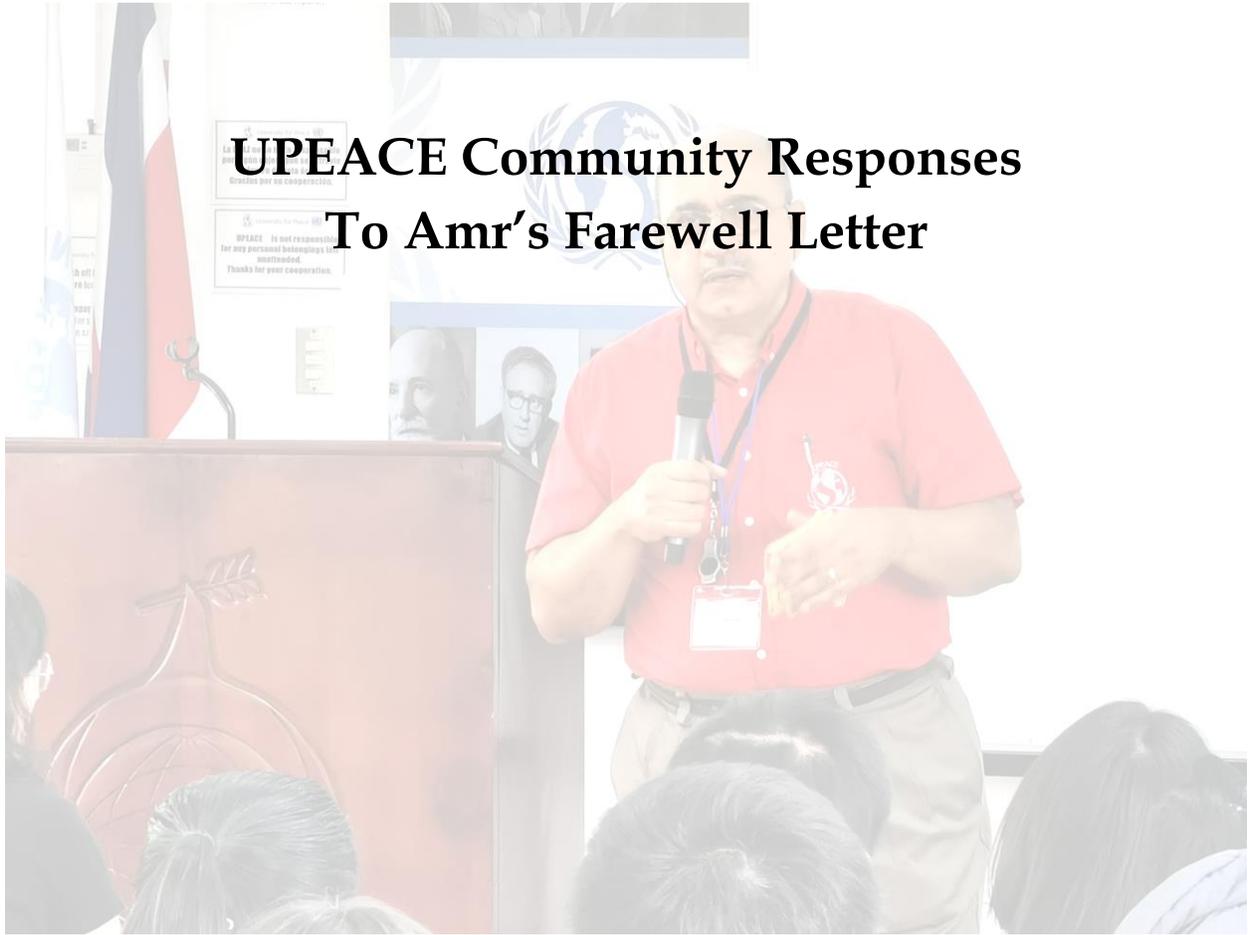


# **UPEACE Community Responses To Amr's Farewell Letter**



Dear Professor Amr,

The news that you are about to turn the page and leave UPEACE is overwhelming !! It is hard to imagine UPEACE without you !! Whenever I met any UPEACER anywhere you are the first person we mention. You become a de facto UPEACE figure and I mean it !!!

I cannot thank you enough for your extra-ordinary services at UPEACE. You can keep your head high for the noble job you have done at UPEACE !!!

I'm excited the fact that you will continue your contribution for global peace through SALAM institute !!

Wish you best of luck in your professional and private life, and hope I will see you in USA sometime in the near future !! Please update me in your new contact information.

In Peace  
Abdulnasir Ziad  
Dallas, TX  
469 438 8584

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Ah! What a wonderful look back at these years and your missions professor Abdalla! Remembering you fondly and still thinking about you and all the great things you did for us at UPEACE.

I wish you all the best with your new adventures and hope one of these days our paths will cross again!

In peace,  
Smilja Jankovic

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Dear Dr. Amr

Thank you for marking me a copy of that moving parting letter. Peace will certainly miss you. So will so many of us who consider Upeace a very special place in our lives, even if we live so far away.

I was very especially fond of you, even if we did not have many opportunities to interact while I was at Upeace (2007-8). But whenever I got a chance to do so, those were special moments. Thank you for those special moments. I am sure many others felt the same as I did at Upeace.

Let me wish you the very best in the new mission you assume at SALAM Institute. As someone who lived as many as 11 years in the slums of the pre-dominantly Muslim old city of Hyderabad, India, promoting understanding and peace among communities, I very well understand the value of your initiative, and the difficulties. I wish you well in your new mission. And pray for its success.

As I had the opportunity to discuss with you while at Upeace, I have started Montfort Social Institute (Centre for Human Rights and Sustainable Development Education) in Hyderabad.

It has taken off reasonably well in the last three years. We are involved with the urban poor in 14 towns and cities in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa states, organizing domestic workers, and fighting evictions. We also train HR defenders, teachers, and community leaders and youth, for rights, peace and sustainable development.

Our Institute will be happy to work with SALAM. Because India is both a hot spot and model for what your Institute stands for. We already work with the Earth Charter. Mirian Vilela had visited us last fall. She will be able to share more about our work.

Thanks for everything you contributed to my life. If you come to India, we will be extremely happy to receive you, and benefit from your wisdom and knowledge.

Warm regards

Varghese Theckanath s.g.

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Dear Amr,

We have been in the mountain for a long time so I was not able to access internet and it is a surprising day for me to read your resignation today.

You have intimated this in our last conversation but I did not expect you will leave UPEACE as a whole. I am sad about this because I always thought that you are one of the moral and intellectual foundations of the UPEACE that I know of.

I certainly respect the decision to change and I will be looking forward to see where the winds bring you, but I know in my heart that UPEACE won't be the same without you.

I hope that this decision brings you peace, and I sincerely wish you all the love and light that you'll need to keep marching on.

I will certainly miss you when I get back to the campus.

All the love. All the best.

Nery Ronatay

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Dear Amr,

I read the message below and it makes me a bit sad, because such people as you should be a part of UPEACE forever. I mean the people like you bring some much bright and positive energy to everyone. You are bring the peace to people.

