

# LIBERTAS

## Women working for justice in Rwanda



### New Publications

- Rights & Democracy has published *Accessing the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)*, a practical guide in French, English and Kinyarwanda for human rights activists and victims of the Rwandan genocide. This guide will help promote the adequate prosecution of perpetrators of crimes of gender violence at the ICTR, as well as help find ways to attain justice for women in Rwanda. It offers clear and simple guidelines that address the difficulties encountered by Rwandan victims and their grassroots organizations in gaining access to international justice.
- Rights & Democracy's 1999-2000 Annual Report was recently tabled in Parliament and is now available to the public. For copies, please contact [ichrdd@ichrdd.ca](mailto:ichrdd@ichrdd.ca) or visit our Web site at [www.ichrdd.ca](http://www.ichrdd.ca).
- A report of Rights & Democracy's Symposium *Hemispheric Integration and Democracy in the Americas: Citizenship, Participation, Accountability* held in Windsor, Ontario, from June 3 to 5, 2000, during the OAS General Assembly, is now available. The symposium explored the types of institutions needed to protect human rights and strengthen democracies in a hemisphere where traditional boundaries between states are rapidly transforming. Priorities and activities with respect to the Summit of the Americas to be held in Quebec in 2001 are included in the report.



VERU DUNUJIFAGNI

#### Seated from left to right:

Geraldine Umugwansa of the Association for the Widows of Genocide (AVEGA-AGAHOZO), Patricie Mukanyundo of LIPRODHOR (Rwandan League for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights), Edda Mukabagwisa of HAGURUKA (Association for the defense of women's and children's rights) and Martha Sebera of the Rwanda Women's Network.

**T**he Coalition on Women's Rights in Armed Conflict Situations, which is coordinated by the Women's Rights Programme of Rights & Democracy, met in Montreal on September 15 and 16, 2000, to exchange information with

Rwanda women's groups about the activities of the Coalition, the situation in Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Based on the priorities of the Rwandan groups, members of the Coalition established a work plan for the coming year, including continued monitoring of cases at the ICTR, advocating witness protection and support, seeking compensation for those who testify, defining sexual violence as torture for clarification in Rwandan law, exploring the situation of women's housing rights, and distributing the recently published *Accessing the ICTR* (see sidebar).



**Rights & Democracy**

International Centre for Human Rights  
and Democratic Development

Rights & Democracy is a Canadian organization with an international mandate. It works with civil society and governments in Canada and abroad to promote human rights and democratic development through dialogue, advocacy, capacity building and public education. It focuses on four themes: democratic development, women's rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and globalization and human rights.

## Kathleen Mahoney

### honoured by her peers



Kathleen Mahoney, Chairperson of Rights & Democracy and professor at the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, was honoured by her peers at the annual convention of the Canadian Bar Association in August. Judge Cecilia Johnstone of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench (on the right) presented her with the 2000 Bertha Wilson Touchstone Award at a ceremony in Halifax. The award named in honour of Canada's first woman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court recognizes the accomplishments of a woman who has excelled in promoting equality in the legal profession, the judiciary, or the legal community in Canada.

## Warren Allmand, named to the Order of Canada

**W**arren Allmand, President of Rights & Democracy, was appointed to the Order of Canada by the Governor General in early July. Throughout more than 35 years of public service, Mr. Allmand, a former federal cabinet minister, has worked against apartheid in South Africa, for the abolition of the death penalty, tougher gun control legislation, arms control and disarmament and the protection of the rights of disabled persons, aboriginal Canadians, the poor, the elderly, the unemployed, and minority groups.

## A Postcard Campaign Free Min Ko Naing

**R**ights & Democracy is organizing a postcard campaign calling for the release of student leader Min Ko Naing of Burma and supporting the Open School Campaign, with the support of Amnesty International – Canadian Section (English). The postcards will be distributed to schools and universities across Canada this fall. Min Ko Naing, the 1999 co-recipient of the John Humphrey Freedom Award, has been in prison for over a decade. Perceived as a threat to the military regime in Burma, he was arrested following the pro-democracy uprising in 1988. Hundreds of students have been arrested or killed in the past 12 years. Although some schools have been reopened for a total of about 30 months, access to education exists solely for children of the military.



