

Annual Report 2006-2007



The Struggle for Democracy: Human Rights Defenders on the Frontlines



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

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Photo (cover page)

Su Su Nway, activist from Burma and recipient of Rights & Democracy's 2006 John Humphrey Freedom Award. Su Su Nway courageously fought against the forced labour system imposed by Burma's military junta and won a historic legal victory against the regime in 2005. It was the first ever ruling against the military regime's longstanding use of this practice.

Photo: Democratic Voice of Burma

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MANDATE

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) is a non-partisan Canadian institution created by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It has a mandate to promote, advocate and defend internationally the democratic and human rights set out in the United Nations International Bill of Human Rights. In cooperation with civil society and governments in Canada and abroad, Rights & Democracy implements and supports programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.

Rights & Democracy works at the national, regional and international levels. Its expertise is concentrated on the themes of democratic development, women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and economic and social rights (formerly globalization and human rights). It also addresses several other issues related to its mandate: the strengthening of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, the defence of civil liberties in the context of the war against terrorism and the impact of religious fundamentalisms on human rights.

Rights & Democracy receives most of its funding from Canada's Overseas Development Assistance Budget through Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency. Each year, the Chair of the Board of Directors submits a report on the activities of Rights & Democracy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who tables it in Parliament. The financial accounts and transactions are examined annually by the Auditor General of Canada. Rights & Democracy is a non-profit charitable organization that accepts charitable donations (registration number: 0808345-59).

Directed by Jean-Louis Roy since August 2002 (by Warren Allmand from 1997 to 2002 and Edward Broadbent from 1989 to 1996), Rights & Democracy is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors. Its Chairperson is Janice Stein.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Krulik



The increase in our institution's core budget from Parliament over the past two years, as well as a major effort to raise additional funds from public and private sources, have allowed a significant expansion of our work to concretely implement human rights. As a result, we continue to support human rights defenders who work on the frontlines and risk their lives for human rights and democracy. We are also working more systematically with a growing list of international partners, to create or strengthen national and local institutions, in addition to our ongoing advocacy for the full recognition and respect of human rights by States at the regional and international levels.

Over the last years, we have refocused our programming at the national level in a smaller number of priority countries. Significant financial resources have been invested in our Democratic Development mandate to develop longer-term country-engagement strategies. We have continued to support the development of our human rights programmes: Women's Rights, Indigenous Peoples Rights and (the recently renamed) Social and Economic Rights. Furthermore, we have dedicated efforts to reach out to the next generation of human rights defenders in Canada and in developing countries. Finally, I am particularly proud to say that we have made significant steps in building a culture of evaluation, learning and accountability for our institution.

I would like to conclude by thanking Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) and Sofia Macher (Peru), two outgoing international members of our Board, for their strong commitment and contribution. And I welcome our new international members, Sima Samar (Afghanistan) and Guido Riveros Franck (Bolivia), who joined the Board this year.

Many challenges lie ahead of us, but I am confident that this institution, along with its management and staff, will be up to the challenge.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Stein".

Janice Stein

Members of the Board of Directors

Baha R. Abu-Laban (Canada); Peter S. Li (Canada); Saad Eddin Ibrahim (Egypt), Nancy Riche (Canada); Guido Riveros Franck (Bolivia), Jean-Louis Roy, President (Canada); Sima Samar (Afghanistan); Michael Small (Canada); and Janice Stein, Chair of the Board of Directors (Canada).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Chris Kralik



Five years already! The end of a mandate, the results of which are in this report for everyone to see.

First and foremost, we succeeded in increasing the relevance of Rights & Democracy within the Canadian system. Created by Parliament, our institution took steps in 2006 to enrich its dialogue with Parliament and its committees, political parties and the senior public service. We also expanded our partnerships with several Canadian civil society organizations.

A renewed team with fresh ideas: an institutional culture now focused on achieving results and on-going evaluation; the capacity to respond to emergencies; and the ability to convey our messages within Canada and around the world. In 2006, our Web sites had one million hits—a threefold increase in the number of visitors.

Much has been achieved: a five-year plan focussing on national-level programming, as stipulated by our mandate; making women's rights a major component of our action; prioritizing the rights of indigenous peoples, giving full recognition to social and economic rights; and creating bold new initiatives, including the activities of more than 40 Rights & Democracy Network delegations created in universities here and around the world.

Enhanced human and financial resources: from 27 to 42 employees in the last five years; from \$4.9 million to \$8.8 million for our core budget, and over \$3.3 million in additional resources in the last two years. For the next three years, we have a commitment of \$5 million from the Canadian International Development Agency to enrich some of our country programmes.

The results speak of team commitment involving our Board of Directors, and our partners in Canada and abroad, as well as rigorous management devoted to achieving our core mandate: the fulfilment of all human rights through the establishment of democracy for all humankind.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jean-Louis Roy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jean-Louis Roy

In 2006-2007, 15% of our total income, that is, over \$1.5 million, came from sources other than our annual parliamentary allocation.

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OUR PROGRAMMING

This fiscal year (2006-2007) is the second year of our five-year programming plan (2005-2010). Prepared by our programming team and members of the management, the plan is reviewed every year by our Board of Directors. Our priority countries are: Afghanistan, Burma, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Some of these countries are new to our programming, while others we have been working in for several years. We also work at the regional level, at the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and at the international level, where we follow the work of the Human Rights Council and its special mechanisms.

Our programmes are generally implemented over a three-year period; they follow clear objectives, identify needs in terms of communication and include phase-by-phase evaluations. For the most part, our programmes incorporate the search for additional funding. Important resources are also reserved for emergency interventions in countries where the democratic process is gaining momentum and where we must take action in "real time." This year, we enriched our programmes to include Mauritania.

In all cases, we work with civil society partners, public institutions and international organizations. Together, we work to develop practices and institutions that promote sustainable democratic development and, of course, the protection of human rights.

Who is a Human Rights Defender?

The expression "human rights defenders" designates men and women who, as individuals or groups, are working peacefully to promote human rights and the implementation of rights recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and guaranteed by various international instruments and national laws. Human rights defenders are defined essentially by what they do to guarantee the rights of others, rather than as a function of who they are (their occupation, title or the organization with whom they are associated): lawyers defending political prisoners and their right to a fair trial, mothers of disappeared persons demanding the truth about the fate of their children, journalists, professors, unionists and environmentalists fighting for the respect of economic rights, indigenous and peasant communities that mobilize for recognition of their rights, as well as organizations struggling against the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations.

DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

Promoting the Development of Democratic Practices and Institutions

In over 80 countries, fighting for the respect of human rights is a dangerous endeavour, particularly in countries in conflict situations and where the judiciary does not have the strength or independence to prosecute human rights abusers. Individuals and organizations who fight every day for the advancement of human rights and democracy are often targeted by authorities or by non-state actors, and their lives threatened. This is the context in which Rights & Democracy supports the work of individuals and organizations in developing countries fighting to strengthen democratic institutions where they exist or to create them where they do not.



Population (in 2005):

31,478,000 inhabitants

Government:

Constitutional monarchy

Last elections:

October 1, 2002. Next legislative elections planned for September 7, 2007.

Human Development Index (rank/177 countries):

123 (medium), upward trend

MOROCCO: Supporting an Emergent Democracy

From February 11 to 18, 2007, Rights & Democracy, in partnership with Elections Canada, hosted 13 media professionals from Morocco to help them understand the procedures and ethical rules for ensuring fair and balanced media coverage of elections in Canada. During the mission, they participated in a working session in Ottawa with the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, and attended meetings with representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and political parties (Bloc Québécois and New Democratic Party). In Montreal, they met representatives of the firm Léger Marketing, members of the Conseil de presse du Québec as well as journalists from the French daily *Le Devoir* and Radio-Canada.

From March 17 to 27, 2007, Rights & Democracy and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) organized an election observer mission to Quebec for representatives of four Moroccan political parties. This mission coincided with the campaign for the election of a new Quebec government, which was set for March 26, 2007. The four political parties represented were the Mouvement populaire (MP), the Parti pour le progrès et le socialisme (PPS), the Rassemblement national des

indépendants (RNI) and the Union socialiste des forces populaires (USFP). The delegation had several meetings with representatives of Quebec's provincial political parties (Parti libéral du Québec, Parti québécois and Action démocratique du Québec), representatives of Elections Canada and Élections Québec, candidates, organizers and journalists (*Le Devoir*), in order to become familiar with practices regarding political organization and communication in Quebec. As a result, the members of the delegation were able to better understand the functioning of Quebec's electoral system as well as its provincial and federal institutions.

In partnership with the Association régionale de développement du Gharb (ARDG), based in Sidi Yahia in the Gharb, Rights & Democracy recently launched a project with the aim of reinforcing the structural and organizational capacity of ARDG and to support it in its efforts to work with youth in the region. Living in one of the marginalized regions of the kingdom, youth in Sidi Yahia have limited space to express themselves. Over the next three years, young women and men between the ages of 15 and 25 will have an opportunity to receive training on human rights and democratic values as well as advocacy through education and awareness tools. Moreover, within the framework of certain courses offered at the school in Ibn Zaydoun (the only secondary school in the region), students will be introduced to the principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as concepts related to human rights and democracy. They will also be invited to participate in setting up a specialized media library at their school on issues pertaining to human rights and democratic development.

At its meeting in June 2006, the Board of Directors decided to organize Rights & Democracy's annual international conference in Morocco. Following major consultations with the Collectif Démocratie et Modernité, it was decided that the conference would be held on June 8 and 9, 2007, in Casablanca. Co-organized by Rights & Democracy and the Collectif Démocratie et Modernité, it will bring together international Canadian and Moroccan experts and actors, around the theme of "Democracy, a Universal Value?"

These interventions in Morocco are part of a long-term commitment. In 2004, Rights & Democracy produced a study with Moroccan researchers on democratic development in Morocco. This publication served as a reference for a National Forum and a series of regional meetings organized by Espace Associatif and supported by Rights & Democracy.

Human Rights Defenders at a Glance

Morocco is in the process of democratizing and is moving away from the "liberalized autocracy" model that characterized the country for so long. Since 1990, Morocco has made major strides with regard to human rights. King Mohammed VI's accession to the throne in 1999 raised high hopes for human rights defenders. Civil society organizations and state institutions have undertaken efforts to modernize and democratize, as well as to tackle the problem of impunity for serious and systematic crimes of the past, particularly "disappearances" and torture. Current legislation continues to significantly restrict freedom of the press and imposes severe sentences. Criticizing the monarchy or expressing negative comments about the royal family is punishable by three to five years in prison. In some instances, the police still use undue force to disperse or arrest demonstrators.

ZIMBABWE: Denouncing and Documenting Human Rights Violations

For several years, the human rights situation in Zimbabwe has continued to deteriorate. The repressive regime of President Robert Mugabe continues to perpetrate human rights violations, brutally oppose public protest and stifle any form of criticism. With an inflation rate that exceeded 1700% in 2006-2007 and an unemployment rate between 70% and 80%, the Mugabe regime continues to hold power by crippling democratic forces and silencing civil society actors.



Population (in 2005):

13,010,000 inhabitants

Government:

Presidential. Although the Constitution stipulates free elections and universal suffrage, President Robert Mugabe has been controlling the country with an iron fist for over 20 years.

Last elections:

March 31, 2005

Human Development Index

(rank/177 countries):

151 (low), downward trend

Rights & Democracy invited Gabriel Shumba, Executive Director of Zimbabwean Exiles Forum (ZEF), to Canada to raise awareness among Canadians about the human rights situation in his country. As part of a tour that took place from October 11 to November 7, 2006,

Mr. Shumba met with Canadians in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and St. John's. He also met with parliamentarians as well as several government and non-governmental representatives. In the media spotlight, the tour allowed Mr. Shumba to present the preliminary results of his work, supported by Rights & Democracy, to gather testimonials from victims of human rights violations in Zimbabwe and South Africa. The number of economic and political refugees from Zimbabwe who have fled to South Africa is estimated at three million.

Thanks to the financial and institutional support of Rights & Democracy, ZEF has collected over 250 testimonials of Zimbabwean victims of human rights violations. Of these, 154 were recorded and could possibly be used as court evidence. Five of these cases were submitted officially to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and are currently being examined. Rights & Democracy lent support to some of the victims to enable them to testify before the African Commission. In addition, several new cases will be submitted to the African Commission in the coming year.

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Gabriel Shumba,
Zimbabwean Exiles Forum

Rights & Democracy also pursued its advocacy work to encourage Canada, along with other nations, to play a leading role in ending Zimbabwe's massive human rights violations. Last June, Canada's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade adopted a motion requesting that the Minister of Justice examine the possibility of invoking Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act against President Mugabe for human rights violations committed in Zimbabwe, and release his conclusions before November 15, 2006. Given the Canadian government's decision not to play a leading role, Rights & Democracy continues to pressure the government to take concrete action against President Mugabe's reign of impunity.

For 2007-2008, ZEF and Rights & Democracy plan to extend their investigative work to Botswana and to set up a databank in order to document human rights violations. This databank will be useful for victims and their representatives who may wish to obtain reparations when political change comes to Zimbabwe. An observer mission at the Beitbridge border is also planned in order to document the illegal crossing of Zimbabweans into South Africa.

Human Rights Defenders at a Glance

The situation of human rights defenders in Zimbabwe is considered to be one of the worst on the African continent. In 2006, human rights defenders were regularly subjected to harassment, death threats, torture, arbitrary arrests and detention. Representatives of several NGOs received death threats, were targeted by defamation campaigns and had their funds from foreign sources cut.

The human rights situation is further threatened by the adoption of new and particularly restrictive legislation that goes against the Constitution as well as international human rights standards. Originally presented as a way to protect national security or to facilitate access to information, these laws allowed the government to silence its opponents and detractors and to quell any possibility of debate in Zimbabwe. The Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act came into effect on July 1, 2006 as yet another weapon in an already extremely repressive legal arsenal.