It comes from my experience in UPEACE. I still remember your visit to Kyrgyzstan. At that time, your visit gave me the confidence and desire to move forward and achieve the goals. As a result of it, I have got the diploma.

However, you made a decision and I hope that it's time to move forward :)

I appreciate all that you did for UPEACE and UPEACERs and especially for me. If you will need my help or assistance, just let me know by sending me message to this email...

with best regards,

Arthur from Kyrgyzstan (UPEACE 2005-2006)

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Dear Amr,

Thank you for very thoughtful and clear message about your resignation.

I did enjoy every encounter with you, both inside and outside class. Your openness, sense of humor and care will always linger in my mind and heart. Last March, before coming back to Manila, I did not have a chance to say my thanks and goodbye directly to you, as you were in official trip. I left a bookmark with Charles Skinner to be given to you. It is a figure of one heroes from Five Pandavas in Mahabharata epic which is very well-known and deeply rooted in Indonesia. Coming in the form of *wayang* - a traditional Javanese puppet, the figure itself is Bhima (Werkudara in Javanese). He is characterized as an honest, straightforward, trustful, committed, strong and tender heart person. And, I guess there is no one at UPeace, that is best described with those traits.

I just want to say, thank you for your presence and help during my UPeace study. Also, good luck for your new chapter. I pray for you and your family. May you and they always stay in God's arms of love.

best,

dani - Indonesia

IPS '12-13

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Dear Don Amr:

Hope you are doing well. It has been difficult to accept your decision and I cannot image UPEACE without you. We all know your academic and professional expertise and for sure that loss in the Academic and Administrative side of UPEACE will be greatly felt.

However, to me the biggest loss will be in the human aspect. Words cannot express my gratitude for all your support, encouragement, kind words and above all the respect you showed to me in every situation or issue I had to discuss with you. It did not matter how simple or complicated the issue was, you always listened and made me feel an important human being. And even though at times the answer may not have been positive for me, I never felt disrespected or less important. I have learned a lot from you and I truly considered you an example to follow.

We as UPEACE are losing not only a good professional but an excellent human being. We are losing a peacemaker who taught how to build peace in the classroom and also with his actions.

With gratitude

Fina

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Dear Amr,

Thank you for your tireless work at UPeace, for the wonderful energy you bring to everything you do, and for making my UPeace experience all the more memorable. You are such a unique human being, and I am sorry to see you go. However, I am sure wherever you end up will benefit greatly from your presence. I wish you all the best always, and I hope our paths cross again in the near future. Please let me know if there will be some kind of going-away celebration, I will be there!

Un fuerte abrazo,  
Ariela

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Dear Amr,

Thank you for this e-mail! What a great loss for UPEACE generations to come that you will not be there to accompany them through the amazing journey that is UPEACE, but then again I'm sure your efforts to strengthen and consolidate the University will continue to be strong for many years to come. It only saddens me that they will not be able to meet you personally!

You are such an inspiration, at least for me, to continue educating myself and gaining experience in the complicated field that is Peace & Conflict Resolution and I thank you for this and all your help and support throughout this time.

SALAM will grow even stronger and you will continue to harvest the fruits of your efforts and kindness for many years. I'm absolutely sure about this!

Thank you for everything. And my best wishes on this new adventure.

Sincerely,

Daniela  
ILSD 2007-2008

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Dear Amr,

I am greatly touched by your message. I am sure UPEACE will not be the same without your regular engagements in its affairs. But I am certain that the spirit and passion that you brought to the academic programmes will always remain. While it is still sad to know that you are leaving UPEACE, I am sure there are so many people out there in the world whose lives you will touch in many ways and motivate them to continue in this noble profession.

I always take pride in the fact that I was your student and also to have had the opportunity to work with you. I was always inspired by your positive energy, passion and commitment to the cause of UPEACE. I wish you all success in your new endeavor.

Please do let me know when you make a trip to India and also if you need my assistance any time when you explore areas of professional cooperation here.

Best to the family.

With all best wishes,

Dinoo

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Dear Amr,

Thanks so much for sharing your parting sentiments with us. You truly touched my life and helped to shape my experience at UPeace, an experience I will carry near and dear to me throughout my life.

I wish you all the best in your new endeavors, you are an inspiration and someone I am proud to know. Remember when we had a dance off? That was a blast (see attached photo!).

Elliot and I live in Oakland, California now and I work for a food justice non-profit organization, City Slicker Farms. Elliot is a video producer for an online food magazine, CHOW.com. My parents still live in Maryland so we should connect next time we are there!

All the best,

Alison Fischman  
ESP 2009



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Ooh My God Amr, I read with email with shock and also excitement. I didn't know that you served Upaz for 10 yrs. that alone is amazing. Upaz will surely miss your great efforts, talent and professionalism. This news must come as great shock to the Upaz Administration. However there is a time for everything in life, This is your time to move on to another greater challenge in life.

I must confess that through your great administration and leadership, i did enjoy my life experience in Upaz. It's a time I will always cherish.

I wish you the very best in your next assignment in the US.  
keep in touch with Upaz and us as well.

Kind regards

Lilian Apio  
Uganda

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Dear Amr,

I read your resignation letter from Upeace just last night but developed a cool for many reasons.

This university has no rector for now but you as vice rector. In reality from my judgment you are the only person around who has an insight into UPEACE with such a long and admirable experience. It will take Upeace a century to develop and accommodate some one of your

caliber with such a rich and outstanding wisdom. You see certain issues sitting down that some persons will never see standing even on top of the tallest building in Costa Rica. Amr I saw you as an African epitome in Upeace with a sense of equity in him. Now that you are going where are these characteristics found now in Upeace? Shall they have a cold headed someone like you sooner or later who will build the interest of the community first before his/her? I am so disturbed Amr.

Amr I gradually improved in this environment thanks to the approach by someone like you. I may be a fool or an idiot, but i had a little survey about personalities in Upeace. I personally wished you could supervise my work so you could shower some elements of your wisdom to me. I am still very convince about what I am saying here am my opinion. This institution has loss a governor it will take a long time to have.

I received this resignation at the time I wanted to write to you about how to continue with my research. I have a very big problem to develop a questionnaire for this work.

Amr will you still have the chance to continue to direct me in this work? let me know Amr and tell me what and how to proceed. We may schedule a meeting and look at what i did together if possible. I will have to squeeze time since we are battling with courses now in order to honor the Upeace program. My respect Amr. I have you will have enough time to relax in your next assignment to be able to have a free mind. I PRAY FOR AMR. ALLAH IS GREAT. TO HIM BE THE GLORY.MAY BLESS YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY.

IN PEACE

NGORAN ALLAN

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Dear Prof Amr,  
Greetings!!!!

Hope this finds you well, the news of your leaving the University definitely come to us as a shock. Your associations and contributions to Upeace will always be remembered. I feel myself lucky to be the part of the Upeace family when you were there.