**I**n early July, Michel Corbeil, member of the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy, joined Madeleine Desnoyers, Programme Officer for the Americas, and members of the **Mexico** Working Group on an electoral observation mission to Mexico. The July 2nd elections brought an end to 71 years of one-party rule and the election of the National Action Party. President-elect Vicente Fox travelled to Canada in August to meet officials and representatives of Canadian NGOs. Mr. Corbeil attended the **Toronto** meeting and reiterated Rights & Democracy's concerns about human rights abuses in Mexico and urged him to take concrete steps to strengthen democracy in Mexico, noting the need to improve the country's system of public

accountability and addressing the issue of poverty. • Asia Programme Officer Mika Lévesque and Kamal Hossain of **Bangladesh**, a member of the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy, attended in July the founding convention of South Asians for Human Rights in Neemrana, **India**, a new human rights network in the region which will enable activists to speak out with one voice on human rights issues in South Asia. • Student Jean-Michel Archambault-Cyr travelled to **Burma** recently to represent Rights & Democracy at a forum in Rangoon on the future of education in Burma. • Africa Regional Officer Akouété Akakpo-Vidah was in Gaborone, Botswana, with Willy Muntunga, a member of the Board of Rights & Democracy, to attend a seminar on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue sponsored by Rights & Democracy, the **Kenya** Human Rights Commission and

Ditshwanelo, the **Botswana** Centre for Human Rights, and ASADHO, the African human rights organization in **Congo**. They expressed support for the work of Sir Kenneth Masire, the facilitator appointed by the Organization for African Unity. • Globalization and Human Rights Programme Coordinator Diana Bronson attended a Roundtable on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of Globalization at the United Nations Sub-Commission for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in **Geneva**. The Sub-Commission unanimously adopted a resolution calling into question the impact of the WTO (World Trade Organization) Agreement of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on human rights of people and communities, including farmers and indigenous peoples worldwide.

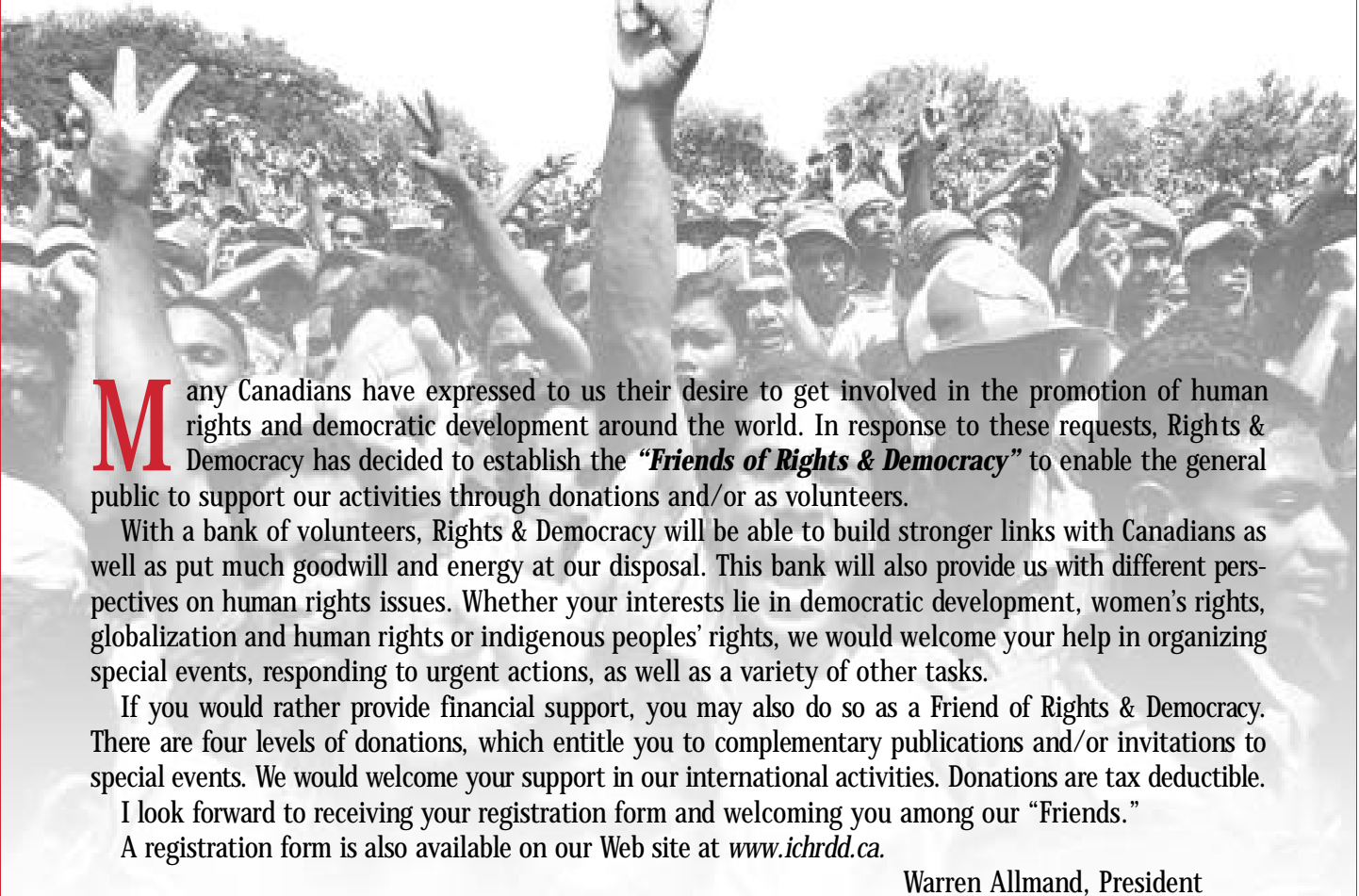
*Libertas* is the quarterly newsletter of Rights & Democracy. It is available free of charge and is accessible electronically at [www.ichrdd.ca](http://www.ichrdd.ca). Articles may be freely excerpted, provided credit is given and a copy of the publication in which the material appears is sent to Rights & Democracy. Legal Deposit, 3rd quarter 2000. ISSN 1027-0884. Rights & Democracy's Documentation Centre is open to the public. Call (514) 283-6073 for an appointment.

