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**PeacePlayers International - Cyprus Basketball Camp features  
Brooklyn Nets Coach Doug Overton and  
Brook Lopez visits PeacePlayers International - Northern Ireland**

**NICOSIA, CYPRUS AND BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND** – PeacePlayers International – Cyprus organized a Basketball Camp in Cyprus’ Agros Mountains for youth ages 12 to 16 from Friday, July 27 through Wednesday, August 1, 2012. The camp brought together 32 Greek-Cypriot and 32 Turkish-Cypriot youth to play basketball, develop new friendships, and work together for a more peaceful future for their shared island.

Brooklyn Nets Assistant Coach, Doug Overton and his wife Chanel, were special guests at the camp. Coach Overton led basketball sessions as well as a seminar on player development and player motivation.

“The PeacePlayers Basketball Camp is a great way to promote peace, and develop long lasting friendships between Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot youth. Having someone like Coach Overton as a part of the camp infuses new energy into our efforts, and the kids and coaches learned so much from him,” said Marina Vasilara, PeacePlayers – Cyprus Managing Director.

The PeacePlayers International – Cyprus Basketball Camp was supported by the US Embassy’s Bicomunal Support Program, the Brooklyn Nets, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation and AVG Technologies.

During the past month PeacePlayers International – Northern Ireland ran the Belfast Interface Games (B.I.G.) using its experience of bridging divides through basketball and partnering with the governing bodies of the three largest, and traditionally segregated, Irish sports: Ulster Council of Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), and the Irish Football Association (IFA) to lead a series of events and trainings using sport for social change across the city of Belfast. Protestant and Catholic young people participated in the region’s most popular sports together on integrated teams, and the program used proven sport-based techniques to challenge stereotypes, nurture development of positive relationships and empower young leaders to effect positive change in their communities for a more peaceful future.

Brooklyn Nets player Brook Lopez participated in the Belfast Interface Games flagship event on Friday, August 10, 2012.

"Brook was wonderful with the kids. He jumped right in and played soccer, rugby, basketball and Gaelic football. His enthusiasm and energy were contagious and made the event even more special," says Brendan Tuohey, Executive Director of PeacePlayers International.

The Belfast Interface Games were supported by Belfast PEACE III Plan by the European Union’s “European Regional Development Fund.”

The Brooklyn Nets will also be recognized this summer at PeacePlayers Internatiopnal – Middle East’s peace education retreat to help develop youth leaders into coaches in Israel.

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**About PeacePlayers International:** Celebrating its 11th year, inspired by the belief that “children who play together can learn to live together,” PeacePlayers International (PPI) is one of the world’s most innovative peacebuilding organizations and a leader in the use of sport for social change. Through a groundbreaking peacebuilding-and-leadership development curriculum, PeacePlayers International uses basketball to bring children together and teach them proven tactics for improving their communities. Since its inception, PeacePlayers has reached over 53,000 children and currently operates year-round programs in South Africa, Northern Ireland, Israel and the West Bank, and Cyprus and runs a technical assistance program to train other organizations to implement sport for development projects.