COLOMBIA: An Expanded Programme to Support Democratic Development

Mired in 40 years of civil war, Colombia's humanitarian crisis is the worst in the Americas. The indigenous population has been the hardest hit, often caught in the middle of the conflict, with the parties fighting to control the rich natural resources on their territories.



Population (in 2005):

42,090,502 inhabitants

Nature of regime:

Presidential

Last elections:

May 28, 2006. The mandate of President Álvaro Uribe, in power since 2002, was renewed in the first round until 2010.

Human Development Index

(rank/177 countries):

70 (medium), upward trend

Last year, Rights & Democracy expanded its programming in Colombia to work on democratic development. A partnership was formed with the Institute for Popular Training (Instituto Popular de Capacitación, IPC), an organization based in Medellín, in order to accompany local deliberative and consultative bodies in the region of Antioquia known as constituent assemblies. Composed of social actors

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Members of the International Verification Mission with Colombian indigenous people.

from several sectors of the various municipalities, these assemblies are mandated to explore questions related to peace and development as well as guidelines for citizen participation (development plans and participatory budgets). This three-year project has multiple phases, including participatory research on the constituent assemblies, activities to build organizational capacities and to raise the visibility of the work of the constituent assemblies, a popular education campaign and the implementation of a long-term training programme (a school). This initiative will serve as a pilot project for other communities in the country interested in embarking on a similar process.

We also continued our work on indigenous peoples' rights in Colombia. From September 19 to 26, 2006, we participated in the mission to monitor the recommendations issued in 2004 by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, during his visit to Colombia. Organized by the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (*Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia* – ONIC), through its National Indigenous Council for Peace (*Consejo Nacional Indígena de Paz* – CONIP), the goal of the mission was to assess compliance with the recommendations in terms of the current situation of indigenous peoples. Of Colombia's 84 indigenous peoples, 12 are on the verge of extinction; most of these communities live in the Amazonas, Putumayo and Guaviare regions.

Five regions were visited by the mission, which included representatives of various human rights and civil society organizations from Europe, Latin America, the United States and Canada, as well as United Nations observers and several embassies. Interviews were conducted with indigenous communities, local civilian populations and military authorities, as well as with representatives of the United Nations and the government in Bogota. Mission representatives also participated in the National Indigenous Women's Forum and the National Forum for the Survival of Indigenous Peoples, which enabled them to better understand the violations perpetrated against indigenous peoples.

As a follow-up to this mission, Rights & Democracy, in collaboration with York University's Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), organized a conference in Toronto on March 15 and 16, 2007, entitled *Ethnicity, Violence and Exclusion in Colombia: The Struggles of Indigenous and Afro-Colombians*. Attended by activists, academics and indigenous and Afro-Colombian representatives, the conference examined the dramatic situation facing these communities and explored possible solutions.

Kathy Price



Kimy Pernía Domicó, leader of the Embera Katio indigenous people, was kidnapped on June 2, 2001 by armed men on motorcycles from his village of Tierralta, in the province of Cordoba. The 2003 John Humphrey Freedom Award laureate, Kimy led the efforts of the Embera Katio to attract international attention to the repercussions of the Urra hydroelectric dam on their ancestral lands and traditional

way of life. In February 2007, Salvatore Mancuso, a Colombian paramilitary commander, revealed that he plotted Kimy's kidnapping and assassination, and, in an effort to discredit him, stated that Kimy had been involved in guerrilla activity. In response to this confession, Rights & Democracy, along with other human rights organizations such as Amnesty International (Canada) and KAIROS, led a campaign to support the Embera Katio of Colombia in their efforts to refute the allegations against Kimy and demand that those responsible for his assassination be brought to justice. Among other things, we published a letter to the Colombian government, signed by 61 Canadian parliamentarians and over 40 civil society organizations, in the daily newspaper *El Tiempo*, on February 12, 2007.

Human Rights Defenders at a Glance

Colombia continues to be a dangerous place for human rights defenders, unionists, academics and journalists who speak out against the armed conflict and the human rights situation in the country. Even the mildest criticism can lead to reprisals from belligerents involved in the conflict. In the 2006 and 2007 reports on the human rights situation in Colombia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights denounced the difficult situation for human rights defenders in the country.

The corruption and impunity of government, police and army authorities persist. Despite some progress in normative terms, violations are regularly perpetrated against the most vulnerable groups. These violations are very rarely investigated, and their perpetrators are virtually never brought to justice. In June 2006, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressed its concern about the situation of human rights defenders and called on the Colombian government to fulfill its judicial responsibilities, adopt measures to protect human rights defenders and support victims of human rights violations.

HAITI: Civil Society Benefits from Advocacy Training

Haiti experienced a significant improvement in its democratic development in 2006, with successful presidential, parliamentary and local elections, as well as a marked improvement in the security situation as the year came to a close. Enormous challenges remain, however, specifically with respect to the consolidation of democratic institutions and the rule of law, and the strengthening of state-society relations. Rights & Democracy's programme in Haiti aims to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and human rights. In the past year, we achieved some important results.



Population (in 2005):

8,528,000 inhabitants

Nature of the regime:

Presidential

Last elections:

Presidential and legislative: February 7, 2006 (first round); April 21, 2006 (second round); local and municipal: December 3, 2006.

Human Development Index (rank/177 countries):

154 (low), stable

Following the opening of our office in Port-au-Prince, Rights & Democracy developed a comprehensive advocacy training manual and user's guide for our training programme. The advocacy training programme has already benefited over 200 people (40% of which are women) from 50 civil society groups originating from seven of Haiti's 10 provinces or *départements*. Participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the training and are eager to embark on the development and implementation of advocacy campaigns. Rights & Democracy is following up with many of our partners to provide them with technical assistance in the design of these campaigns.

In early 2007, Rights & Democracy forged a partnership with the Groupe d'appui aux rapatriés et réfugiés (GARR) to provide them with training, technical and financial assistance for an advocacy campaign to strengthen the civil registration and national identification system in Haiti. A universal civil registration and national identification system is fundamental to

After ten or so days in Canada, these youth returned to their country with a general idea of Canada's democratic structure and a more accurate picture of the concerns of Canadian youth in terms of important issues in their country. Through intensive debate and discussion, the ground was laid for the construction of real bridges between Haitian and Canadian youth to reflect together on how to build our democracies.

Lorraine Mangonès, General Programmes Coordinator, FOKAL, at the follow-up seminar to the Wave of the Future project, on April 12, 2007 in Haiti.

the protection of human rights and essential for a functioning democracy. By partnering with GARR, Rights & Democracy aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society to influence public policy, and to contribute to the progressive realization of Haitians' rights to an identity.

Increasing the participation of youth in democracy is also a priority for Rights & Democracy in Haiti. The majority of Haitians are under the age of 30, yet they are largely absent from the major debates taking place in the country. Through a project called Wave of the Future, Rights & Democracy invited nine Haitian youth who are active in the social and cultural life of their communities to Canada to experience first-hand the ways in which Canadian youth participate in their democracy. The Haitian participants joined Canadian students from R&D's university Network, as well as experts from Haiti and Canada, in a two-day workshop in February 2007 to identify obstacles and formulate proposals to increase the participation of youth in Haiti's democracy. Upon

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The team at our Haiti office (left to right): Danièle Magloire, Coordinator; François Démésier, trainer; Claudy Cauvin, Administrator; Yves Saint-Louis, Messenger-Receptionist; Josette Montmaitre, Maintenance and Jean-Raymond Jean, Driver. Open since March 2006, our office receives financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency.

returning to Haiti, the participants held a nationally televised conference at the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL) in Port-au-Prince to share their experiences with other youth, in the hopes of creating a national dialogue on youth participation.

Human Rights Defenders at a Glance

Defending human rights has been a dangerous undertaking in Haiti in recent years due to successive authoritarian and repressive regimes. While illegal armed groups and criminal gangs continue to operate in Haiti, they are not thought to be government-directed. Indeed, the Haitian National Police, itself a long-standing human rights violator, has taken significant steps, in conjunction with the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), towards neutralizing armed groups and restoring security in Port-au-Prince.

While the security situation has improved, and human rights defenders are able to operate free of repression and threats, obstacles remain. Accused human rights violators, especially those accused of gender-based violence, often intimidate victims, witnesses and women's rights groups when cases are brought to trial. The largely dysfunctional judicial system perpetuates a pattern of widespread impunity in Haiti, with many crimes against human rights defenders going unpunished. Those responsible for the murders of journalists Jean Dominique, Brignol Lindor and Jacques Roche have yet to be brought to justice. There are also a number of legal and administrative impediments in Haiti to forming civil society organizations, thus hindering defenders' right to free association.

RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY LAUNCHES NEW PROJECTS

In the first quarter of 2007, Rights & Democracy launched several new projects in China, Indonesia, Bolivia and Mauritania. These are all new countries for Rights & Democracy, which is in the second year of implementing its programming.

CHINA

In March 2007, Rights & Democracy concluded a partnership with the Human Rights Centre of the Chinese Communist Party Central School with the goal of promoting discussion on human rights and democratic development in China. The Chinese Communist Party Central School is mandated to train a new generation of Chinese decision-makers and to advise the Chinese central power in public policy matters. The activities that will be organized in the coming year include the organization of a joint seminar in China and study visits in Canada and China. For their first visit to Canada, which will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the professors at the Communist Party Central School will learn more about the Canadian democratic process and relations between government and civil society.

Rights & Democracy also pursued its training activities with Chinese environmental NGOs, with the goal of promoting citizen participation and supporting the development of Chinese civil society. From June 2006 to June 2007, within the framework of a pilot project, we supported several training sessions, in addition to providing customized accompaniment to some 20 grassroots organizations from several regions in China. The purpose of the training sessions was to encourage the professionalization of NGOs with emphasis on participation, volunteer work and democratic governance.



Training workshop with Chinese environmental NGOs.

Other Rights & Democracy Country Programmes

In addition to countries compiled in the Democratic Development section, we also work in Afghanistan (p. 20), the Democratic Republic of Congo (p. 21) and Burma (p. 31).

We also recently started working in Sudan, where we plan to carry out activities to strengthen the new National Human Rights Commission in South Sudan. We will continue our work in Jordan, where we are working to promote youth participation, specifically through training workshops to build their advocacy capacities and practices. Lastly, we continue to work with our partners in Côte d'Ivoire, where, over the last year, we conducted a mid-term evaluation of our activities.

INDONESIA

Human rights and citizen participation in public decision-making have advanced significantly in Indonesia since the end of the authoritarian regime in 1998. However, a stumbling block in Indonesia's democratic development remains the lack of civilian control over the security sector. In early 2007, Rights & Democracy launched a project in partnership with a working group of Indonesian civil society organizations to promote security sector reform. As part of this project, Rights & Democracy and its partners will conduct a critical examination of Indonesian civil society's role and impact in bringing about security sector reform in Indonesia. Drawing on interviews and focus groups with state and non-state actors around the country, Rights & Democracy and its partners aim to design effective advocacy strategies to influence security sector related legislation on the current Indonesian parliamentary calendar. To complement work undertaken in Indonesia, Rights & Democracy also conducts important advocacy activities on Indonesia in Canada, specifically as a founding and active member of the Canadian Advocacy Group on Indonesia. A high-profile advocacy visit to Canada by noted Indonesian human rights activists is planned for 2007.

BOLIVIA

In December 2005, Bolivians opted for change by electing Evo Morales to the presidency. To counter the effects of 20 years of neoliberal policies, drastic measures were taken in this country, the poorest in South America. Most notably, the government took control of natural resources and created social programmes for marginalized populations—particularly the majority indigenous population. Bolivia committed itself to building a plurinational, multiethnic and intercultural state. To achieve this, a Constituent Assembly was decreed, and became active in August 2006, in an effort, according to the President, to radically transform the country.

Since the beginning of the year, Rights & Democracy has supported leading indigenous organizations in formulating their proposals to ensure that the new Constitution grants them the status and rights that racism and exclusion have deprived them of for over 500 years. In the coming year, our programming in Bolivia will contribute to promoting legal pluralism, which includes the integration of indigenous justice mechanisms into the national justice system. We will also address the political participation of women in local structures, which are expected to be modified by the new Constitution. Moreover, we will continue to support the participation of indigenous organizations in the Organization of American States and UN bodies. In Canada, an advisory group including government and non-government actors interested in Bolivia will be created in order to promote joint action and the exchange of information on policies and aid programmes related to Bolivia.

MAURITANIA

Ever since the coup d'état in August 2005, which brought an end to 28 years of military dictatorship, Rights & Democracy has carefully monitored Mauritania's progress in terms of the authorities' commitment to a democratic transition. Following the referendum in June 2006 and the elections in November of that year, Rights & Democracy sent an exploratory mission to Nouakchott. This was an opportunity for broad consultations with civil society organizations, national authorities and representatives of international institutions working in the country.

In February 2007, the President of Rights & Democracy travelled to Mauritania, where he met all of the presidential candidates. The outcome of this work was a new programme funded by our Urgent Actions and Important Opportunities Fund to:

- 1) provide support to organizations of the new National Human Rights Commission;
- 2) support programmes of the Mauritanian Human Rights Association;
- 3) host a delegation in Canada, in collaboration with the NDI office in Nouakchott, of the main political parties represented in the Mauritanian national assembly in order to learn more about Canada's political institutions, their mandate and how they function.

Project Hope



Rights & Democracy supports a project in Nablus in the West Bank led by the organization Project Hope which works with children and youth living in conflict zones. Spread out over a period of three years, youth between the ages of 13 and 25 living in refugee camps on the outskirts of the city of Nablus will have access to 416 training workshops on issues related to democracy, human rights, women's rights, youth rights, social justice, civil society and civic engagement. This training is designed to promote the development of a critical perspective among youth, to teach them the art of debate and advocacy, and to encourage them to become social and political leaders in their communities, in addition to developing peaceful conflict resolution skills.

