



WAR'S CASUALTIES: MEN, SOCIETY, HUMANKIND THE PEACEMAKERS: PEOPLE OF PEACE AGAINST WEAPONS FOR WAR

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Mercedes BRESSO (Sanremo, Italy, 1944)

She is the President of Piedmont Region since April 2005. In June 2004 she was elected at the European Parliament, but she waived this appointment when she became President of Piedmont. From 1995 till 2004 she was President of the Province of Turin as well as President of the Union of Provinces of Piedmont.

An expert in the thematic of environment economy, she is Professor of Economics at the Polytechnic in Turin and she taught in several Italian universities and for several courses both in Italy and abroad.

She wrote several books and essays (such as "Per un'economia ecologica" and "Pensiero economico e ambiente"); she also dealt with issues such as rural and tourist economy.

She held the position of President of the World Federation of United Cities (WFUC), of the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) and of METREX - the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas.

She was Member of the Committee of the Regions – the political assembly which provides local and regional authorities with a voice within the EU – and President of the Piedmont Committee for the European Constitution. She also chaired the Conference of French-Italian Alps (CAFI).

From 1985 till 1995 she was Regional Councillor of Piedmont and in 1994-1995 was Regional Councilwoman responsible for Territorial Planning and for Parks.

Cornelio SOMMARUGA (Rome, Italy, 1932)

Swiss citizen. He graduated with a doctorate in Law from the University of Zurich; from 1960 to 1968 he occupied diplomatic posts at The Hague, Bonn, Rome for the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs. He held important offices such as: Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation to EFTA, GATT, UNCTAD and ECE/UN in Geneva (1969-73); Deputy Secretary General of EFTA in Geneva (1973-75); Minister plenipotentiary, Ambassador, Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade Agreements for the Federal Office for External Economic Affairs in Berne (1976-83); President of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (1977-78); State Secretary for External Economic Affairs in Berne (1984-86).

From 1987 to 1999 he was President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in Geneva.

Since 2000 he became Honorary Member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Member of the Panel on UN Peace Operations, President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Chairman of the Karl Popper Foundation and Member of the Board of several important Institutions and Foundations. From 2000 to 2001 he was Member of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) and since 2002 he became President of the International Association Initiatives of Change / Moral Rearmament.

He was awarded Honorary Doctorates by several European and International Universities.

He received several Presidential Awards by International Universities and was given important Prizes.

He received State Decorations of Belgium, France, Holy See, Italy, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Sweden and Red Cross and Red Crescent Awards from numerous National Societies.

Stefano VAJTHO (Venice, Italy, 1956)

He graduated in Medicine at Padua Medical School and then got several post-graduate specializations. He also obtained a Master in Management in Medicine at the University of

Udine, Faculties of Economics and Medicine (in collaboration with Bocconi University of Milan) in 1997.

Since 1985 he has been working in Italy in different hospitals mainly in emergency and internal medicine with different responsibilities and high tasks. From 1994 till 1997 he was medical officer, at the Joint Medical Service of the World Health Organization, Geneva (also in charge of ILO Medical Unit). He also taught at the Nurses Professional School in Gemona, Friuli.

He possesses several qualifications, is member of the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) and has Medical audit - membership of the Italian Society of Quality Assurance in Medicine.

Since 1998 he started his engagement with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). He is in charge of MSF Antenna in Friuli and Trieste Districts in Italy. He also took part in several missions both in Italy and abroad (Chad, Aceh, Haiti). He has been Member of The Analysis and Evaluation Team for MSF International Office and MSF-CH, "Arjan kidnapping audit", (Geneva, August-October 2004); Member of IC Sub Committee for Governance (May-June 2005) and Member and President of MSF Italy Board (since April 2004).

Jodi WILLIAMS (Brattleboro, Vt., USA, 1950)

In 1997, Jody Williams became the tenth woman in its almost 100-year history to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Organizer and activist, teacher and writer, Williams is an internationally recognized eloquent and inspirational speaker on the power of individuals to bring about dramatic change in the world. She also speaks on international campaigning, on human security, on human rights and international law, on the role of civil society in international diplomacy, and on women and peace.

Williams served as the founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which began in early 1992 with two non-governmental organizations and a staff of one – Jody Williams. She oversaw the growth of the coalition to over 1,300 organizations working together from 95 countries to eliminate antipersonnel landmines. Working in an unprecedented cooperative effort with governments, UN bodies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), she served as a chief strategist and spokesperson for the ICBL as it dramatically achieved its goal of an international treaty

banning antipersonnel landmines during a diplomatic conference held in Oslo in September 1997. Three weeks later, she and the ICBL were awarded the Peace Prize. Since February 1998, Williams has served as a Campaign Ambassador for the ICBL, speaking on its behalf all over the world. In mid-2005, she took the lead, working with other women recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, to lay the groundwork for a new organization, "The Nobel Women's Initiative for Women's Rights," launched in early 2006. Ms. Williams is also a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Work and Global Justice, in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston for academic years 2004-2007, having served in a one-year position there in academic year 2003-2004. Prior to beginning the ICBL, Williams worked for eleven years to build public awareness about U.S. policy toward Central America. From 1986 to 1992, she developed and directed humanitarian relief projects as the deputy director of the Los Angeles-based Medical Aid for El Salvador. From 1984-1986, she co-coordinated the Nicaragua-Honduras Education Project., leading fact-finding delegations to the region. Prior to that, she taught Spanish, as well as English as a Second Language in Mexico, the UK and the US. Williams continues to be recognized for her contributions to human rights and global security. She is the recipient of twelve honorary degrees, among other recognitions. In 2004, she was named by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world.