

Community Leaders Come Together Advocating for Peace and Harmony

Youth for Peace Building and Development in Africa/World Faith (YOUPEDA/ WF) marked the UN interfaith week of Harmony for the year 2013. With the conduct of different activities that include the advocacy visit to the Chief of Kurudu who happens to be a Muslim in the community. The advocacy visit set out an interactive meeting between the Christians and Muslims in the community discussing the way forward in peaceful co-existence between different faiths and ethnicities in the communities. The visit provided opportunity for each community leader to discuss the concerns, needs and perspectives to peace and togetherness in his domain; there were serious debates among these faith leaders to bring to a halt the religious crises that have bedeviled their various communities and areas. And for the first time in history of the community, women were allowed to make contributions and expressed their feelings on how they suffer the worst consequences of conflicts in their communities. The UN Interfaith week of Harmony also provided the opportunity to raise awareness about the forthcoming International Day of Peace and about the role of governments and the general public on peace building efforts. It also aimed to promote the work of smaller NGOs for peace in the rural areas.

The week ignited the spirit of the different faith leaders and different traditional chiefs to have agreed of having quarterly mini UN interfaith Harmony interactive dialogue to improve progressive relationships among people of diverse cultures and beliefs. The quarterly Interfaith Harmony interaction has been established and two mini meetings have also been fixed to as kick of dates in March 4th and March 8, 2013.

At end UN interfaith Harmony week achieved the following:

- The interfaith Harmony visit helped mended acrimonious relations between Christians and Muslims
- Brought together 87 persons- male and female interactive dialogues
- Reached 25 traditional and religious Chiefs
- Brought open communication and understand between different ethnicities and tribes
- Set up quarterly mini Interfaith Harmony week interactive forum to improve intercultural issues.
- The visit promoted harmonious and traditional methods for peace efforts among tribes and races.
- It served as an avenue to intercultural traditional dialogue meetings for communities.
- It was aimed to raise awareness to promote peace and unity