We understand that your skills and contributions are much needed in various other places now. I often remember the orientation class and the class on Non-Violent Resistance (Egypt Chapter) which was taught by you. I would hereby like to request to you to arrange a Upeace reunion whenever you are in India.

Thank you for all the lessons and idea sharing sessions, it's a pleasure to know such a wonderful person like you.

Warmly,  
Priya Pandey

(Student International Law Department)  
2011-2012

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Amr,

You were my best professor ever... I really admire the person you are and I am pretty sure you will find wonderful people in your way. I hope I will be able to see you in the near future, and hopefully be able to collaborate in any of your projects. As you know I live in Calgary and I will be more than glad to help in any way possible.

UPEACE and all of us will miss you a lot, but I understand it is time for you to move on.

All my admiration and appreciation and all the positive words that you can find for you.

Daniela Rojas González

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Dear Sir,

As a student on UPEACE 2011-12 from Nepal (International Law and Settlement of Dispute) it gives me immense joy to know about your successful tenure at Upeace.

Upeace for all of us i believe has been and will be an important part of our lives. It has touched us in a way that no other institution could. I remember you since my very first day at Upeace and the comfort, understanding and love that you reflected affirmed my believe that i was in the rightest of place...and that believe has only become stronger each day.

I am in Nepal and working at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction as the Cluster Focal Officer. Thank you and thank Upeace for helping me reach where i am.

I hope that we will cross path someday...and also would gladly welcome you to visit Nepal someday.

Wish you nothing but the best. Continue spreading your love and wisdom, Sir. You make this world a better place to live each day just by being yourself. I am blessed to have met you and learnt so much from you.

Thank you and good luck.

Best regards,  
Apekchya Rana  
Internal Law and Settlement of Dispute

2011-12  
Nepal.

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Dear Dr. Amr,

It's really sad to know that UPEACE is losing the cornerstone that has structured my experience here so far. To me you have always been the voice that a place like UPEACE really needs, and I doubt that there will ever be anyone who is capable of providing the organization with anything similar to what you have given them so far. It has been my experience over the last 10 years of studying and living abroad that the voices from our part of the world are hard to hear, and when they are, this often does not last for too long.

I wish you all the best with the new life, your words have really echoed with me personally, especially when it comes to just letting the universe open new doors for us that we would have never otherwise recognized. Who knows what I will end up doing after I leave Costa Rica...

I look forward to taking your class this coming May with the rest of the ILSD students.

Sincerely,  
Mahmoud

---

Dear Prof. Amr,

It is with surprise and sadness that I read this email. You are one of my most respected professors here at UPeace. Your leadership that I witnessed was a great example of clarity, just relationships and courage. At UPMUNC, when you showed the video about what leaders are doing in the ground, and you said that is what mattered, I understood your leadership.

This was very difficult year at UPeace and we all struggled. I think UPeace, we, will rise up with much clarity and insight. I wish you the best of the new journey outside and may you continue to touch and change lives! Thank you very much! Maraming salamat! Hope our paths of peace will meet again!

May your always be in peace!

Your student,  
Marvie L. Misolas  
marvie.misolas@gmail.com

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Pilar Griffin

6:46pm Apr 24

Professor Amr:

I wish you the best in your new endeavors. You are a great asset to UPEACE and will be missed! Thank you for sharing your knowledge and experience.

Pilar Griffin

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Hi Amr,

I want to wish you all the best in your new career opportunity! It sounds very interesting and that they are lucky to have you join their team! Thank you for all of the contributions you have made to Upeace. I am very grateful for my education in the Gender program (2006-2007) and know that you played an important role in the development of the school.

Most of all, I will remember the wonderful soccer games we had!!

All the best,

Yolisa de Jager (and Kwame Ankobea-Kokroe)

Yolisa de Jager  
Assistant Director  
Women's Services

GOOD SHEPHERD | Faith In People.  
[www.goodshepherdcentres.ca](http://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca)

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Dear Amr,

For some reason I just received this mail today.

After reading it, I will like to express you how touch I am for these wonderful words of peace and wisdom. You count with me, and have my full respect and support on your decision.

You planted a seed of peace, dialogue and understanding, during your path by this institution. Of course, planting crops have rainy and sunny days. Your plant will prevail, as it was done based on principles and faith.

For me, it has been on my personal and professional level, a true honor to walk this decade at UPeace by your side and to learn from your experience.

I wish you and Sharmin the best and will like to continue knowing of your great work on peace and strengthening the sense of interconnection among different cultures.

Send you and enormous hug and the work continues.

Sincerely,

Ingreed Fournier

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Dear Friends,

When I got Dean Amr's e-mail yesterday, I was happy & sad at the same time. Memories washed over me like rich smells: coffee brewing with cardamom pods every morning, an open door & a big smile. I always felt welcome to come in & sit down with Dean Amr, through my time as a student at UPEACE in 2005-06, and I've remembered him as one of the highlights of UPEACE ever since.

I really want to thank you, Dean Amr, for the intercultural understanding & communication training you led, with your story about who would be the first to take a bite of the chocolate cake in the cafeteria, and your card games that showed how we cannot make assumptions that others see the world the same way that we do. This was one of the most vivid lessons I learned at UPEACE and I have taught it to dozens of students & re-told your chocolate cake story a bunch of times!

And SALAM: I was fortunate, after my UPEACE graduation, to have the chance to go to work as a part-time, short term volunteer with Professor Abu Nimer, and I really valued the opportunity to learn more about intercultural cooperation. What a wonderful organization! Your expertise will really advance that work, so I am happy for you & for them.

I just want you to know that you made such a wonderful impression on me, and you & UPEACE have stayed with me always. I am now an educator at the University of Colorado. Laurel Beth Barton (now Foster), also an educator & a new mom, and I, continue to be very close friends after meeting in the Peace Ed Programme, and we even work together and dream up projects in the state of Colorado & the US Southwest.

My organization at the University of CO is co-hosting a conference on democratic education, and we would love to have all 3 of you, and many people from the UPEACE community, join us if you can: all the lessons from the Peace Ed Programme will be alive and well at this international conference! Working in the planning stages has often reminded me of the richness of all that I learned in Classroom # 2. Please COME! Here is more: <http://www.idec2013.org/>

Before you leave at the end of August, Dean Amr, I want you to meet Alice Swett, another fantastic educator who is coming from Boulder, Colorado to Costa Rica. I hope she can meet you before you depart, so you can be a small part of her UPEACE experience too.

All blessings & best wishes to you as you try something new: you have done SUCH good work at UPEACE. Thanks for your warm smile & your dedication to peace education,

Sabrina Sideris

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Dear Amr,

It is with mixed feelings that I read your e-mail. I'm very glad that you've taken this bold decision which will allow you to focus on all the things you love doing. But I will miss you tremendously.

I feel very fortunate indeed to have had the opportunity to work with you so closely over the past decade. You are more than a mentor to me – you made possible my transition from the

Earth Charter to UPEACE, under difficult circumstances. Your deep trust and unwavering encouragement have been key for my own personal and professional journey. Without you, I could not have flourished within UPEACE.

I want to take this moment to thank you for the huge role you've played in my life.

