

# UPF event in Bremen: "Africa and Global Peace"

24.02.2018

Through the initiative of our Peace Ambassador, Chief C.O. Onyeike, we were able to hold our first UPF event in Bremen. In the Bürgerhaus "Kulturladen Huchting" we could dance to the rhythm of the folk band 'FuFu' and live undisturbed the African spirit.



Reinhold Merta gave the first presentation, a short speech based on "Unification Thought". He emphasized that peace begins with harmony within oneself, the creation of a harmonious social and family environment, and an awareness of environmental conservation.



AfP Chief C.O. Onyeike talked about the problems that currently weigh on Africa and pointed out that behind violence and conflict there is always hatred. Therefore, in order to create peace, hatred needs to be eliminated and replaced by love. Between the presentations, Reinhold Merta sang some songs on the topic of "peace".



Then followed a brief overview of the Africa Summit in Dakar/Senegal, presented by UPF North Coordinator Ulrich Ganz. Mr. Ganz reported that this unique meeting with more than 1200 participants from over 60 countries - from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and the US - opened the door to a peaceful future for the African continent and the world. The theme of this first summit was "New Africa: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values," and was held at the Abdou Diouf International Conference Center (CICAD).

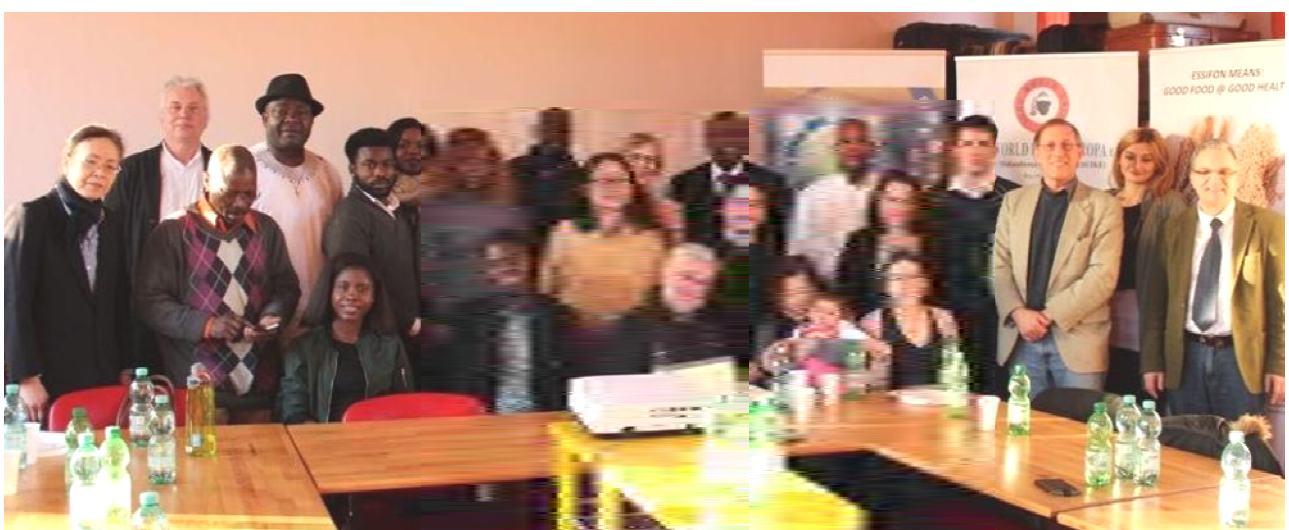
The Hon. Osamende Edorodion then gave a talk in which he emphasized that not only European and other foreign powers, but also Africans themselves were involved in the slave trade. Motivated by greed and envy, they sold their fellow men. He continued by stressing that improved education and training is urgently needed to increase the opportunities for a better life.

Finally, journalist Joseph Uchenna Ukeje presented his analysis of African society by considering the case of the Nigerian civil war. A proverb says, "If the problems in Nigeria are resolved, they will be solved throughout Africa." Nigeria, which emerged from colonization in 1914 and gained independence in 1960, had from the beginning suffered from the intermingling of two very different cultures. The south had a more democratic culture, while the north had an autocratic tradition, resulting in still unresolved conflicts causing many to flee.



The event was brought to a close with the presentation of an Ambassador for Peace certificate to Nze Christian Ike Nwosu, accepted on his behalf by Chief Onyeike.

This program gave us much new knowledge about Africa, and we are inspired to hold further similar events in Bremen.



*Ulrich Ganz*