

ANNUAL REPORT

2003
2004

Democratic Development: At the Heart of Our Action



Rights & Democracy

International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

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MANDATE

Created by the Parliament of Canada, Rights & Democracy is an independent and non-partisan organization that works with civil society organizations and governments, in Canada and abroad. Rights & Democracy initiates, encourages and supports cooperation between Canada and other countries in the development, promotion and strengthening of democratic and human rights institutions and programmes that give effect to the rights and freedoms defined in the United Nations' *International Bill of Human Rights*.

Rights & Democracy works at national, regional and international levels. It has thematic expertise in democratic development, women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, the intersection of globalization and human rights, and transnational justice. It also addresses issues related to violations of civil liberties in the context of terrorism, the impact of fundamentalisms on human rights, Canada's foreign policy and strengthening the United Nations' human rights mechanisms.

Rights & Democracy receives the majority of its funding from Canada's Overseas Development Assistance Budget through Foreign Affairs Canada. Each year, the chairperson 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 (registration number: 0808345-59). Donations are tax deductible.

Directed by Jean-Louis Roy since August 2002 (by Warren Allmand from 1997 to 2002 and by Edward Broadbent from 1989 to 1996), Rights & Democracy is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors, currently chaired by Kathleen Mahoney of Alberta.



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

It is with some considerable sadness and nostalgia that I write this annual report, for it is my last as the Chair. My six year term expires in November, and what an interesting and challenging journey this past six years has been. When I was appointed in 1998, the world was quite a different place. Although human rights were precarious, we had a sense of optimism that although slow, progress was steady and inevitable. Whether it was advocating the International Criminal Court (ICC), peace initiatives, the empowerment of civil societies, the advancement of women and indigenous peoples, tempering globalization or promoting democracy, we made progress.

Since the catastrophe of September 11, everything has changed. Security is increasingly the preoccupation of states, and human rights are downgraded and often ignored. Basic principles once universally accepted are flaunted and undermined, even in our own backyard. It has become legitimate to debate whether torture is permissible. The Geneva Conventions are thought to be old-fashioned. Partners in developing countries are punished as subversives and terrorists because they stand up for human rights. Funding has been cut back or disappeared while unspeakable atrocities are committed with impunity in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Because of this state of affairs, Rights & Democracy's work has never been more vital and of the essence. And it is in good hands. Our recent five-year review recognized our important contributions and praised our ability to get results. This is no surprise. Rights & Democracy has an exceptionally committed, smart, and highly respected staff led by the President, Jean Louis Roy. The Board is equally so. I will miss them.



Kathleen Mahoney



Photo: Chris Kralik



Photo: Chris Kralik

Members of the Board of Directors of Rights & Democracy.

From left to right, 1st row:

Wayne MacKay, Marie-Josée Vidricaire, Kathleen Mahoney, Lydia Hwitsum; 2nd row: Peter C. Turner, John Fryer, Jean-Louis Roy, Rebecca Cook and Vitit Muntarbhorn.

Absent:

Sofia Macher and Willy Munyoki Mutunga.

A Positive Review for Rights & Democracy

Every five years, Rights & Democracy undergoes an external review in order to inform the Parliament of Canada of its activities and structure, as stipulated in the organization's incorporating Act. This review, which covers the period from 1998 to 2003, proposes action strategies to preserve and improve the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the organization's work. The review is based on four case studies: efforts to raise the awareness of the Canadian public through the John Humphrey Freedom Award; intervention and advocacy with respect to the International Criminal Court (ICC); capacity-building of civil society for the promotion of peace and development in Guatemala; and democratization efforts in Kenya.

Overall, the conclusions of the review were extremely positive, as illustrated by this excerpt:

"Rights & Democracy has made a noticeable contribution in a number of areas such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), contribution to the awareness of the Canadian Public on issues of human rights, protection of human rights defenders through the John Humphrey Freedom Award, and support to human rights groups in developing countries through relatively modest support that can have a long-lasting effect on the work of promoting human rights and democracy done by these groups. In addition, although this went beyond the specific focus of our review, Rights & Democracy continues to remain well appreciated as a strong contributor to the cause of women's rights. It is fair to say that Rights & Democracy has achieved significant results relative to resources in the case studies assessed."

Document available on request:
dd-rd@dd-rd.ca.

"Rights & Democracy's high level of staff expertise has benefitted other stakeholders and contributes to the credibility of Rights & Democracy... Rights & Democracy's staff expertise is seen as one of its greatest strengths."

Five-Year Review,
Office of the Inspector General,
Foreign Affairs Canada, 2003.

Staff in 2003 | 2004



Photo: Chris Krallik

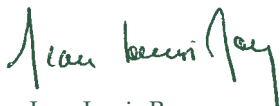
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the last 25 years, democracy and its core component—human rights—have enjoyed phenomenal expansion. These principles transformed Latin America in the 1980s, followed by Central and Eastern Europe and Africa in the 1990s. South Africa, which is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid, is a good example. Much progress has also been made in Asia. But this sweeping movement that has defined our era has now reached an alarming impasse.

The deterioration of socio-economic conditions in Latin America, mounting conflicts on the African continent, exorbitant spending on security since September 11, the rise of fundamentalisms, the difficulties of countries working together under the UN's multilateral framework, as well as non-compliance with humanitarian law and international conventions on human rights in the case of the war in Iraq, have all contributed to this impasse.

In this context, the importance of an organization such as Rights & Democracy, its networks at the national (13 countries in 2003-2004), regional and international levels, and its activities, is clear. In 2003-2004, we conducted analyses, proposed measures and took action, alongside other organizations, on various issues with the goal of promoting democratic values and human rights around the world. This is the foundation of our work.

This report shows that our action is guided by the objective of achieving tangible results and making a real impact. The five-year independent review (1998-2003) set out in our incorporating Act, which was finalized and presented in September 2003, clearly establishes this imperative. The review acknowledges *our institution's unique contribution* to Canada's mechanisms, its capacity to mobilize, propose solutions and take action. This capacity is greatly bolstered by our partnerships with national, regional and international institutions and organizations. I would like to express my deep gratitude to everyone who has worked hand-in-hand with us.



Jean-Louis Roy



Photo: Chris Kralik

From left to right, 1st row: Jean-Louis Roy, Iris Almeida, Micheline Lévesque, Isabelle Solon Helal; *2nd row:* Anne-Marie Lavoie, Louise Lavallée, Carmen Melfi, Meraya Savicki, intern, Carole Sandup, Anyle Coté, Marie-France Cloutier, Patricia Daigle, Marie Léger, Geneviève Lessard, Tamara Herman, Dominique Bourduas;
last row: Antonio José Almeida, Steve Smith, Lloyd Lipsett, Maxime Longangué, Philippe Tremblay, Cynthia Gervais.

