



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peace Foundation Staff Member Returns from Libya

Santa Barbara, CA (July 15, 2004) – The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to announce that Carah Ong, the Foundation’s Communications and Development Officer, has just returned from a trip to Libya as a member of the first non-governmental delegation of Americans to officially visit the country since the US removed its more than twenty-year embargo on the country in April 2004. The delegation was organized by the Libyan Foreign Affairs Department and the Revolutionary Committees Movement (RCM) of Libya.

According to Libya’s Foreign Affairs Secretary, members of the delegation were selected “with a special interest in Libya, in world peace, anti-war policies, elimination of weapons of mass destruction, people participation in decision-making, and in a just world for all.” Carah was selected as a member of the delegation because of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s work toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

The purpose of the trip was to open dialogue between the government of Libya and civil society organizations in Libya and the US. The delegation held discussions and exchanged views and ideas regarding democracy, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and US foreign policy from an Arabic point of view. The delegation also participated in site visits to the Libyan National Teacher’s Syndicate, the National Medical Center, the Center for Communicable Diseases, the Center for Green Book Studies and the Great Man-Made River Project. The delegation was treated to many cultural exchanges in various cities and met with local officials in the ancient Roman cities of Leptis Magna and Sabratha, as well as in the cities of Abu Aisha and Shibirat Zauyia.

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Carah Ong stated, “Having no idea what to expect of Libya, I was very impressed with the country and the social and economic strides the people of Libya have taken despite US sanctions. In speaking with people in the market and on the streets, I discovered that Libyans are very positive about Americans and they gave us a warm welcome wherever we visited. People thanked me for coming to their country and expressed how glad they are that relations are beginning to normalize between the governments. For me, this trip underlined the importance of people to people relations. While governments and political systems may come and go, it is relationships with people that last.”

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization with consultative status to the United Nations. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has been committed to advancing initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, to fostering the global rule of law, and to building an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy.

For more information on Carah’s trip to Libya, to arrange an interview or to arrange for Carah to speak to your group, please call her at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or email cong@napf.org.

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