



Mediating an International Crisis

Wednesday 6 September 2006

Scottish Mediation Network Conference

International Terrorism

facilitated by John Sturrock and Pamela Lyall of Core Mediation

The workshop took the form of initial brainstorming about who might be involved, followed by breaking up into four groups to represent four of the parties identified below. The groups worked with a preparation questionnaire and then appointed representatives to attend a meeting to discuss the process. After this, they returned to their groups and prepared for a further meeting at which they were able to present opening summaries of key concerns and objectives.

The following notes were made as the process unfolded.

Potential Parties:

- Governments of Syria, Iran, Israel
- Arab League -
Saudi Arabia / Egypt / Oman / Jordan
- Hamas - Palestinian Government
- EU
- Victims of / Families affected by terrorism
- Al Qaeda
- US Government
- UN Secretary General
- UK Government
- Hezbollah
- Defence and oil industries
- Islamic clerics

Process Points:

- Stakeholders? / who attends as representatives?
- Where to convene meetings?
- Who convenes? How?
- Numbers attending?
- Facilitating within and outside group

- Duration / Structure
- Building confidence in process
- Appreciation of different values

Concerns of Parties:

- Guarantee of safety
- Can't negotiate with terrorists
- Confidentiality
- Difficult to engage with some participants
- Which value system applies
- Language
- Identity of mediator
- Gender issues
- Implementation of Government assurances
- Global knowledge
- Reassurance that will have equal voice

Learning

- Value of treating all equally
- Process very important - flexible
- Dealing with impasse
- Testing
- Summarising
- Objectivity
- Reframing: "Thank you for your clear statement"
- Acknowledging feelings
- Parking issues
- Skills - Procedural and Substantive
- Preparation

The mediation adjourned after an hour and 15 minutes. Much progress had been made. There was still more to do....!