EVALUATING OUR ACTION IN AFRICA AND THE AMERICAS

For several years, Rights & Democracy has supported the creation and consolidation of regional human rights protection mechanisms in Africa and the Americas, particularly the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). During 2006–2007, we conducted two external evaluations. Their objective was to measure the impact of our activities and the relevance of our partnerships in advancing human rights at the regional level. This work enabled us to measure the results obtained over the last few years, and adjust our programming accordingly in Africa and in the Americas.



A few observations for Africa

- Rights & Democracy's regional programming is a relevant and appropriate mechanism for bringing issues related to human rights and democratic development in Africa to the political level.
- Rights & Democracy's partnership with the African Commission of Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) is strategic and provides a rare synergy between civil society and African states.

A few observations for the Americas

- Rights & Democracy's regional programming developed several solid partnerships with civil society organizations, as well as with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Canadian delegation to the OAS. These partnerships are a major accomplishment of the programme and have produced significant results.

- Formal mechanisms for civil society participation at the OAS have been introduced, thanks in particular to the support of Rights & Democracy, the Centro por la justicia y el derecho internacional (CEJIL) and the International Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas. Civil society now plays a more active role in the OAS, particularly in presenting demands for the protection of human rights. Improving existing participation mechanisms, however, will require sustained effort.
- While Canada has still not ratified the American Convention on Human Rights, the work accomplished by Rights & Democracy has had a significant impact and contributed to advancing the discussions on ratification.

Strengthening a Culture of Evaluation

As a public institution with an international mandate, Rights & Democracy has a unique responsibility for evaluating its programme work. We take this responsibility seriously, and are committed to being accountable to the Canadian public, to our partners, and to the women and men in developing countries for whom our work has the most direct implications. We also recognize that evaluation can make an important contribution to our efforts to promote, advocate and defend the democratic and human rights set out in the United Nations International Bill of Human Rights.

In 2006, Rights & Democracy embarked on an institutional process to reflect on the role and purpose of evaluation within the institution, to clarify the principles and criteria that guide evaluations at the programme level, and to make informed decisions on how to better plan for, manage, conduct and follow up on evaluations. Following consultation with the Board of Directors, management and programme staff, a new Evaluation Policy was developed to establish a common institutional basis for evaluation, and to encourage evaluative thinking and activity at all levels of our programme work.

The main purpose of evaluation at Rights & Democracy is to promote learning and accountability in order to enable the institution to better fulfill its mandate. In the upcoming year, we will conduct a number of important evaluations of our programme work, including:

- An evaluation of Rights & Democracy's project on capacity-building of environmental NGOs in China;
- An evaluation of Rights & Democracy's advocacy work for the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples over the past 7 years;
- An impact assessment of Rights & Democracy's *Documenting Women's Rights Violations* series in a number of Rights & Democracy's countries of intervention.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Defending Women's Rights in the Name of Justice

While women are on the frontlines of defending rights before, during and after a conflict, they are too often invisible and, above all, ignored by national, regional and international defence organizations as well as by donors and the administrators of justice. They often face intimidation and harassment, death threats, torture and mistreatment, including sexual violence (rape) or gender crimes. Moreover, because they defy social, religious and cultural norms of femininity and the role assigned to them, they are subject to prejudice, social exclusion and public repudiation by state and non-state actors, including members of their own community and family. Despite all of these obstacles, women activists make an exceptional contribution to the promotion and defence of human rights. In the last year, Rights & Democracy continued to support the actions of women's rights defenders and activists who fight every day for the protection and defence of their rights, for justice and to put an end to impunity.

Women's Right to Reparations

Too often, women and girls who suffer sexual violence during conflicts must endure the stigma, prejudice and exclusion that come with being labelled a victim of such crimes by their societies. The Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations, created and coordinated by Rights & Democracy, launched its new international campaign to guarantee women and girl survivors access to recourse so that they can obtain reparation and rebuild their lives within their communities.

From March 18 to 21, 2007, in Nairobi, Kenya, representatives of women's rights organizations from every continent took part in the international meeting on women's and girls' right to reparations, organized by Rights & Democracy and the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations. Participants included survivors of sexual violence as well as human rights defenders and women's rights activists from Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Guatemala, Kenya, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Africa.



Participants to the international meeting on women's and girls' right to reparations, Nairobi

Drafted at this meeting, the Nairobi Declaration is supported by several human rights organizations including the Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme (FIDH), Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. The Declaration is founded on the experience of women and girls who have survived sexual violence in conflict situations, and stresses the importance of social and sexual inequalities that exist well before the beginning of a conflict, and expands the definition of reparations beyond its legal meaning. The goal is not to restore women to their situation prior to the war or conflict, but rather

to transform that situation in order to overcome socio-cultural injustices and political and structural inequalities that predate the conflict. Reparation for women and girls is a question of social justice and must serve to restore their confidence, so that they can play an active role in rebuilding social relations and consolidating peace.

The Nairobi Declaration is the first stage of a vast international campaign for the right to reparations for women and girls. The goal is to ensure the adoption of the principles by states, multilateral and regional organizations and other national entities.

The Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations works to ensure that crimes committed against women during armed conflicts are investigated and brought to trial, while taking into account the daily reality of women and girl survivors of sexual violence. It ensures that the perpetrators of crimes of sexual violence are prosecuted in transitional justice systems based in Africa, in order to create precedents that recognize violence against women in conflict situations, and help survivors of sexual violence obtain justice and reparations. For more information on the Coalition's activities, visit their Web site: www.womensrightscoalition.org.

AFGHANISTAN: Promoting and Protecting Women's Rights

During 2006 – 2007, in its efforts to support women's rights in Afghanistan, Rights & Democracy renewed its agreement for four years with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The \$5 million project will contribute to supporting the Afghan government and civil society in their efforts to ensure that all laws governing the domestic sphere and women's rights respect the same standards across the country.

The main strategies that will be used to attain our objectives include supporting Afghan civil society in its efforts among all levels of society to rethink the family code in Afghanistan in terms of existing reforms or in discussion with the Muslim societies in Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Malaysia. We will also work to support civil society organizations who are developing a mandate to defend and promote women's rights. The project will be implemented in Kabul and Kandahar, as well as in four Afghan provinces: Balk, Herat, Kunduz and Ningarhar.

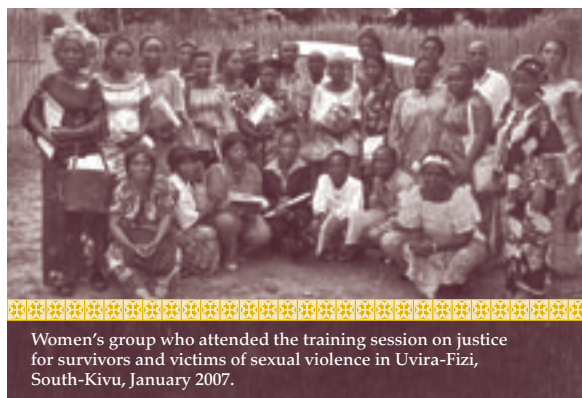
Since its creation by Rights & Democracy in 2002, the Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund has supported over 60 projects through funding from the Canadian International Development Agency. From its office in Kabul, Rights & Democracy is supporting its partners' projects with the goal of providing women with the means and tools to become agents of change. For more information on the projects or our activities in Afghanistan, visit the Fund's site: www.wraf.ca.

On September 23, 2006, in Montreal, members of the Afghan cabinet participated in a roundtable organized by Rights & Democracy on the promotion of the economic, social and legal rights of women and children and the cooperation of Canadian civil society with Afghanistan. For Rights & Democracy, guaranteeing stability in Afghanistan requires a long-term commitment in order to really entrench respect for human rights and the primacy of law in this country and to provide essential services such as health services, legal aid and education. The meeting, organized jointly with the Canadian International Development Agency, took place as part of an official visit by President Hamid Karzai and an Afghan ministerial delegation to Canada.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Ending Human Rights Violations and Impunity

The transition to democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) took a major step forward on July 30, 2006 when the Congolese went to the polls to elect members of the national legislative assembly and for the first round of presidential elections. These elections represented the first step toward a true democracy and, for women, the hope of obtaining justice for countless crimes of sexual violence related to the war.

During more than 10 years of armed conflict in Eastern DRC, tens of thousands of women and girls were the victims of gang rape and other forms of sexual violence committed by soldiers from the Congolese army and militias from numerous armed factions. In the last year, the Coalition of Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations, coordinated by Rights & Democracy, continued to support several



Women's group who attended the training session on justice for survivors and victims of sexual violence in Uvira-Fizi, South-Kivu, January 2007.

initiatives to bring an end to the culture of impunity that protects the perpetrators of these war crimes from justice.

In particular, the Coalition continued its advocacy work to ensure that sexual violence be investigated and that appropriate legal action is taken by the International Criminal Court (ICC)—which began investigating war crimes committed in the DRC in June 2004. We are working to improve women's access to justice at the national and regional level, by building the capacity of human rights and women's rights defenders in the DRC to investigate and document sexual violence. In February 2007, we returned to the DRC to give training workshops designed to help women's organizations in their work with survivors and victims of sexual violence, and to ensure that these crimes are fully investigated and brought to trial.

Rights & Democracy has supported the transition to democracy in the DRC for several years. This included assisting several civil society organizations in the DRC that were involved in preparing and observing the elections. We also supported a coalition of over 40 women's organizations from the eastern provinces of the DRC, known as ESSAIM, so that it could organize election observers in the regions of Ituri, Beni Butembo and Uvira Fizi. The vote on July 30 took place under the supervision of 50,000 Congolese observers and 1200 international observers, including a representative of Rights & Democracy.



On August 3, 2006, the exhibition *Dress Codes and Modes: Women's Dress in Some Muslim Countries and Communities* opened at the Montréal YMCA. The exhibition of 250 images featured paintings, drawings and photographs illustrating the richness and diversity of Muslim communities with a critical look at the very notion of a homogenous Muslim world. It traced the history of women's dress codes in Muslim communities across three continents and showed the myriad differences and similarities between dress codes and fashions in Egypt, Iran, Nigeria, South Asia and Turkey. Created by Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) and sponsored by Rights & Democracy, the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, the travelling exhibit stopped in Montreal from August 3 to 24, 2006 before moving on to Calgary, Winnipeg and Victoria.

RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Continuing the Struggle for Recognition of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples continue to be subjected to serious human rights violations. Around the world, most still confront major obstacles, including persistent discrimination. Full recognition of their rights has not been achieved and indigenous peoples do not have all the means they need to ensure their own development and to improve their socioeconomic conditions. Moreover, individuals and organizations that defend their rights often work in extremely difficult conditions and are often the target of attacks, threats, murder and summary executions, harassment and persecution. Rights & Democracy is pursuing its efforts to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are fully recognized and enshrined in international and regional legal standards.

Towards the Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The need to adopt a universal standard that guarantees the respect and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples has not yet been fulfilled. On November 28, 2006, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly deferred the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples until fall 2007, even though it had already been adopted by the Human Rights Council in June 2006. Disappointed, indigenous organizations and human rights organizations, including Rights & Democracy, strongly criticized this decision.

During 2006-2007, Rights and Democracy therefore continued its advocacy work on the political front in favour of adopting the Declaration as soon as possible. We attended several international meetings on the Declaration, including various sessions of the Human Rights Council devoted to the Declaration in June 2006 and March 2007, as well as a consultation meeting with the various organizations working on this issue, held in Mexico in September 2006. We also supported and participated in meetings of the Indigenous

Peoples' Caucus that were held in New York on January 15 and 16, 2007, in order to reinforce their advocacy initiatives among various United Nations bodies.

For over two decades, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been the focus of discussions around the world. If adopted, this non-binding instrument will encourage states and indigenous peoples to work together to meet the basic needs of indigenous individuals and communities, to help them exercise greater control over their lives and guarantee access to land and natural resources that are vital to their daily survival, well-being and culture. Right from the start, Rights & Democracy has been guiding and supporting the process to adopt the Declaration by promoting the participation of indigenous groups in decision-making mechanisms and by facilitating collaboration between government representatives and indigenous leaders, both in Canada and within the UN.



Martha Cecilia Domicó, daughter of the 2003 John Humphrey Freedom Award laureate, Kimy Pernía Domicó, was among the guests at the conference Ethnicity, Violence, and Exclusion in Colombia: The Struggles of the Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Peoples, organized by Rights & Democracy in collaboration with York University's Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), on March 15 and 16, 2007, in Toronto. Martha also spoke at an event organized in Montreal on March 19, 2007 by Rights & Democracy, York University's Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC) and the Latin American Human Rights Education and Research Network (RedLEIDH), in collaboration with Development and Peace and the Observatoire des Amériques of the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Indigenous Women at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

As part of a large-scale project to support the creation of jurisprudence specific to the reality of indigenous women, Rights & Democracy supported a delegation of indigenous women who received training on the inter-American system for human rights protection before travelling to Washington to present a thematic hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in October 2006. This initiative was intended to raise the Commission's awareness of the double discrimination facing indigenous women, as women and indigenous people, and to establish dialogue between indigenous women's organizations, national bodies that could protect their rights and the inter-American human rights system. It was important to raise the Inter-American Commission's awareness, given that the Commission will one day have to deal with specific cases of violations of indigenous women's rights.

The Special Rapporteur on the Situation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Assesses His Mandate

In October 2006, Rights & Democracy, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, hosted and organized an international expert seminar on the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Appointed by the Human Rights Council in 2001, Mr. Stavenhagen, whose mandate ends in 2007, is the first Special Rapporteur on these issues.

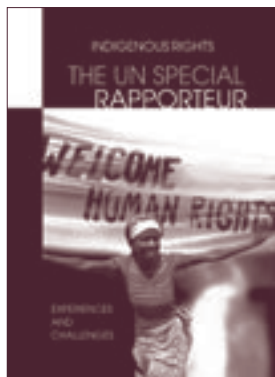
The objective of the seminar was to assess his achievements at the end of his mandate and to examine the implementation of recommendations arising from his visits to several countries (Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, Philippines, Chile, Ecuador, South Africa, Canada and New Zealand) and from thematic reports on the impact of mega-development projects, education, justice and the implementation of national and regional legislation.

