

# Waging Peace Around the World

THE  
CARTER CENTER



Since the Carter Center's founding in 1982, it has been a trusted broker for peace, serving as an alternative channel for dialogue and negotiation. The Center's Conflict Resolution Program works in countries around the world to prevent, mitigate, and resolve conflicts and build transformative and sustainable peace. Its peacebuilding work has benefited countries in Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe. Current programming includes work in Israel-Palestine, Syria, Mali, Sudan, and the United States.

## Syria

The Carter Center has worked in Syria since 2008. After the outbreak of the civil war in 2011, the Center began organizing **discreet consultations with all stakeholders**, Syrian and international, to help end the war. The Center has convened dozens of workshops that brought together Syrians across multiple divides to develop inclusive solutions in support of U.N. peacebuilding efforts. These groups offered recommendations for specific changes to the constitution and governance structure to help ensure human rights for all and prepare Syria for a transition to peace at a time in 2015 when the subject was taboo. The recommendations have been used by Track I stakeholders.

In 2017–2018, for the first time, the Center brought together parties from regions controlled by **the government, the opposition, and the Kurds** to discuss local governance in light of Administrative Law 107. They developed substantive recommendations on how to strengthen legal foundations and organized ongoing discussions among peers.

Since 2018, the Center has focused on using **sanctions as a conflict transformation tool** rather than as a punitive tool. Incremental, sectoral sanctions adjustments

could serve as a powerful incentive to persuade the Syrian government to agree to take verifiable positive steps to restore human rights. The Center has published four sanctions-related papers urging a new U.S. policy on Syria, and recent U.S. actions suggest a pivot in the direction The Carter Center has suggested.

The Center also utilizes data to inform and mobilize its efforts. Its **Syria Conflict Mapping Project** has:

- Tracked the formation of, and relations between, approximately 7,000 armed groups.

- Tracked nationwide frontline changes.
- Documented and geolocated over 200,000 conflict events and 40,000 videos of early conflict protests.
- Assisted in developing tools for mass video analysis in collaboration with Google and Carnegie Mellon University.
- Created public-facing dashboards to share information with broader audiences.

This work has been used by the United Nations, governments, media, and academics to help them better understand the situation on the ground. The Center was asked to assist the **Ceasefire Monitoring Task Force** in 2016 and to participate in numerous strategy sessions with the diplomatic community.

## Israel-Palestine

The Carter Center has promoted **comprehensive peace and a rights-based approach** in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory for decades. Through election observation, conflict resolution,



The Dome of the Rock shines brightly in this view of Jerusalem. The Carter Center works with Palestinian and Israeli partners to promote a resolution to the conflict based on international law, human rights, and dignity.

and human rights work, the Center has developed strong relations among key Israeli and Palestinian political leaders, electoral officials, civil society leaders, and human rights practitioners. As a neutral, non-biased actor, it works with high-level decision-makers and grassroots activists to encourage consensus-building efforts for peace and human rights that will benefit both Israelis and Palestinians.

## Sudan

The Carter Center's long-term commitment to peace and health in Sudan began in the 1980s. After years of President Carter's efforts to end the civil war in Sudan, the Center supported the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the government and the SPLM/A by providing training to both sides. The Center then deployed domestic and **international election observation missions** to a key outcome of the peace agreement: Sudan's 2010 national elections and South Sudan's 2011 referendum.

In 2017, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health asked the Center to contribute to building **durable peace in areas where conflict**



A Carter Center initiative in Sudan will equip thousands of youth to serve as watchdogs of the country's ongoing peace process.



At an unofficial camp for internally displaced people in Mali, two girls wash pots in a muddy river. The Carter Center is the Independent Observer for implementation of the country's peace agreement.

**impedes disease control.** Since then, the Center has conducted research, convened stakeholders, and begun programming to simultaneously fight disease and wage peace in Sudan's Blue Nile and South Darfur states.

In 2020, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports asked the Center to launch the Youth Citizen Observer initiative. Acknowledging the key role played by youth in overthrowing the regime of Omar al-Bashir, this initiative aims to help equip Sudanese youth to serve as **watchdogs of the peace process** and the country's ongoing transition to democracy.

## Mali

In 2017, the signatories of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali requested that The Carter Center serve as the **Independent Observer** of the implementation of the agreement. Five United Nations Security Council Resolutions call on the signatories to collaborate with the Center in this role.

Through teams in Bamako and Atlanta, the Independent Observer impartially

assesses how the implementation process is working and, when there are problems, why they are occurring. The aim is to hold the signatories accountable and encourage them to follow through on their commitment to peace.

More recently, the program has begun designing peace initiatives that bring armed opponents together to **discuss shared public health concerns**, aiming to both reduce violence and increase access to regions in dire need of health care.

## United States

The Carter Center undertook a number of projects to help **prevent and mitigate political violence** before and after the 2020 U.S. election. Currently, it is building conflict resilience networks in seven states—Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. These diverse networks will provide a flexible mechanism for providing information and responding to identity-based conflict, including political polarization, interethnic conflict, and violent extremism.