Best,  
Mohit

Director, UPEACE Centre for Executive Education  
U.N. mandated University for Peace  
[www.centre.upeace.org](http://www.centre.upeace.org)  
[www.upeace.org](http://www.upeace.org)

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Dear Amr,

I am very pleased to hear your news, and a bit saddened for Upeace. But I am sure, as you state, you will never really cut ties with the institution.

I was recently looking through old documents, papers, and readings I had collected from my time at Upeace, and I smiled reading my own writings, seeing how passionate I was about what I was learning. And now, five years after Upeace, I find myself blessed to be doing what I received with such priceless vocation for at Upeace, and to be involved professionally in an endeavor so relevant to what I was seeking when I first made my application for admission at the university.

Alf mabrouk on the new post; this is such an important topic, obviously in the context of the Middle East.

Please make sure to communicate to us your new contact information. Also, I am pleased to see you remain active in and have recently been to Lebanon. If there is any way I can help, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

For now I wish you salamat wa salam.

Kind regards,  
Yara

Ms. Yara SAAB  
Associate Legal Officer  
International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea  
Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609  
Hamburg, Germany  
Office: +49-403560-7228  
Mobile:+49-176-876-00103

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Dear Abdalla,

It is quite pleasant for me to reaffirm, that indeed you touch many lives, with your teachings and your compassionate approach in conflictive situations. I am sure most if not all of your students would agree.

Even if my professional occupation have not had me as close as U Peace as I would have liked, I have remain in contact, as to know of the importance of your leadership in the past decade.

I congratulate you for moving ahead. Working for peace in the Muslim World is hugely needed, in times of recolonialism, and so much military responses, under all kind of justifications, with mainstream media fostering Islamophobia, which now network communication allow spreading. I wish you strength and wisdom in your new undertaking. I am sure you and Abunimer, will make a great couple. I am confident you both will find the way to include gender sensitive approaches and have women in your team, in a way that would be culturally sensitive.

With my appreciation,

Adilia Caravaca

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Dear Amr,

I hope that this finds you well.

I just read your mail with a mixture of feelings.

You are a great mentor, lecturer and gentleman. I have learnt much from you Amr and hope to learn more.

You gave UPEACE a vision and you have been instrumental in its success with the team too.

I have much appreciation for the iftar you gave us at your home. May Allah gave bless you mightily for your kindness.

I wish you well and remember us in your duas in sha Allah.

Allahu i barik

Franklin

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Franklin M. Murianki  
Political Affairs Assistant  
Senior Advisor's Office  
United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA)  
UNON, Gigiri,

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Nairobi.  
Email: [murianki@un.org](mailto:murianki@un.org)

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Dear Amr,

It is great to move on in life, as the famous African saying goes, 'a man does not dry where he has taken a shower bath' we shall be in touch for all the positive things. Wish you all the sustainable best as you prepare to move to the next level of life.

Samwel Odoyo Njura  
Consultant: Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice  
African Regional Centre for Social Development  
Nairobi

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My Dear Amr,

You are indeed an EXCELLENT man. You have served humanity with dedication and with all you have, and by extension served God Almighty. God has also rewarded you here on earth because you have met your desires and you have a very high level of fulfillment. I pray that God will also reward you in heaven.

I sincerely wish you and your entire family the very best in your future endeavors. God bless you Amr.

Emmanuel Kabuk  
Colonel - Nigeria  
2009/2010 IPS Class

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Dr. Amr,

Many thanks for your email. It is always a pleasure to know you and to be around you, I am so grateful you are part of my life you are an excellent professor, exquisite mentor, and good father who has significantly contributed to UPEACE and to so many people and I am one of them - thank you so much.

Wishing you all the best in your new position and looking forward to interact and work with you in the future.

With lots of respect and love.

Best Regards,  
Tigist

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Tigist Yeshiwas Engdaw  
Assistant Program Coordinator for PhD /Lecturer  
PhD Candidate

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Baba, I'm sure it was [hard] to make that decision on that wonderful campus! But life has its own laws and all I wish you the success in your future life. In the world where there are suspecting Muslims you have a very challenging work but you will be able to manage the project. I believe in your qualities as a father, a friend and a very professional person

All the best

NDUWAYEZU Melchicedec  
Université du Burundi  
Faculté de PSE  
Bujumbura- Burundi

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Dear Amr,

I just don't know what to say as a comment or reaction to your resignation email that I have just read. Like you said in your email, you truly touched the lives of hundreds of students from UPEACE including me, Jerry Locula. Thanks for the advocacies, thanks for the encouragement, thanks for the supports and thanks for the letters of recommendation you wrote for me. You will never be forgotten and I hope to see you someday in Washington or elsewhere. I also wish you all the best in Washington and your new area of work. SALAM is really blessed to have you, because you go there with multiple wealth of experience and rich connections. I asked that you please share your new email address as of August, 2013 so we will keep in touch with you.

God bless!

Sincerely Yours  
Jerry Locula

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Dear Prof.,

I am excited and sad at the same time to know you are leaving Upeace. I am excited because it's such a wonderful change which is much deep reaching. I am sad because we loved to have you so much at Upeace. You were such a blessing to us. I in particular, i am so glad i met you and had the privilege to be a student in your class and benefit from your great facilitation and practice of peace.

I wish you blessing. Thank you for enriching us.

Priscilla

*Shalom*

Nyaga O. Priscilla  
Department of Law,  
Faculty of Business and Development Studies,  
Gulu University  
Gulu, Uganda.

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Dearest Doctor Amr!!!

The time I was leaving UPEACE in 2009 my heart was broken into pieces as I fully was understanding that there are people whom I may never see again in my life but being optimistic on every end I told myself - I will meet each of them again- in some part of this small world!

I may not imagine UPEACE without you as you were its heart, soul and pride! There are many people in this small world who are and always will remain your followers of peace and justice in the world! I always wanted to send my children to UPEACE at some point, whether to study or to meet you! I know you are smiling now and perhaps even saying " Oh, common, Bahar, you can definitely meet me in DC and I will enjoy to meet your kids there too!", I have no doubt in that, as you were the only person I recall from my UPEACE experience being very gracious, attentive and hospitable to all of us, treating equal despite of the fact that we were only students and eliminating the fact of existing hierarchy between students and professors!

You always reminded me my father I lost in 2005, and I thank you specifically for that! I always found kindness, understanding, support and courage in your personality, words and actions! I think I will always admire you despite of many various opinions different students shared in UPEACE community. It was my great honor and privilege to have worked under your supervision and completed a piece of masterpiece- my MA thesis! I should admit here that your experience and professionalism, patience and brilliance of knowledge brought so many pieces of everything that enlarged my luggage of knowledge, and amplified my expertise both in the field and me as a person!

I will never forget that fabulous meeting of you and my mother! She always recalls you as she tells out her friends and family about her trip to US and CR. She will upset to hear about your leave from UPEACE. It was one of the best timing of my life! Now I am a mother myself, a loving mother and I have such an adorable daughter. [...]

