

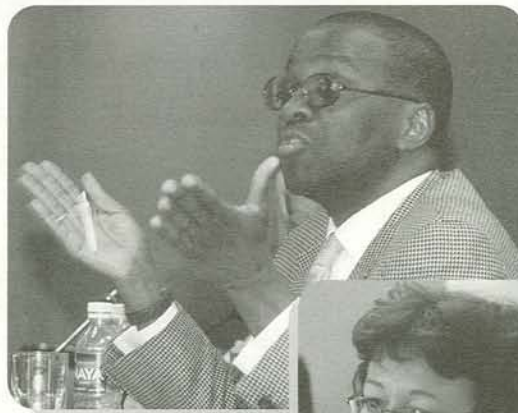
# LIBERTAS

## Voices from the South:

Rights & Democracy's Annual Think Tank on Promoting Human Rights and Democracy in the Context of Terrorism

*In the wake of the September 11 attacks, governments around the world are spending increasing amounts of financial and human resources on anti-terrorism measures at the detriment of economic and social programmes. In the spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, which states that the realization of human rights is the primary obligation of States, we need to ensure that the means by which we address terrorism do not compromise the fundamental principles of human rights. In Ottawa on May 30, the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy hosted its annual Think Tank on "Promoting Human Rights and Democracy in the Context of Terrorism." Rights & Democracy partner organizations from around the world shared their perspectives with Canadian representatives of government and non-governmental organizations about the impact of the September 11 fallout in different parts of the world, and recommended strategies for ensuring that the need for security measures does not become a pretext for the suppression of basic human rights.*

About 100 representatives from Canadian and international NGOs including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Ligue des droits et libertés, the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, the Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, the Vietnamese Federation, as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs, Canadian International Development Agency, the Senate Committee on Human Rights, the Human Rights Parliamentarians Group, academics and the diplomatic corps in Canada participated. They analyzed current security legislation in various countries and its impact on civil liberties and on the work of human rights defenders and democracy activists; they discussed the need for a balance between public security needs and the maintenance of individual freedoms, and finally, they considered new ways to ensure that the Canadian government and governments around the world implement their obligations under



international human rights and humanitarian law, in the context of increased security and anti-terrorism measures. A report will soon be available on our Web site at [www.ichrdd.ca](http://www.ichrdd.ca).



At Rights & Democracy's Ottawa Think Tank, Southern partners, such as Sivarasa Rasiah of SUARAM (Voices of the People of Malaysia) in Malaysia, as well as board members Willy Mutunga of Kenya, Sofia Macher of Peru, and Vitiit Muntarbhorn of Thailand, voiced their concerns that in the fight against terrorism, governments are not only creating new security legislation but bringing back repressive laws that are inconsistent with human rights law. All called for a common definition of terrorism to avoid arbitrariness and political abuses, as well as the need for the global human rights movement to build coalitions to monitor state compliance with international human rights standards and discuss the root causes of terrorism.

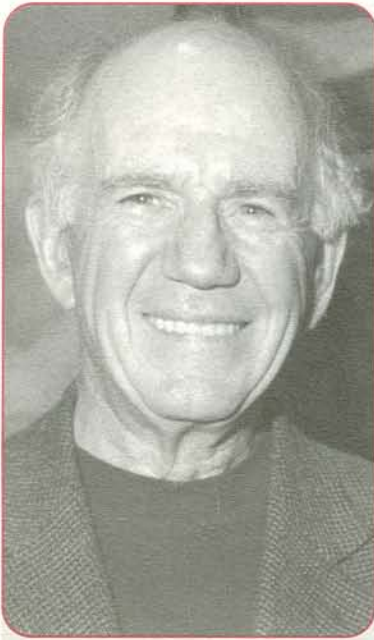


**Rights & Democracy**

International Centre for Human Rights  
and Democratic Development

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) is a Canadian institution with an international mandate. It is an independent organization, which promotes, advocates and defends the democratic and human rights set out in the *International Bill of Human Rights*. In cooperation with civil society and governments in Canada and abroad, Rights & Democracy initiates and supports programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.