Absent: Lara Arjan, Akouété Akakpo-Vidah, Véronique Bosset, Diana Bronson, Ariane Brunet, Louise Chicoine, Madeleine Desnoyers, Denis Gagné, Palwasha Hassan (based in Afghanistan), Angela Laird, Lucie Léveillé, Lauryn Oates, Razmik Panossian, Marie St-Louis, Patrick St-Louis, Luis Van Isschot.



Rights & Democracy provided financial support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, created in 2003 by the Moroccan authorities to shed light on the forced disappearances and arbitrary arrests which have occurred in Morocco since 1956, propose methods of reparation for these injustices, rehabilitate victims and promote national reconciliation.

NATIONAL

Taking Action to Strengthen Democratic Institutions



Over the last year, Rights & Democracy pursued its activities in 13 countries in Asia (Afghanistan, Burma, Indonesia), Africa (Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria), Central and Latin America (Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru) as well as in the Middle East and North Africa (Jordan, Morocco). Our interventions are intended to support the efforts of individuals and organizations struggling to establish and strengthen democratic institutions and to promote human rights in developing countries. With this in mind, we work closely with our civil society partners to strengthen their capacity-building during strategic periods of democratic transition. Often called on to act as a mediator, we intervene in situations where dialogue and agreements have yet to be established between civil society and government.

Laying the Groundwork for Ties in the Middle East, with Morocco as a Key Partner

Despite the challenges of democratic development in the Middle East and North Africa, some countries, such as Morocco, are already engaged in a process of democratization. The reforms instituted by the King and the government, namely the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, combined with a dynamic civil society, have ushered democracy into the country's political and social life. It was in this context that we launched an action-oriented study on Morocco's democratic development, in collaboration with Espace associatif, an association of some 50 democratic organizations. This study is based on a participatory research methodology and a series of workshops on civil and political rights, economic and social rights, and the creation of spaces for dialogue to enable civil society to communicate its proposals to government. To be published in Fall 2004, the study focuses on three major themes: women's rights, the legal system (independence, accessibility and transparency) and the promotion of a culture conducive to democratic development.

While Morocco is a key player in our involvement in the Middle East and North Africa, we will continue to further our analysis and expand our programmes in this region in 2004. Consequently, we organized a seminar of experts on the relationship between Islam and democracy (Montreal, March 22, 2004), with the notable participation of Professor Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, from the Emory University School of Law.



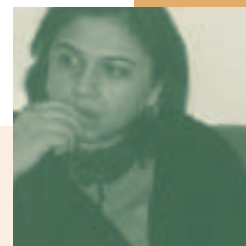
Providing Concrete Support to Afghan Women for Peacebuilding

In the months following September 11, 2001, Afghanistan became a nightly feature on our television sets and the world learned about the lives of women and girls destroyed by the Taliban regime, which had controlled 90% of the country, including the capital, since 1996. In fact, the Taliban's policies were so devastating to women that this recent period has come to be associated with terms such as "gender apartheid" or "gendercide." Yet it was only one more chapter in a conflict that has spanned nearly 25 years.

In 2003-2004, the Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund, established by Rights & Democracy, supported 16 grassroots women's organizations throughout Afghanistan, through funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). These projects are intended to support the struggle of Afghan women to assert their fundamental rights and to play an active role in peacebuilding. Projects include the creation of a literacy programme that offers 20 literacy classes to young women in 10 villages in the Heart district, as well as training activities on peacebuilding and leadership. In Canada, the Afghan Women's Advocacy Committee (AWAC-C), created in 2002 by Rights & Democracy, organizes activities to advocate for Afghan women's rights in national and international arenas. For instance, it called for the adoption of special security measures for Afghan women participants, observers and candidates at the Constitutional Loya Jirga ("Grand Assembly") at the end of 2003.

In collaboration with the organization Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), we also played a role in the process leading up to the adoption of the Afghan Constitution. Workshops on women's constitutional rights were organized in Kabul to help them articulate their demands to have their rights enshrined in Afghanistan's Constitution. A report analyzing the Constitution-making process, which included recommendations for the future Constitutional Loya Jirga, was also produced and widely distributed.

In preparation for the 2004 elections in Afghanistan, two Afghan women joined a team of international observers from the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) during the elections held in Indonesia on April 5, 2004, through the support of Rights & Democracy. ANFREL, a regional network of over 21 organizations from 11 countries, promotes and supports democratization in Asia.



Rights & Democracy has been in Kabul since September 2002. Its Coordinator, Palwasha Hassan, visited Canada in February 2004 to describe the situation of women in Afghanistan and their impressive mobilization during the Constitution-making process and the preparations for the Loya Jirga.



The Democratic Republic of Congo: Supporting the Democratic Transition Process

In December 2002, the signature of the *Global and Inclusive Agreement* laid the foundations for the democratic transition process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Over 500 delegates at the Inter-Congolese Dialogue who had taken part in the peace negotiations for several months committed to laying down arms and creating transitional institutions for the 2005 elections. Since June 30, 2003, a Parliament and a transitional government have been established, representing all of the parties involved in the Inter-Congolese political negotiations, including the main belligerents, the non-armed political opposition and civil society. Little by little, democratically-supported institutions are emerging, yet the transitional process remains fragile. This is the context in which we continue to support the transitional process and democratic development in the DRC. In this vein, a Rights & Democracy observation mission was sent to the DRC to examine new possibilities for cooperation with transitional institutions.

Rights & Democracy has been supporting the efforts of civil society organizations since 1992 and, through its interventions, has helped to ensure that Inter-Congolese peace negotiations took place in a climate of cooperation. In particular, since 1997, Rights & Democracy has worked to raise awareness among Canadian political leaders, encouraging them to support non-violent democratic forces against Mobutu and Kabila, and supported the fight against impunity for crimes committed during the 1996-1997 war by documenting the massive human rights' violations.

Our most valuable contribution to the peace process in the DRC, in collaboration with Congolese democratic forces based outside the DRC, was our efforts to encourage the regime of Laurent Kabila (Joseph Kabila's father) to open the doors to political negotiations with all sectors of Congolese society, not only with armed opposition forces. This position, which was finally adopted and concretized during the Inter-Congolese Dialogue with the inclusion of the non-armed political opposition and civil society, became the guiding principle of our work from June 1997 onwards.

In 2001-2002, we defined a new strategic approach in the DRC, this time by supporting the work of women's rights NGOs in order to ensure recognition of their role in the political transition process. We worked with NGOs to elaborate strategies to ensure the application of Security Council Resolution 1325 on the participation of women in peace negotiations and post-war institutions.

Pursuing our Long-standing Commitment to Burma

Rights & Democracy has continued to lend support to Burma's exiled government as well as to Canadian Friends of Burma (CFOB) and the Burmese Women's Union (BWU), an NGO that operates on the Burmese border with India, China and Thailand to protect and promote women's rights and to encourage their participation in political bodies.