The seminar brought together high profile international experts, including representatives of indigenous organizations, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. Through discussions, means were identified to maximize the impact of UN special mechanisms designed to ensure the respect of indigenous peoples' rights, such as the Special Rapporteur mechanism. The participants also identified new issues facing indigenous peoples and formulated recommendations for governments as well as indigenous and non-governmental organizations.



Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom of Indigenous Peoples

On March 20, 2006, as part of the activities organized around the Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva, Rights & Democracy, the Canadian Friends Services Committee, the International Working



The UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples Rights: Experiences and Challenges is available in English, French and Spanish. Copies can be ordered from Rights & Democracy (www.dd-rd.ca) and the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) (www.iwgia.org).

Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and Tebtebba released a joint publication entitled *The UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples Rights: Experiences and Challenges* arising from this seminar. The publication explains the role and responsibilities of the Special Rapporteur and reveals the best practices for implementing his recommendations.

The Continental Network of Indigenous Women Prepares its Fifth Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women (Enlace) met in Peru from February 6 to 9, 2007, to prepare for the fifth Intercontinental Meeting of Indigenous Women from the Americas to be held in July 2007 in Kahnawake, Quebec. Hundreds of indigenous women will gather on this occasion to articulate a common action programme that includes intellectual property rights, the promotion of non-violence, and the international recognition of indigenous peoples' rights. Rights & Democracy brings financial and logistical support to the preparation of this meeting.

Since 1993, Rights & Democracy has been supporting capacity-building for indigenous women and their member organizations within the Network, particularly with respect to intellectual property and through human rights training. Enlace is a network that allows indigenous women of the Americas to define common positions and to make their voices heard at international forums.



In light of the success of the first edition, Rights & Democracy, in partnership with Enlace and Quebec Native Women, prepared a second edition of its information kit Indigenous Women of the Americas published in 2004. This expanded edition includes an additional fact sheet to demystify the discrimination experienced by

indigenous women in Canada. It deals specifically with the repercussion of Bill C-31 on indigenous women in Canada. The second edition was launched on June 21, 2006, as part of the First Peoples' Festival held in Montreal.

GLOBALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Contributing to the Implementation of Social and Economic Rights

Since the beginning of her mandate in 2000, the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders has addressed over 368 communications to governments regarding defenders and activists working to advance economic, social and cultural rights. These defenders and activists are the targets of violence and threats by state and non-state actors. Most at risk are those active in the area of work-related rights, including union activities.

Rights & Democracy continues to work for the promotion and protection of social and economic rights by advocating the implementation of a human rights protection framework for global policies pertaining to the economy, development and governance. We also advocate to ensure that foreign investment projects respect international human rights standards and that the companies involved fulfill their obligations in terms of accountability. Since March 2007, the Globalization and Human Rights theme was renamed Social and Economic Rights.

Learning from the Human Rights Impact Assessments for Foreign Investments Projects

By launching a project in 2004 to develop and test a draft methodology to assess the impact of foreign investments on human rights, Rights & Democracy sought to give governments, investors and communities the tools to document these impacts.

In 2006-2007, Rights & Democracy released the results of the first phase of the project in a report entitled *Human Rights Impact Assessments for Foreign Investment Projects: Learning from Community Experiences in the Philippines, Tibet, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Argentina, and Peru*. Led by local research teams in five countries, with the support of the International Advisory Committee, this participatory research project documented the human rights impacts of foreign investment projects. Three cases studies looked at the impact of mining investments (Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru and Philippines), one looked at the impact of water privatization in Argentina and the other at the potential impacts of communications

technology along the Lhasa-Gormo railroad (Tibet/China). In four of the five case studies, the companies agreed to participate in the study.

Rights & Democracy organized an international meeting of the project partners, which brought together the teams from the five case studies and the International Advisory Committee from September 21 to 25, 2006 in South Africa. The objective of the meeting was to share the research results from the human rights impact assessments, identify the steps required to complete the case studies and refine the indicators for compliance with human rights standards. The recommendations issued from this meeting enabled the teams for each case study to return to the field with the information they needed to complete the research.

Nuria Becú (ACIJ)



Some consequences of water privatization in Argentina.

The report includes an overview of the debate on corporate social responsibility and human rights, a summary of the approach developed by the International Advisory Committee and the results of the case studies. This report is the first in a series of publications entitled *Investing in Human Rights* that will be produced by Rights & Democracy. The series will look at various aspects of the relationship between human rights and foreign investment. Volume 2 of the series, which will be published in 2008, will include a revised version of the methodology and research guide for human rights impact assessments.



The report Human Rights Impact Assessments for Foreign Investment Projects: Learning from Community Experiences in the Philippines, Tibet, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Argentina, and Peru is intended for governments as well as private sector and civil society actors working around issues related to

foreign investment, corporate responsibility and sustainable development. It is available in English, French and Spanish.

The Five Case Studies at a Glance

Mining operations in Mindanao, Philippines

This study looks at the operations of TVI Pacific Inc. (Canada) and specifically at their impact on the human rights of indigenous people. This case had already been the subject of two parliamentary hearings in Canada which resulted in the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Canadian Extractive Industry in Developing Countries (see p. 27).

Communications technology introduced along the Gormo-Lhasa railroad (China/Tibet)

This study looks at the potential impact of modern information communications technology provided by Nortel (Canada) in collaboration with China's Public Security Bureau and Ministry of Railways. It is the only *ex-ante* assessment in the project.

Mineral refining in the Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of Congo

The DRC's wealth of natural resources has turned it into the site of ongoing conflict between armed groups seeking to control its riches. This study

assesses the human rights impact of the operations of Somika, a private company that is owned in part by Canadian investors.

Privatization of water and sanitation networks in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Through this investment, a number of foreign companies including Suez (France) became part of a public-private consortium called Aguas Argentinas, created to manage the water and sanitation systems in Buenos Aires. The research team studied the performance of both Aguas Argentina and the Republic of Argentina over the life of the contract, which was terminated by the Argentine government in early 2006

Mineral refining in La Oroya, Peru

This case addresses the cumulative effects of refinery operations conducted by Doe Run Resources Corp. (US) in La Oroya, Peru. It focuses on the human rights to health and water, emphasizing the impact on women of the refinery operations.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Rights & Democracy actively participated in the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Canadian Extractive Industry in Developing Countries which took place across Canada between June and November 2006. Jean-Louis Roy, President of Rights & Democracy, submitted a brief during the roundtable held in Montreal from November 14 to 16, 2007, which was attended by John Ruggie, the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights.

The organization of the consultative process was led by a 17-member advisory committee comprised of civil society, industry, academic and labour representatives, including Diana Bronson, then coordinator of the Globalization and Human Rights programme. It concluded with the publication in March 2007 of a joint report which is available at the following address: <http://geo.international.gc.ca>.

Led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade with the assistance of seven other government departments, the roundtables were organized to respond to a recommendation of the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on the social and environmental responsibility of Canadian mining companies overseas and the role of the Canadian government in this area. The report, presented in June 2005, recommended that the government adopt policy and legislative changes to ensure that Canadian companies respect international human right and environmental standards.

Promoting the Human Right to Adequate Food

Enjoying the human right to food is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of other human rights. How can a hungry person participate effectively in political processes if access to food is denied? How can a child progress in education when hunger is an everyday fact of life?

The human right to food is protected under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and elaborated upon in General Comment 12 which describes state obligations as commitments to respect, protect and fulfil the human right to food. In 2004, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security as a means of providing practical guidance for governments as they seek to implement their human rights obligations.

Building on the roadmap provided by General Comment 12 and the FAO guidelines, Rights & Democracy and other civil society organizations are working to ensure that the human rights framework is applied to practical experiences. Rights & Democracy, with its partners, has therefore initiated a series of international “fact-finding missions.” The first two missions took place in Malawi (April 2006) and Nepal (April 2007), both countries with high levels of chronic hunger and food insecurity.

Rights & Democracy



Farming community near Dadeldhura, in western Nepal.

The fact-finding missions gathered information about the causes of hunger and the obstacles to exercising the right to food in a national context. Delegation members met with communities and government representatives, and hosted civil society seminars to disseminate their findings. The mission reports make recommendations to governments, donor agencies and civil society organizations. Follow-up to the fact-finding missions includes support to local projects designed to promote enjoyment of the human right to food.

The United Nations reports that more than 850- million people in the world today suffer from chronic hunger or malnutrition. In a world that produces more than enough food to feed itself, this constitutes an egregious violation of one of the most basic human rights—the right to feed oneself.

The reports of the fact-finding missions to Malawi and Nepal are available on the Rights & Democracy Web site.



Village children in Kasungu, Malawi.

Rights & Democracy

RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY NETWORK

The Rights & Democracy Network continues to grow. Now in its fourth year, it has close to 1500 members and some 40 Delegations in Canada and abroad. Launched in 2003, the Network's goal is to broaden university students' knowledge of human rights and democracy and to develop their capacity for contributing to their attainment.

Over 30 projects from Delegations have received Network support over the last year. Examples include: *The Nanaimo Rights and Democracy Radio Hour* (Malaspina University College, British Columbia); *Human Rights & High School Students* (Yukon College); *On the Refugees Path 2007: Satellite Project* (Université Laval, Quebec); and *Food to Feed: Freedom from Hunger* (Memorial University, Newfoundland). The Network also completed several projects on other Rights & Democracy themes, including *Wave of the Future*, which brought together Haitian and Canadian youth to discuss the role of youth and Canadian foreign policy in advancing democracy in Haiti; the Canadian tour of Gabriel Shumba, a human rights advocate from Zimbabwe; and the Student Forum preceding Rights & Democracy's international conference Strengthening Democracy in Asia.

In addition, from March 21 to 24, 2007, the Network held its first international meeting entitled "Global Citizenship: The Role of University Students in the Advancement of Human Rights and Democracy Around the World." This meeting, which brought together representatives of Delegations from all regions of Canada as well as Kenya and Morocco, was an opportunity to review the initiatives of the Network and its Delegations and to plan for the upcoming university year. Representatives of the Network's first cohort of young professionals—who were students in the first Delegations created in 2004—were in attendance to discuss the impact of their involvement in the Network on their professional lives and their interest in maintaining contact with the Network.



Rights & Democracy

On March 21, 2007, students from Bishops University performed *Speak Truth to Power – Voices From Beyond the Dark*, a gripping play by Ariel Dorfman based on interviews with human rights defenders from around the world, including the Dalai Lama, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Desmond Tutu and Wangari Maathai. This is just one example of the projects supported by the Network and developed by its Delegations.

The national—and now international—gatherings of members of the Network are held twice a year, in September and March. They are an opportunity for members to share their experiences and discuss ideas on how they can play an active role in promoting human rights and democratic development around the world. For instance, during the meetings the participants received training in equality, human rights and project management. Many of these gatherings are also held each year at the regional level (Eastern Canada, Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada). Themes addressed include religion and issues related to gender (Dalhousie University, Halifax) as well as links between culture and human rights (First Nations University, Regina, Saskatchewan).

In the coming year, the Network will pursue its efforts to internationalize its links, particularly by means of long-term twinings between Delegations from Canadian universities and those created in universities in developing countries. To date, Delegations have been twinned with counterparts in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Morocco and Kenya, and others are planned in Africa, Asia and the Americas. The Network and the Delegations have also participated in several international forums, including the International Human Rights Forum (Nantes, France, July 2006), the World Urban Forum and the World Peace Forum (Vancouver, June 2006).

For more information on the Network and its activities, visit its Web site: www.rightsdemocracy.net



Rights & Democracy

Participants at the preparatory meeting *Wave of the Future*, Port-au-Prince, December 16, 2006. For more information, see p. 12.



Rights & Democracy

Regional meeting of Network's members from Western Canada, First Nations University, Regina, Saskatchewan, February 2007. The theme of the meeting was "Culture and Human Rights".

OUR SPECIAL INITIATIVES

2006 John Humphrey Freedom Award: Rights & Democracy Pays Tribute to Su Su Nway and Her Struggle to End Forced Labour



Cecilia Brighi, board member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) pays tribute to Su Su Nway, 2006 John-Humphrey Freedom Award laureate

Chris Kralik

On December 6 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Rights & Democracy honoured 2006 John Humphrey Freedom Award laureate Su Su Nway of Burma for her inspiring efforts to hold Burma's military junta accountable for its

forced labour practices. Although Su Su Nway was unable to attend the Award ceremony due to fears that she would be denied re-entry to Burma, close to 200 people attended the event, including special guests Dr. Sein Win, Prime-Minister-in-exile of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma and Cecilia Brighi, board member of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The following morning, at the National Arts Centre, Rights & Democracy, in collaboration with Canadian Friends of Burma (CFOB) and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), held an international seminar entitled "Putting an End to Forced Labour: What is Canada's Role?," which was followed by the official launch of Parliamentary Friends of Burma (PFOB). The PFOB was formed to support Burma's democratic movement and is comprised of 25 MPs and senators from all political parties in Canada, chaired by Liberal MP Larry Bagnell.

The John Humphrey Freedom Award provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness among the general public, governments, non-governmental organizations and the media of a specific human rights issue: in this case, forced labour in Burma. With support from the Canadian Auto Workers Union, Confédération des syndicats nationaux, Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, Public Service Alliance of Canada, and the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Rights & Democracy also launched a national campaign, with ads in 14 newspapers across the country, calling for an end to forced labour practices in Burma. The campaign received impressive media coverage.

Su Su Nway

Thirty-four-year-old Su Su Nway attracted international attention through her efforts to bring to justice the representatives of the junta who forced her and other villagers to repair a road without remuneration. Aware of the risks she was taking in confronting the Burmese military authorities, Su Su Nway's determination paid off last year when a judge sentenced the village president and a village representative to eight months in prison under a 1999 decree banning forced labour. This was the first ever verdict against forced labour, a practice long used by Burma's military regime. A few months after this victory, Su Su Nway was accused of defaming the new village president and was sentenced to 18 months in prison, in October 2005. In poor health, Su Su Nway spent nine months in Insein prison before the authorities bowed to international pressure and freed her on June 6, 2006.

