the courses allotted to the Professor in Nigeria.

Also, the tireless and ever energetic Fernando Ferrara, ‘The Jagaban’ who flew in straight from the Accra Institute, Victor Mathias and two guest faculty, made up the faculty for the Abuja 2018 program.

Program Coordinator

Victor Mathias

Faculty

Fernando Ferrara  Senyo Kudzo  Victor Mathias

Guest Faculty

Victorson Agbenson  Use of Nonviolence in unionism and labour movements in Africa

Barrister Swat Duniya  Role of Media in peace building, nonviolence and conflict resolution
Participants

All participants are from Nigeria unless otherwise noted.

**Steven Adewuni**  Photography Professional and NGO Volunteer

**Ibrahim Machina**  University Lecturer

**Saratu Wakawa**  Oxfam Protection Team Lead for North East

**Senyo Kudzo Aadeti**  IT Professional & Coordinator Satyagraha Institute Ghana, Ghana

**Ier Ichaver-Jonathan**  Executive Director of Sesor NGO

**Wadi Ben-Hirki**  Founder Wadi Ben-Hirki Foundation

**Abadoni Joy Ifeoma**  Health Professional and Peace Building Advocate

**Hauwa Aruwan**  Director Legion Securities, Women/Youth Empowerment Advocate

**Roseline Teghtegh**  University Undergraduate & Volunteer Youth Exchange Study

**Unera Mahmud**  Export Trading Manager & Volunteer Initiative for Sustainable Peace

**Gnagna Thioye**  Renewable Energy Entrepreneur, Senegal

**Tanko Yakub Mahmud**  Commander Police Special Task Force & Peace Building Professional

**Hassana Pele**  Taraba State Agency for Community & Social Development

**Danny Bless Adjei**  CEO D & J Global Incorporated, Ghana

**Elizabeth James Rike**  Women’s Rights Lawyer

**Elkanah Izam**  Plateau State Peace Building Agency

**Fortunes Obichere**  Sound Engineer & Network Marketer

**Roger Nyanjoh**  Accountant & Entrepreneur, Cameroon

**Elkanah Oluyori**  Life and Peace Development Organization (LAPDO)

**Fernando Ferrara**  CEO Hexagonos Mexicanos & founder Mesa De Paz, Mexico

**Victorson Agbenson**  Editor Radio Nigeria and President Labour Unions

**Swat Duniya**  Pro-bono Lawyer and On-Air-Personality Nigerian Info Radio
The following accepted participants could not attend due to immigration and other logistical constraints.

Nkateko Masinga, South Africa
Alwali Adam, Sudan
Ahmed Dirie, Somalia
L. Elijah Sackie, Liberia
Beryl Laih Ndi, Cameroon

Richard Godonou, Benin Republic
Amin Saad, Ghana
Uchenna Ozoekwe, USA
Mustafe Abdi, Sudan

Participants for the 2018 Abuja Institute as reflected above came from diverse fields and thus brought diverse perspectives to the sessions, which were largely interactive as there was a free flow of knowledge between participants and faculty. Thus, every session was rich in experience sharing and learning helping to create one big family, a bit sad to part at the end but resolving to keep in touch and be true Satyagraha ambassadors everywhere we find ourselves.
Aside from using both traditional and new media to drive applications for the program, we also had a media outreach component aimed at taking the principles that Satyagraha Institute instills beyond the confines of the program location.

The morning preceding the opening of the Abuja Institute, we were given the platform on one of Nigeria’s largest private radio stations, ‘Nigerian Info Radio’ where we were hosted on their flagship breakfast program ‘The Morning Crossfire’.

In a rare gesture, we were offered a 30 minutes interview with Fernando Ferrara and Victor Mathias where we shed light on the goals and mission of the Institute, past institutes and the impact, the institute in Nigeria and the need for Nigerians and Africans in general to embrace the tradition of nonviolence in their daily lives.

Listeners were also given an opportunity to interact with us live, with many of them indicating a strong interest to be part of the Satyagraha movement. Though the registration and shortlist of participants for the institute had already been done, we gave a couple of them the opportunity to attend at least one session of the program by connecting with us via phone numbers we provided.

On the fifth day of the program, after the morning training session and visit to the orphanage home, four selected participants accompanied by our faculty and coordinator were hosted by Nigeria’s largest radio network, The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) whose airing covers the entire 36 states and Nigeria’s capital, Abuja in addition to streaming live to a global audience.

We were featured on their midday news in which about 15 minutes of the 30 minute program was allotted to Satyagraha Institute. The other selected participants were also given the opportunity to share their learning points over the course of the program. Both broadcasts were well received across the country and beyond based on the feedback we received.
Abadoni Joy Ifeoma
Health Sector Professional and Peace Building Advocate, Lagos, Nigeria

I learnt how to approach issues with a nonviolent approach, that it is my responsibility to help build the peace wherever I go to and also strategies for effective conflict resolution that creates a win-win no matter how deep or strained the relationship or communication is. The world is sure a better place with Satyagraha!