Our commitment in Burma dates back to 1990, when the military junta refused to relinquish power and forced the elected government into exile. Intimidation, arbitrary arrests and assassinations ordered by the military regime, which refused to recognize the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy, forced elected parliamentarians to flee the country and create the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB). Rights & Democracy was the first organization in the world to recognize and lend financial support to the exiled government. Over the years, we have worked with many pro-democracy partners at the local, regional, and international levels to promote democracy and fundamental rights in Burma.



Daw San San, the only woman parliamentarian and the most recent member of the Parliament Union of Burma's Government-In-Exile, during her visit to Canada to denounce repression in Dipeyin in May 2003 by the Burmese military against Aung San Suu Kyi and supporters of the democratic movement.



Magalie Marcellin, from Kay Fann (La maison des femmes) at a press conference jointly organized by Amnistie internationale – French Canadian section, Rights & Democracy and the Quebec Federation of Women in April 2004 to denounce violence against women in the current context of insecurity in Haiti. A Rights & Democracy observation mission went to Haiti in September 2003 and met with several civil society organizations and multilateral agencies. Given the deterioration of the situation since this mission, Rights & Democracy asked the Canadian government to take measures to defuse the political crisis and published a report to this effect that was widely distributed. In 2004, there are plans to set up a Consultative Group, coordinated by Rights & Democracy, to promote dialogue between Canadian government and non-government actors.



REGIONAL

Why Ratify the American Convention of Human Rights?

"Canada's need to strengthen democracy and governments that respect human rights is related to the reality of a two-way playing field. Not only can Canada's participation in the Inter-American human rights system contribute significantly to strengthening governments in Latin America, but it can also provide stronger guarantees for endangered rights, at a time when business and security agendas are constantly in competition with the human rights agenda."

Excerpt from an article
by Lucie Lamarche,
in *Libertas*, vol. 13, no. 01.

Building Strong Networks to Advance Human Rights

Rights & Democracy's strength lies in its partnerships with organizations that are active in the national, regional and international arenas. It is crucial for us to work with coalitions and *ad hoc* groups, and to help create and maintain networks in order to ensure progress in promoting human rights. In our efforts to promote human rights and democratic institutions, we maintain partnerships with groups and associations that promote human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and women, as well as with democratic movements and governments from all regions of the world. These ties are vital to our interventions among governments and regional institutions, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as to the capacity-building of our partners striving to assert their rights.

Bolstering the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights

As a member of the International Coalition of Human Rights Organizations for the Americas, which includes over 150 organizations, Rights & Democracy joined forces with its partners to bolster the Organization of American States' (OAS) human rights protection system. Our activities focus primarily on ensuring full respect of human rights, the improvement of protection mechanisms, the primacy of human rights over commercial obligations under free trade agreements, and the participation of civil society. In fact, these demands were presented to member states on several occasions last year, namely at the General Assembly in Santiago (June 2003), the Special Conference on Security (May 2003, Mexico City), where the heads of State showed greater openness to civil society participation, and at the Special Summit of the Americas (January 2004, Monterrey, Mexico).

In keeping with our commitment to strengthening the human rights protection system, we support initiatives in favour of the adoption of normative instruments as well as the ratification and application of these instruments by member states. In this regard, we are providing financial assistance to the Indigenous Caucus to facilitate the participation of indigenous leaders of the Americas in negotiations pertaining to the Inter-American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are also pursuing our campaign, in collaboration with Amnesty International Canada and the Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), to encourage Canada to ratify the *American Convention on Human Rights*. For more information about the Convention, see the special edition of *Libertas* on this topic, available on our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca



Working with the African Commission on Human Rights: A Priority

Rights & Democracy has increased its financial support and expanded its programmes in Africa in order to strengthen the development of regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights and the advancement of democracy on the African continent. Given the profound institutional changes on the continent since 2000, this is the ideal time to ensure that democratic principles are included and respected in the establishment and functioning of new pan-African bodies such as the African Union Commission, the African Parliament and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Our goal is to support the pan-African human rights' mechanisms, namely the African Commission on Human Rights, Africa's primary regional human rights' mechanism, and to accelerate the process to elaborate and apply democratic norms within the African Union. To achieve this objective, we sought to strengthen the collaboration and coordination among the various bodies of the African Union, and supported the ratification of the *Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights* on the establishment of an African Court. We also increased our support of African NGOs, which play a pivotal role in the fight for justice, democracy and human rights, and worked to establish closer ties between these organizations and the African Union Commission, during a mission to Ethiopia in February 2004.

We will pursue these activities in 2004 by supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights, among other initiatives, in order to accelerate the process leading up to the signing and ratification of the *Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa*, and by supporting the process for the elaboration of a charter on democracy and good governance in Africa.

Regional Integration in Asia: Building Partnerships to Put Human Rights on the Agenda

Across Asia, poverty threatens the enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to an adequate standard of living, food, work, housing, health and education. Those most affected are the vulnerable sectors of society—peasant farmers, indigenous peoples and non-unionized workers.

In this vast region, efforts to develop regional agreements have taken place at the sub-regional level, although these are smaller in scope than either the African Union or the Organization of American States. They tend to focus primarily on trade and investment and there is no pan-Asian human rights protection system. Despite this emphasis on economic integration, existing multilateral processes that promote and protect human rights should be responsive to the needs of individuals and groups seeking recourse for violations of human rights in the region. Assisting civil society to understand and access these mechanisms is the focus of our efforts in the area of globalization and human rights in the Asia-Pacific region.



During the past year, Rights & Democracy has supported the efforts of organizations such as the China Labour Bulletin (workers' rights in China) and La Via Campesina (peasants' rights in Indonesia), Habitat International Coalition (housing rights in India) and the Asia Pacific Research Network (training and research in 15 Asian countries) in order to build local capacity to address the complex issues associated with economic integration. Our efforts have included providing grants and financing the participation of activists in international forums. Learning from these experiences, Rights & Democracy anticipates the development of a broader programme in the coming year, related specifically to the impacts of economic integration on human rights in Asia.

Providing Training to Strengthen the Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas

Indigenous women of the Americas who are part of the *Enlace* network gave a positive evaluation of the training activities on international human rights instruments, organized by Rights & Democracy, the *Enlace* network and the Summer University on Human Rights (Geneva). Parallel to the Fourth Continental Summit of Indigenous Women of the Americas, which drew close to 300 participants (April 4-9, 2004, Peru) and was funded by Rights & Democracy, 13 former fellows from seven countries emphasized in their conclusions the importance of this training, specifically the practical emphasis on international mechanisms, developing a collective identity and strengthening ties with women within the network. Participants also suggested a two-year training period in order to deepen their knowledge, and continued to develop the Commission on International Instruments, a mechanism that enables them to work collectively on monitoring the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), among other things. Twenty fellows from seven countries have benefited from these training courses over the last three years.