Over the last year, Rights & Democracy has continued its advocacy work for the implementation of a motion adopted by Canada's Parliament in 2005 condemning massive human rights violations in Burma and the country's military regime. In collaboration with our partners, we carried out many activities to urge the Canadian government to join the ranks of several other foreign governments and provide political and financial support to the democratic institutions of Burma, impose economic sanctions against Burma's military regime, and work towards a binding resolution on Burma at the Security Council.

It is worth noting that many meetings were held with members of Parliament, and a letter signed by many NGOs, unions and parliamentarians was sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper regarding the implementation of this motion. We also participated in the Foreign Affairs Consultations on Burma, held on February 16, 2007. Moreover, we have continued to play a leadership role in the Burma Working Group, and we participated in the Burma Donors Forum. Finally, in January 2007, we travelled to the Thai-Burma border and the China-Burma border to meet with pro-democracy organizations and the Members of Parliament Union (MPU).

Rights & Democracy has been backing a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma for the last 15 years, and was the first organization in the world to support Burma's government-in-exile.

Rights & Democracy's Annual International Conference: Strengthening Democracy in Asia

The challenges facing Asian countries and the ways in which Canada can contribute to promoting respect for human rights and democracy in Asia were the two main themes of Rights & Democracy's annual international conference, held in Toronto on June 14 and 15, 2006.

Entitled *Strengthening Democracy in Asia: New Networks and Partnerships for Human Rights and the Rule of Law*, the goal of the conference was to reflect on issues related to democracy in Asia and the establishment of effective human rights mechanisms and institutions, and to strengthen partnerships between Canadian and Asian human rights and democratic development organizations in the Asian-Pacific region.

Several themes were addressed over the course of these two days, including the role of civil society in the promotion of democratic change, the impact of Asian-Canadian business and investment on human rights, and the role of regional and intra-regional institutions in the democratization process.



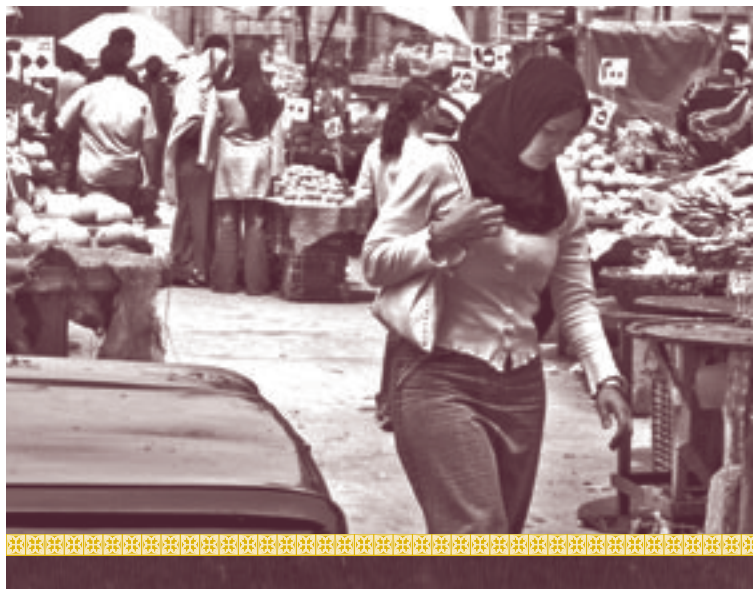
The guests included several very experienced human rights defenders, namely: Charm Tong of Burma, the founder of the Shan Women's Action Network; Irene Fernandez of Malaysia, who runs a migrant worker rights campaign and is a HIV/AIDS specialist in Asia; Han Dongfang of Hong Kong, a well-known Chinese workers' rights activist; and Sanjeewa Liyanage of the Asian Human Rights Commission. One of the conference's keynote speakers, the Prime Minister of the government-in-exile of Burma, Sein Win, appealed to the organizations present to support a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma. Another keynote speaker, Patrick Brown, CBC television's Asia correspondent, addressed the issue of rights and democracy in China from the perspective of new technologies and the Internet.

On June 13, just prior to the conference, the Rights & Democracy Network held a forum on the role of student movements in promoting human rights and democratic development in Asia and Canada. Members of the Network produced a video on human rights and democracy in Asia, including interviews with well-known participants at the event. This video, accompanying the final report of the conference, entitled *Strengthening Democracy in Asia: New Networks and Partnerships for Human Rights and the Rule of Law*, was sent to the participants. For more information on the discussions during the conference, or to view the video produced by the students from the Network, visit our Web site.

Urgent Actions and Important Opportunities Initiative

From May 5 to 9, 2006, an official Rights & Democracy delegation visited Egypt to study and document the case brought against Ayman Nour, President Hosni Mubarak's main rival in the fall 2005 presidential elections. The founder and leader of Al-Ghad (Tomorrow), Mr. Nour is accused of having presented fake signatures in order to obtain authorization for his party to run in the presidential elections. Sentenced to five years in prison in December 2005, he pleaded not guilty and his lawyers appealed the ruling, claiming the charges against their client were politically motivated.

During the mission, the delegation met with Egyptian government representatives, a dozen human rights organizations and Mr. Nour's lawyer, Amir Salem, in order to shed light on the affair and obtain justice. The decision to organize a mission to Egypt was made by Rights & Democracy's Board of Directors, the day after the legislative and presidential elections in Egypt. This is the first time in Egypt's history that it held multiparty presidential elections.



The Urgent Actions and Important Opportunities initiative, introduced by the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy, enables us to respond rapidly to human rights violations or events that fall within our mandate but were not budgeted into our regular activities. Under this initiative, Rights & Democracy provided financial support for a training workshop in Burkina Faso as part of a seminar on citizenship held there in December 2006. The initiative also made it possible to provide financial assistance to a conference on child soldiers organized by Senator Roméo Dallaire at the University of Winnipeg's Global College in August 2006. An exploratory mission was also sent to Mauritania. For more information on this mission, see page 16.



Members of the mission in Egypt with Judge Bastawisi, of the Judge Club, a professional association which advocates for free and fair elections in Egypt and an independent judiciary. From left to right: Flora MacDonald, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada, Jean-Louis Roy, President of Rights & Democracy, Judge Bastawisi, the Honourable Monique Vézina, former Minister responsible for the Francophonie and International Development, Janice Stein, Chair of the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy, A. Wayne MacKay, outgoing Vice-President of the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy.

Human Rights Film Festival

Rights & Democracy was associated with two major film events in Montreal over the last year: the Montréal Human Rights Film Festival, held March 23 to 29, 2007 and the Montréal International Documentary Film Festival, from November 9 to 19, 2006. The Montréal Human Rights Film Festival uses film to promote human rights and awareness among Montrealers on issues related to international development and human rights. During the award ceremony, Razmik Panossian, the Director of Policy, Programmes and Planning at Rights & Democracy, presented a \$2,500 prize to dual first-place winners Davy Zylberfajn (France) for his documentary *Vivre à Tazmamart*, and to Hélène Cotinier and Pierre Durand (France) for *It's Not a Gun*.

Rights & Democracy was one of the partners of the Montréal International Documentary Film Festival, an annual event that presents some one hundred works from around the world. Films are selected to foster a greater understanding of the challenges facing society and today's critical issues. This year's recipients of the Camera at the Ready Award were Nadia Zouaoui and Carmen Garcia for their film *Le voyage de Nadia*, presented by Rights & Democracy and *Courrier International*.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CANADA'S PARLIAMENT

As an arms-length, non-partisan institution, Rights & Democracy cultivates links with Parliamentarians from all political parties.

In addition to the many MPs and Senators who attended our events and activities in 2006-2007, we had the opportunity to participate in the work of a number of important Parliamentary Committees:

- Jean-Louis Roy, President, and Nicholas Galletti, Latin America Regional Officer, appeared before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade as witnesses in its study on Canada's role in Haiti, June 21, 2006.
- Jean-Louis Roy, President, appeared before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade as a witness in its study on Canada's approach to democratic development, October 20, 2006.
- Razmik Panossian, Director of Policy, Programmes and Planning, appeared before the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and International Development of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade as a witness in its study on the Canada-China bilateral human rights dialogue, October 31, 2006.
- Jean-Louis Roy, President, appeared as a witness in the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Canadian Extractive Industry in Developing Countries, November 15, 2006.
- Ariane Brunet, Women's Rights Coordinator, appeared before the Standing Committee on National Defence as a witness in its study on Afghanistan, January 23, 2007.

Rights & Democracy was also an active participant in the annual human rights consultation between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian NGO community. In the new era of the UN Human Rights Council (which will hold sessions throughout the year as opposed to the single yearly meeting of the UN Commission for Human Rights), all Canadian stakeholders are eager to find new mechanisms for on-going consultation on international human rights issues. In this regard, Rights & Democracy is working closely with our NGO partners to revive a Canadian human rights network that will help facilitate and structure our future dialogue with the Canadian government.

Rights & Democracy has been working with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and a number of Canadian arms-length organizations (Elections Canada, Forum of Federations, International Development Research Centre, National Judicial Institute and Parliamentary Centre) to develop a stronger community of practice for democratic development in Canada. Under the banner of the Democracy Council, these institutions organized a Dialogue on Democratic Development in February 2007 to initiate a policy discussion about Canadian expertise and approaches for engaging with partners in the common search for democracy around the world.

OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

The implementation of international human rights and democratic development makes it necessary for like-minded organizations around the world to develop and maintain strategic and complementary links with one another, particularly to coordinate programming objectives and projects in priority countries. Rights & Democracy has therefore continued to strengthen its partnerships with targeted Canadian and international organizations over the last year.

In particular, we have established new and important channels for institutional dialogue and collaboration with the following organizations:

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is the central and specialized United Nations agency for the promotion and protection of human rights. As such, it has special links with Rights & Democracy's priority countries and thematic priorities. For this reason, the OHCHR was one of the main institutional partners of Rights & Democracy in 2006-2007.

Rights & Democracy was a key partner with the OHCHR for the 8th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in October 2006. This major conference included the participation of nearly 50 national human rights institutions from around the world, as well as the President of Bolivia, Evo Morales. The key accomplishment for Rights & Democracy was the organization of the NGO Forum of the Conference, which succeeded in negotiating important principles and action-points for the final declaration. As well, it illustrated our institution's niche in facilitating interaction between civil society organizations and national institutions.

We have also contributed to the development of the OHCHR's new Rapid Response Unit, which will have the mandate to respond to urgent human rights situations at the request of the High Commissioner or the Human Rights Council. We have also developed a strong internship programme with their Resource Mobilization Unit and National Institutions Unit. In addition, we are supporting the creation of a fund for interns from least developed countries.

Rights & Democracy



The Human Rights Council Takes its First Steps

Established by a UN General Assembly resolution on March 15, 2006, the Human Rights Council, which replaces the Human Rights Commission, had a lot of work to do in its first year to build a strong foundation for its operations. Despite complications, obstacles and many concerns, this new institution equipped itself with the mechanisms it needs to more effectively implement human rights in all countries and to respond quickly to urgent situations.

This includes conducting a universal periodic review of human rights in all countries. A specific country-by-country review will start in fall 2007. This review will be conducted on the basis of all existing documentation on the human rights situation in the country in question. The Council retained the special procedures and theme- or country-based review mechanism system. It also offers the possibility of introducing resolutions and implementing review procedures for specific countries, and of convening special sessions.

Over the last year, Rights & Democracy worked very hard to advocate, both in Canada and during sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, for a credible and effective Council in order to ensure the respect and advancement of human rights around the world. In this respect, we spoke out on several occasions on the importance of an effective universal periodic review mechanism in order to regularly evaluate the human rights situation in all countries. We also spoke out on the importance of maintaining special procedures, particularly special rapporteurs with the authority to conduct investigations on the ground on thematic issues such as violence against women and the rights of indigenous peoples.

A Permanent Presence in Geneva

Over the next year, Rights & Democracy plans to establish an office in Geneva, in order to better monitor the Council's work, strengthen our partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to facilitate and coordinate Canada's contributions to the Council and to other UN human rights processes and mechanisms. Rights & Democracy's permanent presence in Geneva will allow us to share information with Canadian NGOs, raise issues of general interest within the Council, and build closer ties with our partners on the regional and national levels in developing countries in order to strengthen international support for human rights.

Danish Institute for Human Rights

The Danish Institute for Human Rights is one of the very few organizations similar to Rights & Democracy: it was created by a statute of the Danish Parliament in 1987 and has a mandate to promote human rights at the international level. As such, there is a great deal that our two organizations can learn from each other in terms of effectively carrying out our international mandates as independent institutions. For this reason, the Danish Institute for Human Rights was a very significant institutional partner of Rights & Democracy in 2006-2007.

Rights & Democracy partnered with the Danish Institute and ECOWAS for the organization of a conference for National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa, held January 29 to February 2, 2007, in Dakar, Senegal. This conference provided an interesting model for strengthening national human rights institutions, including the participation of members of the judiciary, civil society organizations and parliamentarians. This was an opportunity for us to demonstrate our joint commitment to human rights in West Africa.

We have also developed a staff and intern exchange programme that has potential for both institutions in terms of learning and approaches. So far, we have received three Danish Institute for Human Rights staff members in Canada, and we have sent two staff members to Denmark to learn from and strategize with their counterparts. An intern was also sent to Copenhagen and played a key role in the development of their West Africa strategy.

Commonwealth

Established in 1965, the Commonwealth Secretariat is the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth, facilitating consultation and cooperation among 53 member governments and countries. One of the strategic goals of the Commonwealth Secretariat is raising awareness and strengthening respect for human rights. Rights & Democracy contributed to the organization of the Commonwealth Conference on National Human Rights Institutions, which took place in London on February 26-28, 2007. At the conclusion of this conference, a formal Commonwealth Forum of National Institutions was created to provide structured input of Commonwealth national institutions at the meetings of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, and to contribute to information-sharing and collaboration between Commonwealth national institutions.