Elkanah Izam
Plateau State Peace Building Agency, Nigeria

The Institute offered a viable choice for participants to respond to in violent context. The Satyagraha principle and code of conduct aptly practiced and applied, could transform negative attitudes and behaviour to a positive resolve of good action in social, political or even economic spheres.

Hassana Pele
Taraba State Agency for Community & Social Development, Nigeria

I learnt in summary that violence of any shade does nobody any good!
Community Involvement

Incorporated into the Abuja Institute was community service for which we chose to pay a visit and make donations to an orphanage in a suburban part of the city after making findings about the details involved and their needs.

On Friday May 25th, 2018, after the first morning training, all participants and faculty proceeded to 'Destined Kids Orphanage Home' located at Kado Estate, one of the cadastral zones of Abuja.

Ahead of the visit, we purchased food items, beverages and toiletries which we presented to the orphanage in addition to some cash donation to assist the management in catering to the needs of the orphans at the facility.

The management of the orphanage, headed by Mrs. Gladys Chukwuemeka and her husband, were appreciative of our visit and shared with us of how she had thought of alleviating the problems facing many innocent children who have found themselves in unpleasant situations having been maltreated by a stepmother in her father’s house after the passing on of her mother.

Thus, their setting up of the orphanage to help erase the stigma attached to orphan status in addition to creating a leverage of equality for these group of children with their peers across the globe irrespective of the unfortunate circumstances they were born into. The orphanage’s vision consists of a greater Nigeria devoid of homeless women and children labouring for crumbs.

The orphans at the Destined Kids Orphanage home were aged between 3 months to 14 years with some of them off to secondary school as the facility only has provisions for nursery and primary school education.

The coordinator of the Abuja Institute stated why we are there, what Satyagraha Institute stands for around the world and our delight in being able to create time out of the training to make the visit. Fernando Ferrara shared his experience with the management of running an Adoption Centre in Mexico and offered strategies they applied to attain success. A couple of our participants also had encouraging words to offer to the management and kids of the orphanage.

We took some time off to play with the kids, interact and take photographs before departing back to our training location though it was not easy disconnecting as the kids wanted us to spend some more time with them.
Closing Session & Certification

On the final day of the Institute, we had our last session in the evening. It commenced with dinner, after which Fernando Ferrara, Senyo Kudzo Adeti and the Institute Coordinator gave their final remarks. Participants were also given the opportunity to share their thoughts on the one week spent together at the Institute.

Up next was issuance of certificates to participants in recognition of their participation in the Satyagraha Institute Abuja 2018 training and thus admitting them into the global Satyagrahi Community.

The formal closing of Satyagraha Institute Abuja 2018 was declared by Fernando Ferrara while the Institute Coordinator gave the final announcements.

There was then a brief end of Institute party organized by the participants with a lot of ‘Suya’ (roasted meat), small chops, pastries, popping of champagne among other foods after which there was a lot of personal and group interactions lasting into the early hours of the next day which was for departures except for those whose flights were booked for the next couple of days.
Wadi Ben-Hirki
Founder Wadi Ben-Hirki Foundation, Nigeria

Satyagraha Institute taught me how genuine selflessness makes the world a more peaceful and sustainable place. I am now more deliberate in living for others.

TY Mahmud
Commander Police Special Task Force & Founder TY Mahmud Foundation, Nigeria

The Institute taught me to see different sides of nonviolence, to build the peace and resolve conflicts more effectively even as a senior police officer with arms and men at my disposal.

Unera Mahmud
Export Trading Manager & Volunteer Initiative for Sustainable Peace, Nigeria

A revealing program that taught us pacifism is a need if we must survive! That we always have a choice to either react tartly or peacefully to conflict situations. I learnt to choose the latter for it makes us better human beings, which will invariably leave us with a sane and thriving society to live in.
Finances

All amounts below are shown in United States Dollars.

Income
$5,278
- Satyagraha Institute - Black Hills / $5,000
- Participant Fees / $278

Expenses
$5,564
- Room & Board / $3,720
- Transportation / $612
- Financial support & Honorariums / $460
- Miscellaneous / $382
- Facilities / $180
- Donation to orphanage / $160
- Bank charges / $50
Acknowledgements

Author
Victor Mathias

Assistant
Fortunes Obichere

Photography
Steven Adewuni

Report Design
Abhay Mistry

Connect With Us

satyagrahainstitute.org
info@satyagrahainstitute.org
+1 605 692 8465
/satyagrahainstitute