Since 1993, Rights & Democracy has been lending financial support to *Enlace*, a network of national organizations from 13 countries that offers indigenous women a space where they can define common positions and make their voices heard at international forums. This network also strives to build the capacity of indigenous women to play an active role on issues that affect them, such as the intellectual property of indigenous art designs and biodiversity, and provides them with opportunities for discussion and collaboration.

Enlace inspired another network of indigenous women, this time in Asia. In the Philippines, the Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN) met from March 4 to 8, 2004 to devise methods for developing the network's institutional capacities and to consolidate the work of indigenous women. Rights & Democracy facilitated the participation of a representative from the *Enlace* network who was able to share her experiences in the Americas with indigenous women from Asia.



Indigenous women who participated in the training on international instruments.

1st row, left to right:

Zuleika Ortiz (Panama),
Melania Canales (Peru),
Irinea Bardales (Peru),
Marie Léger (Rights & Democracy),
Rosa María Tazna (Ecuador);

2nd row:

Antonia Alba (Panama),
Margarita Gutierrez (Mexico),
Cleotilde Vazquez (Guatemala),
Natalia Sarapura (Argentina);

3rd row:

Guadalupe Celestino (Mexico),
Felicitas Martínez (Mexico),
Avelina Pancho (Colombia),
Jamileth del Socorro (Nicaragua),
Martha Rodríguez (Nicaragua).

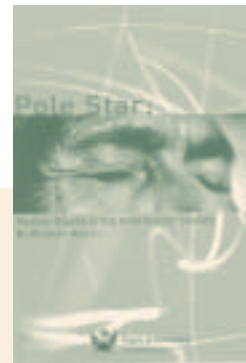
INTERNATIONAL

Defending a Vision Focussed on Promoting Human Rights and Ending Impunity

One of Rights & Democracy's key objectives is to reduce the sometimes considerable gap between official State adherence to international human rights treaties and the human rights practices of these same states. At the international level, we have taken action on two fronts. Firstly, we intervene in international forums to ensure that human rights are an integral part of negotiations on international agreements or normative texts, such as those of the World Trade Organization. Secondly, we play an active role in international bodies in an effort to put an end to the impunity of individuals or groups responsible for serious human rights violations and to ensure justice and reparations for the victims.

The Challenges of the Information Society

Working with the Human Rights Caucus, composed of 27 national and international organizations, Rights & Democracy advocated to ensure that human rights were high on the agenda at the World Summit on the Information Society (December 10 to 12, 2003, Geneva). Given the industry's interests and the tightening of security measures around the world, there was no guarantee that human rights would even be part of the discussions. Our main contribution was the release of Deborah Hurley's essay, *Pole Star: Human Rights in the Information Society*, during a Summit preparatory meeting in September 2003. This essay, which reviews the specific challenges and opportunities of the information society, demonstrates the degree to which human rights are linked to the information society and therefore should be at the very heart of the discussions at the Summit. These efforts bore fruit: several articles in the Final Declaration address human rights. Next meeting: December 2005 in Tunis, for the second phase of the Summit.



The essay Pole Star: Human Rights in the Information Society, first published in English and French, has been translated into Arabic in preparation for the second phase of the Summit to be held in Tunis in 2005. It has also been translated into Spanish by Auditoria Democratica Andina.





"Rights & Democracy's continuity of involvement in the ICC initiative and its variety of programming methods directed to one strategic goal were critical factors in its overall achievement."

Five-Year Review,
Office of the Inspector General,
Foreign Affairs Canada, 2003.



Photo: Chris Krulik

Canadian Louise Arbour, named High Commissioner for Human Rights by the UN Secretary General in February 2004. Rights & Democracy continues to contribute to the work of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly its process of reform, by making proposals to strengthen the Commission as the principal organ in the UN's system of human rights protection. We are also participating in negotiations on the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The International Criminal Court: A Long-term Campaign

The *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (ICC) entered into force in 2002, representing a major accomplishment in the area of human rights. The *Rome Statute* of the ICC, now ratified by 94 states, makes it possible to bring the authors of crimes against humanity to justice. Rights & Democracy played a major role in the adoption of the Statute and continues to do so by assisting States in ratifying it and integrating it into their own national legal systems.

In 1998, Rights & Democracy took the initiative of organizing a conference that brought together government and NGO representatives as well as intellectuals to map out lobbying strategies for the preparation of the UN's meetings on the ICC. One of our most significant contributions was the production of a manual and the organization of five training sessions, in conjunction with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, to provide technical assistance to states on the ratification and implementation of the Statute. The manual has been widely distributed and translated into five languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese and Arabic) and a second edition was published in English and French in 2003. We also led various actions in partnership with a coalition of Canadian NGOs, leading, among other things, to the creation of a training programme for government officials, NGOs and the media. Over 100 NGOs from 50 countries, 182 government representatives and 90 journalists participated in these five regional training sessions. Rights & Democracy is also a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, a network of over 2000 organizations mandated to promote a just, effective and independent ICC.

In 2004, a technical seminar for lusophone African countries is scheduled to be held in Cape Verde to assist these states in the ratification and implementation process of the Rome Statute.



Influencing Policy on the Right to Food

Despite the fact that the world produces more than enough food to feed itself, millions die of hunger each year and millions more suffer the effects of hunger and malnutrition. Rights & Democracy supports people's movements and farmers' associations as they seek to unravel the multiple causes of hunger and promote alternative strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights. Rights & Democracy also works at the multilateral level in order to influence policy makers. Our two areas of advocacy focus have been the ongoing negotiations on agriculture at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the new initiative at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to develop guidelines for implementation of the right to food at the national level.

During the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun in September 2003, Rights & Democracy held a panel discussion to address the relationship between agricultural trade and state obligations in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. This debate had emerged as an issue of controversy from the first session of the FAO's intergovernmental working group on the right to food guidelines. The Cancun panel featured Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General of the FAO, Miquel Rosseto, Brazil's Minister for Agrarian Reform and Henry Sarigih, Chair of the Human Rights Committee of La Via Campesina, a Rights & Democracy partner organization. A full report of the panel discussion is available on the Rights & Democracy Web site: www.dd-rd.ca.

The right to adequate food falls within the "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions."

Article 11, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.

Did you know?

The International Bill of Human Rights includes the following treaties: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for the abolition of the death penalty.



A document entitled “Human Rights: The WTO’s Missing Development Agenda” was circulated to raise awareness among both governments and NGOs of issues pertaining to international trade and human rights, during the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (September 10 to 14, 2003, Cancun, Mexico).

“Development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom.”

Declaration on the Right to Development.

Linking International Trade and Investment to Human Rights Obligations

Rights & Democracy completed its work on the right to food at the Ministerial Meeting in Cancun with a debate on what a human rights framework can contribute to the system governing international trade. Organized in partnership with 3D – *Trade-Human Rights and Equitable Economy*, a second roundtable brought together a number of key figures, including Mary Robinson, former High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Paul Hunt, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, to examine the rules and practices governing international trade from the perspective of international human rights standards.