## A Farewell Message

Dear Friends,

It's been an incredible five years serving the cause of human rights as the President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. Much has been accomplished worldwide. We at Rights & Democracy have been involved in some of these important developments, such as the creation of the International Criminal Court, the People's Summit in Quebec City, the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the nomination of the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, civil society participation in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo and work with the International NGO Coalition on the Rights of Women in Conflict Situations. However, much remains to be done, as governments clamp down on human rights defenders, innocent citizens are caught up in armed conflicts, human rights organizations face dwindling resources and more and more governments put international trade ahead of human rights. The way in which we deal with human

rights today will determine our world order of tomorrow.

I would like to thank the many courageous human rights activists who have inspired me in my work over the years. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Directors, whose commitment to the organization and the cause of human rights has been exemplary. I have also greatly admired and appreciated the serious and tireless work done by the dedicated staff of Rights & Democracy. I know that the organization is in good hands and will continue to contribute greatly to the cause of human rights and democratic development around the world.

*Wes. Belemant*

# Secretary of State

for Latin America and Africa Visits  
Rights & Democracy

The new Secretary of State for Latin America, Africa and the Francophonie, Denis Paradis (pictured here with Chairperson Kathleen Mahoney), met with Board members and staff on



March 22, 2002 in Montreal. Two weeks prior to his mission to Africa with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, in preparation for the G8 Summit to be held in Kananaskis, Alberta in June, Mr. Paradis heard Rights & Democracy's concerns about the document *New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD)*, which will be discussed at the Summit.

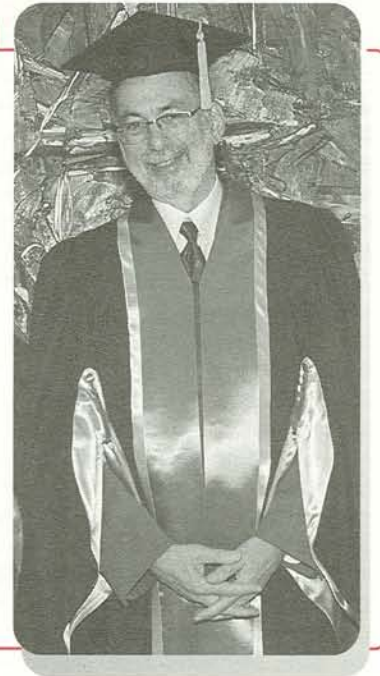
## Nigerian Women's Rights Activist Wins John Humphrey Freedom Award

Ayesha Imam has been selected as this year's John Humphrey Freedom Award recipient for her exemplary contribution to the women's rights movement, and in particular for her work against the new restrictive and discriminatory Sharia criminal laws in Nigeria, as carried out through the human rights organization BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights. In the face of threats and harassment, Ayesha Imam has mobilized civil society organizations across Nigeria to challenge conservative religious laws that are being used to perpetuate violence against women.

"Ayesha Imam's personal courage and commitment to the women's rights movement in Nigeria and throughout Africa inspires us all. We hope that this international Award will help to highlight the dangers faced by women and girls under the rigid Sharia system," said Kathleen Mahoney, Acting President of Rights & Democracy and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, who announced the decision of the international jury at the beginning of June.

## Arthurs honoured with Killam Prize

On April 21, 2002, board member Harry W. Arthurs was honoured with the 2002 Killam Prize, Canada's most distinguished award for outstanding career achievement in social sciences. The prize was awarded to him by Canada's Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. A week earlier, Mr. Arthurs, a professor of law at the Osgoode Law Faculty of York University, where he served as dean of the law faculty (1972-77) and president of the university (1985-92), received an honorary law degree from the Centre de recherche en droit public of the Université de Montréal.



The annual Award includes a \$25,000 grant and a speaking tour of Canada, and is named in honour of John Peters Humphrey, the Canadian who prepared the first draft of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. It will be presented in Montreal on Tuesday, December 10, 2002, International Human Rights Day. For more information: [www.ichrdd.ca](http://www.ichrdd.ca) or [avbiljou@ichrdd.ca](mailto:avbiljou@ichrdd.ca).