Equitas

Equitas is a Montreal-based international human rights institution with a strong history and expertise in human rights education. Given the numerous complementarities between our two institutions in terms of approaches and methodologies, Equitas is a valuable institutional partner for Rights & Democracy.

Over the last year, Rights & Democracy has been supporting Equitas's annual International Human Rights Training Program, particularly selection and follow-up activities for human rights advocates in our priority countries. We also worked collaboratively on our programmes in Indonesia, which included consultations from February 14-16, 2007 to develop a human rights training programme in Indonesia. Through our partnership, the staff from both organizations are developing a closer working relationship, particularly with respect to Haiti, Indonesia, Sudan, human rights education and national human rights institutions. The Rights & Democracy Network has also worked with Equitas

on a number of initiatives, including the recruitment of facilitators for Equitas' summer human rights camps across Canada.

North-South Institute

The North-South Institute is an independent, non-governmental and non-partisan research institute focused on international development. The North-South Institute provides research and analysis on foreign policy and international development issues for policy-makers, educators, business, the media and the general public. This institutional partnership with the North-South Institute reinforces the research capacity of Rights & Democracy.

The outputs of our partnership with the North-South Institute include collaboration on their project entitled Security Sector Reform, with a view to developing joint initiatives in Haiti and Indonesia. This partnership also served to create links between their Millennium Development Goals activities and the *8 Goals for a Better World* campaign, which Rights & Democracy helped initiate.

Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies

The members of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CAHSRA) include Canada's federal, provincial and territorial human rights institutions. They have an explicit mandate to promote and protect human rights. The institutional partnership with CASHRA focused on international cooperation to create and strengthen national human rights institutions in developing countries.

Among the outputs of our partnerships with CASHRA was the organization of a Rights & Democracy-CASHRA joint workshop entitled Creating and Strengthening National Human Rights Institutions Abroad: Engaging Canada's Human Rights Agencies in International Cooperation for the Promotion of Human Rights, which took place in Toronto on November 29-30, 2006. This workshop was especially fruitful in initiating a constructive dialogue on the possible areas of mutual cooperation.

Subsequently, we organized a working group to further explore possibilities of cooperation between CASHRA members and Rights & Democracy on priority countries such as Sudan and Haiti.

Over the last year, we also strengthened our partnerships with Elections Canada and the United Nations Development Program. We received a grant from the United Nations Foundation for the United Nations Development Program in order to initiate a Canadian youth campaign on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled *8 Goals for a Better World*. This Campaign is implemented by Canadian university student groups affiliated to organizations, including the Rights & Democracy Network, Amnesty International, WUSC/UNITERA, Oxfam Québec, AQOCI, Engineers Without Borders, Journalists for Human Rights, the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec and the Canadian Federation of Students.

Our Partnerships With Canadian Coalitions

Rights & Democracy is active within several Canadian coalitions that share its concerns about the respect and defence of human rights and democratic development. These partnerships are designed to promote dialogue, share information and embark on actions. Here are some examples:

- the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a pan-Canadian coalition that monitors the implementation of anti-terrorist measures adopted by Canada.
- the Canadian Coalition on Human Rights in China, a group of organizations that promotes human rights in China, focussing on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and bilateral dialogue with China on the issue of human rights.
- the Canadian Coalition for Corporate Social Responsibility, whose mandate is to coordinate the participation of civil society on the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Canadian Extractive Industry in Developing Countries.

- the Burma Working Group and the Canadian Advocacy Group on Indonesia (CAGI), two informal networks made up of Canadian organizations and individuals committed to peace, rights and democracy in Burma and Indonesia. Both networks are linked to the work of the Asia-Pacific Working Group of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.
- Common Frontiers, an activist multi-sectoral working group that proposes an alternative to the social, environmental and economic effects of economic integration in the Americas.
- The Americas Policy Group, the Africa-Canada Forum, the Asia-Pacific Working Group and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.
- The Halifax Initiative, a coalition of environmental, development and human rights organizations as well as unions concerned about the policies and practices of international financial institutions.
- the Trade and Investment Research Project, a coalition of non-governmental organizations that produces analyses and conducts research on economic integration and its effects.

Our Internship Programme

This year, Rights & Democracy offered 22 internships enabling young professionals to acquire work experience.

Ten of the 11 interns were funded by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada Young Professionals International programme. Recruited from among 200 candidates from across Canada, these young people posted overseas put their skills acquired at school to work for our partners and accomplished important work that was widely appreciated.

- Jessica Drohan of Nova Scotia went to Paris where she was integrated into the peace education and human rights branch of UNESCO. She worked primarily on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and human rights education.
- Ugraz Oguz of Quebec and Sulini Sarugazer of Ontario went to Geneva where they worked at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. One worked with the unit in charge of donor relations and the other with the unit responsible for strengthening national human rights institutions.
- Lyndsay Hayhurst of British Columbia went to New York to join the United Nations Development Program team (UNDP) responsible for coordinating the youth awareness campaign as part of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Geneviève Rose of Quebec joined the Danish Institute for Human Rights team in Copenhagen. She was integrated into the international department where she worked primarily on West Africa.
- Philippe Picard of Quebec provided support for two Moroccan organizations: Espace associatif and the Association marocaine des droits humains, based in Rabat.

- Za Uk Ling of Ontario went to Malaysia where he was integrated into the organization SUARAM and worked with refugees and asylum seekers. His representation work helped to free refugees from detention and his research was recognized by groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.
- SORCHA O'CARROLL of Ontario joined the Asia Pacific Forum in Australia where she researched projects related to promoting human rights in Southeast Asia.
- DANA STEFOV of Ontario worked for the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) in Washington, DC. She coordinated the International Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas, which involved working with the Organization of American States.
- Aurélie Arnaud of Quebec joined the Commission on Intellectual Property of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas based in Panama. She conducted research on the ancestral knowledge of indigenous women and disseminated this information on the Web site.
- Allison Coady of Ontario went to South Africa where she joined the Zimbabwe Exiles Forum in order to provide institutional support to the organization and lend a gender perspective to ZEF's cases.

Rights & Democracy also hosted six students through the Young Canada Works programme in summer 2006. These students were able to work in the Documentation Centre, with the Rights & Democracy Network and with the Programmes team. In addition, five other students were able to obtain university credits for their internships in our offices.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

In 2006-2007, the Finance Directorate has become more involved in the initial financial planning of projects. A budget template has been devised to evaluate as precisely as possible the actual monetary needs of activities. Programme staff work in close collaboration with Finance staff to prepare their project proposals. Management has agreed that, for grants, partners must fill out a standardized budget proposition which will be part of the basic information required for project approval. Furthermore, new financial reporting guidelines for partners have also been introduced for projects over \$60,000 and for others that might be identified as projects needing more monitoring. Grantees are asked to submit financial reports on a regular basis using a pre-formatted electronic spreadsheet based on the approved budget. They are also asked to keep all financial records and receipts for two years after completion of the project in order to enable Rights & Democracy to proceed with an audit, if necessary. These measures, along with others, are a demonstration of Management's constant concern to strike a balance between accountability and the need for efficiency.

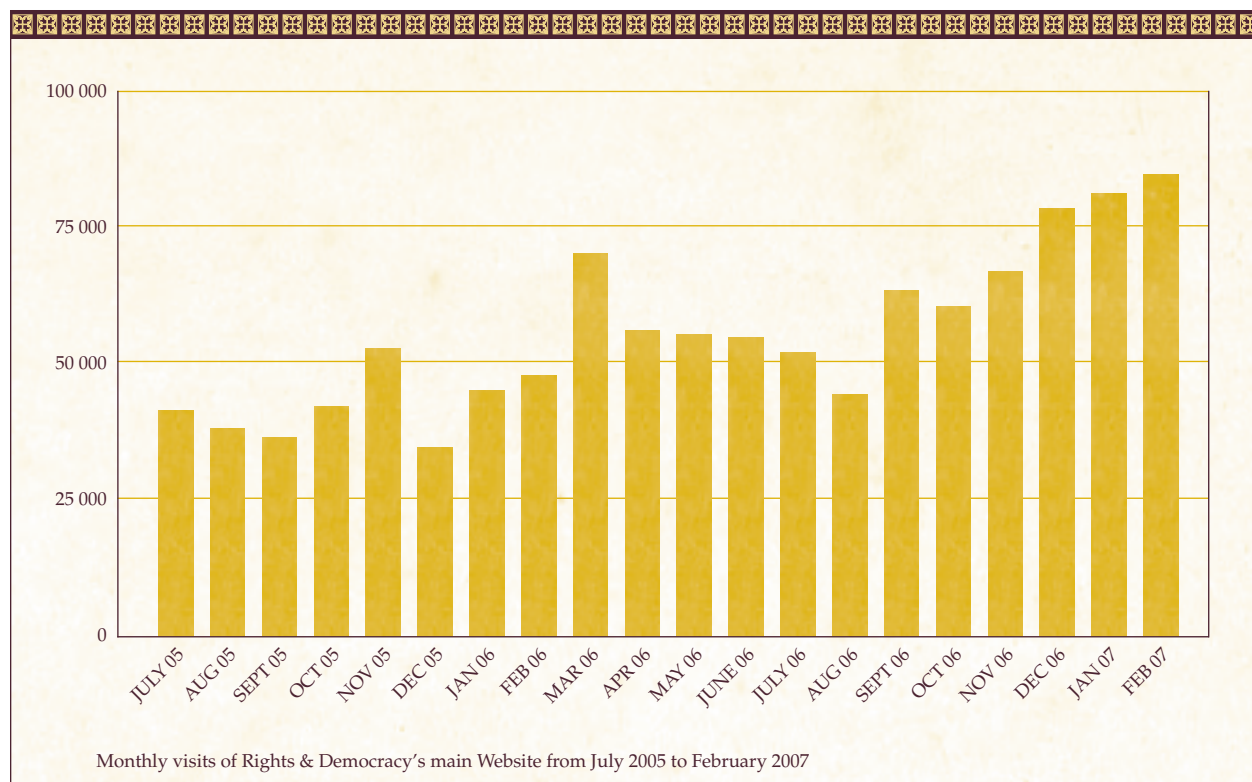
OUR CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Rights & Democracy enjoyed a successful year in communicating its priorities, events and issues to the Canadian and international public.

Benefiting from solid networks and relationships with the English and French media, we had over 250 media interventions in Canada's most important print, radio and television outlets in 2006-2007. In particular, we had impressive national media coverage for our Annual Conference on Strengthening Democracy in Asia, the pan-Canadian speaking tour of Gabriel Shumba from Zimbabwe and the John Humphrey Freedom Award. Moreover, our external relations officers have begun to use a new media tracking tool which allows us to analyze the impact and cost-effectiveness of our media operations.

After a complete re-design of our website in 2006, we continue to increase our presence on the Internet, reaching 85,000 monthly visitors at the end of the fiscal year. This represents a 500% increase in our Web site visits since 2002! Among the most consulted Web pages are our publications, which represent 30% of our visitors. New web pages about our programmes and projects will also be added in June 2007.

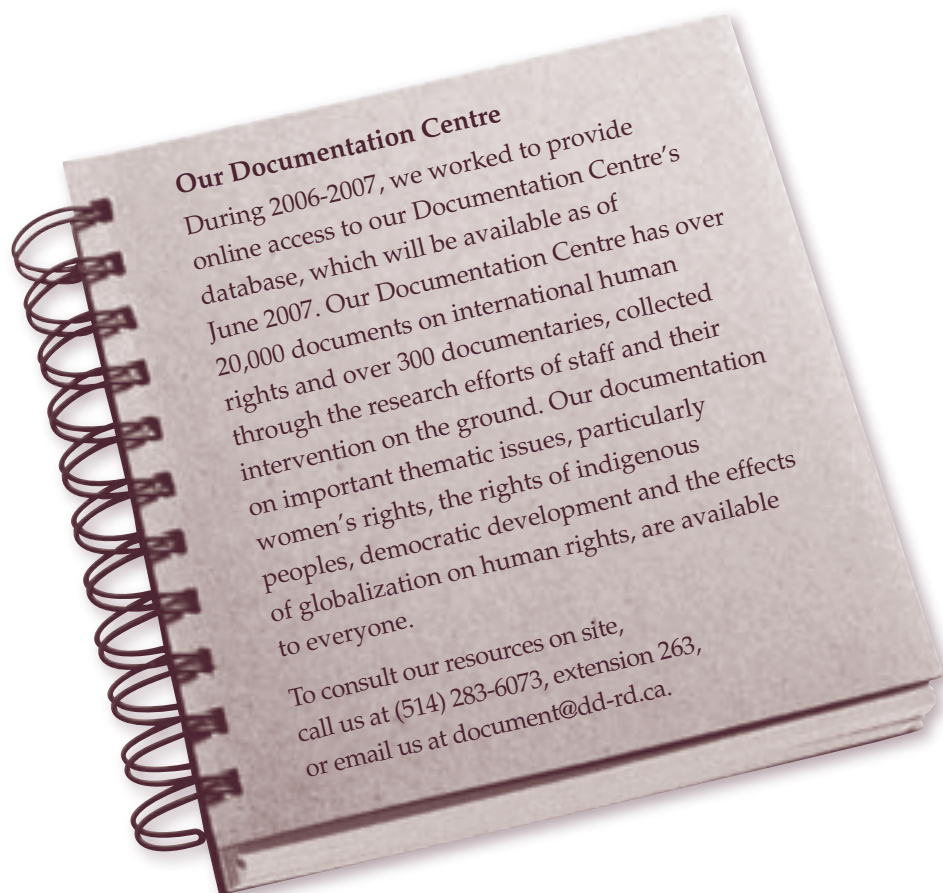
We continued to give visibility to our institution's partners and priority countries through support for pan-Canadian speaking tours, including the John-Humphrey Freedom Award, and public conferences outside and across Canada, thereby reinforcing Rights & Democracy's links with Canadians from coast to coast.