As investment rules are being discussed and negotiated in various forums, particularly at the WTO, there is a growing urgency to reflect on how to meet the challenge of ensuring that states respect their human rights obligations. Taking a step in that direction, over 100 individuals—government and NGO representatives, unionists, diplomats, academics and students—participated in Rights & Democracy’s annual Think Tank on the theme “Investment in Developing Countries: Meeting the Human Rights Challenge,” on June 11, 2003. The purpose of this meeting was to offer a forum for discussion and reflection on steps that can be taken to ensure that the rules and practices governing international investment serve the cause of human rights.

Bringing Perpetrators of Sexual Violence to Justice

Rights & Democracy pursued its efforts to call on international forums to recognize acts of sexual violence committed against women. The Coalition for Women’s Human Rights in Conflict Situations, established and coordinated by Rights & Democracy, testified before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone to address the issue of sexual violence in international law and how it applies to crimes committed against women and girls in Sierra Leone, particularly individual rape, gang rape and sexual slavery.

These initiatives were inspired by efforts already underway with Rwandan NGOs to have rape recognized as an instrument of genocide—a struggle that was won in 1998—by the International Criminal Tribunal in Rwanda (ICTR), based in Arusha, Tanzania. Since 1996, the Coalition has been working to have rape recognized as a war crime, a crime against humanity and an act of genocide, and these efforts led to the recognition of these crimes under the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*. In 2004, this work will be pursued in partnership with Congolese women’s rights NGOs, this time on sexual violence committed during the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Demystifying the Role of Girls in Fighting Forces: A Study

Launched at a session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2004, the study *Where are the Girls?* created an immediate stir in the national and international media and among key players on the ground. Conducted over three-and-a-half years by authors Susan McKay and Dyan Mazurana with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency, this study examines the experiences and roles of girls in fighting forces, with emphasis on the wars in Northern Uganda (1986-present), Sierra Leone (1991-2002), and Mozambique (1976-1992). The authors reveal that girls in fighting forces are not, and never have been, simply "camp followers." Where are the girls, if they are not counted as part of the military when the time comes for disarmament, demobilization and rebuilding of societies?



*"We each need to read **Where are the Girls?** now. We need to give copies to colleagues. We need to think hard about McKay's and Mazurana's gritty, specific revelations about the ways in which both governments' and opponents' armed forces use and abuse girls. Then we need to make **Where are the Girls?** a basis for actions - to hold every abusing force (and their sponsors) to account, to reform how our own organizations intervene in ending wars, and, most of all, to listen closely to what girls themselves say they need. This is a very important book for all of us."*

Cynthia Enloe, author of *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*





Intervening in Urgent Situations and Seizing Important Opportunities

The Urgent Action and Important Opportunities initiative enables us to fulfill our mandate by responding quickly to unforeseen human rights violations, humanitarian crises or political events that fall outside our regular budget.

For example, we supported efforts to defend human rights in Iran, notably in the case of Zahra Kazemi, the Canadian photojournalist beaten to death by Iranian authorities in July 2003. We supported the work of Canadian NGOs by actively participating in discussions with Foreign Affairs Canada on the Kazemi case and human rights in Iran, and funded the participation of an independent observer from the NGO community at the trial of those responsible for her death. We also sent an observer mission to Côte-d'Ivoire to report on the situation in that country, particularly with respect to democratic principles and respect for human rights. The purpose of this 10-day mission, involving several meetings with government and civil society representatives, was to determine how Rights & Democracy could intervene to support the process of national reconciliation, the development of democratic institutions and the full respect of human rights.





Promoting and Defending Human Rights: Also a Canadian Commitment

Two Indigenous Activists from Latin America Awarded the John Humphrey Freedom Award

The 2003 John Humphrey Freedom Award was presented to Angélica Mendoza de Ascarza, from Peru, and Kimy Pernía Domicó, from Colombia, for their courageous struggle in defending human rights and their relentless quest for justice in their respective countries. During a ceremony that brought together 200 people at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa on December 9, 2003, Angélica Mendoza gave a riveting testimonial, emphasizing that there can be no reconciliation without justice in Peru and that the support of the Canadian government and public is critical to ensuring implementation of the recommendations contained in the Truth and Reconciliation report. Martha Cecilia Domicó accepted the Award on behalf of her father, Kimy Pernía Domicó, who was disappeared in 2001. She told those gathered at the ceremony that this Award symbolizes the struggle led by her father for the rights of her people, the Embera-Katio and, more generally, the rights of all indigenous peoples, adding that she sincerely hopes that this Award will bolster demands for an inquest into the disappearance of her father.

The Award, which includes a \$25,000 grant and a speaking tour of Canada, provides an opportunity to raise awareness among the Canadian public, governments, non-governmental organizations and the media of the human rights situation in the recipient's country. During their stay in Canada, from November 28 to December 12, 2003, Ms Mendoza de Ascarza and Ms Domicó spoke in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal about the human rights situation in their countries and their experiences. The events and meetings, organized in collaboration with partners, were characterized by poignancy, stimulating exchange, networking and, above all, a spirit of solidarity—all testifying to the importance of the Award.



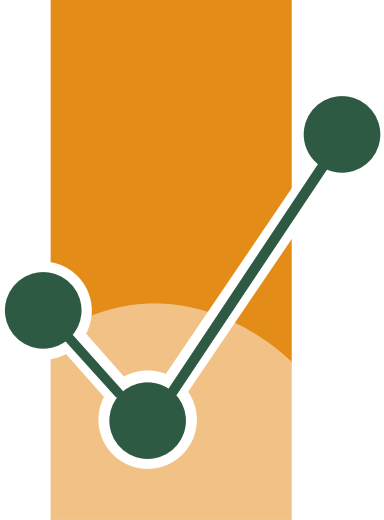
*Angélica Mendoza de Ascarza, from Peru,
and Martha Cecilia Domicó, daughter
of recipient Kimy Pernía Domicó,
from Colombia.*

Angélica Mendoza de Ascarza...

...has led an unwavering struggle for 20 years for truth and justice in Peru. The disappearance of her 19-year-old son, in 1983, prompted her to get involved in a long struggle to shed light on the disappearance of her son and thousands of others during the civil war between the government and the Shining Path guerrillas. Founder of the National Association of Families of Detained, Kidnapped and Disappeared Persons of Peru (ANFASEP), this woman from Ayacucho, in the Andes, helped to inspire the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru.

Kimy Pernía Domicó...

...is a respected leader of the Embera-Katio people of Alto Sinu, in Colombia's Cordoba province. He played a key role in alerting Colombian and international opinion to the disastrous consequences of building the huge Urrá hydroelectric dam, financed in part by Canadian interests, for the survival of his people, and highlighting the impact of foreign investment on indigenous rights. Since his disappearance in June 2001, Kimy Pernía Domicó has become a symbol of the struggle for indigenous rights.