# G8 and Africa:

## Human Rights Must Come First

Rights & Democracy is participating in the G6B — the People's Summit ([www.g6b-peoplesummit.org](http://www.g6b-peoplesummit.org)) at the University of Calgary from June 21-25, immediately prior to the G8 leaders' Summit at Kananaskis on June 26-27. The G6B refers to the Global Six Billion — the entire global citizenry, whose voices have not been taken into account by the leaders of the eight most industrialized countries meeting to discuss issues of security and economic growth in Africa.

Much of the discussion on Africa at the Summit will focus on the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* (NEPAD), a policy framework for development drafted by several African Heads of State. However, as Rights & Democracy has argued in its policy paper presented to the Canadian government, NEPAD is not an adequate strategy for the development of Africa.

In *Human Rights and Democratic Development in Africa: Policy Considerations for Africa's Development in the New Millennium in Preparation for the G8 Summit* (available at [www.ichrdd.ca](http://www.ichrdd.ca)), Rights & Democracy argues that the starting point for a G8 strategy for Africa's economic recovery and progress must be the UN-defined right to development, a concept which encompasses economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. NEPAD, although it has some laudable development objectives, lacks a real strategy to meet its poverty eradication targets. Rights & Democracy thus calls on the G8 leaders to reject NEPAD in its current form, and orient its Africa policy around measures including fairer trade rules, development funding and debt cancellation.

### Rights & Democracy's Recommendations:

- The protection of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, must be central to any development plan for Africa, and must guide trade and investment policies.
- Civil society must be consulted regarding a development plan for Africa. NEPAD has no legitimacy until such discussions have taken place.

• A gender analysis of economic and development policies and programming for Africa is critical in ensuring that women's rights and freedoms are realized.

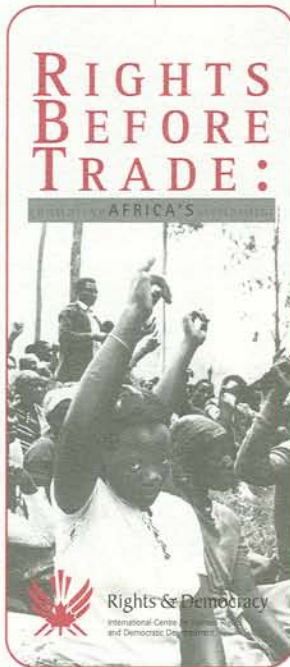
• Any development plan for Africa must prioritize funding for large-scale HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes.

• G8 nations must seriously address the prolonged conflicts that ravage Africa and must now throw their weight behind peace processes already under way — in particular those in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola.

• G8 leaders should uphold their stated goals to achieve 0.7% Official Development Assistance (ODA) levels and cancel the debt of Africa's least developed countries.

Rights & Democracy has invited Senegalese development consultant Maréma Touré, an expert on gender and development, and Nigerian Olisa Agbakoba, of the

Human Rights Law Service (HURI-LAWS), to participate in the G6B, where they will be addressing some of these topics.



## New Publications

• *Documentar las Violaciones de Derechos Humanos por los Agentes del Estado Violencia Sexual*, by Agnès Callamard, adapted for indigenous women by Pilar Rueda.

• *Women's Rights Violations during the Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: From August 2, 1998 to September 30, 2001. The Memorial*, by Lisette Banza Mbombo and Christian Hemedi Bayolo.

Copies are available free of charge from [publications@ichrdd.ca](mailto:publications@ichrdd.ca).

## The International Criminal Court Becomes a Reality

On Thursday April 11, at the United Nations in New York City, the world celebrated the 60th ratification of the Rome Statute creating a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) with global jurisdiction for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Rights & Democracy's President Warren Allmand attended the UN ceremonies and praised the NGOs and progressive governments around the world whose work has ensured the ICC becomes a reality.