I will always thank you for every single thing you have taught me, for every single joke you have laughed with me on, for every solid advice you kindly shared with me, for every single minute you have dedicated your precious time to listen to me, and for everything else I could continue counting on here. I know we always will remain in touch, and I will look forward to host you once in Turkmenistan! I have attended your home in Costa Rica and you showed all hospitality and comfort to me during my visit, it is now my turn to host you and your family! That's one peculiarity of Turkmen people, they never forget about good things or treatments, as they will always thank you for that and mention to Allah!

I want to thank you for bringing much spirit, commitment, joy, happiness, love and peace to UPEACE and students! You were a great leader- a leader one will always be wishing of and a leader that I so much miss here in Turkmenistan! Thanks for being so dedicated, and for being a

wonderful person you are, Dr. Amr! For me and in my thoughts, you will always be working at UPEACE as I cannot associate you without UPEACE! I hate to say good -bye, even though I do not necessarily say good-bye, but I will say - see you, once and again, somewhere in some part of the world, maybe even in DC, Inshallah!

Be well, stay healthy and remain always productive, my dearest Dr. Amr!

With millions of thanks and best wishes to you and your family I remain in my best regards!

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*Bahar Amangeldyeva*  
*Master of Arts, International Peace Studies*  
UPEACE

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Dear Amr,

Thank you very much for sharing part of your life with us, for being part of my peace and gender journey. Hope to see you again in one of my journeys.

All the best and God Bless,  
Grace (MAIPS-2009)

GRACE MALLORCA-BERNABE  
Peace Program Officer V (PPO-V)  
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process  
6/F Agustin 1 Bldg. F. Ortigas Jr. Road  
Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City, Philippines  
Website: [www.opapp.gov.ph](http://www.opapp.gov.ph)

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Dear Prof. Amr

It has been a wonderful lifetime experience to study and meet different people at UPEACE. We had become family and share the same concerns anytime and anywhere. Everyone at UPEACE is a driving force and they inspired me to become an active person in helping reconstructing peace, for example of my country (Cambodia). The very first time I met you and every one, the first day I went on the terrace and showed how my country is greeting one another, I knew that my life is going to change forever in terms of personal and academic development.

I wish you all the best and move forward to positive way of working and living with your family.

I will always miss you.

With love and respect,  
Oum R. Oudom

---

Thank you Sir Amr Abdalla

You have been special for all of us. I hope staying in touch with you for any professional opportunity that might need my cooperation.  
All blessings on you Sir and best of lucks  
Warmest regards

Adolphe Kilomba Sumaili

*PhD Student at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel(VUB)*  
MA/Int Law&Settlement of Disputes/UPEACE  
Lawyer/Avocat au Barreau de Bukavu

---

Hello Dear Mr. Amr,

First of all congratulation for a meritorious service you rendered to UPEACE during the past several years. Thank You! I absolutely know that you endured a lot of hardship for smoothly running the UPEACE, securing funding and initiating new programmes and I as UPEACER really appreciate it.

Wish you all the best in your new assignment and stay safe.

Please send me your new contact details as well.

kind regards,

Fakhruddin Azizi

---

Dear Amr,

I have mixed feelings in response to you leaving UPEACE, but as you said, sometimes change is inevitable. I wish you all the best for SALAM and look forward to seeing you in South Asia/Pakistan for working on some joint projects.

Regards,  
Zahid

Dr. Zahid Shahab Ahmed  
Assistant Professor,  
NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (NIPCONS),  
National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST),  
Islamabad, Pakistan.

---

Dearest Amr, I want to thank you and congratulate you on all your tangible and intangible contributions to UPEACE and to each person who was touched by the university. I certainly appreciate your influence on my amazing experience there. If you happen to remember me I also must implore you to bring me to DC to work with you and Professor Abu Nimer, my number one favorite of my visiting professors at UPEACE. I am kidding about that of course. :- ) though I would not pass up the opportunity if it came my way! Wishing you all the best in your next chapter. Warmest thanks,

from Mary Lind, class of 2007, conflict management specialist at the Oregon Health & Science University. Cheers!

---

Dear Amr,

Thank you very much for your sharing email about your next journey and I am really proud of you. I appreciated for your kind, support to us and I got a lot of learning during my study in UPEACE.

I am now leading a local NGO name Gaia Sustainable Management Institute based in Myanmar. Our organization has working in Myanmar since 1994 with very low profile and under the management of Thailand NGO name (Spirit Education Movement). Due to the country open up, our local team decided to stand as a local NGO. We are focusing in Capacity Development to the local organizations and social actors (individual) in order to play a key role on their development and also to prevent poverty and solve their problem by themselves. Our country is in democratization process, a lot of challenging and issues are happening in here such as peace process between different ethnics arm groups and government, IDP issue in the northern part of Myanmar due to the civil war between Kachin ethnic arm group and government, Violence Conflict between Muslim and Buddhist, land issue due to the Foreign Direct Investment. Our role is to empower local people by providing training, mentoring, coaching, linking in order to tackle issue that they are facing. Just to share about me and my work in here and also I would like to highlight that my study in Upeace was very supportive and helpful to apply practically in our current country situation. Please visit to our country if you have a chance.

Thank you again to you and Upeace giving me a space to learn. I will not forget my life experiences in Upeace and also a person who I met in there. I wish you all the best, all the success and God Bless you in your new life chapter.

With warmest regards,  
Ohnmar

Naw Ohnmar Shwe  
ALP - IPS ( 2009-2010)

---

Dear Professor Amr Abdalla

I received the news with mixed feelings. On the one hand i feel UPEACE won't be the same anymore. To me you were integral to my imagination of UPEACE and the great times I spent there. It is hard to think of UPEACE without you. You were such a supportive and compassionate leader and teacher. I feel sad that you won't be there anymore.

At the same time I am happy to know that you have moved to U.S. Being based at Syracuse University I feel I will in future have an opportunity to travel to DC and get an opportunity to meet you. I will be done with my PhD qualifying exams. in the fall and would hopefully be able to visit Washington DC.

With regards  
Wajahat Ahmad  
UPSAM Fellow 2009-10  
Doctoral student, Cultural Anthropology,  
Maxwell School, Syracuse University

---

Dr. Abdalla,

I am saddened to hear this news, but your e-mail captures the spirit of who you are.... kind, positive and resilient.

I will think of you fondly, our jolly vice rector -- quick with a smile and always, always, always available to help, teach and consult.

UPeace is a better institution for having found you, Dr. Abdalla. We, the students, are lucky to have had you as our leader. I cannot say enough good things about you. I still think about the way you laugh; it is infectious, you know!

I wish you all the luck in your new role in Washington. The world needs people like you working on this issue at this time. Misunderstanding and fear about Muslims are ramped, especially in my home country. I learned a tremendous amount during your course on the Muslim World. I remember most your own anecdotes about your time as a lawyer in Egypt, and your personal qualms with the Muslim Brotherhood. Keep telling these stories. They are the ones that personalize and dramatize historical events and forces seemingly too big for us outside them to understand.

Thank you for your service to UPeace. We were lucky to have you!