**Rights & Democracy
NETWORK | RÉSEAU
Droits et Démocratie**

- Project and Delegation Set Up
- Contacts Made
- ▲ Forecast

Launching the Rights & Democracy Network

The year 2003 saw the launch of the Rights & Democracy Network in Canadian universities and colleges, thanks to financial support from Foreign Affairs Canada. The goal of the Network is to create spaces where students, as members of the Rights & Democracy Delegation of their educational institution, can learn more about human rights, democratic development and globalization, exchange ideas and even propose and implement concrete actions. This initiative allowed us to visit 38 educational institutions and to create closer ties with post-secondary communities across the country.

The Network supported 25 promotion and awareness-raising projects by students from 37 different disciplines. These projects ranged from creating a board game on globalization to organizing a roundtable on human rights education, and producing radio shows that explored the relationship between culture and human rights.

For more information on the Network's activities, consult its Web site: www.rightsdemocracy.net

ALBERTA

- Alberta University (Edmonton)
- University of Calgary (Calgary)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Malaspina University-College (Nanaimo)
- University of British Columbia (Vancouver)
- University of Victoria (Victoria)

MANITOBA

- Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (Winnipeg)
- ▲ University of Winnipeg (Winnipeg)

NEW BRUNSWICK

- Université de Moncton (Moncton)
- Mount Allison University (Sackville)
- ▲ St-Thomas University - Atlantic Human Rights Centre (Fredericton)

NOVA SCOTIA

- Acadia University (Wolfville)
- Dalhousie University (Halifax)
- University of King's College (Halifax)
- Université Sainte-Anne (Pointe-de-l'Église)

NUNAVUT

- Nunavut Arctic College (Iqaluit)

NEWFOUNDLAND

- ▲ Memorial University of Newfoundland

ONTARIO

- Brock University (St.Catharines)
- Carleton University (Ottawa)
- Ontario College of Arts and Design (OCAD) (Toronto)
- Ottawa University (Ottawa)
- University of Western Ontario (London)
- Queens University (Kingston)
- Toronto University (Toronto)
- Waterloo University (Waterloo)
- Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo)
- York University: Glendon College (Toronto)
- ▲ University of Guelph (Guelph)
- University of Western Ontario (London)

QUEBEC

- Bishop's University (Lennoxville)
- Concordia University (Montreal)
- Université Laval (Quebec)
- McGill University (Montreal)
- Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke)
- Université de Montréal (Montreal)
- Université du Québec à Montréal (Montreal)
- Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (Trois-Rivières)

SASKATCHEWAN

- ▲ University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)
- ▲ First Nations University (Regina)



Our Interns

Rights & Democracy resumed its participation in the Young Professionals International programme, administered by Foreign Affairs Canada. Five young Canadians, selected from among more than 130 candidates from all regions of the country, had an opportunity to work with several of our partners. This program has a definite international and national presence, with Rights & Democracy interns in Geneva, Washington, D.C., Hong Kong, Lima and Bangkok. They worked with various international, national and regional organizations, including the Rapporteur on Summary and Arbitrary Executions of the UN Human Rights Commission, the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), the *China Labour Bulletin*, the coalition of indigenous women *Chirapaq*, and the group responsible for producing documentation on Burma. In short, their achievements were remarkable.

Some of our Partnerships with Canadian Coalitions

The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a Canada-wide coalition that monitors the implementation of anti-terrorist measures adopted by Canada.

Canadian NGO Coalition on Human Rights in China, a coalition of Canadian institutions that promotes human rights in China primarily with regards to the UN Commission on Human Rights and Canada's bilateral human rights dialogue with China.

Canadian NGO Committee for Burma, a committee of six Canadian NGOs working on Burma to develop and consolidate civil society organizations operating on the Burmese border for a peaceful resolution between the military regime and democratic forces.

Halifax Initiative, a coalition of development, environment, labour and human rights groups deeply concerned about the policies and practices of the international financial system and its institutions.

The Americas Policy Group, the Africa-Canada Forum and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

The Trade & Investment Research Project, a think tank that develops analysis and research required to strengthen the participation of Canadian civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of trade and investment agreements.

“Rights & Democracy has achieved credibility with many of its most important partners, particularly civil society.”

Five-Year Review,
Office of the Inspector General,
Foreign Affairs Canada , 2003.



Rights & Democracy provided financial support to over 100 projects devoted primarily to human rights—especially in countries where these rights are scorned—in order to promote political change and build the capacity of institutions and programmes, particularly with partners in developing countries. For a description of the projects that received financial support from Rights & Democracy in 2003-2004, visit our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca

Our Dialogue with the Canadian Government

During 2003-2004, Rights & Democracy's contact with institutions, Parliament and the Canadian government grew significantly. Our presence was greater in both houses of Parliament and all political parties. We intervened three times before standing committees of the House of Commons (Islam, Haiti and Bill C-9). We also intensified our relationship with Foreign Affairs Canada and forged new ties with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the Department of Justice and Heritage Canada. Over the course of the next year, Rights & Democracy will submit briefs to Parliament and the government on major issues pertaining to Canada's national and international policy.

Our Most Recent Publications

Where are the Girls? Girls in Fighting Forces in Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone and Mozambique: Their Lives During and After War, by Susan McKay and Dyan Mazurana.

Haiti: A Bitter Bicentennial, Rights & Democracy Mission Report, September 2003, by Philippe Tremblay in collaboration with Madeleine Desnoyers and Luis Van Isschot.

Seizing an Opportunity: Afghan Women and the Constitution-Making Process, Rights & Democracy Mission Report, September 2003, by Ariane Brunet and Isabelle Solon Helal.

Implementing the Human Right to Food: Domestic Obligations and the International Trade in Agriculture, Report of an Inter-sessional Workshop, September 11, 2003, Cancun, 5th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting.

Pole Star: Human Rights in the Information Society, by Deborah Hurley, launched in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society. Also published in French, Spanish and Arabic.

Reconciling Foreign Direct Investment and Human Rights, Report of the Rights & Democracy Think Tank, Ottawa, June 11, 2003.

International Investment and Human Rights: Political and Legal Issues, by Rémi Bachand and Stéphanie Rousseau, Background Paper for the Rights & Democracy Think Tank, June 11, 2003.

To order our publications, visit our Web site: www.dd-rd.ca

OUR THEMES

Democratic Development

Through the Democratic Development theme, Rights & Democracy works at national, regional and international levels to promote and defend democracy, defined as “the full respect for all human rights.” To this end, it supports civil society participation, advocates the recognition of the right to democracy, works to strengthen human rights institutions and facilitates capacity-building of partners during strategic periods of democratic transitions. Its strategic focus is on enabling effective participation in the political sphere of excluded sectors of the population. It uses a framework based on international human rights instruments to assess democratic development in specific countries. These assessments are aimed at both orienting international actors in their strategies to support democratization and strengthening key social sectors. Activities planned for 2003-2005 include: a forum in Morocco to promote dialogue between civil society actors and government; supporting peacebuilding activities in Colombia and Africa’s Great Lakes Region; encouraging constitutional development in Kenya and Nigeria and pro-democracy movements in Burma, Mexico, Guatemala and Peru; strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights; and advocating the right to democracy at the United Nations.