• **Editor:** Aугie van Biljouw ([avbiljou@ichrdd.ca](mailto:avbiljou@ichrdd.ca)). • **Production:** Laperrière Communication. • **Translation:** Claudine Vivier.

**Board of Directors:** Kathleen Mahoney (Chairperson), Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny (Vice Chair), Warren Allmand (President), Harry W. Arthurs, Iona Campagnolo, Michel Corbeil, Kamal Hossain, Lydia A. Hwitsum, Suzanne Laporte, David Matas, Juan E. Mendez, Willy Munyoki Mutunga, Robert Pace.

# Friends of **Rights & Democracy**

(International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development)



**M**any Canadians have expressed to us their desire to get involved in the promotion of human rights and democratic development around the world. In response to these requests, Rights & Democracy has decided to establish the “*Friends of Rights & Democracy*” to enable the general public to support our activities through donations and/or as volunteers.

With a bank of volunteers, Rights & Democracy will be able to build stronger links with Canadians as well as put much goodwill and energy at our disposal. This bank will also provide us with different perspectives on human rights issues. Whether your interests lie in democratic development, women’s rights, globalization and human rights or indigenous peoples’ rights, we would welcome your help in organizing special events, responding to urgent actions, as well as a variety of other tasks.

If you would rather provide financial support, you may also do so as a Friend of Rights & Democracy. There are four levels of donations, which entitle you to complementary publications and/or invitations to special events. We would welcome your support in our international activities. Donations are tax deductible.

I look forward to receiving your registration form and welcoming you among our “Friends.”

A registration form is also available on our Web site at [www.ichrdd.ca](http://www.ichrdd.ca).

Warren Allmand, President  
Rights & Democracy

## REGISTRATION FORM

- Yes, I wish to register as a Friend of Rights & Democracy and support its work by making a donation and/or by working as a volunteer.**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (res.) \_\_\_\_\_ (bus.)

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ (res.) \_\_\_\_\_ (bus.)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please complete either or both of the following two sections:****1.  Yes, I wish to make a donation to Rights & Democracy\***

Because of my interest in the international work of Rights &amp; Democracy, I will make my donation as:

- a Benefactor \$1 000 +                       an Associate 100-499  
 a Patron 500-999                               a Friend 25-99

- Benefactors will be listed in Rights & Democracy's annual report, be invited to special events and receive all Rights & Democracy publications.
- Patrons will be listed in the annual report, be invited to special events, and receive the annual report and quarterly newsletter, *Libertas*.
- Associates will receive the annual report, *Libertas*, and be invited to special events.
- Friends will receive the annual report and *Libertas*.

**I would like to designate my contribution to the following:**

- General (wherever most needed)                       Indigenous Peoples' Rights  
 Democratic Development                               Globalization and Human Rights  
 International Human Rights Advocacy                       Women's Rights

- Please find enclosed my donation to Rights & Democracy. For recognition purposes, I wish my name to appear as:

\_\_\_\_\_

OR

- Please find enclosed my donation to Rights & Democracy. I wish my gift to remain anonymous.

I have enclosed a cheque payable to Rights & Democracy.

I would prefer to use my VISA:

Card no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**2.  Yes, I am interested in working as a volunteer for Rights & Democracy.**

Please check a box:

- Mailings     Translation and foreign language interpretation  
 Support at public events                               Professional assistance  
 Fundraising  
 Expertise in one country or region of the world: \_\_\_\_\_ (please specify)  
 Expertise in one of the Rights & Democracy themes:  
 Democratic Development                               Indigenous Peoples' Rights  
 Women's Rights     Globalization and Human Rights  
 Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your availability:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Attached is my curriculum vitae or resumé.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**\*Rights & Democracy is a non-profit charitable organization (registration number 0808345-59). Donations are tax deductible.**