In Peace (a greeting I took from you and have now diffused in my professional and personal e-mails)... In peace,

Maggie Schwalbach

p.s. An update on me... since graduating UPeace five years ago, I went on to work for the Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago, and then - after being unexpectedly fired (as you say, "sometimes in life we must allow for change to take place and to give the universe the chance to

show us the way to new doors and chapters which we would not recognize existed unless we moved on from where we are"... Well, I couldn't have said it better. I left Chicago and returned to a city I had fallen in love with, Buenos Aires, Argentina. I have made a home for myself here. Three years ago I met the man whom I fell in love with and have since married, and we are the proud parents of two beautiful babies, Anna Sophia and Lucas. Boy and girl twins! I enclose a photo of our little family.



Great email Amr!

Although Mahmoud's passing is my most profound memory of UPeace, there are many positive ones including your lectures for the foundation course. You have impressive experiences that you are able to articulate into educational vantage points.

I wish you all the best!

In Peace,

greg

---

Amr,

Thank you for you work and all the best in your next endeavors.

Paz.  
Ryan Lee

---

Congratulations on a decade of service to UPAZ, Amr - my hat is off to you!

Warm wishes and best of luck and success with SALAM.

A big hug,  
Dominic

---

Dear Prof. Amr,

Thank you for this thoughtful and kind message which I read with a big surprise. I went to UPEACE between 2011-2012, taking a course of International Law and Human Rights. Although I couldn't have the chance to have close interaction with you personally, except the foundation course on peace and conflict studies; I always remembered you as a passionate and compassionate teacher and Upeacer.

First of all, I would like to congratulate on your decade-long journey at the UPEACE - those achievements you made with your colleagues and students (I'm proud of that I am a part of it!). It is sad to hear someone's leaving, yet, as you mentioned, I believe that sometimes what we think of the end is the beginning. I hope your new chapter will also bring a fresh door to the UPEACE and all UPEACE community.

Thank you again for the sincere letter and I wish you all the best in your future endeavor.

Best regards

Hye Young (hailey) Kim

---

All the best in your future endeavors Amr.

Keep in touch,  
Cheers,  
- Julie Hyde

---

Dear Amr,

You were fundamental to our experience at UPEACE. You are a wonderful teacher, mentor and, above all, an exceptional human being. I cannot say that this will not be a great loss for the University, but I am also glad for you and the new opportunities you will encounter.

Andres and I are currently living in DC due to Andres' work. We would be very glad to see you again in this wonderful city sometime soon.

All the best,

Maria Victoria and Andres

---

Amr,

You will surely be missed on campus. Wishing you much happiness in this new phase of life - wherever it may take you!

Ani Colekessian - UPeace 09

---

Best of luck, godfather

Amjed

---

Dear. Prof Amr

It is really a big shock for us as we at the Peace Center of Zalingei University in Central Darfur State, Republic of Sudan in need of your help and your experience to link our institutions with UPEACE my best University in my life. UPEACE with your wide and outstanding vision connected with our university and grant us three full fellowship Masters in Peace and Conflict studies. We will miss you Amr and we hope you will give your energy to AL Salam Institute. We will pray for you to succeed in your new position and we are ready to cooperate with Al salam Institute and UPEACE through the Alumni. It is a real loss for UPEACE to miss a man like you.

Yassir Hassan Satti

Commissioner of Zalingei Locality  
Central Darfur State  
Sudan

---

Dear Amr,

It was very wonderful to have known and received lots of kind supports from you during our studies days and your continuous encouragement for us till now.

I will keep in touch and do let me know if any of your future steps forwards would bring you to Myanmar and Asia Region!

Regards,

Kyi Kyi

---

Dear Dr Amr!

The one year I interacted with you was full of insights and assets. Your great work to change the world will always continue wherever you will be. Thanks for all the projects you have put

in place to transform Africa, and the world at large. The Great karamoja project will contribute greatly in conflict resolution in East Africa. We shall remember you as a parent, mentor, adviser, and a great inspiration to the young generation. We shall continue to contact you in your new assignment, Change is a factor of life which is indispensable. God Bless you, Long live Dr. Amr

Best regards

Enos Kitambo  
Northern Uganda

---

Amr,

You will ever remain an icon to the multitude of us who have had the privilege of coming under your tutelage or even had the most brief of contact with you.

Your humility, simplicity and sense of right and peace are unprecedented.

It's for Muslims like you in these trying times for our religion that I remain even strong and firm in faith, with the conviction that these tough times for Islam will pass, Bi'izininlah!

May Allah in His infinite grace bless you and inspire you further in this new phase of life you are embarking upon.

I will Insha-Allah, keep in touch.

Jazakallah, Khairan! Bissalam!

Brigadier General Saleh Bala  
Chief of Staff  
Infantry Corps Centre  
Nigerian Army  
Jaji, Nigeria

---

What a beautiful letter. I'm excited for the next step in your journey, and have experienced nothing but warmth and joy from you, Amr. Please stay in touch.

best,  
Maya Lilly

---

Dear Professor,  
I read your mail sent to the upeace's community concerning your resignation. I congratulate you for completing your contract successfully, and also wish you all the best in your future undertakings.

Meanwhile, I also want to implore you as a fellow upeacer, to involved me in your peace organization 'Salam Institute of Peace and Justice'. Please involve me in any way that I can serve, even if it is a training opportunity or service.

Congratulations once more.

Thanks

Lawal Tsalha

---

Bon voyage, Amr. I will always remember you as one of the most influential people at UPeace and I will never forget dancing and celebrating diversity at cultural nights with you.

Beth Allee

---

Salaam Amr Abdalla,

Thank you for all your contributions at UPeace. Inshallah they can continue without your presence. I hope the best for you in your future career and would love to see you again sometime. I am currently in San Diego so if you're ever in town or want to come for vacation this is a wonderful spot.

Also, I wanted to ask about this organization you will be working with since our passions are very similar and I would be interested in helping in any way possible. Let me know,

Thanks again and inshallah see you soon :)

Kevin Iraniha

---

Dr. Abdalla,

Glad you have enjoyed your time at UPEACE. Thank you for your service.

In Peace,

Arduizur Carli Richie-Zavaleta

---

Dear Amr,

Congratulations on your next step forward. As you noted, it is about people and relationships. As a student at Upeace, it is certainly your warmth and support during that year that I fondly remember.

Felicidades! My warmest regards.

Paul Klassen 2008

Ps: if you're ever on Vancouver island, please contact me!

---

Dear Amr,

I have nothing more to say than ALL the BEST to YOU in your next decade and new adventures and challenges. I have no doubt not even for a second that it will be even brighter than the previous one and that you will achieve great things and will leave a remarkable footprint in many people's lives and in the world in general. I feel blessed for having had the opportunity to be part of UPeace and to meet so many amazing people, including you. You are an amazingly inspiring person, someone to look up to and to learn so much from. And thank you for that. You are one of those people who become a milestone in one's life, someone that stays as a great example to want to live up to and always remember. Thank you!