Our Recent Publications

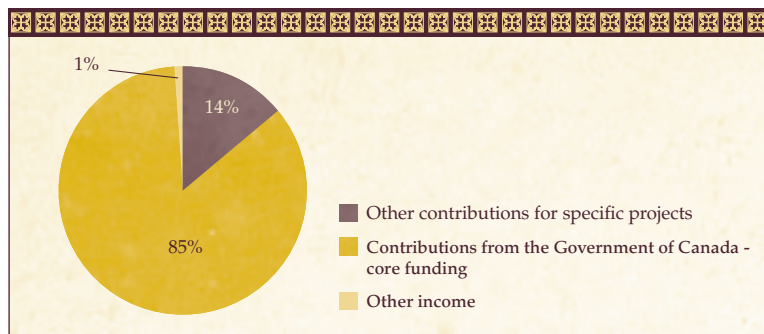
- *Human Rights Impact Assessments for Foreign Investment Projects: Learning from Community Experiences in the Philippines, Tibet, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Argentina, and Peru*, 2007.
- *The Human Right to Food in Malawi: Report of an International Fact-Finding Mission*, 2006.
- *Indigenous Women of the Americas*, Revised and expanded, 2006.
- *Strengthening Democracy in Asia, New Networks and Partnerships for Human Rights and the Rule of Law*, Annual International Conference, Toronto, June 14–15, 2006
- *Emerging Human Rights Issues*, February 16–17, 2006.
- *Documenting Women's Rights Violations by Non-state Actors*, by Jan Bauer and Anissa Hélie, a co-publication by Rights & Democracy and Women Living Under Muslim Laws, 2006.

Most of our publications are available on our Web site free of charge. You can also order a copy of our publications by visiting our site: www.dd-rd.ca. All of our publications are free for NGOs in developing countries.



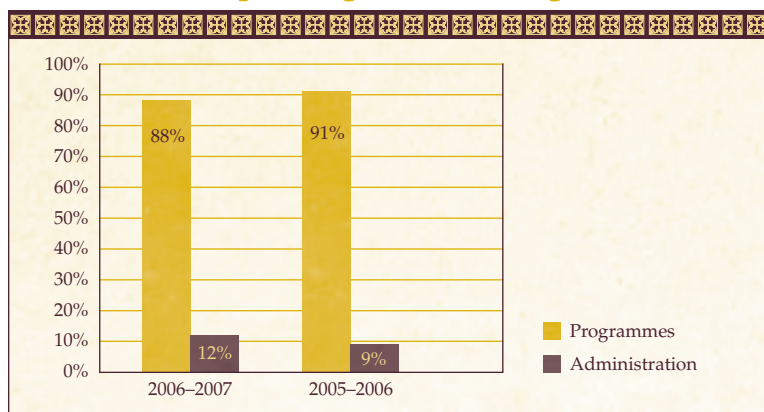
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sources of Income



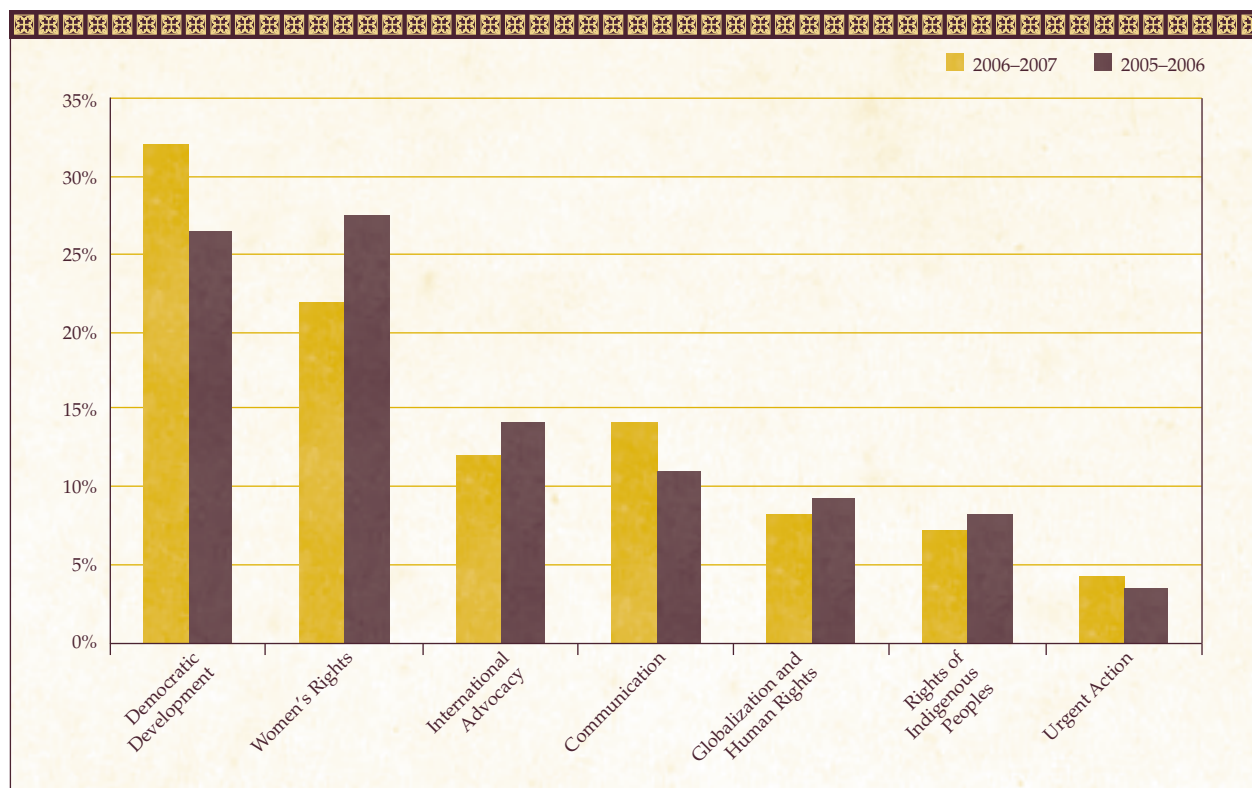
Similarly to last year, the income received by Rights & Democracy during 2006-2007 can be divided into three categories. Contributions from the Government of Canada for general operations represent 85% of total income, i.e., \$8.769M. The \$1.308M increase from last year is due to an increase in the annual appropriation and to an additional \$0.5M contribution from CIDA. In other respects, 14% of the income is comprised of contributions that are tied to specific projects. These contributions come from the Government of Canada (\$0.868M) and other sources (\$0.625M). Finally, other types of income, such as donations, sales of publications and interest, make up the remaining 1% share of total income.

Breakdown of Spending Between Programmes and Administration



The proportion of administrative expenses compared to total expenditures remained virtually the same as in 2005-2006. This proportion was 9% last year and 12% for 2006-2007. This low percentage of administrative costs is the result of Rights & Democracy's constant efforts to keep these costs at a minimum.

Breakdown of Expenditures by Field



It is important to specify that the breakdown of expenditures by field takes into account overhead costs, such as rent, which were distributed according to the number of employees concerned or the surface area occupied, depending on the type of expense. Remaining overhead costs were absorbed by the administration.

The expenditure breakdown by thematic is directly related to the proposals made by each thematic during budget development process. Consequently, funds allocated to Democratic Development represent almost one-third of total programme expenditures, compared to 26% the previous year. Funds allocated to Women's Rights account for 22% of total programming expenditure including the costs of the Afghanistan programme funded by CIDA.

The other themes maintained percentages similar to those for 2005-2006.

Analysis of Expenditures by Category

	Statement 2006-2007	Statement 2005-2006	Gap \$	Gap %
Projects	\$ 6,571,908	\$ 5,306,227	\$ 1,265,681	24%
Salaries and benefits	2,991,933	2,661,400	330,533	12%
Rent and office expenses	627,698	485,679	142,019	29%
Travel	183,039	140,906	42,133	30%
Information	88,153	78,793	9,360	12%
Board of Directors	227,384	77,007	150,377	195%
	\$ 10,690,115	\$ 8,750,012	\$ 1,940,103	22%

In order to facilitate the reading, some expenses were grouped in a different way than in the presentation in the financial statements. The analysis of the table of expenditures by category reveals the fact that all of the categories increased compared to the previous financial year. This generalized increase can be explained by the Government of Canada's appropriation increase as well as an operating deficit of \$0.369M.

Projects received the largest budget increase during the budget development process. Therefore, projects account for the most significant variation with respect to the previous year.

The increase in expenditures related to labour can be explained mainly by the number of people hired over the year. During the 2006-2007 financial year, the positions of Women's Rights Officer, Evaluations Officer, and Partnership Officer were created. However, the impact of these new positions on salary expenditures was compensated by the fact that no employment termination costs were incurred this year.

In 2005-2006, the hiring of new employees made it necessary to expand the premises starting in November 2005. The rental of additional office space for a full financial year, compared to only six months the previous year, explains in part the \$0.142M increase in office rental expenses. This difference can be explained by the increase in office rental expenses and the loss of the City of Montreal's business tax subsidy.

The travel expenses line includes only those expenses that cannot be directly linked to active projects. Consequently, they primarily involve travel expenses related to the President's and Programme Director's office. Members of Management are regularly required to travel in order to ensure the institution's visibility, meet potential partners or explore the possibilities for future projects. Their travel expenses increased following the increase in the budget for programme spending.

The information item includes, among other things, publications, the Libertas newsletter and electronic Libert@s, and the annual report. Contrary to 2005-2006, Libert@s was put online every month which had an impact on the cost of translation and, therefore, on total costs.

Finally, the expenses linked to remuneration and travel for the members of the Board of Directors increased by \$0.150M compared to the previous year. This variation is due to greater participation by Board members and to two additional meetings that were held in 2006-2007. Moreover, in order to benefit from the expertise of Board members and to ensure a greater involvement on their part in the organization's activities, the members were asked to visit some of the projects in the field. In addition, the Board of Directors retained the services of a firm to help better define its role and responsibilities.

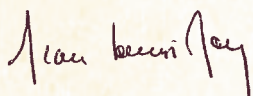
MANAGEMENT REPORT

The financial statements of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Rights & Democracy) are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and, where appropriate, include estimates based on the experience and judgement of management. Management is also responsible for all other information in the annual report and for ensuring that this information is consistent with the financial statements.

Management maintains books of account, financial and management control, and information systems, together with management practices designed to provide reasonable assurance that reliable and relevant information is available on a timely basis, that assets are safeguarded and controlled, that resources are managed economically and efficiently in the attainment of Rights & Democracy's objectives, and that operations are carried out effectively. These systems and practices are also designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are in accordance with the *International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development Act* and the by-laws and policies of Rights & Democracy.

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that management fulfils its responsibilities for the financial reporting as stated above. The Board exercises its responsibilities through the Finance and Audit Committee, which consists of directors who are not officers of Rights & Democracy. The Committee reviews the annual financial statements and related reports; the Committee meets with the external auditors annually and, may make recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to these and/or related matters.

The external auditor, the Auditor General of Canada, conducts an independent audit of the financial statements, and reports to Rights & Democracy and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Jean-Louis Roy
President



Marie-France Cloutier
Director of Administration & Resources

Montreal, Canada
June 13, 2007

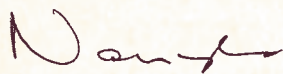
AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
and the Minister of Foreign Affairs

I have audited the balance sheet of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of operations and retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Centre's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Nancy Y. Cheng, FCA
Assistant Auditor General
for the Auditor General of Canada

Ottawa, Canada
June 13, 2007

International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

Balance sheet as at March 31


	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Current		
Term deposits (Note 4)	\$ 2,070,876	\$ 1,970,876
Accrued interest	32,251	18,475
Accounts receivable	97,723	141,651
Contributions receivable	25,552	135,020
Prepaid expenses	<u>42,356</u>	<u>81,157</u>
	2,268,758	2,347,179
Long Term		
Property and equipment (Note 5)	887,218	928,144
	<u>\$ 3,155,976</u>	<u>\$ 3,275,323</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Bank overdraft	\$ 547,799	\$ 325,557
Accounts payable	196,515	204,345
Accrued salaries and vacations	424,827	342,896
Termination benefits payable	-	139,828
Grants payable	287,203	345,490
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	36,957	33,485
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	<u>303,615</u>	<u>170,367</u>
	1,796,916	1,561,968
Long Term		
Deferred lease inducements	178,611	210,613
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	111,330	148,287
Other liabilities	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	339,941	358,900
Deferred capital funding (Note 8)	<u>598,738</u>	<u>564,938</u>
	<u>2,735,595</u>	<u>2,485,806</u>
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	<u>420,381</u>	<u>789,517</u>
	<u>\$ 3,155,976</u>	<u>\$ 3,275,323</u>

Commitments (Note 11)

Contingencies (Note 13)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

Approved by:



Jean-Louis Roy
President of Rights & Democracy



Janice Stein
Chair of the Board

**Statement of Operations and Retained Earnings
for the year ended March 31**

	2007	2006
Expenses (Note 9)		
Programmes and Activities		
Democratic Development	\$ 3,022,228	\$ 2,064,969
Women's Rights	2,076,667	2,147,518
Communication and Public Education	1,324,327	924,524
International Human Rights Advocacy	1,155,090	1,060,953
Globalization and Human Rights	783,207	729,006
Rights of Indigenous Peoples	687,525	648,160
Urgent Action and Important Opportunities	400,466	268,968
	<u>9,449,510</u>	<u>7,844,098</u>
General administration	1,240,605	766,086
Cost of operations before termination benefits	<u>10,690,115</u>	<u>8,610,184</u>
Termination benefits	-	139,828
Cost of operations after termination benefits	<u>10,690,115</u>	<u>8,750,012</u>
Revenues		
Contributions from the Government of Canada and other related entities for specific projects (Note 10)	867,844	1,230,263
Other contributions (Note 10)	625,095	437,215
Interest	58,840	43,186
	<u>1,551,779</u>	<u>1,710,664</u>
Results of operations before funding from the Government of Canada	<u>9,138,336</u>	<u>7,039,348</u>
Funding from the Government of Canada		
Parliamentary appropriation - Core funding	8,632,147	7,378,442
Amortization of deferred capital funding (Note 8)	137,053	83,061
	<u>8,769,200</u>	<u>7,461,503</u>
Results of operations for the year	(369,136)	422,155
Retained earnings, beginning of year	789,517	367,362
Retained earnings, end of year	<u>\$ 420,381</u>	<u>\$ 789,517</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended March 31

