

Chris Gracey  
Executive Summary  
Tonya Public Affairs Internship Summer 2010  
Falling Whistles

Falling Whistles is a campaign for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Looking at the past, this dream for peace is one that many would call impossible, but as Herman Melville said, “the past is the text-book of tyrants; the future is the bible of the free.” As an intern at Falling Whistles this past summer, I was able to look to the future and join this campaign for peace. This summer was the toughest, most intense, demanding, inspiring, joyous, engaging, challenging, educating, and exhausting period of my life. This was no coffee fetching internship.

I was warned that this internship was “not for the faint of heart,” and they were right. All of the nine interns worked a minimum of fifty hours a week, and there were some weeks that we worked well over sixty hours. Because of these hours, the intensity of our work, and the nature of the goal we jointly pursued we were able to become a tight knit community.

As a part of the Research and Development Department, I was given a broad range of assignments to accomplish on my own. My first assignment was to compile a list of whistleblowers from all throughout history to be used in the new film that was shot over the summer. These whistleblowers would be people who looked at the world, saw that it could be so much better, and then took steps to make it better. These people ranged from the well known: Ghandi, MLK jr, and Nelson Mandela, to those who made a difference that we in America might not have heard about: Aki Ra, Thích Quảng Đức, and Vaclav Havel.

My second assignment was to begin finding and applying to various grants to gain money to fund Falling Whistles’ operation and various projects. I researched funds and foundations alike, drafted many letters of inquiry, and I even wrote out a full project proposal for \$200,000 for Falling Whistles’ installations department. As a part of this I began assembling budget information from each of the departments to compile in a full Falling Whistles budget that will detail the entirety of the expenditures requisite for operations and for the various projects undertaken in the future.

With a month left of the internship I began working on the *Free World Reader*, a book that uses the narrative of the oppressed in Congo to provide context as to why the world is not free. I was to edit and rewrite the book so that it could be handed over to the designers in the fall. Along with the *Free World Reader*, I was to rewrite the *Breakdown*, the document that gives a short, easily accessible history of the conflict in Congo. Falling Whistles will be taking copies of this document around with them on the upcoming Fall Tour to hand out to people who want to learn more about the conflict.

Through all of these experiences I was able to change my words about human rights into actions for human rights. This internship has increased my resolve to pursue a lifestyle of pursuing peace. I would highly recommend this internship to anyone who has interest in working long hours to create a freer world.