And may your life be filled with blessings and joys. And please continue inspiring people and inspiring world!

With lots of love,

Baiba from Latvia

---

Dear Amr:

Although you didn't state it in your eloquent letter, you should also know (and probably do) that you had a positive effect on the lives of many students who were fortunate enough to study at UPEACE while you were there. You were and remain an inspiration. I wish you the very best in your next endeavor, and hope that I will manage to stay abreast of what you are doing.

All the best,

Sam Wolf

---

Dear Professor Abdalla:

Thank you so very much for giving all your dedication and love to the UPEACE community. It was an honor to be part of your UPEACE experience!  
Please keep in touch!

Yours truly,

Federico Murillo

---

Dear Amr,

I hope life after the University for Peace fulfills you and offers you whatever it is you search for.

I consider you a friend and I'm glad you were part of my UPEACE journey

Thank you for the important impact you had on the University and on my life.

Graham Bearden

---

Best of luck in your new journey Amr !!! I can only imagine how great good you'll do in your new path!! Upeace will miss a great professor but even better person!! I feel lucky to have met you and had you as a mentor!! Best wishes!!! Xoxo

Maria Alonso Buznego

---

Yella we are waiting for you in Dubai!!!

Adib Samara

---

Dear Prof. Abdalla,

Thank you so much for all those years of dedication to the UPEACE and the UPEACE community. One of the best years of my life was definitely the year when I had the honored and privilege to study my masters there, and learned all those life lessons and lifetime friendships that I couldn't have learned and found in a different way.

I always admired and respected your professionalism, your passion, your charisma and commitment to your students and your staff, and it was always rewarding receiving that smile back when we met in classes, in the corridors or in the cafeteria.

You taught me some many professional and personal lessons that I have been applying in my life after UPEACE as the Program Manager for Youth Development in the US Peace Corps in Ecuador, and I just wanted to say THANK YOU! I wanted to take the time to let you know how important and how much you positively marked me as a human being at UPEACE!

I wish you and your family the best in this new beginning, and I hope next time I am in Washington DC we could find a time to meet up again. It has been 8 years now!

Un abrazo!

Cristina Rojas Proano

---

Dear Amr,

Thank you for this thoughtfully worded email. I know very little about the past few years (especially year+) beyond glimpses into knowing that it has been especially difficult/challenging.

I'm currently in NYC and hope our paths cross again soon. Not sure what is the best way to keep in touch with you.

Warmly,  
-Morea Steinhauer  
Gender and Peacebuilding 09  
Photography project w/refugees

---

Dear Prof.

I sincerely wish you the best and may Allah facilitate and guide you in your new endeavors. Hopefully Salaam will grow and expand its activities to Africa so we can share its aspirations and activities for the common objective which is peace. Am currently pursuing an M.A course in Peace studies and conflict transformation with the Center for conflict Management (National University of Rwanda) at National Police College, Musanze, Rwanda.

Abdou Nzabonimpa

---

Amr,

I hope this message finds you both well. I'm writing from beneath many blankets on an unseasonably cold day in Tunis.

I've just read your message Amr and wanted to send a note of thanks for your amazing work at UPEACE. I can't wait to hear about all the exciting things you'll do next.  
Yours faithfully,

Nura

---

Congratulations Dr on this new step you are about to take. I personally was blessed to have you as a professor and I learned a lot from you. I believe that you will continually fly the flag of Upeace high where ever you are.

Thanks again for your great contribution!

Siyami Takha

---

My dearest Amr:

It is with great pleasure i read about your decision to move on in the work of peacebuilding in a new set-up. Even, though, I initially felt nostalgic that you are finally leaving our alma mater after such a long term contribution to peace education, I agreed with myself that you are on the right path. Your new endeavor with Mohammed Abu Nimer is a great effort that will help in re-conceptualization of religion and violence issue across the globe and deal with issues of racism, culture, religion, terrorism. I personally believe that you will make more contribution to conflict and peace education issue across continents and really be hands-on several conflicts connected to Islam by the actors within and without across the globe. In Nigeria for instance,

you must be very much aware with the issue of Boko Haram- violent conflict that has engulfed a section of Nigeria for over 2 years now and will spread to neighboring countries very soon.

The key problem is that political and conflict analysts have not been able to explain properly how best to address and reduce this conflict because of lot of wrong assumptions. It has made the country almost ungovernable and led to heavy civilian casualties. Even, Egypt , your country of birth (abi) has not been left out with sectarian conflict brewing in the country. Mali has experienced a prolonged violence also due to conflict connected with religion.

In part of Middle East and Asia, religious violence has been historical, and change orientations, collaboration and affected Human rights of groups and individuals over the decades. So, strengthening an NGO that will work in this direction is very apt and timely.

I have been supporting development in Nigeria vis-a-vis part of West Africa since I left UPEACE in 2005. I currently work as a development consultant in Nigeria for international and national organizations on plethora of development efforts, including social exclusion issues which have led to especially psychological violence over and finally erupted into physical violence in several communities across West Africa and beyond.

I will be very happy to support your team as a field researcher, desk reviewer and programme planner/ designer should the especially in countries where poverty and inequality has led to protracted conflict.

I have added my resume for this purpose.

Once again, I congratulate on this new initiative and wish you success. Though, I know that it will be a daunting task, I have great confidence in yourself and Mohammed Abu Nimer based on my personal and professional encounter with both of you at UPEACE, and reading several other articles, comments on issues and activities that you both have been involved in over the years.

I look forward to having you contact information before you move in August 2013.

Many thanks as always  
olumide

.....  
Olumide Olaniyan  
UPEACER from NIGERIA

---

Thank you for your spotless service, Dr. Abdalla. I'm one of those whose lives you touched in many positive ways than you can imagine. My current work at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Liberia Mission wouldn't have been possible without my experience at UPEACE. I remember you were my thesis Advisor. More than that, you were my guidance and mentor. I learned a whole lot from you; you helped make my UPEACE experience worthwhile--thank you!

I wish you and your family all the very best in your next adventures. I'm sure we will cross path again soon especially now that you will be in the DC areas :)

Peace,

Ahmed Sirleaf  
CLA Advisor, USAID/Liberia

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Dear Amr,  
I wish you the best of luck in this new chapter of your life and I hope we'll meet again somewhere around the World.

Best regards,

Evo Fernandez

ILHR 2007

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Amr! I am so sad!!! Upeace will not be the same without you. I need to get my diploma before you leave... I cannot imagine anyone else signing it.

What is next in your world of peace?

Love, sowmya Ayyar

---

Amr!

Congratulations on your next chapter, and best wishes for success and happiness wherever you may go! The work you are continuing to do is priceless, and so central in today's climate. May peace and happiness be upon you as you continue to serve our communities in a loving and compassionate and peacemaking way. Thank you for your service to our student body and the organization.

Much love to you on your new journey,

Johanna Austin Azadi

---

Dearest Amr,

You are the light of UPeace, to me, and I'm sad to hear this news as it will be a great loss for the school, but also thrilled to hear of your future plans to continue building peace and cooperation in this world, so hungry for change.