Women’s Rights

Through the Women’s Rights theme, Rights & Democracy defends and promotes the integration of women’s rights within the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, and advocates in favour of the implementation of international women’s rights instruments such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) and the *Declaration on Violence Against Women* (1993). It has developed a gender-based research methodology and manuals to document violations of women’s rights. Rights & Democracy works in cooperation with partners on ending impunity on violence against women, especially within the context of armed conflict situations. It supports implementation of *Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security* (2000) at the national level in countries such as Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rights & Democracy works on the impact of religious fundamentalisms through the identification of trends and strategies to counter them, including field missions to countries and public awareness raising using the Web as a means of communication.

We wish to thank all of our partners as well as Friends of Rights & Democracy for supporting our organization and mission.



Globalization and Human Rights

Through the Globalization and Human Rights theme, Rights & Democracy monitors policies and laws that govern economic integration to ensure that they do not undermine the promotion and protection of those governing international human rights. It works with Canadian and international non-governmental coalitions on key cross-cutting issues such as the right to food, the impact of foreign investment and information and communications technologies on human rights. In pursuing these initiatives, Rights & Democracy supports partnerships in Asia, the Americas and Africa, particularly in the context of regional integration mechanisms. It also advocates at the international level, specifically around the World Trade Organization agreements on agriculture and intellectual property, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Intergovernmental Working Group on the right to food and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Initiatives related to economic, social and cultural rights. Rights & Democracy is active in the World Summit on the Information Society as well as in follow-up activities related to the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Through the Rights of Indigenous Peoples theme, Rights & Democracy defends and promotes the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, in particular their right to self-determination. It advocates the adoption of the United Nations and Organisation of American States (OAS) draft declarations on the rights of indigenous peoples and facilitates dialogue between governments and indigenous peoples. Rights & Democracy facilitates the participation of indigenous organizations in democratic processes in specific countries and their access to international organizations for the promotion of their rights. It supports the Continental Network of Indigenous Women in the Americas to improve the participation of women in national and international debates on the rights of indigenous peoples. Rights & Democracy also supports the protection of collective intellectual property rights that apply to indigenous peoples' drawings and designs.

International Human Rights Advocacy

Through the International Human Rights Advocacy theme, Rights & Democracy urges states to support the International Criminal Court and provides technical assistance to states to implement the Rome Statute and harmonize their national laws. It facilitates the access and participation of NGOs, particularly from developing countries, in regional and international forums. It participates in and prepares submissions for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. It supports frontline human rights defenders, advocates effective human rights enforcement mechanisms including special rapporteurs and proposes measures to defend and strengthen the international human rights system. It also monitors the impact of new security legislation on civil liberties and human rights through its participation in the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group.



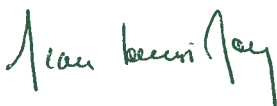
MANAGEMENT REPORT

The financial statements of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development 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
May 18, 2004

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, 2004 and the statements of operations and equity 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 generally accepted auditing standards in Canada. 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, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada.

Nancy Cheng, FCA
*Assistant Auditor General
for the Auditor General of Canada*

Ottawa, Canada
May 18, 2004



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

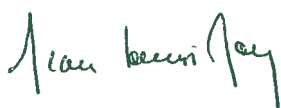
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31

ASSETS	2004	2003
Current		
Term deposits (Note 4)	\$ 1,465,876	\$ 2,314,209
Accrued interest	2,753	6,143
Accounts receivable	101,270	53,252
Contributions receivable	127,923	24,777
Prepaid expenses	34,305	44,977
	1,732,127	2,443,358
Long Term		
Property and equipment (Note 5)	360,104	350,944
	\$ 2,092,231	\$ 2,794,302
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Bank overdraft	\$ 58,744	\$ 514,954
Accounts payable	206,860	114,712
Accrued salaries and vacations	369,515	377,038
Termination benefits payable	-----	175,857
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	10,933	9,514
Grants payable	181,273	7,500
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	314,444	500,337
	1,141,769	1,699,912
Long term		
Deferred lease inducements	107,940	125,447
Obligation under capital leases (Note 6)	63,174	74,107
	171,114	199,554
Deferred capital funding (Note 8)	207,816	167,106
	1,520,699	2,066,572
EQUITY		
Equity	571,532	727,730
	\$ 2,092,231	\$ 2,794,302

Commitments (Note 11)

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

Approved by:



Jean-Louis Roy
President of the Centre



Kathleen Mahoney
Chairperson of the Board



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2004	2003
Expenses (Note 9)		
Programmes and Activities		
Democratic Development	\$ 1,526,718	\$ 1,025,868
Women's Rights	1,456,106	1,104,316
Globalization and Human Rights	675,738	580,108
Rights of Indigenous Peoples	642,804	598,478
International Human Rights Advocacy	493,927	434,459
Urgent Action and Important Opportunities	203,175	344,810
Communication and Public Education	694,451	769,615
	5,692,919	4,857,654
General administration	622,874	599,374
Cost of operations before termination benefits	6,315,793	5,457,028
Termination benefits	-----	175,857
Cost of operations after termination benefits	6,315,793	5,632,885
Revenues		
Contributions from the Government of Canada for specific projects (Note 10)	750,237	189,272
Other contributions (Note 10)	521,884	376,275
Interest	55,079	62,614
	1,327,200	628,161
Results of operations before funding from the Government of Canada	4,988,593	5,004,724
Funding from the Government of Canada		
Parliamentary appropriation - Core funding	4,764,408	4,820,170
Amortization of deferred capital funding (Note 8)	67,987	75,276
	4,832,395	4,895,446
Results of operations for the year	(156,198)	(109,278)
Equity, beginning of year	727,730	837,008
Equity, end of year	\$ 571,532	\$ 727,730

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



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2004	2003
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities		
Results of operations for the year	\$ (156,198)	\$ (109,278)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of property and equipment	99,537	85,914
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(67,987)	(75,276)
Other	-----	7,869
	(124,648)	(90,771)
Changes in working capital other than cash	(54,561)	234,948
Decrease in deferred lease inducements	(17,507)	(14,997)
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	(185,893)	437,922
	(382,609)	567,102
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities		
Parliamentary appropriation - capital funding	108,697	52,934
Obligation under capital leases	-----	85,800
Payments on obligation under capital leases	(9,514)	(2,179)
	99,183	136,555
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
Acquisition of term deposits	(2,345,664)	(2,314,209)
Redemption of term deposits	3,193,997	1,490,112
Acquisition of property and equipment	(108,697)	(52,934)
Acquisition under capital leases	-----	(85,800)
	739,636	(962,831)
Net change in bank overdraft	456,210	(259,174)
Bank overdraft, beginning of the year	(514,954)	(255,780)
Bank overdraft, end of the year	\$ (58,744)	\$ (514,954)

