

Report from:
**The Sixth International Safe Communities Conference:
Consolidating Communities Against Violence, October 1997**



Professor Mohamed Seedat, UNISA, Centre for Peace Action, South Africa

Safety Between North and South, East and West
Safety promotion activities are most developed in the western countries of the northern hemisphere, while risks for injury are highest in the south and in eastern Europe. To create equity between regions requires action that will:

- * enable the transfer of expertise and technology in a mutually beneficial way;
- * help define priorities for safety in terms of the perceptions, needs and potentials existing at local level;
- * eliminate the "impunity-from-prosecution" differences between north and south by instituting measures that increase the capability of the criminal-justice system to apprehend and effectively prosecute perpetrators of violence and road-traffic offences;
- * ensure the implementation of health and related promotion activities, and also rehabilitative and preventive criminal-justice strategies;
- * ensure that the development of human capital is given the same level of support as the development of economic capital.

Accordingly, in its closing Plenary Session, the Sixth International Safe Communities Conference affirmed that:

* safety is a universal human right that ensures freedom from all forms of injury arising out of violence and

accidents, and also freedom from the fear of injury and violence - a right that must be exercised at local level, taking cognizance of diversity within and across societies and times;

* safety is the ability of individuals, communities and societies to create and preserve the social, political, environmental and economic conditions that make such freedom possible;

* freedom from injury in South Africa and throughout the world will ultimately require freedom from poverty and social marginalization;

* it must be recognized that safety in South Africa is not only protection against crime, and that freedom from all forms of injury arising out of violence and accidents is something that every individual can help to create.

Mohamed Seedat

Conference

SafeComm-7

**The 7th International Conference
on Safe Communities,
Challenges for sustaining Safety
in Large Urban environments
Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 13-15 May, 1998**

For information and registration contact:

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Or visit the website of the 4th World Conference
with the most recent information of Safecomm-7:

<http://www.consafe.nl/conference>.

Notes from the 9th Travelling Seminar, October 1997

South Africa, particularly Gauteng and the Northern Province, was a highly apt setting for the 9th Travelling Seminar on Safe Communities. The organizers could not have chosen a more instructive location for the mobile school. A people that has just gone through the wrenching but liberating experience of putting down a violent and violence-generating system like apartheid has a wealth of lessons to share with the world. Not only about its successful struggle, but also about its ongoing striving for emancipation from the deeply embedded structures of discrimination and injustice - which is perhaps the greater challenge.

We learned a great deal from the passion of Dr. Nicolas Crisp who described the health and welfare of Northern Province, the dedication of the community-health-centre workers, the various projects on production sites, the work of the Oliver Tambo Community Centre in Alexandria, and the commitment of Venda University professors to women's rights. And we learned from accounts of the creativeness, failures and successes in the various settings; about how small steps can produce important results; and about how initiatives from below, if managed well, can change a people's life.

The 9th Travelling Seminar reaffirmed my belief that the best recourse in any program for social reconstruction is, as it always has been, an awakened and committed people. A unique learning experience that I brought home with me, however, was the richness of the African experience and its educational potential for similarly situated nations.



Fatima Alvarez-Castillo, M.A. Philippine Health Social Science Assoc, Manila, Philippines

SEMINARS

10th Travelling Seminar on Safe Communities

April 27 - May 22, 1998

April 27 - May 12, Austria;
Vienna, Vorarlberg and Graz -
The Netherlands; SafeComm7, May 13-15,
Rotterdam and the 4th World Conference,
May 17-20, Amsterdam,
end of the seminar May 22 in Amsterdam
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11th Travelling Seminar on Safe Communities May 27 - June 12, 1998, Sweden

Stockholm, Tidaholm, Borås and Uddevalla
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