Wishing you all the best and oceans of peace,

Hannah Renglish

---

Hi Amr,

I am saddened to hear that you will leave UPEACE but wish you the best in your upcoming endeavors with SALAM. The university benefitted from your dedication over the past decade and it will be a different experience for students without you there. You certainly had a significant impact on my own education and work within peace and conflict resolution, and for that I thank you tremendously. I hope to meet and work with you often in the future.

Again, good luck with the next chapter of your personal and professional life.

Best,

Kevin Kester

---

Dear Amr,

It has been an honor to meet you as a UPEACE student. I am now in Iraq working as a Public Outreach Adviser for the Electoral Commission and I feel that all I have learned from UPEACE is a big part of the background I use on my day-to-day dealing with the projects but also with people. I want to thank you for everything you have done for us, but in particular for being the person you are always so reachable and simple, ready to listen.

As we say in Portuguese, may God fill your life with the blessings your heart indeed aspires to...

Salam...  
Helga Maques

---

Dear Professor Amr,

It is sad to hear that someone who has contributed so much to UPEACE with the great authority, charm, charisma, and humanity that you possess, is leaving. However, as you said before, change can and should always be deemed as positive.

I wish you the best in your future projects, personally and professionally. It was an honor for me to have you as my boss and share thoughts with you when needed. May Allah bless you and your wife Sharmin, and daughters as well. I will take the time to go to your office and say good bye soon.

Warm regards,

Angela Willis

---

Dear Amr,

I wish you all the best in your next chapter. I hope to remain in touch and look forward to hearing about your future projects as I have no doubt they will be transformational.

Best regards,

Morgan Pits

---

It's sad to think you won't be around when we travel back to Costa Rica! Have a safe journey and continued success. Maryland is not that far from New Jersey, hope to catch up one day soon.

Austin Haerberle

---

Hello Amr:

I wish you happiness and good luck in the next part of your path!

In peace,

Autumn Woodward, M.A.

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Dear Amr,

Thanks for all the effort you have put into UPEACE, Probably, it has been hard to be away from your family in Maryland as you had to take care of your other family at UPEACE. I wish you the best in your endeavors and I am sure our paths will be crossing at some point in life.

Also, it would be nice if you send your email to the alumni network at the following address: [alumni@upeace.net](mailto:alumni@upeace.net)

See you around,

Oscar Pottillo

---

Dear Amr,

I am saddened, although not surprised, by your message. I can well understand your decision, which you have obviously taken after careful consideration.

It has been my privilege to have been associated with you and to have worked for the cause of peacebuilding through education at UPEACE. We have developed programmes together in Asia-Pacific under your leadership, which are flourishing and making their contributions for peace. And I have learned a great deal from you. I am at a loss for words to give expression to my feelings because you were not just a colleague, but a very good friend. I will miss you, Amr.

Let us talk some time.

Best regards and In Peace.

Narinder

Narinder Kakar  
Director, UN Liaison Office in New York of the  
University for Peace, and Permanent Observer to the UN  
551 Fifth Avenue, Suites 800 (A-B)  
New York, N.Y. 10176

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Amr,

What can I say? I will miss you a lot, nothing will be the same without you! You have taught me a lot, and really, this is a blow, which I expected nonetheless when I saw that you were staying abroad. I owe you everything that I became, professionally, and I will never forget it. You gave me a chance when no one was ready to, and I thank you for that.

We will be preparing next year with you anyway, and I look forward to seeing you on Thursday.

A big appreciative hug.

Victoria Fontan

---

Dear Amr I am very sad with the news, even when you already had mentioned to me ... i taught that maybe something would change.

You were a blessing for so many people, including me, and what i learnt from you will be always with me on a professionally and personal level. You have been the best boss ever ... and a wonderful friend, I will miss you.

Mayeni Aguilar

---

Good luck Amr, great to work with you and I'm sure you will do great things in DC.

Adam Baird, Barbara and Isabella

---

I am totally in shock, I have no words to say something

Don Amr, this is the notice I don't wanna read

Please if you have 5 minutes tomorrow or day after tomorrow please, give me the chance to talk to you

I cannot saying anything ;(

Esteban Gutiérrez Mora  
Department of Environment,

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Dear Amr:

My dear Amr, for me was a pleasure to have worked by your side during these years, you are a great person, I bless you, and your family. Thank you very much for all your teachings and for demonstrating so much humility, and that showed it always, having open the doors of your Office for when we needed you.

many blessings and thank you.  
Fadrique Brenes.

---

True words of a true gentleman.

I came earlier today to your office, before these news were news to give you a hug and to catch up with you. I guess I'll have to do it soon either way.

On a personal note I wish you, from the deep down of my heart, only the best in your future exciting endeavors. May the wind bring a swift light breeze of change into all of our lives and for you, my dear friend, will bring you joy and success with SALAM and with your pursuit of a Peaceful world.

Your friend in Peace,  
--Ohad Sternberg

---  
Ohad B. Sternberg  
M.A. RMSED Candidate  
UN University for Peace

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Dear Amr,

So you see - and all it took was a response from all your students from Peace school..... and now you see...Peace is what we all want, and to your students - you embodied that hope of being taught how to achieve it. You told of us stories of torture and of seeing the soul of the young boy and making a change, you taught us about marriages and families between people from, previously split, Bangladesh and Pakistan. You did this all while giving us the image of an Egyptian afro wearing rock music listening young man and had us laughing!

You taught us lessons that are so useful to know and hear. You gave examples of how the SISIPABIO could be applied to everything (btw- I hope I have the acronym correct!) that

showed us all an equation, a step or process, to peace, when for most of us we were swimming in memories of conflict.

On Meet the Gregory just yesterday, I thought of how your model can be used for President Obama in future decisions on Syria when they said the lines "with Korea and Iran watching". So - what is the next move?! You have a perspective and you truly are an expert in the field, at least that's what it looks like from my vantage point and I truly hope that any Center that you (co)organize keeps peace and the steps of the SISIPABIO at its heart. We need a place to analyze conflict cycles and try to fit global events onto a chess board.

Since graduating in 2009, I have been working at the United Nations for nearly 4 years and see the process happening every day, all while trying to figure out why some votes pass and others keep failing, and what that all means. It's a daunting task and one I wonder if will ever be fully grasped.

It's a complex world, but allies in the area of peace is what will be critical in the years ahead. Your work is by no means easy, but necessary and I hope you are able to keep this network of yours active and engaged - and pray that all of those within this circle truly are dedicated to peace.

UPeace increased tremendously during the years that you were there and for most of us, you were the face of it - so I can only send you blessings and ask that you keep all of us engaged as to how things are going. And humbly, perhaps give us a reading list - I sometimes wonder what books are on the coffee tables of those who've taught me lessons I still use.

Regardless, I look forward to being in touch with you now that you will be so close, do not hesitate to contact me when you and your family make a visit to New York and I will let you know if I am in Washington, DC. It would be great to see the Center and learn more about what is happening in this area.

Ma Salama et Pura Vida

Best,

Jinny Klimas