## Opening Session of Permanent Forum: A Milestone for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

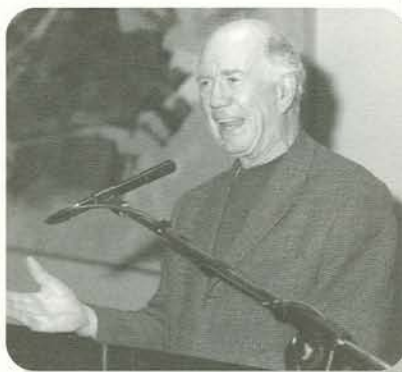
Over 1,000 indigenous representatives from around the world met in New York for the first two-week session of the new UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council to bring to light the concerns of indigenous peoples. The Forum comprises 16 independent experts and will tackle issues such as self-determination, self-rule and autonomy, intellectual property rights and cultural diversity, land and resource rights and visions of development. Although considered a milestone in the

struggle for indigenous peoples rights, the Forum has neither the budget nor the human resources to fulfil its mandate effectively. Mr. Allmand and Marie Léger, Coordinator of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Programme, attended the Forum as well as the Seminar on self-determination organized by Rights & Democracy on May 18 in New York. The Seminar brought together representatives of government, non-governmental organizations, and indigenous peoples to present various perspectives and discuss the implications of self-determination.



# Friends of Rights & Democracy

The "Friends of Rights & Democracy" was created to enable the general public to lend their names in support of the promotion of human rights and democratic development around the world. Rights & Democracy organized a "Friends of Rights & Democracy" reception in May to increase awareness of and build support for its work. The reception was held in Ottawa at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and was attended by many supporters, members of Parliament, friends and ministers, who also took the opportunity to bid farewell to Warren Allmand, his mandate having expired on May 25, 2002, after a five-year term. The Chairperson, Kathleen Mahoney, board and staff members, as well as Ed Broadbent, the first president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, paid tribute to Mr. Allmand's dedication and integrity. They voiced the feelings of all those present in saying that Mr. Allmand's contribution to Rights & Democracy had left an indelible mark.



In Ottawa, Warren Allmand filled out his own "Friends of Rights & Democracy" form and urged others to do the same. Rights & Democracy hopes to reach its goal of 1,200 Friends by Christmas.

Top Right: Ed Broadbent, Gisèle Côté-Harper, Clovis Demers, Kathleen Mahoney.

Bottom Right: Joe Gunn, Alexa McDonough, Gerry Barr.



From April 23 to 27, Regional Officer for Africa Akouété Akakpo-Vidah and Globalization Assistant Coordinator Carole Samdup attended the Third World Network conference on NEPAD (New Economic Partnership on Africa's Development), in Accra, Ghana. Mr. Allmand delivered the keynote speech at a symposium commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms on April 25 in Edmonton. On April 29, he testified before the Senate Committee on Human Rights with Democratic Development Assistant Coordinator Geneviève Lessard on the Inter-American Democratic Charter. From April 29 to May 3,

Akouété Akakpo-Vidah attended the NGO Forum at the African Commission on Human Rights in Pretoria, South Africa. On May 3, Stéphanie Rousseau attended an IDEA-sponsored conference on Democratization in New York. On May 4-5, Mr. Akakpo-Vidah, Ms. Samdup, and Programme Director Iris Almeida organized a workshop on an integrated human rights approach to long-term development in Africa at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-sponsored conference on Canada and Africa: A New Partnership in Montreal. On May 8, Mr. Allmand gave a speech before the Social Justice Committee in Montreal. From May 10 to 17, Ariane Brunet attended the International Solidarity Conference for Implementation of the Judgement of

the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo. From May 21 to 27, she participated in meetings in Kenya for the Urgent Action Fund. On May 16, Ms. Almeida and the Regional Officer for Asia, Micheline Lévesque, attended a day-long seminar at the Pearson Peacebuilding Centre in Montreal on the UN in East Timor: Lessons Learned. From May 22 to June 14, Ms. Lessard travelled to Mexico to meet partners as part of Rights & Democracy's democratic development study in that country. Ms. Rousseau travelled to Peru as part of an observation mission of the first municipal referendum on a Canadian mining project from May 27 to June 3. From May 30 to June 6, Madeleine Desnoyers attended the OAS General Assembly in Barbados.

*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, 2nd quarter 2002. ISSN 1027-0884. Rights & Democracy's Documentation Centre is open to the public. Call (514) 283-6073 for an appointment.

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