	2007	2006
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Results of operations for the year	\$ (369,136)	\$ 422,155
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of property and equipment	211,779	145,261
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(137,053)	(83,061)
Loss on disposal of capital lease	-	44,286
	<u>(294,410)</u>	<u>528,641</u>
Increase in accrued interest	(13,776)	(3,092)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	43,928	(93,240)
Decrease (increase) in contributions receivable	109,468	(18,825)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	38,801	(11,659)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(7,830)	55,918
Increase in accrued salaries and vacations	81,931	2,824
Increase (decrease) in termination benefits payable	(139,828)	139,828
Increase (decrease) in grants payable	(58,287)	220,490
Increase (decrease) in deferred lease inducements	(32,002)	120,181
Increase in other liabilities	50,000	-
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	<u>133,248</u>	<u>(282,955)</u>
	(88,757)	658,111
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities		
Parliamentary appropriation – capital funding	170,853	441,661
Obligation under capital leases	-	131,476
Reduction of obligation under capital lease	-	(56,923)
Payments on obligation under capital leases	<u>(33,485)</u>	<u>(27,880)</u>
	137,368	488,334
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
Acquisition of term deposits	(6,351,329)	(6,323,322)
Redemption of term deposits	6,251,329	6,118,322
Acquisition of property and equipment	(170,853)	(586,596)
Acquisition under capital leases	-	(131,476)
	<u>(270,853)</u>	<u>(923,072)</u>
Net change in bank overdraft	(222,242)	223,373
Bank overdraft, beginning of the year	<u>(325,557)</u>	<u>(548,930)</u>
Bank overdraft, end of the year	\$ (547,799)	\$ (325,557)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements March 31, 2007

1. Authority and operations

The International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development was established by the Parliament of Canada in 1988 by the *International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development Act*. The Centre is operating as Rights & Democracy.

The mission of Rights & Democracy is to initiate, encourage and support cooperation between Canada and other countries in the promotion, development and strengthening of democratic and human rights institutions and programmes that give effect to the rights and freedoms enshrined in the *International Bill of Human Rights*. In carrying out its mission, Rights & Democracy shall:

- a) support developmental programmes and activities for the benefit of developing countries;
- b) support programmes and activities for the benefit of countries other than developing countries; and
- c) foster and support research and education, discourse, the exchange of information and collaboration among people and institutions in Canada and other countries.

Rights & Democracy is exempt from any income taxes; it is registered as a charitable organization for the purpose of the *Income Tax Act*.

Financial provisions

For the purpose of supporting programmes and activities for the benefit of developing countries in accordance with the Act, Rights & Democracy is to be paid such amount as may be appropriated by Parliament. Rights & Democracy may also receive monies from sources other than the Government of Canada.

For the purpose of supporting programmes and activities for the benefit of countries other than developing countries, Rights & Democracy may, in addition to such monies as may be appropriated by Parliament for that purpose, receive and use monies provided to it from sources other than the Government of Canada.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Significant accounting policies follow.

a) Parliamentary appropriation

Rights & Democracy is mainly funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency through grant agreements. The portion of the parliamentary appropriation used to finance the acquisition of property and equipment is recorded as deferred capital funding and amortized on the same basis and over the same period as the related property and equipment. The other portion of the appropriation is recorded in the statement of operations in the year for which it is approved.

b) Contributions

Rights & Democracy follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Contributions externally restricted are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

c) Grant expenses

Grants are charged to operations in the year in which the criteria for awarding the grants are met.

d) Term deposits

Term deposits are recorded at cost.

e) Property and equipment

Furniture and equipment, data processing equipment, automotive equipment and website design and improvements are recorded at cost and amortized on the straight-line basis at an annual rate of 20%. Leasehold improvements are recorded at cost and are amortized over the remaining term of the lease. Assets acquired by capital leases are recorded at the present value of the minimum lease payments and are amortized over the term of the lease.

f) Employee future benefits

All eligible employees participate in the Public Service Pension Plan administered by the Government of Canada. Rights & Democracy's contributions reflect the full cost as employer. This amount is currently based on a multiple of an employee's required contributions and may change over time depending on the experience of the Plan. Rights & Democracy's contributions are expensed during the year in which the services are rendered and represent the total pension obligation of Rights & Democracy. Rights & Democracy is not currently required to make contributions with respect to any actuarial deficiencies of the Public Service Pension Plan. These benefits represent the only obligation of Rights & Democracy that entails settlement by future payment.

g) Deferred lease inducements

Cost incurred by the lessor on behalf of Rights & Democracy are recorded on the balance sheet as deferred lease inducements. These deferred lease inducements are amortized on a straight line basis as a reduction to the expense over the term of the lease

h) Future accounting changes

Section 1530, *Comprehensive Income*, introduces a new requirement to temporarily present certain gains and losses in other comprehensive income until it is considered appropriate to be recognized in the results of operations. Rights & Democracy may be required to present a new financial statement titled Comprehensive Income to record such amounts until they are realized. All restricted contributions will be included as part of Other Comprehensive Income until such time that it is appropriate to recognize the amounts in income.

3. Fair value of financial instruments

The transactions related to cash (bank overdraft), term deposits, accrued interest, accounts receivable, contributions receivable, accounts payable, accrued salaries and vacations and grants payable are incurred in the normal course of business. The carrying amounts of each of these accounts approximate their fair values because of their short-term maturity. Rights & Democracy has no significant concentration of credit risk.

4. Term deposits

As at March 31, 2007 the term deposits have an average interest rate of 3.82% (3.55% in 2006) and an average term maturity of 365 days (365 days in 2006).

5. Property and equipment

	Cost	2007 Accumulated Amortization	Net	2006 Net
Furniture and equipment	\$ 838,556	\$ 547,518	\$ 291,038	\$ 348,368
Data processing equipment	377,235	224,088	153,147	161,329
Website	52,351	8,641	43,710	-
Leasehold improvements	493,511	117,529	375,982	418,447
Automotive equipment	<u>28,589</u>	<u>5,248</u>	<u>23,341</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 1,790,242</u>	<u>\$ 903,024</u>	<u>\$ 887,218</u>	<u>\$ 928,144</u>

The above assets include equipment under capital leases for a total cost of \$213,625 (\$213,625 in 2006), less accumulated amortization of \$79,858 (\$37,133 in 2006). The automotive equipment is being used by the Port-au-Prince personnel within the activities of the project entitled "Haitian civil society's participation to the transition towards democracy".

6. Obligations under capital leases

Rights & Democracy has entered into agreements to rent office equipment under capital leases. The obligations under these capital leases have been discounted at a rate of interest varying from 9.5 to 15.59% per annum. The related obligations are paid over a 5-6 year lease term. Minimum lease payments totalling \$50,003 (\$45,068 in 2006) for the year ended March 31, 2007, including interest of \$16,519 (\$17,188 in 2006), were charged to results.

At March 31, 2007, the future minimum lease payments are:

2008	\$ 50,003
2009	50,003
2010	45,875
2011	31,104
Total future minimum lease payments	176,985
Less: imputed interest	(28,698)
	<u>148,287</u>
Short term portion	<u>(36,957)</u>
	<u>\$ 111,330</u>

7. Deferred contributions

Deferred contributions represent unspent resources externally restricted for implementing specific projects, received or receivable in the current period that are related to subsequent periods. Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2007	2006
Deferred contributions, beginning of year	\$ 170,367	\$ 453,322
Amount recognized as revenue in the year (Note 10)	(52,728)	(427,254)
Canadian International Development Agency		
Strengthening of Haitian Civil Society Project	115,509	53,799
Canada Corps: Strengthening of Governance in Africa	1,209	51,987
Economic Integration and Human Rights in the Americas	-	1,320
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
International Internships for Young Professionals	23,680	257
Haiti: Youth Engagement in Democratic Development Project	10,000	-
ICC Victims Manual and Workshop in DRC Project	5,605	-
Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa		
DRC – Justice for Sexual Violence Victims Project	20,695	-
International Development Research Centre		
Network of Student Delegations	5,000	-
Canadian Institute for Environment Law Protection		
Think Link Project	-	6,159
Immigration et Communautés Culturelles du Québec		
Network of Student Delegations	1,000	-
Development & Peace		
Advocacy Project in Indonesia	1,130	691
Contributions to the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group	-	25,505
Donations	2,148	4,581
Deferred contributions, end of year	\$ <u>303,615</u>	\$ <u>170,367</u>
The composition of deferred contributions as at March 31 is as follows:		
Canadian International Development Agency		
Strengthening of Haitian Civil Society Project	\$ 169,309	\$ 53,799
Canada Corps: Strengthening of Governance in Africa	53,196	51,987
Economic Integration and Human Rights in the Americas	-	1,320
Inter-Pares		
Participation in the Beijing Platform	-	2,015
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
International Internships for Young Professionals	23,680	257
Haiti: Youth Engagement in Democratic Development Project	10,000	-
ICC Victims Manual and Workshop in DRC Project	5,605	-
Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa		
DRC – Justice for Sexual Violence Victims Project	20,695	-
International Development Research Centre		
Research Project	-	23,627
Network of Student Delegations	5,000	-
Canadian Institute for Environment Law and Policy		
Think Link Project	-	6,159
Immigration et Communautés Culturelles du Québec		
Network of Student Delegations	1,000	-
Development & Peace		
Advocacy Project in Indonesia	1,821	691
Contributions to the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group	6,717	25,505
Donations	6,592	5,007
	\$ <u>303,615</u>	\$ <u>170,367</u>

8. Deferred capital funding

	2007	2006
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 564,938	\$ 206,338
Parliamentary appropriation – capital funding	170,853	441,661
Amortization of deferred capital funding	<u>(137,053)</u>	<u>(83 061)</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ <u>598,738</u>	\$ <u>564,938</u>

9. Expenses

	Programmes and Activities	2007 General Administration	Total	2006 Total
Projects	\$ 6,402,198	\$ -	\$ 6,402,198	\$ 5,167,333
Salaries and employee benefits	1,914,607	618,617	2,533,224	2,313,318
Professional fees	265,316	193,393	458,709	208,254
Rent	205,190	80,499	285,689	221,612
Board fees and expenses	-	227,384	227,384	77,007
Amortization of property and equipment	151,316	60,463	211,779	145,261
Travel	150,103	32,936	183,039	140,906
Cost of awards	169,710	-	169,710	138,894
Information	81,865	6,288	88,153	78,793
Mail and telephony	46,263	8,907	55,170	48,007
Office expenses	41,885	8,064	49,949	47,815
Miscellaneous	<u>21,057</u>	<u>4,054</u>	<u>25,111</u>	<u>22,984</u>
	\$ <u>9,449,510</u>	\$ <u>1,240,605</u>	\$ <u>10,690,115</u>	\$ <u>8,610,184</u>
Termination benefits	-	-	-	139,828
	\$ <u>9,449,510</u>	\$ <u>1,240,605</u>	\$ <u>10,690,115</u>	\$ <u>8,750,012</u>

10. Contributions

Contributions reported in the statement of operations come from the following sources:

	2007	2006
Other contributions for specific projects	\$ 589,206	\$ 424,194
Contributions from the Government of Canada for specific projects (1)	692,641	664,982
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	150,000	141,012
General contributions	8,364	10,036
	<u>1,440,211</u>	<u>1,240,224</u>
Amount of deferred contributions recognized as revenue in the year (Note 7)		
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	257	-
Canadian International Development Agency (1)		
Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund	-	140,645
Economic Integration and Human Rights in the Americas	1,320	-
International Development Research Centre (1)	23,626	283,624
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	2,015	485
Canadian Institute for Environment Law Protection		
Think Link VI — Media and Public Policy	6,159	-
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group	18,788	-
Donations	563	2,500
	<u>52,728</u>	<u>427,254</u>
	<u>\$ 1,492,939</u>	<u>\$ 1,667,478</u>
The composition of contributions as at March 31 st is as follows:		
Contributions from the Government of Canada and other related entities (1) for specific projects	\$ 867,844	\$ 1,230,263
Other contributions	625,095	437,215
	<u>\$ 1,492,939</u>	<u>\$ 1,667,478</u>

11. Commitments

a) Leases

Rights & Democracy has entered into a lease for the rental of office space until 2016. The balance of the commitment under the lease is \$ 2,452,251. Minimum payments payable over subsequent years are as follows:

2008	\$ 270,068
2009	270,068
2010	270,068
2011	292,328
2012 and subsequent	1,349,719
	<u>\$ 2,452,251</u>

b) Grants

As of March 31, 2007, Rights & Democracy has approved grants totaling \$335,000 for the coming years, under certain conditions.

12. Employee future benefits

Rights & Democracy and all eligible employees contribute to the Public Service Pension Plan. This pension plan provides benefits based on years of service and average earnings at retirement. The benefits are fully indexed to the increase in the Consumer Price Index. Rights & Democracy's and employees' contributions to the Public Service Pension Plan for the year were as follows:

	2007	2006
Rights & Democracy	\$ 343,791	\$ 307,491
Employees	\$ 138,764	\$ 115,690

13. Contingencies

In the normal course of business, various claims have been brought against Rights & Democracy. It is the opinion of Management that these claims will not result in any material liabilities to Rights & Democracy. No provision has been taken in this regard.