

Preface

This publication is a first small fruit of the cooperation between the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of Icesi University, Colombia and the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University, Japan. It is published simultaneously in English as *IPSHU Research Report No.23* by the Institute for Peace Science and in Spanish as *Revista CS No.3* by the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences.

The idea of this publication was born out of the discussions that took place during the Seminar on Peace and Human Security held at Icesi University in May, 2008, with the participation of some of the authors of this volume. The main theme of the publication is the same as the seminar's topic and reflects our shared understanding of the issue. As many researchers have pointed out, the concepts of peace and security in their extended senses, have recently been becoming closer and closer. The reader can compare, for example, Johan Galtung's classical conceptualization of peace and violence on the one hand, and the United Nations Development Programme's proposal for human security on the other. In both cases, not only the elimination of armed conflict, but also economic prosperity, freedom, physical and mental health, environmental preservation should be enjoyed by everyone on earth in an ideal situation.

Thus, a collection entitled "Peace and Human Security" should ideally address all these issues. This collection of papers and a research report has, however, focused rather narrowly on the issue of war and armed conflict. This is because, nowadays, it is the armed conflict and its consequences that is a major obstacle on the way of reaching a better human security and sustainable peace. Hence, all of the papers in this volume, which had been subject to a peer-review process, deal with some aspects of international, regional and local armed conflict in their aftermath. In addition, a research report is printed at the end to underline the efforts of the international community to learn various indigenous approaches to peacebuilding in a war-torn society.

The narrow focus of this volume is also a reflection of our research interest due to our past experiences. We cannot but start from the fact that Hiroshima has suffered from the Atomic bomb and its protracted after-effects, whereas Cali has long suffered from a continuous internal conflict and its impacts. These gloomy features of two cities

presuppose a particular responsibility of academic communities in both Hiroshima and Cali to make every effort towards a better understanding of the causes and consequences of war and conflict.

We hope that this cooperation will continue and bear splendid fruits in near future.

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Hiroshima and Cali

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