



# Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR)

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## IGAD (Africa) Honours Fr. Patrick Devine and Pays Tribute to the Work of SCCRR.

At the recent ceremony held in Nairobi, Kenya, the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), state dignitaries, Catholic Church representatives and civic society gathered to honour Fr. Patrick Devine SMA, Chairman of SCCRR, in receiving the 2013 'International Caring Award'. Past recipients of this award have been His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Jimmy Carter and Colin Powell. It was a fitting and wonderful celebration by friends and supporters.



Fr. Patrick Devine receiving the IGAD Award from H.E., Eng. Maalim Mahboub

The Executive Secretary of IGAD, His Excellency Eng. Mahboub Maalim, spoke with immense respect for SCCRR and offered high praise for its work in the region. On behalf of the eight nations of Africa that constitute IGAD (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda), the Executive Secretary spoke of the shared vision between IGAD and SCCRR in working for peace and development, and of his desire to expand the partnership between

the two organisations. When IGAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SCCRR in 2011, it was only the second organisation to be invited into such an agreement with the regional authority. This recognition of SCCRR's work and partnership with IGAD highlights the importance of the work being done by SCCRR, especially in the region where Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Somalia interface with each other.

Few organisations, Dr. Mahboub commented, demonstrated the clarity of vision shown by SCCRR in terms of its willingness to work with local communities, to engage in empirical research on the underlying causes of inter-ethnic conflict, to empower local



*The SCCRR Board and Staff members congratulate Fr. Patrick Devine in receiving the International Caring Award and the IGAD Award*

communities in conflict with skills and mechanisms to address the root causes, assisting inter-ethnic education projects and enhance the role of state actors and non-state peace practitioners towards resolving the conflict. The IGAD Secretary General wished SCCRR well in its future plans and assured Fr. Devine of his full support and that of IGAD in facing the current and ongoing challenges in the region. Following his speech, Mahboub presented a distinctive IGAD award to Fr. Devine which reads 'In honour of your contribution to the Peace and Development agenda in IGAD Region'. In accepting, Fr. Patrick expressed deep gratitude to the Executive Secretary of IGAD and paid glowing tribute to his noble and tremendous work for progress in the Horn of Africa.



H. E. Ambassador Akin Oyateru, Nigerian High Commissioner to Kenya who attended the function



H.E., Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, Papal Nuncio to Kenya addressing guests at the Nairobi function

The Catholic Church was represented by His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, Papal Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, with Bishop David Kamau and Bishop Alfred Rotich on behalf of the Bishops Conference in Kenya. The Papal Nuncio and Bishops in congratulating Fr. Devine spoke of the very important contribution to peace and development SCCRR was making in the region, and prayed that God would continue to bless the endeavour of SCCRR; that it would continue to flourish while seeking to meet the needs of communities affected by violent conflict. The Papal Nuncio prayed and graciously affirmed SCCRR for the work it was doing alongside the local Church in Kenya, as it sought to strengthen local structures working to serve poor and vulnerable communities.



Bishop David Kamau making a presentation on behalf of the Kenyan Episcopal Conference of Bishops (KEC)

While the Church has been engaged in working for peace among local communities in Kenya over decades, many of the Church representatives present recognised the fresh approach and insightful thinking that SCCRR brought to addressing the pervasive and deep-rooted issue of conflict in society. Many other missionaries and religious from across Kenya and neighbouring countries were present on the evening to share in the celebrations. They spoke of the new approach promoted by SCCRR, of the organisations' professionalism and commitment to fully engage with transforming situations of conflict and poverty beyond just addressing the symptoms.



Dr. Robert Mudida addressing the guests on behalf of the SCCRR Board

Dr. Robert Mudida, speaking on behalf of the SCCRR Board congratulated Fr. Patrick mentioning the uniquely special way he had bridged his religious vocation with a truly professional approach to peace making. He said the SCCRR approach had been very significant and influential during this critical time in Kenya's history. SCCRR had brought communities, religious and state institutions together, not only dealing with conflict between pastoralist conflicts, but to jointly prepare for the hosting of peaceful 2013 national elections in Kenya. This was achieved by complementing a provision of analytical awareness proficiencies with developing holistic action plans, owned by the communities on how to preserve peace and deal with grievances, should they arise.

Fr. Patrick while recognizing and thanking all the dignitaries present from IGAD, Ambassadors and representatives of various countries, Church Leadership present and His Eminence, John Cardinal Njue, partner organizations such as Trócaire



Prayer being offered for victims of inter-ethnic violence and the Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi



SCCRR Team being applauded at the podium

and CRS, he was particularly magnanimous and gracious in highlighting the role and quality of each SCCRR Board and Staff member. He invited them all to the podium to share in the tributes and receive due recognition for each of their special contributions. He thanked IGAD, the Catholic Church, SCCRR and Pacis Insurance. He said events and awards come and go but there is an enormous task ahead of us all, referring to peace justice and reconciliation needs in countries such as South Sudan, Central African Republic, DRC Congo, Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire. He considered the celebration a great tribute to the work of SCCRR in helping to transform communities which have previously experienced violent conflict. He saw the event as another step towards fostering a greater unity of purpose for government, religious and civic institutions to work together to generate enduring peace.



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SCCRR aims to transform the deep-rooted conflict-generating structures in society through Research, Conflict Resolution, Recon-

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In Ireland and United Kingdom: SMA Fathers, Attn: SCCRR, Blackrock Rd., Cork City, Ireland



Fr. Patrick Devine with Christine Pratt (nee Kenyatta) and Kathleen Kihanya at the function



Hon. Charles Njonjo, former Kenyan Attorney General with Fr. Patrick Devine and Fr. Oliver Noonan, Country Director



SCCRR Board Members, Ms. Rosaline Serem, and Dr. Michael Comerford with Mr. Jonathan Sutton, the Consular of Ireland in Kenya at the function.



Mr Peter Makhanu, CEO of Pacis Insurance Company presenting an African chair at the function.



Fr. Patrick Devine receiving a presentation from SCCRR Board and Staff from Ms. Rosaline Serem (SCCRR Board member)



The SCCRR Board and Staff share the congratulatory cake