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



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2004

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 objects of Rights & Democracy are 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 objects, 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**
The parliamentary appropriation is received through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. 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 instalments are due, as approved by Rights & Democracy.
- d) **Term deposits**
Term deposits are recorded at cost.
- e) **Property and equipment**
Furniture and equipment and data processing equipment 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 on the same basis as other assets owned by Rights & Democracy.
- f) **Pension plan**
Employees of Rights & Democracy participate in the Public Service Superannuation Plan administered by the Government of Canada. Both the employees and Rights & Democracy are required to contribute to the cost of the plan. Rights & Democracy's contributions are expensed during the year in which the services are rendered and represent the total pension obligations of Rights & Democracy.
Rights & Democracy is not required under present legislation to make contributions with respect to any actuarial deficiencies of the Public Service Superannuation Account.

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. There is no concentration of accounts receivable and, consequently, the credit risk is low.

4. Term deposits

As at March 31, 2004 the term deposits have an average interest rate of 2.90% (3.05% in 2003) and an average term maturity of 334 days (333 days in 2003).

5. Property and equipment

	2004			2003
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Net
Furniture and equipment	\$ 542,195	\$ 442,398	\$ 99,797	\$ 117,325
Data processing equipment	380,407	261,811	118,596	120,525
Leasehold improvements	205,752	64,041	141,711	113,094
	\$ 1,128,354	\$ 768,250	\$ 360,104	\$ 350,944

The above assets include equipment under a capital lease for a total value of \$85,800 (\$85,800 in 2003), less accumulated amortization of \$17,553 (\$3,510 in 2003).

6. Obligation under capital lease

Rights & Democracy has entered into an agreement to rent office equipment under capital leases. The obligations under these capital leases have been discounted at an average rate of interest of 14.15% per annum. Minimum lease payments totalling \$20,856 (\$5,214 in 2003) for the year ended March 31, 2004, including interest of \$11,342 (\$3,035 in 2003), were charged to results.

At March 31, 2004, the future minimum lease payments were:

	2005	\$ 20,856
	2006	20,856
	2007	20,856
	2008	20,856
	2009	20,804
Total future minimum lease payments		104,228
Less: imputed interest		(30,121)
		74,107
Short-term portion		(10,933)
		\$ 63,174

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:

	2004	2003
Deferred contributions, beginning of year	\$ 500,337	\$ 62,415
Amount recognized as revenue in the year (Note 10)	(477,281)	(37,894)
Canadian International Development Agency		
Afghan Women Project	180,420	385,063
Girl Soldiers Research Project	-----	69,601
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	6,451	18,833
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
International Youth Internship Programme	-----	277
ICC Workshop in African Lusophone Countries	45,000	-----
Rights & Democracy Student Network	54,469	-----
Donations	5,048	2,042
Deferred contributions, end of year	\$ 314,444	\$ 500,337

The composition of deferred contributions as at March 31 as follows:

Canadian International Development Agency		
Afghan Women Project	\$ 180,420	\$ 385,063
Girl Soldiers Research Project	2,624	69,601
Shaler Adams Foundation		
Monitoring the Rwanda Tribunal Project	-----	24,521
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	25,284	18,833
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade		
International Youth Internship Programme	-----	277
ICC Workshop in African Lusophone Countries	45,000	-----
Rights & Democracy Student Network	54,469	-----
Donations	6,647	2,042
	\$ 314,444	\$ 500,337

8. Deferred capital funding

	2004	2003
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 167,106	\$ 189,448
Parliamentary appropriation - capital funding	108,697	52,934
Amortization of deferred capital funding	(67,987)	(75,276)
Balance, end of year	\$ 207,816	\$ 167,106

9. Expenses

	2004			2003
	Programmes and Activities	General Administration	Total	Total
Projects	\$ 3,436,005	\$ -----	\$ 3,436,005	\$ 2,699,318
Salaries and employee benefits	1,523,985	316,654	1,840,639	1,845,168
Professional fees	111,757	96,441	208,198	175,162
Rent	122,916	37,746	160,662	177,937
Cost of awards	152,565	-----	152,565	80,258
Board fees and expenses	-----	117,788	117,788	141,653
Travel	111,639	5,612	117,251	57,404
Amortization of property and equipment	76,146	23,391	99,537	85,914
Information	90,966	4,804	95,770	105,085
Mail and telephony	30,882	9,429	40,311	38,119
Office Expenses	22,821	6,968	29,789	35,434
Miscellaneous	13,237	4,041	17,278	15,576
	5,692,919	622,874	6,315,793	5,457,028
Termination benefits	-----	-----	-----	175,857
	\$ 5,692,919	\$ 622,874	\$ 6,315,793	\$ 5,632,885

10. Contributions

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

	2004	2003
Other contributions for specific projects	\$ 487,410	\$ 333,644
Contributions from the Government of Canada for specific projects (1)	77,389	181,301
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	75,000	7,224
Rights & Democracy Student Network	145,531	-----
General contributions	9,510	5,484
	794,840	527,653
Amount of deferred contributions recognized as revenue in the year (Note 7)		
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (1)		
International Youth Internship Programme	277	747
Shaler Adams Foundation		
Monitoring the Rwanda Tribunal Project	24,521	23,146
Canadian International Development Agency (1)		
Research on Girls in the Militaries	66,977	-----
Women's Rights in Afghanistan Fund	385,063	-----
Inter-Pares		
National Health and Education Committee Project	-----	14,001
Donations	443	-----
	477,281	37,894
	\$ 1,272,121	\$ 565,547
The composition of contributions as at March 31st is as follows:		
Contributions from the Government of Canada (1)		
for specific projects	\$ 750,237	\$ 189,272
Other contributions	521,884	376,275
	\$ 1,272,121	\$ 565,547

11. Commitments

a) **Leases** - Rights & Democracy has entered into a lease for the rental of office space until 2010. The balance of the commitment under the lease is \$1,006,588. Minimum payments payable over subsequent years are as follows:

	2005	\$ 154,180
	2006	164,982
	2007	164,982
	2008	164,982
	2009 and subsequent	357,462
		\$ 1,006,588

b) **Grants** - As of March 31, 2004, Rights & Democracy has approved grants totaling \$585,600 in the coming years, under certain conditions.

12. Pension Benefits

During the year the Public Service Superannuation Plan required Rights & Democracy to contribute to the Public Service Pension and to the Retirement Compensation Arrangements. Contributions during the year were as follows:

	2004	2003
Rights & Democracy	\$ 268,748	\$ 256,025
Employees	\$ 82,032	\$ 83,006

13. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation adopted in 2004.



Rights & Democracy

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